



# HEATH HERALD

## Heath's First Newspaper

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February/March 2009

## To Our Special Valentines

*Grace Crowningshield... "Our Fair Lady"*



She may be small in stature, gentle in nature, and soft spoken, but don't let that fool you. Throughout the many years of working hard alongside her husband Kenneth at their dairy farm in North Heath, Grace, equipped with the spirit of a true New Englander, proved she was more than capable of meeting the challenges that farm life had to offer.

I first met Grace at the Heath Fairgrounds where she could be found each year directing vendors to their assigned spaces. She was always gracious and available to answer questions and offer suggestions. I have since learned that Grace has had deep roots in the Heath Fair that stretch back over the years. Her efforts played an essential part in the success and history of the fair, including her donation of the silo which graces the fairgrounds, an enduring symbol of Heath's agricultural past.

Grace Crowningshield, we thank you for all you have done, and all that you are - a very special lady!

~ Eileen Tougas

("Grace and Alastair Valentines" continued on page 3)

*Alastair Maitland*



Photograph by Art Schwenger

It was America's, Massachusetts', and Heath's gain when Alastair Maitland chose this country, state, and town as his home.

A man of intelligence, wit, and grace and seemingly indefatigable energy, Alastair has added much to our town. A lover of nature and beauty, he has worked unceasingly to preserve Heath's natural wonders.

From 1987 to 1990, he served as an editorial assistant on the *Heath Herald*. Over the years he has contributed a series of many of the paper's most memorable articles that always challenged and complemented the readers.

We who have been privileged to know him on a social basis have been the grateful recipients of his wide, indeed worldwide, experiences and the knowledge and wisdom gained thereby, that gave us new understanding of our world.

We salute you, Alastair, and are ever grateful for your presence among us.

~ Jane deLeeuw



*Ruth Johnson*

As we stack wood together I pause to listen to your stories--to picture all the other piles of wood, how the land has changed, the people that have come and gone, but you...you have been here, forever and always, the mistress of the woodpile and much more.

Maybe our piles aren't as sturdy as they should be but your passion, commitment, and love are unwavering to the rest of us, especially me as you stand by and help me stack another pile of wood.

Happy Valentine's Day, fellow wood stacker, storyteller, and lady of the world!

~ Love, Emily Cross

("Ruth Johnson Valentines" continued on page 22)



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## Heath Union Church News

Despite the weather our Christmas Sunday service was well enjoyed with a dedicated choir and other singing. Christmas Eve gathering was blessed with joyous music and the traditional Nativity pageant by the children followed by a candlelight service.

Our December family night was postponed due to weather. We held a bowling trip in January and plan a possible spaghetti dinner in February.

Adult Sunday School at Church - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday worship - 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Level

Bible study - Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's hours - Thursdays from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

He can be reached at the Church at 337-4019 or at home at 413-648-9077.

~ The Deacons

## Update from the Johnson Organ Restoration Committee

We wish to thank all of you *Heath Herald* subscribers who have donated to the fund. We do appreciate the accompanying comments from some of you and trust you will continue to support our efforts by spreading the word to other friends of Heath, of the Heath Church, and of the Heath Historical Society, to aid us in preserving this treasure. We are about one tenth of the way to matching the challenge.

Soon we will be starting spring activities. It is rumored that Heath's very own Rollo Kinsman will continue his "tour of the country" by giving a concert in the Church. Stay tuned.

~ Ruth Johnson



## CURE FOR THOSE WINTER DOLDRUMS

Please Join us,  
**The Heath Community Hall Committee,**  
for a  
**Game Afternoon**

**Sunday, February 8, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**  
(Snow date : February 15)

Bring your friends and favorite game  
(or use one of ours)

### Refreshments Available

\$2.00 per person and/or by donation  
*All proceeds go to Hall Refurbishment Fund*

("Grace Crowningshield Valentines" continued from page 1)



Happy Valentine's Day, Gracie! Hugs and Kisses!  
~ Beverley Thane and Olga Peters

I first met Grace at the summertime Sugar on Snow suppers. I think the snow came from Mount Snow. That's what I was told, at least. While the boys and men packed snow into bread loaf pans, the women and girls waited tables. The two things I will never forget from those suppers are Carol Malone's beautiful strong brown arms and the way Grace moved around the tables, quick and graceful, like a dancer. I have loved her ever since.

~ Pam Porter

Grace is a hard worker and a good cook. She enjoys embroidery, and her cats are a very important part of her life. We miss her when she is absent, and look forward to having her back.

~ Ruth Corey

Since 1958 Gracie and I have farmed together, chased cows together, gathered sap together, and spent countless hours just visiting together. Some of the happiest memories are when we wandered through the woods picking wildflowers in the springtime, berries in the summer, and gathering cones and balsam for the Christmas holidays. Then there are the busy times getting ready for the "Fair." Enough! Now it is time to say Happy Valentine's Day, Gracie.

Love,

~ Alli Thane -Stetson

Back in the fifties Cleon and I spent lots of time with Ken and Grace on their farm. On weekends we would help them with the haying. We would load up the doodle bug with hay and off we would go to the barn to unload it, and then go after more. We had a great time. After the work was finished Grace would make us a nice meal. She is a very good cook. I worked with Grace on the Heath Fair Committee and at the Ladies Aid gatherings.

She has been a good friend. I wish her well and hope she will be home from the nursing home very soon. We all miss her.



~ Teresa Peters

("Alastair Maitland Valentines" continued from page 1)

The excitement in the children was palpable as they listened intently to the story *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolan. Inspired by the story, my k/1 class had gathered at school on this moonlit winter night to venture out in the Betty Maitland Forest for our own owl walk. We had been in the forest several times that year and the children were excited about the prospect of seeing it at night. Our day had been spent practicing owl calls, walking silently and staying together, and with one last reading of *Owl Moon* we were all ready to go. We knew we might not see an owl but as the book said, to go out owl hunting, all you need is hope and that we had. As we ventured forth, I thought about the first time I walked in the Maitland forest. I was with both Alastair and Hazel, and Alastair was giving our whole family a tour of the woods that he had so lovingly preserved. At one point, with a sweep of his

hand, he spoke of a day when the children of the Heath School might study and enjoy the woods. Though this was before the school was built, the tone of his voice as he swept his hand across the landscape told of the hope he had as well; that soon we would have a school in Heath where children would learn about the special place they lived in.

If you know Alastair, you know that he is a man of the world. Throughout his life he worked and traveled all over the globe and continues to avidly read the news and stay up-to-date about worldwide issues and events. But equally, Alastair is a man of the land, steadfastly loving and caring for, not just the space around his own house, but the woods, the land, and the people throughout Heath. I believe in fact that the Betty Maitland Forest is the only privately owned property in town that has been preserved for the enjoyment of all.

Well, we didn't see any owls that night, but it turned out the magic of walking silently on a moonlit night was experience enough to sustain a deep interest in owls throughout the year that culminated in the creation of the large owl that hangs in the open space at the school today. Before and since that night, I have taken many children into the Maitland forest and it never ceases to capture our interest and deepen our learning. Whether examining the creatures of the vernal pool, imagining the bear that left claw marks in a large beech tree, or just strolling along the trail, we all come away from the woods knowing better the beautiful place we live in. I never set out on these adventures without taking a moment to silently thank Alastair for sharing this wood with us and for passing on his love for the land.

~ Deb Porter

It's being a lover that makes a person a sweetheart and Alastair Maitland is both. He is a lover of courtesy, wit, and humor, a keen observer of human society. He is a lover of learning, good company, and intelligent conversation. His dining room table is backed by a reference library and it is not unusual for him to get up in the middle of a dinner party to check the meaning of a word or a historical point of fact. He is a lover of truth, good government, and fair dealings, a devoted servant of the common good. His engagement in the world's affairs has been a constant in his life, his correspondence with our leaders and representatives continuing through his long retirement. He is a lover of the world and has lived and served in many of its cities, including Paris, New Orleans, New York, Boston, Cleveland, and Jerusalem.

Alastair is a lover of beauty, culture, and poetry. He is a fine writer and a devotee of jazz. He is a lover of fine things, beautifully crafted and engineered. He is a lover of history and a student of it. He has been shaped by a diligent knowledge of it and his disciplined tending, likewise, has shaped it. He is a lover of the forest and the natural environment, witness the care he gives and the pleasure he takes from the Betty Maitland Memorial Forest. He is a lover of Heath and follows the events and challenges of our little community with the same interest, energy, and insight he has brought to the Middle East and the larger world.

Alastair is a lover of his home, the house itself, the lands surrounding it, and the great maple that shades it and that he has so lovingly preserved. His is a lover of his family, especially

("Alastair Maitland Valentines" continued on page 4)



("Alastair Maitland Valentines" continued from page 3)

Betty with whom he enjoyed 38 years and raised two sons and a daughter and Hazel with whom he recently celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary. Through Hazel he has also become the de facto patriarch of an adoring hoard of Porters.

A lover is someone who devotes himself to the happiness and prosperity of his beloved with passion, intelligence, discipline, and all the best of himself. In all this Alastair Maitland is a consummate lover and it was a happy, happy chance that brought him into our lives.

~ Pam Porter

## AH ...

The red Mercedes  
Still proud after more than thirty years of service to its owner  
Pulls up to the stately red house that has maintained its same place for two hundred years.

The door opens slowly  
And out pops  
A spry young man of ninety-three,  
A little on the skinny side and a little slower than in his prime  
But still dapper with his familiar chapeau  
Left over from his days in Paris, I'm sure.

