



**Cavendish Community and Conservation Association**

**Our Vision:** *CCCA is committed to a vibrant Cavendish/Proctorsville community that supports its human and natural resources, building a legacy of health, integrity and vitality for future generations.*

[www.CavendishCCCA.org](http://www.CavendishCCCA.org)

**Winter 2015 Volume No. 12, Issue No. 1**



2014 was a busy year for the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association. We held the Summer Concert Series at the Proctorsville Green again last July and August, and heard some fabulous music starting with Gypsy Reel and ending with the Voodoo Alien Blues Band. We also sponsored educational events such as the Button Up workshop held in October when three guests talked about weatherizing homes, improving energy efficiency and installing solar panels to make electricity and hot water. But arguably the most important action for the town happened in the last few months of the year when a solar installer erected a 148 kW solar photovoltaic array on town owned land to power the town office, the transfer station, the water filtration plant and the wastewater treatment facility. The Cavendish Energy Committee, an arm of the CCCA, participated heavily in this project. Above are pictures of the site and the progress during October, November and December as the empty hillside sprouted posts and became covered with electricity generating solar panels.

Read below about some of the new projects that the CCCA has planned for 2015.



## **A Message from Robin**

With this incredibly cold and snowy winter, it is hard to believe that I was so recently in the sweltering tropics where I passed two and a half months caring for my new twin grandchildren. My son and his family live in Yangon, the capital of Myanmar. During my stay I had the opportunity to get to know a little about the country. One of the greatest differences is the absence of Government involvement in the lives and decision making of its citizens. Rules and regulations are pretty much non-existent regarding the environment, and people and businesses are free to act as they will. One result of this is an absence of general information regarding the impact of pollutants. Whether by ignorance or by willful disregard for human welfare, the degradation of air, water and soil is rampant. Pesticides long since banned in Europe and the United States because of their neurotoxicity and their links to diseases such as cancer are used regularly on large and small farm crops. I was fortunate to find a small shop run by a non-profit Japanese organization that sold organic vegetables, which I felt would be safe to prepare for the babies.

While here in the States we may complain about the burden of environmental regulations, it was clear to me that it is far better to have regulations in place that serve to protect our environment and our citizens from harm, than to have none and live without caretakers who have an educated understanding of the balance

needed to sustain quality of life and a healthy environment. I was grateful to return to our Green Mountains and into a community of people who make the effort to understand environmental issues and who speak and act according to their best judgment and conscience.

We are currently preparing to celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the Cavendish Community and Conservation Association with a free dinner invitation to the Cavendish Community. Deb Markowitz, secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources will be joining us to share a few words. It is good to look back on all that we have done and learned in the past ten years, as well as looking forward to what's to come. There is no doubt in my mind that small non-profit organizations like ours help build stronger communities that benefit everyone.

Our spirits join with all who have made this journey possible, and all of you who have attended concerts, educational events, fundraisers or meetings. We are committed to the evolution of our work and just as we as a group continue to ask questions about how to serve, we invite you to take this valuable template we have all created together and join us by sharing your vision, your energy and your guidance for the future well being of this place we call home. Please plan to attend our celebration on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the Proctorsville Firehouse.

*Robin Timko*

## **Applications Now Being Accepted by Cavendish Community Fund**

The Cavendish Community Fund is now accepting grant applications for spring 2015 grant awards. The deadline for applying is April

1<sup>st</sup>. Applications that miss that date will be considered in the fall. In 2007 the fund inaugurated its program of giving cash grants to organizations for educational, artistic or cultural projects, programs or events. 2014 grants went to Stepping Stones Preschool for curriculum expansion, to Cavendish elementary school for a drama-based collaborative project with the Weston Playhouse, and to Gethsemane Church's Raise the Roof concert series. To date the Fund has distributed nearly \$30,000 to local organizations and individuals.



*Jennie Johnson & the Jazz Junketeers – one of the acts to appear last fall in a Raise the Roof Concert.*

Grants are available for projects, programs or events that directly benefit the Cavendish community. A panel of local citizens reviews the applications and recommends grantees based on the quality and feasibility of each proposal. The number and amount of grants depend on how many applications are received. Application guidelines are available at the CCCA's website: [www.CavendishCCCA.org](http://www.CavendishCCCA.org) under the Community Fund tab. Hardcopies are also available at Crow's Bakery in Proctorsville and at the Cavendish town office.

