

ARUNDEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JAKE HAWKINS, PRESIDENT

The Arundel Historical Society had a very busy and productive year with new highlights and old connections to fulfill our commitments as described in our mission statement. We have been continuing our annual spring and fall bean suppers, as well as a couple of spaghetti suppers to accommodate families with young children. We usually have raffles at these events as well as historical displays relevant to Arundel's history. We feel that the intangible good that comes out of these events is for people in the town to get to know their neighbors, thus building a sense of community and communality, which sometimes gets lost in the hurried pace of our lives. We also host a craft fair in the fall which generates a lot of interest from our citizens as well as people from surrounding towns. Also, to make election days more enjoyable we sponsor bake sales to which people have become accustomed, and it achieves the additional purpose of getting our message out, since we have the opportunity to speak to many Arundel residents as they pass by.

The newest event, which we are very proud of, is Arundel Heritage Day, held last September 14th at the North Chapel Common site. We felt it was imperative for Arundel, as a community, to show who we are and what we are about. For many years Arundel has been regarded as little more than a bedroom community serving surrounding communities with a talented and hardworking labor force. We thought it would be the right time to showcase some of that talent and creativity by incorporating it into a "country fair" scenario, calling it Heritage Day. There were food vendors, local craftspeople, agricultural displays, historical displays, wagon rides, old engines, and of course entertainment. Despite the previous day of heavy rain resulting in a rather muddy field, the people of Arundel showed their grit and determination and we had a wonderful time. We have gotten positive responses since then and we intend to make this an annual

event, this year on September 20th. So mark the date on your calendar and we hope to see you there!

We would like to take this opportunity to clarify our goals for the North Chapel Common Project. As this report is being written we can say that both the Burnham House and the Lunt House have been placed on brand new foundations and we are moving forward in getting them protected from weather damage and doing some general cleaning. Our major focus after we have accomplished this will be to plan out and design the North Chapel Meetinghouse which will complete the ellipse of the Common. What we intend to do is reproduce the building from photos we have from when it stood in this area of town so that from the exterior it will appear as a traditional New England meetinghouse.

The interior will be fashioned with a spacious meeting area and a kitchen so as to accommodate suppers and other community events. It will be a 21st century "grange hall" with a 19th century exterior. We want the people of Arundel to realize that this building is not just for the historical society but for community and group events as well. As a community we will all have a vested interest to see that this will happen because it will be to the benefit of all Arundel citizens. So when we ask for your support through donations or volunteered time, we hope that Arundel citizens will pull through as they have in the past. If you have information about the original building, suggestions or ideas, please let us know and we will take them into account.

During the past year, Arundel residents and businesses have been very generous in their support of the historical society...volunteering time and services; donating materials and money; participating in our events; and providing us with photographs, documents, and other information about Arundel's past. We thank you very much for all you do!

Our meetings are the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:00 PM at the M.L.Day School and we always welcome new members. For more information take a look at our website: www.arundelhistoricalsociety.org, e-mail: info@arundelhistoricalsociety.org, or call 283-9699.