You can still see the twinkle in his eyes  
Eyes that have seen so much  
Eyes that have seen the world in so many places  
Eyes that have met so many people.

People whom he has touched  
People whom he has met,  
Be it the Pope in Rome  
Or his neighbors down the Dell  
There is no difference  
No change in how this man  
Treats or views others.

Always with compassion  
Always with kindness  
Always with respect  
He expounds dignity and grace.  
He radiates warmth and joy.

He holds passionately to his beliefs  
Save this bridge !  
Save that forest !  
Save what is right in this world  
And bring it peace,  
Peace that he has worked so hard to foster.

He never looks down  
Only up  
Up to the future  
Up for the good of all  
Up for the help he gives to so many  
Up for the many he touches.

He is a man of love  
Love for his companion and partner in life, with whom he has shared his last twenty-two years  
Love for his families that have surrounded him  
Love for the children and grandchildren that have adored him  
Love for the friends and community that have embraced him.

For as much as he has Loved  
He is Loved  
By us all !

~ Dave Ouellette

Alastair – A true gentleman! Happy Valentine's Day!

~ Jack Cable

("Alastair Maitland Valentines" continued on page 22)



## Proper Disposal of Household Hazards

Have you updated your old wall-mounted thermostat to a digital one? If so, don't throw out that old thermostat; it is hazardous waste. The Franklin County Solid Waste District would like to remind residents how to properly dispose of common household hazards. The items below should be kept out of the trash.

The following items may be properly disposed of, free of charge, by **handing them to the Heath Transfer Station attendant Bob Herman** (due to safety concerns, residents should not deposit items in the shed themselves):

1. **Cell phones** and their batteries
2. **Rechargeable batteries:** found in cell phones, cordless phones, cameras, cordless power tools, laptops, etc.
3. **Button batteries** found in hearing aids, watches, calculators, toys, singing greeting cards
4. **Alkaline batteries**

Mercury containing items, also accepted free of charge at Heath transfer station:

1. **Wall-mounted thermostats**, non-digital: do not remove ampules from thermostats
2. **Thermometers** with silver liquid
3. All **Fluorescent light bulbs**, including the new energy saving CFLs (also accepted free of charge at Home Depot and Aubuchon)
4. Silent Light Switches
5. Furnace or Boiler Controls

**The following special wastes may be brought to the transfer station listed below. Fees may apply.**

- **Ballasts** from fluorescent light fixtures
- **Oil based paints**, thinners, lacquers, and other paint-related items
- **Motor oil, oil filters**
- **Transmission fluid**
- **Anti-freeze**

**Location:** Heath residents may bring the above materials to the following transfer station at the designated times:

**Colrain Transfer Station:** Every Saturday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., Rt. 2 to Rt. 112N, left on Charlemont Road

Hazardous wastes not listed here may be brought to the Solid Waste District's annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, held each September in Montague, Charlemont, and Orange.

For more information call 413-772-2438.

## How Can I Say Goodbye?

On Halloween last year I sold my house and moved out of Heath after thirty-four years. On one hand this was some time in coming; on another, it happened in the blink of an eye. Since early 2005, when I became a single parent by virtue of my stepdaughters' mother moving to California, I had found it difficult to live in town and commute daily to my job in Northampton. I had known for several months that my youngest would be attending UMass Amherst this past fall, and would be living on campus; her older sister is away at Bard College in New York State. So when I had a chance encounter at a Shelburne Falls ATM in August with a young man looking to settle in the area with his family, I jumped at the chance to sell my house. As it turned out, the young man's wife had been a childhood friend of my oldest daughter, from Valley Play School in Shelburne Falls, and I had been friends with her parents when I first moved to Franklin County in 1973. We negotiated a private sale (apologies to my Realtor friend down the road) that both satisfied my needs and gave a couple with young children a chance to begin living their dream in Heath.

When I moved to town with my then-wife in 1974, the population was three hundred and something; now it's over 800. I came more or less as part of the 60s and early 70s migration from city to rural community, seeing land and the countryside awash with possibilities for a better life. The decade of the sixties (really the years from the Berkeley free speech movement in 1965 to Nixon's election in 1972) was a difficult, and frequently bitter time for many of my generation (disclaimer: I am technically not a Boomer, having been born a few months prior to the close of WWII, but I share many characteristics with that significant demographic). My wife and I came with no apparent skills for living in the country and – initially – no means of supporting ourselves other than a savings we had cached away after working several years, and living very frugally, in Boston.

Our first Heath house was a summer camp across the road from the Reverend Bill Wolf's house and in sight of Alan Nichols' and Catherine Heyl's cabin inside that stand of red pines. You all know the place – it's where the winter wind roars unabated from Mt. Greylock and slams into the crest of Branch Hill Road. During the ten winters we lived atop that hill, there was at least one time each winter when we had to ask Paul Lively to clear the snow from the driveway with his bucket loader, because even a 3/4-ton pickup with a plow just couldn't manage it. We often used a toboggan to haul groceries and a small child from the road to the house.

That structure had never been lived in year-round until we came in February of 1974. It was an open winter that year, and I'm sure our waterline would have frozen if we had had water in the first place. We bought the house without running water (several copper pipes had burst from freezing, but there was no pump). Also without what plumbers call a DWV system: sewage. We got our drinking water by tying rope to an enameled canner and lowering it into the set well just off the porch; sometimes we had to break ice to get the canner into the water. I would rather not describe how we dealt with our sewage needs. Additionally, all the electrical power was on four fuses. And the sole heat was a floor furnace, like in Peters' Store. The house was insulated, but had no interior walls: we stared at Johns-Manville fiberglass rather than drywall.

Quickly we met people who could help; the best help was how-to advice. I learned plumbing from Howard Thompson, Arnold Purington, and Donny Ward; electricity from Dick Sumner; other essentials from the often-prickly folks at Greenfield Supply and the very accommodating folks at Avery's. Of course, being college graduates, we also studied: Sears and Readers' Digest instruction books were our how-to bibles.

By springtime we had put up vapor barrier and drywall, installed new supply and drain plumbing, and exchanged the ancient fuse box for circuit breakers. Then for several years we worked on foundations, furnace, ceilings, lofts, bookshelves, staircases, gardens – nearly all of it with our own hands ... until at last we had a house we could live in for several years without worrying what project to tackle next.

And for most of those ten-plus years, we'd had our eye on the Francis and Nora Galipo house in south Heath. Why? Because it's where the snow melts first in Heath, and where it's only a slushy snow when there's a hard, dry blizzard up above – 1400 feet of altitude instead of 1800.

When Francis passed away, Nora opted to move to Shelburne Falls, and we bought the home. Naturally, the Galipo place needed much less work than had the summer camp, though it was not insulated, and the cistern held a mere 40 gallons of water. For several years, with help and guidance again from Dick Sumner, as well as Carroll Stowe, Walt Gleason, Charles Seaver and others I'm sure I'm missing, we renovated that house.

In 1989 I divorced; in 1995 my second family – partner and her two daughters – moved in; in 2005 she moved west. Now the youngest daughter, whom I have raised since before she could talk, is off to college.

So how to say good-bye to the place I've spent more of my life in than any other? Heath has nurtured me, shaped me, occasionally blasted me in its crucible. I've met so many good, good people. I feel sad and guilty that I was not able – either through extenuating circumstances or my own inadequacies -- to give more back to the town. I'll never have the town report or the Heath Fair booklet dedicated to me, as I always secretly hoped I might, some day, when I would become more a part of this terrific place. Everyone who lives in Heath knows how special it is. It's also hard – as former Avery Brook Road resident Kathy O'Rourke told me decades ago – to be a single person and live in Heath, even with the best long-time next-door neighbors imaginable in Art Schwenger and Carol Sartz, as well as other wonderful but more distant neighbors through the years.

So I have moved, temporarily, to Turners Falls. Later this year – after the foliage is done and the Sox have won the World Series again – I'm moving to Guatemala, where I can build a house cheaply, with no mortgage, then write, play music, travel, volunteer, teach a little English, and live on Social Security.

But ultimately I'm not having to say goodbye: one of the last official acts I performed as I was leaving town was to meet – on one of the transcendently beautiful fall days we had in 2008 – with Matt Lively, to choose a burial plot. Wherever I am when that fateful time comes – I hope decades down the road – I'll be coming home to Heath.

~ Mike Chrisman

Wild Ramblings**Ice in the Forest**

By Bill Lattrell



The hardwoods with broad tops weigh down under heavy ice along the edge of a field. Note how erect the conifers remain.

Photographs by Bill Lattrell

to get to my neighbor's field. The ice is still forming, and, as I traverse the slippery slopes, a large tree breaks in half and crashes to the ground only about 50 yards to my left. It occurs to me that this is insane but I am almost to the clearing and so I continue. The field's edges are blurred by trees down everywhere. I climb over tops and branches as I enter the field and find that the slippery grass is very difficult to walk on. It is like a skating rink at a 20-degree angle. slowly I ascend the hillside, and when I can see the open view to the east I check my cell phone where two bars appear on the phone display. Good, I think, I will be able to reach my client. While I am dialing I notice movement to the north of me. From around the trunk of a large oak in the middle of the field a ten-point buck appears. He is only 20 yards away. I have seen him at great distances while hunting, and here I am, still in primitive firearms hunting season, armed with only my cell phone. The large deer sees me and stops. He looks at the woods where trees are still constantly breaking and dropping to the ground and then he looks back at me. He glances back to the woods one more time and then again looks at me. I can see his worried eyes, but he decides I am less of a threat than the falling forest and he just stands there hoping I am not dangerous. I complete my phone call all the while watching this deer and when I finish I walk away, aware that the deer is in a high state of stress and needs to be left alone. The deer watches me disappear over the hillside. As I walk downslope I glance over my shoulder and the deer is still in the middle of the field, just staring at the woods where trees continue to crash to the ground.