For further information on applying, on eligibility or on any other aspect of the grant

program, or for help completing the application, please call Barbara Dickey at 226-7187 or Peter LaBelle at 226-7250.

## CCCA Presents Energy Saving Workshops



*Matt Smith of Brite Lite Electric and Tim Biebel of Prudent Living explain cold climate heat pumps at February workshop.*

Last November 6<sup>th</sup> the Cavendish Energy Committee hosted a workshop at the Cavendish town offices on weatherization and solar power. Representatives of Button-Up Vermont, of Sun Common and of Solaflect Energy spoke to a large audience about various energy and money saving topics that affect Vermont and Cavendish. On February 12<sup>th</sup> the Energy Committee presented another workshop, this time specifically on the use of cold climate heat pumps for home heating. Heat pump technology has come a long way in recent years and pumps are now effective in cold climates such as here in Vermont. Although the evening was cold and snowy, many local residents came to ask questions and get information on how they can save money. If you want to learn more about these topics, please call a member of the Energy Committee for leads to further information.

Although the date is not yet firm, the Committee has announced the next workshop. The topic will be composting. Energy savings can come in many ways, and recycling in all of its forms is a major component of those savings. The State of Vermont has mandated composting of most food and related wastes by 2017 as a way to

reduce our solid waste stream. Composting and all other recycling promises to save costs and save our environment including the energy used to create new instead of re-using old resources. The workshop date will be advertised soon.

Another workshop that is in the development stage will present information on micro-hydro electric generating systems. With the number of streams and rivers in Vermont there is a great potential for electric generation through waterpower. With new technology meeting old ideas, hydro potential is now available to homeowners. Watch for an announcement of this workshop coming soon.

## Walk and Talk Series Resumes for 2015



*A group examines the contents of a vernal pool in a previous Walk and Talk event*

We are again planning several Walk and Talk nature / conservation presentations this year. Our next presentation will be on Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Office meeting room. Kelly Stettner of the Black River Action team along with Ken Cox from Vermont Fish and Wildlife will give us a good look at the river that flows through our town, trout fishing, invasive species, flooding and more. Please mark your calendar and join us for "Fish Friendly Black River - the health and

vitality of the Black River and its trout population."

We are working on a bird walk, hopefully with the Audubon Society much like we've had in previous years. Last year we heard about the health of the deer herd and about other animals large and small, including bears and rattlesnakes. Watch for announcements of more such events in 2015.

For further information, and if you have an idea for an Energy workshop topic or for a Walk and Talk event, please contact Robin Timko at 226-7736.

## Another Successful and Fun Mardi Gras Party!



*Yankee Chank performs at the Annual Mardi Gras Party in Proctorsville*

On Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Proctorsville partygoers enjoyed a fun evening with the sounds of Yankee Chank, Vermont's very own truly Cajun band as they entertained with a variety of Louisiana's best tunes for a rollicking fun Mardi Gras celebration. Attendees were treated to the tastes of red beans and rice, shrimp etouffé, Cajun pulled pork and other great dishes. Crow's Bakery and Opera House Café never looks so good as when Robin and crew decorate! Masks are not mandatory, but they do make it a real Mardi Gras event, so many party goers make their own masks and

compete for the prize for the best mask.

This is an annual fundraising event sponsored by CCCA and has become one of the area's "can't miss" evenings. If you happened to miss it this year, please don't miss out next year. We will announce the date as soon as it is available.

## Is it Time for You to "Go Solar"?



*The New Cavendish Solar Array*

This past year saw the installation of a 148 KW solar array on town owned land. The electricity that it generates is fed directly into the grid, but offsets the electricity used by Cavendish at the town office, the transfer station, the water filtration plant, and at the wastewater treatment facility. The effort to create this green energy generation array was spearheaded by the Energy Committee.