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Not living in tornado alley of the mid-western United States, or along the gulf coast or the Florida peninsula where hurricanes regularly wreak havoc on the natural world, or in areas where volcanoes and earthquakes dominate normal routines, we here in the rural northeast do not expect natural disasters. That being the case, when a natural disaster occurs we are awestruck. The great Ice Storm of 2008 was no exception.

This ice storm was nearly flawless. It was preceded by a warm period that allowed only the surface of the soil to thaw. The storm originated in the northwest, dove down to grab moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, and then travelled along the eastern seaboard picking up more and more water off the Atlantic Ocean as it travelled north. A stubborn Canadian high pressure area hung over central New England as the large rainstorm approached, and the temperatures at ground level stayed in the neighborhood of



Heavy ice topples trees, roots and all, and breaks young pole size trees and large trees alike.

("Wild Ramblings" continued on page 7)



(*"Wild Ramblings"* continued from page 6)

twenty degrees while the upper atmosphere filled with warm, wet air. The storm started on a Thursday afternoon, and by dark the ice could be seen clinging to trees. Pockets of warm air traveled along the surface as heavy fog that immediately froze when it came into contact with any cold, solid surface. These waves of fog were not widespread and accounted for the exceptional ice formation in small local pockets where damage would be exaggerated before the end of the ice storm. The storm brought heavy, heavy rain that went through the entire night. Four inches of rain at twenty degrees equal ice mayhem, but the ice damage to trees could have been much worse if the rains were a little less intense and had more time to stick to the surface of solid objects. Heavy rain flows off of the trees and branches and does not freeze as quickly and so much of the rain found its way to the ground saturating the recently thawed soil. The soil saturation created its own problems loosening the soils around tree roots throughout the thawed, saturated zone within the soils. Ice-laden treetops and poorly anchored roots in wet soil are a perfect combination for tree toppling.

For those that live in and near the forest, the shockingly constant and eerie noise of branches breaking and trees falling was more than unsettling. The noise was reminiscent of war, the sharp crack of breaking branches emulating rifle shots, and the loud boom of trees tumbling down sounding like cannon fire. Listening to this is very scary, indeed, and one is left with a helpless feeling that one's future is now determined by fate alone. Throughout the night and into the dawn the ice attack was relentless. By daybreak those experiencing this were weary and looking for the storm to break. The shock of seeing the damage at the first light of day stirred reserves of adrenaline. Hundreds of trees snapped off 30 to 40 feet above the ground. Treetops scattered everywhere, and on hillsides whole trees lay on their sides with 12-foot rootballs sticking up in the air creating earthen walls where none were present before the storm. One was left to wonder; when would this come to an end?

The forest is a complicated organism. Each and every aspect of it is dependent upon and simultaneously responsible for every other part of its ecosystem. It is very delicate in structure, yet appears strong and ancient. To see huge areas of this complex system severely altered in less than 24 hours is an experience that cannot be immediately comprehended.

The severity of ice damage in the forest is determined by much more than the thickness of the ice. Damage to individual trees is most relevant to tree form. Tree species with broad crowns, many fine branches, and shallow roots are much more susceptible to heavy ice damage. Individual trees, of any species, with disease and broken branches, suffer in ice storms. Trees with intruded (folded over) bark at major joints are unusually susceptible to ice damage due to ice expanding within those joints. White birch, black cherry, and red maple are examples of tree species that may not fare well in a bad ice storm. Tree species that have narrow crowns, coarse branching, strong branch attachment to the trunk of the tree, and deep roots do well. Black walnut, eastern hemlock, white oak, and ironwood are examples of trees that display these characteristics and that generally survive bad ice storms.

Forest aspect may be a major contributing factor, as well. Trees on western slopes that are constantly challenged by strong winds develop strong resistant wood. They are a little better prepared for extreme ice conditions. Trees sheltered from winds, but susceptible to rains, may do poorly in an ice storm. Wet areas, particularly those wet areas on steep slopes, may not have sufficient ballast by tree roots to keep the tree upright in the event of heavy ice. Bedrock close to the surface or impermeable soils may force a tree to have shallow roots that do not effectively anchor a tree. This too makes the tree much more susceptible to toppling over under the extreme weight of ice.

And sometimes it is simply a matter of dumb luck as to which areas of the forest receive bad ice damage, and which areas do not.

Although the economic damage to the forest can be a hefty burden to bear for those who manage timber, ice destruction is not all bad news for the forest. Old and diseased trees are naturally culled allowing young, disease-free trees to fill the gaps. Even aged forests may become uneven since they create a pattern of tree development that allows better growth and less competition. Areas where damage is particularly devastating may create large openings where light penetrates to the forest floor allowing herbaceous plants to once again dominate the plant community for a period of time. This is of great benefit to most wildlife which are the benefactors of plant-species diversity created by clearings in the forest. Coarse woody debris from fallen trees and branches may fill the forest floors creating a host for insects, fungi, and beneficial microorganisms. The soil will be enriched as this woody material breaks down over many, many years, creating good conditions for mycorrhizal\* fungi and future forest growth. The benefits of a perceived disaster may not be readily apparent to the casual observer, but perfectly clear to all the elements of the ecosystem that take advantage of the new circumstances.

As I write this article, it has now been slightly less than four weeks since the ice storm. The shock of it is over. Only now I can step back and begin to appreciate just what an unusual event it was. Yes, it put a huge dent in my forest management retirement plan. Yes, the forest near my house is changed dramatically for the rest of my days. And yes, my view of the stability of the forest is forever changed. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would witness something so powerful in my immediate surroundings.

The storm has made me realize that my own little, tranquil world is, at a moment's notice, capable of turning completely upside down. Realizing that we humans have no real control of the natural world can be a literal earth-shaking experience. It makes me feel very small and somewhat helpless. I realize I am not the master of my own destiny, but rather only an observer and recorder of events.

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(*"Wild Ramblings"* continued on page 15)



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

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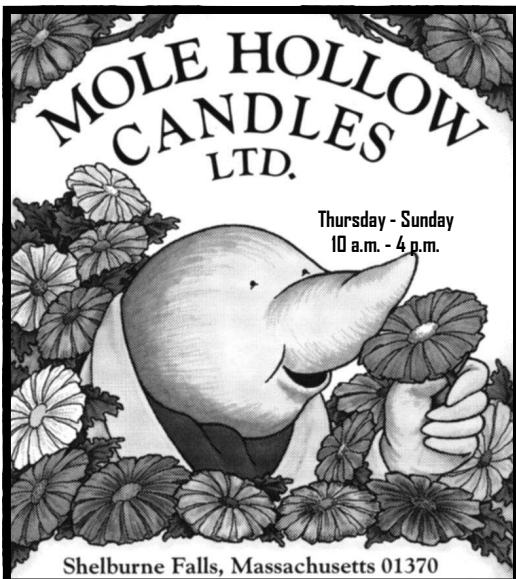
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*Green Thoughts***Heirloom Seeds**

By Pat Leuchtman

The first seed catalog to arrive in my mailbox this year was the *Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds 2009 Pure Seeds Book*. This oversized catalog with its heavy glossy cover drawing of a giant melon on a dish in front of an idyllic field set in front of a lake and snow covered mountains is not what I expected from what I knew as a homegrown seed company that trades on some old-timey nostalgia, but I guess that's marketing. Both the glitz and the old-timey nostalgia.

It's astounding that a 13-year-old seed company founded by 17-year-old Jere Gettle near Springfield, Missouri, can have given birth to a farm, a business, Web sites ([www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com)), Internet forums, a store, and ongoing projects like a grist mill and restaurant.

The heart of the Baker Creek business is heirloom seeds, and they offer 1275 varieties of non-hybrid, non-GMO, non-patented seeds from Amaranth to Melons to Watermelon in every shade from creamy yellow to orange yellow to familiar juicy red.

I was happy to see that they have seeds for the Beauty Heart Chinese radish, although they use the less attractive appellation Chinese Red Meat. This is a delicious vegetable that we were introduced to in China. Often served as a kind of fresh pickle. I had trouble thinking of it as a radish because it is bigger than a purple top turnip, but it is just beautiful. The exterior is a pale green, but when you cut it open there is a pale green rim, then a ring of white and then the red beauty heart. It is a cool weather crop and it is usually planted in late summer.

For some years now as people have become aware of the price paid in taste and texture of vegetables and fruits bred to be mechanically harvested and shipped vast distances, there has been a growing interest in heirloom varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, because of their more distinctive flavors, and flowers.

In 1975 when Kent Whealy and his wife Diane Ott became distressed at the thought of all the vegetable varieties that were disappearing from markets and seed companies they founded the Seed Savers Exchange. The SSE has flourished and now has its own Heritage Farm in Decorah, Iowa, and an online catalog ([www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org)) but for a \$35 annual membership you will get the big *Seed Saver's Yearbook*, a tome that includes information about 700 other members who have over 11,000 rare seed varieties to offer to other members, as well as smaller summer and harvest editions. Kent and Diane and the Seed Savers Exchange were instrumental in bringing attention to the danger of losing all these old varieties.

Danger? Don't forget, that all the hybrids and patented varieties that are taking ownership of seed away from farmers actually depend on a vital and large gene pool to be able to keep making new varieties to meet new growing challenges.

The need to maintain this gene pool has been recognized by

nations and organizations. There are a number of official seed banks that collect and store seeds under locked and controlled conditions, including our own Department of Agriculture's seed collection in Fort Collins, Colorado. Just last February the Norwegian government opened a "doomsday vault" in Svalbard. This project has collected seed from all over the world.

"We will have the biological foundation for all of agriculture, which is really saying something," said Cary Fowler, executive secretary of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the international organization coordinating the vault's creation with the Norwegian government. "It is a stunning achievement, if you think about it, and it would be about as safe as human beings can make it."

Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg called the vault "the Noah's Ark for securing biological diversity for future generations."

I agree that such a safe seed bank is essential for the security of the world food supply. I also think it is fun to be a part of the seed-saving effort, whether you save your own open-pollinated seeds or simply buy from an heirloom company, so they will keep on producing these seeds.

Over the years there has been special interest in heirloom tomatoes, different sizes, different colors, and different types from cherry to beefsteak, but all with unique juicy flavors that probably do not ship very well, and therefore are not grown by agribusiness farms. The interest in heirloom tomatoes has made seeds more and more readily available, and even starts are easily found in our area.

But tomatoes are just the beginning as Baker Creek has shown. Many regular seed companies like Johnny's Selected Seeds ([www.Johnnyseeds.com](http://www.Johnnyseeds.com)) of Maine carry heirloom seeds, clearly marked in their catalog.

Some companies have wonderful online catalogs. There is the Victory Seed Company ([www.victoryseeds.com](http://www.victoryseeds.com)) that offers a full range of vegetable, herb, and flower seeds.

Marianna's Heirloom Seeds ([www.mariseeds.com](http://www.mariseeds.com)) offers 'extraordinary heirloom and Italian seeds' including a huge selection of paste tomatoes.

Those of us who are interested in history, and good eating, might be tempted to try an heirloom crop or two, even if we are not big gardeners.. Worth a try.

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# Reflections on the Ice Storm



Flagg Hill - near Swamp Road.

*Photographs by Mike Smith*

## The day that the Ice came.....

The day started around 4:30 a.m. with a radio call from Fire Chief/Highway Superintendent Mike Smith. Both the Selectboard Chair and the Emergency Management Director were requested to be at the EOC at the fire station. Along with most residents, one could tell that things in Heath were not good outside by the sound of numerous limbs, branches, and trees breaking off. The biggest challenge in those early morning hours was getting to the fire station. Thankfully Mike had sent Joey out with the town backhoe to try and "punch" a hole through all the trees and limbs that were blocking Number Nine Road so that Tom, Jason, Dohn, and myself could get to the station. The remainder of this day and the next several days involved daily meetings, receiving numerous reports of trees and wires blocking roads, and the coordination of town and volunteer crews working to get roads open enough so that the end result would be that an emergency vehicle (fire truck or ambulance) could get through all town roads.

Another big undertaking during the ice storm was the opening of the shelter at the Senior Center. This was the first time that the Town had to open a shelter for an emergency. This proved to be a valuable asset during the storm, as it provided a warm place for residents, volunteers, tree crews and power company crews to take a break and get something to eat, as well as providing the National Guard troops a place to sleep for a couple of nights. According to the Board of Health (which ran the shelter once the Red Cross left) a few hundred meals were prepared throughout the duration that the shelter was open. Once the storm event had ended, it was obvious that without the many volunteers and residents helping each other out, things would not have turned out as good as they did.

Several weeks later, things seem to be back to normal. Now

comes the daunting task of getting reimbursements from the government and the compiling of the associated paperwork that is being worked on by( and thanks to)Town Coordinator Gloria Fisher, Town Accountant Tracey Baronas, and Fire Chief/Highway Superintendent Mike Smith.

I want to finish now with a reminder that during a State of Emergency, if you have a battery operated radio or are listening to your car radio, please tune into WHAI 98.3 or WPVQ (Bear Country) 95.3 during their news times (listed below) to hear any local updates or town information being broadcast. The main news times for both radio stations are:

**Mornings at 5:30-6:00-6:30-7:00-7:30-8:00-8:30 and again at 12 noon and 6:00 p.m.**

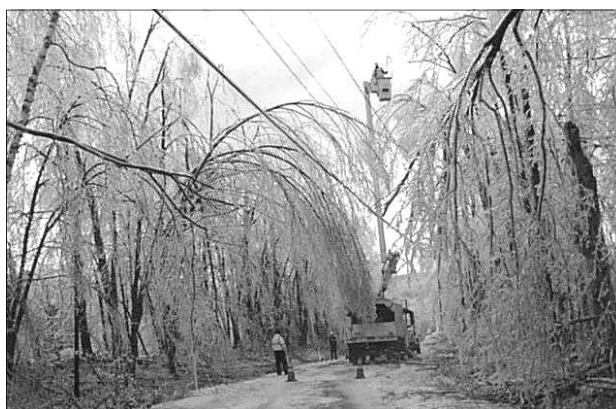
If you have power, updates are also listed on TV22 and TV40.

*~Timothy Lively*

Emergency Management Director



National Guard arrives in Heath.



National Grid on Bray Road.

*Photograph by Eileen Tougas*

(*"Reflections on the Ice Storm"* continued on page 12)



(*"Reflections on the Ice Storm"* continued from page 11)

Several years back, Tim Lively and I were talking of disasters and imagining what could ever happen in Heath that would constitute one. In our conversation, he had said that in the event of a disaster the Community Hall would become a shelter but I have to admit the likelihood of such an event seemed remote. Then came last month's historic ice storm and suddenly what seemed so remote became very real.

The miracle of the storm, however, was how quickly disaster plans were mobilized and how soon crews of people were out clearing away the debris and checking on neighbors. Within hours the Senior Center became an official Red Cross shelter providing food, water, and much needed warmth. And though no townspeople needed to spend the night, the Hall also became home for the 27 National Guardsmen who came to help clear the roads. For most people in Heath, needing help from the outside world was a new experience and it took a while for people to begin to take advantage of the shelter. Pearl Puskay, the Red Cross volunteer in charge of the center, reported that in true Heath fashion more people came to see if they could help than to get help themselves. It was evident, as well, that in order to provide meals, local help was needed and soon both Town and Red Cross volunteers were working hand in hand. Bob Tanner our town constable, stayed in the shelter round the clock making sure the Red Cross had what they needed to operate. One of the first orders of business was to get in a supply of food. Budge and Sheila Litchfield made a run to the Good Neighbors Pantry while others got supplies from Avery's. Folks began arriving to help cook and soon meals were being served. By the end of the second day, however, the shelter was well established and it was decided that Heath could carry on, on its own.

When Sheila called me to help figure out how we could keep the Community Hall open as a shelter, I didn't anticipate how the power of neighborliness could turn the daunting task of feeding 60 to 80 people a day into community affair. There was a flood of offers for both food and help. After some initial organizing, Jenna Day from the Board of Heath took charge of the day-to-day operations and menus. As it turned out, because so many had been through a rough time, the opportunity to prepare food, to commiserate and tell stories together was the best of therapies. Slowly, spirits began to lift as neighbors shared their ice stories over chopping vegetables or making spaghetti sauce and the inevitable silliness and laughter that comes to any group working and eating together began to replace the frustration so many felt over the lack of power in their home.

It reminded me of days long gone by when every summer would bring a host of community suppers. As teenagers, my sisters and I would wait tables, serving up platters of ham and steaming bowls of baked beans, prepared in the same kitchen we were using now. Serving up a meal was always a cross-generational event and, as a summer person, working with all ages was one of many ways that I first got to know Heath.

In thinking back on Heath's very first shelter, it is fair to say that for many, the Community Hall will never again be just a building, and memories of the shelter it provided in the Ice Storm of '08 will fuel another generation of stories of community life in Heath.

~ Deb Porter

## Ice and Fire

One of us thought,  
and the rest of us all of us agreed,  
it would be a terrific thing to gather  
some of the ice storm's debris,  
the branches and limbs that littered and blocked the  
roads,  
downed wires, and left us all  
in the dark and cold so many days,  
into a great bonfire,  
A New Year's Blaze.

So the Tree Crew went to work  
and built up a stack of wood as big as a barn  
on the very spot where Mrs. Drown's house  
that burnt down several Christmases back  
once stood.

On New Year's Eve  
some of the guys stayed after work to light it.  
(They fired up an excavator, too,  
in case there was trouble.)

Blustering winds blew fire and smoke  
up in a towering swirl. Sparks flew  
and came showering over the road,  
down toward the neighbor's stable.

Luckily enough, the whole pile never ignited.  
(It could have been quite a conflagration.)  
Anyway, who did we think  
would have stayed up all night to tend it?  
Most of us aren't so young any more,  
and by ten o'clock even our New Year's revels  
are ended.

We headed home early relieved  
there was nothing much left to disturb our sleep,  
only a few coals burning low  
at the rim of the heap.

Here's hoping the follies of 2008  
die down as quickly,  
and that wisdom's wick in 2009,  
burns more brightly.

~ Pamela Porter  
© January 1, 2009

(*"Reflections on the Ice Storm"* continued on page 13)

**Apologies to Le-Ellen Weis for not giving her due credit for her fine photographs of the Ladies Aid Fair in the last issue.**

(*"Reflections on the Ice Storm"* continued from page 12)



*Photograph by Bob Viarengo*

Margaret and I have had many occasions over the last six-plus years to rejoice at our good fortune in having retired to Heath. We love the rich cultural opportunities that abound in this part of the world, the breathtaking scenery, the proximity of New York and Boston, and much else. But as we learned in the Great Ice Storm of '08, we didn't know the half of it. What makes Heath such a special place for us, we realized in the wake of the storm, is the town's strong sense of community, a quality nowhere more abundantly in evidence than during this time of trial.

When we awoke on the morning of December 12 to the cracking and crunching sounds of falling trees and limbs under the weight of the ice, we realized that this was a bigger deal than we had anticipated when we went to bed in the dark the night before, after the power went out. Not only did we lack electricity and telephone service, we were marooned, because a half-dozen trees and large branches had fallen across our driveway. I made my way to our generator and turned the ignition key. Nothing. Fuhgeddaboutit, as they say in New York. In my preparations for winter, I had forgotten to check the generator's battery, which was now stone-dead. And we couldn't get out to buy a new one.

So we cleared up as much as we could, making our way up our driveway to Avery Brook Road, which looked like a war zone. We heard the welcome sound of chain saws, and espied our neighbor Ken Gilbert, who was part of a volunteer crew, clearing away fallen trees and branches from the road. Ken said he couldn't help us that day because the town needed the roads open for emergency vehicles, but would come the next day. That afternoon, however, we again heard a chain saw, closer to us this time, and there was Ken, clearing away the tree limbs from our driveway. I went out to get a new battery, installed it, turned the ignition key, and . . . still nothing.

But another Angel of Mercy, or rather two, showed up a couple of hours later in the persons of Brian De Vriese and John Henry, who had come to be sure we were okay. Brian and John set to work on the recalcitrant generator, with which they tinkered for two full hours as the darkness descended, and got it going. We now had heat, running water, refrigeration, and some lights. The next morning Ryan Archambault came by to check on us, and chain-sawed the

one tree that was still leaning on our power and telephone lines.

In the meantime we had ventured out, discovering the beehive of activity at the Senior Center as Deb Porter, Sue Lively, Sandy Gilbert, Jenna Day, Kim Richter, and many others were preparing and serving meals to Heathans who had lost their cooking facilities. We still had ours, because Margaret's Aga range runs on propane, so Margaret cooked and brought up several dishes to the Center, while I ran a few meals out to townspeople who couldn't get out of their houses. We saw Peter Weis, the Triad officer from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, checking on people's welfare. We even met the legendary Bob Tanner, of whom we had heard ever since we moved to town but had never encountered.

And so in the fullness of time – fuller than we anticipated because we were without power and phone for a week – things gradually returned to normal. We got our utilities back. The National Guard stood down. The Senior Center emergency dining facility closed. One local wag was heard to opine that it might be worth another disaster to get access to more of Margaret's cooking, an observation that might account for my never-ending battle with the bathroom scale. Our generator ran steadily for four days and five nights and didn't break. We lost a few of our beautiful trees, but neither our house nor we were damaged. We were very lucky.

There was a lesson for me in these events. I am continually amazed at the many acts of kindness that we encounter from Heath people, day after day, year after year. I had begun to worry about whether I, at least, had done enough in return. But these events showed me that in a society where the bonds of community are as strong as they are in Heath, it's pointless to keep score. You do what you can where you can with what you have. In the long run, things even out. And I've come to realize that the rich social contract of Heath is nothing new. During the celebration of Heath Center's designation as a National Historic District, the longtime Heath residents who shared their experiences with us, told stories of community involvement and mutual support that could easily have been told without much change about Heath and the Great Ice Storm of '08. That long-term consistency in a town's social fabric is, I believe, an important part of what tradition means.

*~ Don and Margaret Freeman*

On our sixth day without electricity, it was my daughter's birthday. All she wanted was a birthday cake (without electricity I could not use my electric stove). We ended up at the Senior Center for more water and all I could do was cry. Everyone there was so understanding. That was when we met the "Birthday Fairy." She had gone home and made my daughter a cake and brought it to the Senior Center that night. She also gave my daughter a gift. But the best part was when they brought the cake out and everyone there sang "Happy Birthday." My daughter said, "This is the biggest party I've ever had!"

*~ Rebecca Allen*

(*"Reflections on the Ice Storm"* continued on page 14)

(*"Reflections on the Ice Storm"* continued from page 12)



*Photograph by Bob Viarengo*

I woke up to a beautiful world of crystal! Every crisp blade of grass, every bare twig, every pebble – even the rotten crabapples – shimmered with multi-colored crystal. It was amazing! I hadn't seen anything like it in the thirty years I spent living in New York.

I grabbed my camera, threw on my coat and boots, and headed out to the porch, only to find that the door wouldn't open. I assumed my husband, a TRIAD officer for Franklin County, had finally lost it, and he'd nailed it shut to keep us safe! However, after a few firm tugs, I flung the door open, muttering that it might be a good idea to hide the nails anyway... I stepped out and immediately fell flat on my back! Since I apparently had the presence of mind to save my camera by holding my arm straight up while landing, I took the opportunity to take a few photos of the White Birch Trees bowed over our vehicles in the driveway. As I caught my breath, I began to notice the total silence all around me, except for a strange, almost musical crackling and snapping that echoed through the woods. I turned my head towards the door and saw that the house, door, and steps were covered with three inches of ice – beautiful, but not good. I snapped some photos in a circular motion as I swung my arm around to crawl back into the porch.

Hmm, no electricity. My New York life experience told me that it would be back on in a matter of minutes, right? Wrong. My mother just looked at me, shaking her head. You know the look I'm talking about. "*What?!*" She proceeded to tell me that I needed to get some water to flush the toilets (city toilets always flushed, so that was news to me!). I needed to get lighting, heat, and drinking water, too, for approximately two to five days! "*You're kidding, right?*" Unfortunately, she wasn't.

Ok, I could do that. My husband had to be out there helping those who needed it more than we did, so I just needed to suck it up and handle things for the rest of us. Maybe it would be fun. Just like all those camping trips my husband used to drag me and the kids on. Ok, maybe not fun, but doable. I just needed to keep looking at the bright side – at least there were no bugs.

Because of a leaking roof in the woodshed, it turns out I had collected water from all the recent rain, filling two Tupperware bins!! I broke the ice and lugged some in to flush the non-flushing

toilets of Heath. I discovered plenty of bottled water in the pantry, as my daughter, Dawn, and her son Aiden, aged two-and-a-half, don't appreciate the fact that you can actually drink the tap water in Heath. They're used to the chlorinated water of New York, so only drink it bottled! So, we had plenty of water to cook with, too! Ok, easy! Now for heat... We had recently put in a wood pellet stove, so I assumed the house would stay heated – we just needed to keep feeding the stove pellets. Wrong again. I didn't realize we were just getting the tail end of the heat from the furnace, as it won't burn without the fan that keeps the temp regulated. So much for that brilliant idea... Ok... We still had the fireplace, controlled by propane. If we closed all the doors upstairs and down, we could keep pretty warm in the kitchen and living room. Oh my! Just think – the family might have to share the same space and actually talk to each other! No TVs, no radios, no DVDs... Uh oh, problem there. My two-and-a-half year old grandson is addicted to watching a singing, dancing DVD of the Doodlebops. He doesn't understand 'no electricity' and kept hollering for us to put "*badderys*" in his player. We went through two laptops and three previously-charged DVD players to stop Aiden from having the DTs... We now know we need to redirect his interests...

I unearthed our gas grill from the outside shed. Dragging that sucker up through the ice showed me how out of shape I am! So! I cooked on the grill a feast for all, while freezing my fingers off in the process. I had candles all over the kitchen and living room, the fireplace was soon glowing and keeping us warm. We set up a table near the fire and mom, Dawn, Aiden and I (My husband spent days bringing cold people to the warming center) reflected on how lucky we were. I gave my husband a bunch of fleece blankets I had sewn the previous week for him to give out to people who needed help keeping warm, and we didn't see him again for two more days! We ate, talked, and played cards by firelight for hours. We repeated this for three days until the electricity was restored.

Then, sadly, everyone went their own ways again. While I cleaned up our little "nesting area" and put things away, I was surprised to realize that the ice storm had ended up becoming a cherished memory. It was no longer a surprise to me that my dad had loved it here so much.

~ Le-Ellen Pettengill Weis

Kudos are much in order to members of the Town's staff, the people of Heath, and all the utility workers who worked tirelessly during the power outage and ice storm damage of mid-December 2008. Their "caring for others" reached its zenith at the Senior Center where volunteers served breakfast, lunch, and dinner to any who showed up and provided a resting place for those who needed one. The Selectboard, the Fire, Police, and Highway Departments, the Emergency Management, and Board of Health did yeoman's work to get the Town back on its feet and make sure people were safe and secure. Power company and tree workers worked night and day to get things working again. Pegge and I had so many offers of showers that we began to feel we were sorely in need of such! Meals with neighbors were especially appreciated. Many, many thanks.

~ Dave and Pegge Howland

(*"Reflections on the Ice Storm"* continued on page 15)



("Reflections on the Ice Storm" continued from page 14)

The aftermath of the horrific ice storm in December 2008 will certainly be a topic of conversation for many moons. We humans will be "cleaning-up" and "repairing" for months to come. Tales of hardship and statements of thankfulness to good friends and neighbors should certainly continue to be spoken.

But my thoughts and feelings go out to the natural world. What about the deer, turkeys, rabbits, mice, birds—how were they affected? Many of their homes must have been destroyed, or at least damaged, and I'm sure finding food in an ice-covered terrain must have been an arduous task for the creatures of the wild.

It grieves me each time I look at a wounded tree with gaping holes for snow and ice to fill and to break them some more. I feel their pain as each time the wind blows. How long will it be before they succumb to insect infestation. Even some were completely uprooted—too soon to become part of nature's recycling process. As the wind flows through I hear the groaning and crying among the battered branches.

So as we go about our need as humans to "clean up," leave some brush piles for critter homes, some budded branches for browsing, and give those broken heroes time to heal their wounds and renew themselves. Their scars will remain for many years to come as a reminder that they are hurting too.

~ Ruth Johnson

### A Thank-You Note from Your Selectboard

The ice storm on the night of December 11, 2008, tested much more than the patience of Heath residents waiting for power, heat, phone lines and a sense of normalcy to return. A "State of Emergency" was declared at 4:15 a.m. on the next morning which started the ball rolling for what was to become a weeklong response that was nothing short of amazing.

Early on it was obvious from the level of effort required to just reach the road crew and Selectboard that we had a significant problem on hand. In accordance with the Heath Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan we activated the Emergency Operations Center and decisions were made to call out the Fire Department, the National Guard, American Red Cross, and contractors with specific road management equipment. Prior to this emergency, opening the shelter was something we had only practiced in drills.

The "silver lining" through all of this which shone even more beautifully than the ice crystals covering everything around town, was the response of neighbors helping neighbors – a coming together to help out of true concern. As the days wore on, story after story emerged of people using their own time, talent, and abilities to help wherever they could despite challenges at their own homes.

It is not possible to thank each of you by name, but please know that you all have affirmed once again that the citizenry of Heath is the best!

With sincere gratitude,  
~ Tom, Brian, and Sheila

### A Thank-You Note from Mohawk Estates

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association would like to extend our gratitude to the Town officials, the Emergency Management Team, Highway Department, and all the volunteers who came to our assistance clearing the roads and making it possible for the National Grid to repair all the downed power lines and restore power in our area.

We would like to thank Bruce LaMothe who acted as our liaison with the Emergency Management Team. Bruce attended meetings each morning and helped to inform and direct crews to areas of devastation. We would also like to extend thanks to all the MEPOA property owners who volunteered their time and energy clearing the roads.

There are at least twenty-five permanent residents scattered throughout the Estates. With all the downed trees and limbs covering the roads and making them impassable, it was crucial that they be cleared so that these residents could be reached in the event of a medical emergency.

Again, thank you!

Sincerely,  
~ The Board of Directors, MEPOA

("Wild Ramblings" continued from page 7)

*It is night of January 8, 2000, and I am standing on my front deck gazing at the starry heavens above. My view overlooks our field to the east. I sense movement in the darkened field and shine a flashlight into the darkness. As I move the beam of the flashlight from right to left I see six pairs of eyes, reflecting in the flashlight beam, staring in my direction. The herd of deer are working the edge of the field. They are foraging leaf buds that are attached to the branches of huge fractured tops of trees that have fallen from red maple and yellow birch trees in the recent ice storm. I am amazed because usually the deer have moved down to the Deerfield River or North River valleys by early January where food is more plentiful, the snow is less deep, and life in the wilds is a little easier. The ice storm has provided plentiful food that will benefit the deer and will allow them not to expend precious energy that would otherwise be utilized navigating the deep snow as they migrate to the not-so-nearby valleys. For this winter, at least, we will be neighbors.*

*As I stand in the dark night thinking about this I realize that there is a strange beauty that this storm has brought to all. And for the first time I feel some comfort from the great Ice Storm of 2008.*

*\* Of the symbiotic association of the mycelium (mass of interwoven filaments) of a fungus with the roots of a seed plant.*

## Finance Committee Report

The Heath Finance Committee has been preparing for the annual round of budget hearings for the next fiscal year with the Selectboard to be held this month. In the meantime, it is considering three major issues.

The Committee has been discussing heating assistance for those having difficulty with the skyrocketing price of fuel oil, which has recently, but doubtless temporarily, come back to earth. For the present, because the current state of the economy makes it unlikely that a fund for this purpose would generate enough contributions to justify setting one up, the Committee hopes that those in need will seek out local sources of aid such as ministers' discretionary funds in local churches, and community action groups. According to recent newspaper reports, CITGO Oil is currently offering free heating oil to people having trouble paying their heating bills. This program can be reached by calling (877) JOE-4-OIL.

The Committee has also examined the issue of Pay as You Throw (PAYT), a plan for waste disposal that would oblige townspeople to buy and use specially marked trash bags, in an effort to encourage people to use the transfer station more efficiently. The Committee is in the process of gathering information about other towns' experience with PAYT and analyzing the past pattern of fees for dump tipping charges to the Town for disposal of waste material removed from the transfer station and income from recyclables like cardboard and glass.

Apparently there is a significant number of deposit bottles being thrown in the glass recyclables bin at the transfer station. The Heath Elementary School currently accepts returnables in its foyer and uses them for school programs, but not everyone is able to get to the school. The Committee is considering whether a location can be established for deposit bottles to be dropped off so that the Town can benefit.

The third major issue is capital planning. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts now permits towns to establish Special Purpose Stabilization Funds (SPSFs), in effect, savings accounts that can be carried over from year to year, unlike other municipal budget accounts. The Committee hopes to establish, in its discussions with Town department heads, the departments' likely capital needs over the next five years. If the Committee decides to establish an SPSF, the Town can then allocate to it the appropriate percentage of each capital item every year, so that it will not face a big purchase without having budgeted for it in advance, and possibly incur significant interest costs if it must borrow. The Town faced that problem in the spring of 2008 when the Highway Department had to purchase a grader. Thanks to the energy and responsiveness of Mike Smith, the Superintendent of the Highway Department, who searched widely and found a used grader that would serve the Department's needs at less than a third of what the Committee was originally considering, we were spared that crisis. But the Committee hopes to be able to set up a capital outlay plan that will regularize these expenditures, lessen the need for extraordinary efforts like Mike's, and reduce the Town's interest costs.

The Committee is waiting for the hammer to fall on the Town's state aid payments as well as school district aid, in light of Governor Patrick's warnings about the State's economic situation. The Committee plans to take its lead from the Selectboard, working with them to

develop budget plans in light of whatever reductions in state aid are imposed.

Heath Finance Committee  
Don Freeman, Chair, Janis Carr,  
Dave Gott, Jeff Simons, Ned Wolf

## Letters to the Editors:



### My Heartfelt Thanks

I did not think that turning eighty would be such an event. From the shock of surprise at being greeted at the door by two wonderful grandsons with valet parking -(then a quick desire to go back home) - to the smiles - laughter - tears - that filled the afternoon - it was stupendous.

Thank you, thank you all - my dear family - other relatives, neighbors, old friends, new friends, fellow workers - Heathans and outlanders - you really made my day - my year!

As I read cards, notes, letters and remember conversations filled with memories I am in awe - did I really participate in all these things? So glad I did, and look forward to being with each and every one of you again doing whatever the day presents. Thank you and God bless!

~ Ruth Landstrom Law Johnson

### To the Staff of the Wonderful Heath Herald:

This issue (December 2008/January 2009) pleases me so very much. The cover is inspirational and the coverage on our Johnson Organ is just great. Thanks so much.

~ Ruth Johnson

## Heath Elementary School Parent-Teacher Partnership (PTP) News

We continue to have success in our fund-raising efforts this year, despite the tough economy. For this we are truly grateful to all our parents, grandparents, school staff, and community members who participate in so many ways to help raise the funds necessary to provide enrichments and "extras" for our students. Funded in partnership with the Heath LCC, in December we offered "Toying with Science." This educational and fun performance featured Gary Krinsky - local, but nationally-known educator/performer, who dazzled our students with an array of seemingly magical feats - all explained in quite scientific terms. The kids loved it and talked about this science "magic" for days.

We continue to offer a wide range of after-school enrichment programming including arts & crafts, sports, and - hopefully soon - ice skating at the Fairgrounds. Also in planning stages are a family "Reggae Night/Dance" with D.J. Bobby C., and a family night fund-raiser with the renowned "Wholesale Klezmer Band" in support of the Strings/Violin program here at the school. Look for publicity coming soon or call the school for details!

~ Dana Blackburn

PTP Chair for Community-School Relations

## Heath Business Directory

**Bald Mountain Pottery**  
625-8110

**The Benson Place**  
Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread  
337-5340

**Fred Burrington**  
Artist  
337-4302

**Dave Cote Builders**  
Branch Hill Road  
337-4705

**Robert Delisle**  
Electrician  
337-5716

**Russell E. Donelson**  
Design/Construction/Cabinetry  
337-4460

**Jerry Ferguson**  
Home Improvement  
Lic. Electrician  
337-4317

**Earl M. Gleason**  
Fire Equipment  
337-4948

**Heath Brook Studio**  
Glass and Baskets  
337-5736

**Maple Ledge Goldens**  
AKC Registered Golden Retrievers  
337-4705

**John Mooney**  
Custom Remodeling  
337-8344

**Wanda Mooney**  
Realtor  
337-8344

**Tripp's Blueberries**  
Taylor Brook Road  
337-4964

**Paul Turnbull**  
**Janice Boudreau**  
Commercial/Wedding Photographers  
337-4033

**Bonnie Wodin**  
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337-5529

### Support Your Local Businesses

If you would like more information about the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

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**It's Your Health and Safety****Seasonal Affective Disorder**

By Claire Rabbitt RN

As the hymn goes, we are in *The Bleak Midwinter*, a season when we are more likely to feel depressed because of shorter hours of daylight, cold temperatures, and less socialization. In my experience, winter is the most difficult time of year for us New Englanders. We have the snow and ice storms to cope with as well as frozen pipes, and it seems if anything is going to go wrong with the car, it happens in the winter. Even if all is going well in life, some people feel less happy because of less daylight. This is called **Seasonal Affective Disorder**.

If a person is severely depressed, he or she should be prescribed therapy and medication by a medical provider. For those of us who are having mild depression, there are things we can do on our own to brighten our mood.

- **Start by turning on the lights. Keep your living/working space bright.**
- **Try to get outside every day, when it is safe to do so. Anyone who is at risk for falling, be very cautious going out on your own, and avoid icy areas.**
- **If you can't get out, think of indoor activities you can do such as playing music or doing a workout with an exercise video.**
- **Eat a healthy diet trying to avoid "comfort food" and remember, a diet of low fat and sugar is best. Also avoid alcohol which is a depressant.**
- **DO SOMETHING NICE FOR SOMEONE ELSE!**

The good news is winter is half over, and we are enjoying more daylight now. Dream of June when it is paradise in Heath!

I continue to be in my office in the Senior Center Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m., Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. , and by appointment or call me at 337-8309 if you need a home visit.

### Elected Officials Terms expiring in May 2009

<u>Position</u>	<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Selectman	Sheila Litchfield	3 years
Town Clerk	Hilma Sumner	3 years
Assessor	Richard Gallup	3 years
Finance Com.	Edwin Wolf	3 years
FinCom	David Gott	3 years
FinCom	Janis Carr	3 years
Planning Board	Dianne Grinnell	5 years
Library Trustee	Deborah Porter	3 years
School Com.	Pamela Porter	3 years
Dog Officer	Robert Tanner Jr.	1 year
Constable	Jeffrey Simmons	1 year
Constable	Robert Tanner Jr.	1 year

In addition, we have vacancies for the following appointed positions: Board of Health member, and a representative to the Carl Nilman Scholarship Fund.

**Important Dates**

- **March 18, 2009 – Last Day to Obtain Nomination Papers from Town Clerk**
- **March 20, 2009 - Last day to Submit Completed Nomination Papers with at Least 25 signatures of Registered Voters to Town Clerk**
- **May 8, 2009 - TOWN ELECTIONS, noon until 7:00 p.m.**
- **May 9, 2009 - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, HEATH SCHOOL, 9:00 A.M. PRECEDED BY A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 8:30 A.M.**

## Selectboard's Report

### Fall Meeting Schedule

The Board has resumed its regular schedule of meeting every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall, unless posted otherwise.

### Ice Storm Emergency

On December 11 an ice storm became severe enough to cause power outages and loss of telephone service throughout the town. Falling or overhanging trees and limbs knocked down utility lines and made many roads impassable. At 4:15 a.m. Tom Lively as chair of the Selectboard declared a State of Emergency. By that time most of the roads in town were impassable with trees, limbs, power lines and utility poles down across the roadway. The Emergency Operations Center was activated and emergency personnel from the Town assembled there as soon as they could get through. Emergency Management Director Tim Lively contacted Shelburne Control and MEMA (MASS Emergency Management Agency) to notify them of the conditions in Heath and to request assistance. National Grid and Verizon were mobilized to begin restoring service as soon as roads were passable. Several tree service companies were employed to begin clearing the roads of fallen branches and trees.

After an initial assessment, the Highway and Fire departments set about clearing roads in an attempt to get them passable for emergency vehicles. A number of citizen volunteers began to show up at the EOC and were assembled into crews and sent out to assist in road clearing operations.

The Franklin County Triad officer Peter Weis of Heath arrived and began checking in on his call list to see if residents were in need of assistance.

It became clear from the assessments of the utility companies that it would take several days to restore power. A decision was made on Friday afternoon to activate the emergency shelter at the Community Hall-Senior Center under the supervision of the Board of Health and the Red Cross. Food, water, and shelter would be provided for any residents in need of assistance. The shelter would also provide food and a warm place to rest for the crews working to clear the roads and restore utilities. Many citizen volunteers arrived at the shelter to help with cooking and serving meals and to help those in need in whatever capacity they could.

The Massachusetts National Guard arrived in Town on Saturday to provide road clearing and rescue assistance. They stayed overnight at the Community Hall and left Sunday evening.

Each morning during the emergency, from December 12 through 19, the Selectboard and emergency officials met to assess the state of the cleanup operations, status of the shelter and the number of residents remaining without power.

On Friday, December 19, the State of Emergency was lifted at 9:20 a.m. Power had been restored to all but 32 homes with those fully expected to be powered by noon, and all roads were passable by emergency vehicles although many trees and branches remained to be cleaned up in the weeks to come. A formal damage assessment and cost estimate were submitted to MEMA for reimbursement to the town when funds become available.

The performance of everyone during this emergency was commendable. The Highway, Police, and Fire Department personnel, the Emergency Management Director, the Town

Nurse, and members of the Board of Health contributed above and beyond the call of duty. Local volunteers were indispensable in helping with the shelter and road clearing operations. Many residents checked in on their neighbors and opened their homes to those in need offering what resources they could spare to help others get through a very trying time. Volunteers came from neighboring towns such as Charlemont and Colrain to assist the Town of Heath by helping to clear the roads and, in one case, operating a loader and sander to help the utility company crews get through when our highway crew was off duty for much needed rest.

It is not possible to name everyone here who deserves recognition for their invaluable contributions during this emergency. The spirit of volunteerism and sense of civic responsibility makes for a strong community and is never more apparent than during events like these.

### FY2010 Budget

The Board will begin budget hearings soon for the town departments to aid in putting together the FY 2010 budget which will be considered at the next Annual Town Meeting. Employee reviews are being scheduled for the coming weeks. Proposed budget cuts in local aid from the State and increases in operating costs will be challenges in developing the coming year's budget. The Board will be working with the Finance Committee to identify areas of potential cost savings.

### Heath Online

Take some time to visit the Town's Web site [www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org). You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The Web site is being updated. All comments and suggestions are welcome. You may address them to Gloria Fisher at [towncoordinator@townofheath.org](mailto:towncoordinator@townofheath.org). You may contact the Board at [BOS@townofheath.org](mailto:BOS@townofheath.org). Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail address, or visit the Heath Web site.

~ Heath Selectboard

*Thomas Lively, Chair, Brian De Vriese, Sheila Litchfield*



*Photograph by Bob Viarengo*





## Library Lines

### Help for Locating Federal and State Tax Forms



By Donald Purington

Neither Federal tax forms nor State tax forms are available in printed form at the library. With the increasing use of computerized tax preparation and the availability of forms and instructions online, both government agencies choose to save printing and shipping costs. We will gladly help you locate the forms you need on the government websites and print copies for you.

While local, state, and federal officials struggle with the impacts of the faltering economy, please remember the value that your public library offers you. Library materials may be borrowed freely by any resident of Massachusetts, saving your wallet about \$20 for a hardcover book, \$7 for a paperback, \$15 for a DVD (or \$3- \$4 if you had rented it). Many popular magazines are available, as well as a computer with high-speed Internet access. Please stop by and use our resources to help make your money go farther.

#### A Few of the New Items at the Library:

**Adult Fiction Books:** *The Associate* by John Grisham, *A Matter of Justice* by Charles Todd, *The Private Patient* by P. D. James, *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister, and *Walking Into the Night* by Olaf Olafsson.

**Adult Nonfiction Books:** *The Coming of the Train: the Hoosac Tunnel & Wilmington and Deerfield River Railroads and the Industries They Served, Volume I, 1870 to 1910* by Rowe resident Brian A. Donelson, *Rappelling Blue Light*, poetry by Buckland resident Laura Rodley, *Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals* by Temple Grandin, and *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House* by Jon Meacham

**Books on CD** *The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester, *Songs for the Missing* by Stewart O'Nan, and *A most Wanted Man* by John LeCarré.

**Young Adult Books** *Scat* by Carl Hiaasen, *The Clone Wars* by Karen Traviss, *Science Fair: A Story of Mystery, Danger, International Suspense, and a Very Nervous Frog* by Dave Barry, and *The Leanin' Dog* by K. A. Nuzum.

**Children's Picture Books:** *Wabi Sabi* by Mark Reibstein, *Fanny* by Holly Hobbie, and *I10 Color Book* by William Accorsi.

**DVDs:** *City of Ember* (based on the best-selling novel by Jeanne Duprau), *The Nanny Diaries*, *Eagle Eye*, *WALL-E*, and *Young @ Heart*, a documentary about the chorus based in Northampton, whose average age is 81.

**New! Music CDs:** *Television* by The Feel (Adina Viarengo, Emily Scotto, & Dovrah Plotkin), *Rhapsodies in Black*, music and words from the Harlem Renaissance, and *Till the Sun Turns Black* by Ray LaMontagne (he recently purchased an "estate" in Ashfield). These CDs and more are on display on the table in the library.



When the snow falls in Heath it can only mean two things: it's time to don your snow tires and your costumes. Win-

ter is drama season at the Heath Elementary School!

As we get ready to begin work on this year's production of *Peter Pan*, we would like to thank last year's theater goers for their generous support for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Performances are always free and open to the public, but for the past two years we have held a fund-raiser associated with the show to help offset our expenses.

One of the messages we emphasize in Drama Club is the importance of working together as a team and looking out for each other. And we try to extend this ethic of connection and concern to the larger community we're part of. Consequently, every year the children pick a favorite "cause," activity, or institution to share the proceeds with. Two years ago we donated \$75 to the Heath Fair from popcorn sales during the show. Last year, we made \$400 from the sales of Wonka Bars, (A quick shout out to Michelle

Olanyk of Mo's Fudge Factory in Shelburne Falls who came up with this fabulous idea and helped us carry it out.) As a consequence, several children from last year's show presented Heath Librarian Don Purington a check for \$200 made out to the Heath Free Public Library.

This year's performances will be taking place on Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28 - mark your calendars!

~ Carin Burnes, Bruce Lessels, Jonathan Diamond

### Heath Preschool Raffle

Two lovely gift baskets will be raffled to benefit the Heath Preschool. The "Ski and Apres Ski" gift basket has two passes for Berkshire East plus goodies for after you finish on the slopes. The "Sweet Valentine" gift basket has a selection of treats and pleasures for your valentine.

Tickets cost \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00, and are available through the Preschool and the Heath School office by stopping by or calling 337-5307. Tickets are also available at the Heath Library and Peters' Store. The drawing will be held on February 11. Thanks for your support.

~ Sue Crawford

## Milestones

**Fedrick Patrick Hallisey**, son of Fred and Ellen Herman Hallisey of Weymouth, was born on January 1, 2009. He is the grandson of **Bob and Eileen Herman of Heath**.

**Henry Finbar Herman**, son of Dan and Claire Herman of Quincy, was born on December 6, 2008. He is the grandson of **Bob and Eileen Herman of Heath**.

**Rebecca Holden** and **Lee Felton** of Whately were married on September 20, 2008, in Hatfield. Rebecca is the daughter of **Scott Douglas and Dawn Corey Holden** and the granddaughter of **Ruth Corey**, all of **Heath**. Lee is the son of Kathy and the late Roy Felton of Warwick.

**Natalie Ruth Lanoue**, daughter of Jeremy and Jenni Lively Lanoue of Charlemont, was born on January 5, 2009. She is the granddaughter of Nelson and Brenda Lanoue of Charlemont. **Lee and Valerie Lively and Nathan and Cindy Clark**, all of **Heath**, great-granddaughter of Leander and Kathryn Lively of Colrain, Silbert and Joan Lanoue of Ashfield, Herbert and Flora Fitzroy of Charlemont, Fred Rice of Ashfield, and David and Connie Jackman of Conway.



("Alastair Maitland Valentines" continued from page 4)

Both emigrants from the African Continent, he from Uganda and I from *Congo du Belge*, Alastair and I met thirty-five years ago around wood and hay. We were both learning the ways of Heathan climate: summers—his lovely hayfield we cultivated and reaped for our cows; and winters—we worked together to cut and split firewood for stoves. Over the years conversations grew around politics, both local and national. His mastery of news of the day and its implications was unparalleled. He volunteered readily to serve town issues. For example, the need for new zoning bylaws arose and he and Martha contacted most of our citizens on its behalf. He shows a strong respect for the history of this place, so different from that of many many places his diplomatic career had taken him prior to retirement [from Jerusalem to New Orleans to Boston]. But he acted like Heath was home, perhaps his way of making successful posts elsewhere, too. One of his many gifts includes that of being a remarkable toastmaster. To hear him speak at an "occasion" is to hear wit and wisdom in a winsome style that never fails to delight his audience.

Alastair has distinguished himself in a distinguished family of political and scientific talents. His father, whom we met as "Grandad" near the end of his long life, a botanist in Uganda, discovered a new grass which bears his name. It is to his mother, a schoolteacher, that he owes his strong ties to education, to language, and to Scotland: she returned to Edinburgh with him and his three brothers for their schooling. Alastair stands out for his diplomatic service, his less than "retiring" influence in our town, his family ties, and his wry Scot humor.

~ Leighton McCutchen



("Ruth Johnson Valentines" continued from page 1)

**Ruth**, Happy Valentine's Day - What a lucky day for our family when you married Dad. You have always taken the time to listen, support, and encourage. Your adventurous spirit and

sense of fair play have been great role models for all of us.

**Love from your wicked step-children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.**

~ Kathy Sprague

**Happy Valentine's Day, Ruthie!** We are past the days when we were raising our kids, rushing off to work each morning, and thinking fondly of a day when we could just relax. Now we can! See you at Canasta!

Love,

~ Alli Thane-Stetson

**As a member and former Deacon: on behalf of Heath Union Evangelical Church, I wish you happy Valentine's Day.**

~ Doug Stetson

**In** thinking about Ruth, one finds much to praise as she has admirably fulfilled her many roles, as daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother, best of friends, church deacon and often organist, and for us, faithful supporter of and contributor to the *Heath Herald*.

But there is another I would like to emphasize, that of teacher and environmentalist. On the staff of the Rowe School, she led her students to look down and up and SEE their environment. She taught respect for and love of the land and its creatures, and long before it became the thing to do, she and her kids were cleaning up the roads. On a recent trip to the Cape, she told lovingly of the excursions she and the kids made to the seashore to study the ocean environment as well.

The best of teachers enlarge their students' world and teach new ways of seeing, and Ruth was the Best!

Brava, Ruthie!

~ Jane deLeeuw

**Gramma, my Valentine.....**

**In** the winter I love to sled with you In the summer the pool is fun to play and relax with you after weed whacking and mowing the lawn Every single visit to your house is filled with the wonderful aroma of cookies, (and of course I always get one)!

I always enjoy surprising you on a holiday or birthday, especially surprising you on your 80<sup>th</sup>. Seeing your face light up with joy, it was great for you and a blast for me.

All your surprises that you do for me like, May Day baskets, Halloween, and especially my birthday baseball game means a ton, I mean a ton to me!

Basically, What I'm trying to say is you're just the BEST DARN GRAMA EVER!

Happy Valentine's Day. I Love you.

~ Tucker Jenkins

**Mom,**

Roses are red

Violets are blue

It just wouldn't do

Without a Mom like you!

Happy Valentines Day!

Love you.

~ Robin Jenkins

("Ruth Johnson Valentines" continued on page 23)

("Ruth Johnson Valentines" continued from page 22)

I have known Ruth all my life- as the youngest of the three "Landstrom Girls" and as a cousin (3<sup>rd</sup> I believe). It was always such a treat to spend vacation days with the Landstrom family because I had no sisters (until I was 12 years old) and no neighborhood girls for playmates. Our lives intersected as students at Mass. State College (now U. Mass.). When she entered as a freshman, I was a senior. It became almost as a "big sister" relationship with advice on the perils of campus life. She became active in the Student Christian Association in which my roommate and I participated.

For many years we saw each other only on those occasions when we both returned to Heath for the Fair and family reunions. So it's only since I retired to Heath in 2004 that we have become reacquainted and meet regularly for our ongoing Canasta group. I admire Ruth's energy, wisdom, and loyalty to the community, to the church, the school and to her friends and family.

She is always willing to go the extra mile.

~ Lois Buchiane

To the Ladies Aid meetings, Ruth brings ideas, is willing to tackle anything, and serves on the Scholarship Committee. When it is her time to bring dessert we know it will be great! Ruth's mother was active in the Ladies Aid in earlier days. Ruth seems to enjoy attending Ladies Aid, and the rest of us are so thankful that she comes.

~ Ruth Corey

## Heath's Monthly Precipitation

(inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From November 11, 2008	2"	2 ½"
December	1 ½" Not Ice See below	35"
To January 10, 2009	0"	7"

### In this reporting period:

A storm system on November 15 brought not only an afternoon tornado watch, but also a change in the weather pattern, to cold and blustery for the rest of the month. December had started out cold with a morning temperature of 2 degrees below on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Besides a couple of large snowstorms and some very windy days, the big event for the month was a major Ice Storm that started on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> and ended by afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup>. This storm caused widespread damage in our town and some surrounding towns, with many longtime residents claiming that they had not seen this size of an Ice Storm in many decades. Power was out anywhere from two to seven days and school was closed for five days. We ended the last day of 2008 with 6 ½ inches of fluffy snow and started the New Year with windy and bitter cold conditions, having a temperature of 8-10 degrees below zero and a approximate wind chill of minus 28 degrees. The first week and a half of January also gave us two sleety/icy snowstorms.

~ Tim Lively

## Community Calendar

### February 2009

- February 05** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:30 a.m.  
Internet Parent Workshop, MTRHS, 7:00 p.m.
- February 08** - Sunday Game afternoon, Community Hall, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
(Snow date February 15)
- February 11** - MTRSD School Committee Meeting
- February 13** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- February 14** - **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**
- February 16 - 20** - **School Winter Vacation**
- February 19** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:30 a.m.
- February 26, 27, & 28** - Shakespeare's *Richard III*, The Academy at Charlemont, 7:30 p.m.  
(28 - Free Matinee, 2:00 p.m.)
- February 27** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### March 2009

- March 04** - Schools' Early Release Day, Heath School, 12:45 p.m.
- March 05** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
- March 11** - MTRSD School Committee Meeting
- March 12** - Parent-Teacher Conferences, Heath School; Early Release, 12:30 p.m.
- March 13** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Parent-Teacher Conferences, Heath School; Early Release, 12:30 p.m.
- March 17** - 6th Grade Parent Night, MTRHS.
- March 18** - **Last Day to Obtain Nomination Papers from Town Clerk**
- March 19** - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:30 a.m.
- March 20** - **WELCOME SPRING!**  
**Last Day to Submit Nomination Papers to Town Clerk**
- March 27** - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Drama Club Production of *Peter Pan*, Heath School, Matinee during School and at 6:30 p.m.
- March 28** - *Peter Pan*, Heath School, 6:30 p.m.
- March 31** - **MCAS** Long Composition, Grades 4, 7, & 10.



**With malice toward none;  
with charity for all;  
with firmness in the right...  
to do all which may  
achieve and cherish a  
just and lasting peace  
among ourselves and  
with all nations.**

*~ Abraham Lincoln*

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