But now that it is complete, what's next? There's plenty more opportunity for solar power in Cavendish. Plans are now on the table for Cavendish to participate in a venture called "Solarize Upper Valley" in which towns gather interested residents together and use the combined purchasing power of many to drive down the cost of solarizing homes. The more residents that purchase solar panels and electronics from a pre-selected installer, the cheaper will be the cost of those installations. This program has run successfully in several towns of the upper valley for several years now, as well as in multiple other states, so

Cavendish will use a proven plan for the venture.

The Energy Committee will first find an experienced installer with a demonstrated track record. Then the Committee will hold a meeting to acquaint interested residents with the program and with the installer. Those residents can then get a free home evaluation for solar generating potential, and as more residents sign up with the installer, the price for all installations goes down.

The program will begin this spring and newspaper, e-mails and social media will circulate the dates. So keep your eye out for news of "Solarize Cavendish!"

## CCCA Summer Concerts Were a Great Success



*Rick Redington on the Proctorsville Green*

Beginning with the ever-popular Gypsy Reel, we again held our seven-week long series of Wednesday evening concerts on the Proctorsville Green. Unfortunately, Mother Nature did not cooperate and several dates were postponed or moved indoors, but there was still plenty of fun for all.

The concerts have been held for many years, and CCCA has been coordinating them since 2010. Before that the Cavendish Community Fund had helped the Cavendish Library to direct the series. For the past five years CCCA has

partnered with a series of sponsors to ensure that the music continues.

Plans for a great 2015 series are again in the works. Please watch for announcements of the schedule, but most importantly, please come out and enjoy the evenings with your friends and neighbors. There is no better way to relax in the middle of the week than with a picnic with friends while listening to some great tunes.

## Pre-Town Meeting Informational Forum



*2014 Information Forum at Cavendish Town Office  
Left to right, Rich Svec, Town Manager, Will Hunter,  
Moderator, Bob Glidden, Select Board Chair, and George  
Timko, Select Board Vice Chair.*

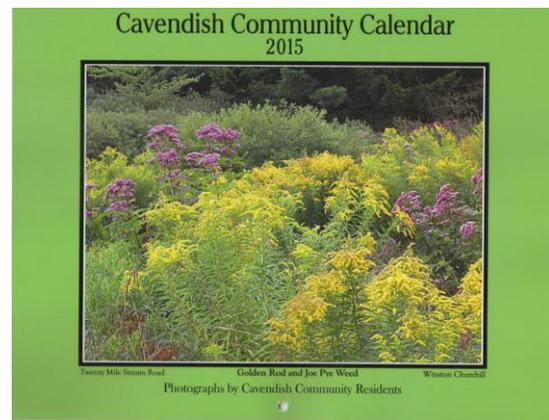
Once again CCCA has helped to educate voters in advance of the annual Cavendish Town Meeting. The forum is open to all voters and welcomes all candidates. Since LPC-TV records and rebroadcasts the event, even the weather is not a factor in hearing about the issues and the candidates. If you don't get cable you can watch any LPC-TV event (including town meeting and the monthly select board meetings) on [www.LPCTV.org](http://www.LPCTV.org).

This year there were no contested elections, but there were some new candidates to meet. Just as important as meeting candidates are the annual budgets that we must vote on for the town and for the school. The forum gives voters the opportunity to ask questions about

the budgets in advance of town meeting and gives the Town Select Board and the School Board the opportunity to explain items appearing in those budgets. This is a regular service of CCCA to educate voters and has been offered for several years in the spring and again before the November elections. Tune in!

Small towns such as ours still have true democratic discussions at town meetings, but there is no substitute for being an educated voter. CCCA tries to provide some basis for discussion by providing some of the education.

## Keep Taking Photos – 2016 Calendar Contest Coming Soon.



REMINDER - it will soon be time to submit your photographs for the 2016 Cavendish Community Calendar. Each year we solicit your best photos and allow Cavendish residents the chance to vote for their favorite pics. Winners get prizes, but twelve of the best get published as a monthly selection in our calendar. Each calendar celebrates the beauty of our town and can focus on people, animals, flora or events. The calendars go on sale each fall and make great holiday gifts. Money from the sale of the calendars helps to defray the costs that we incur during the year for our educational programs.

The CCCA would like to thank all of the sponsors who helped with the 2015 Calendar. Fitzgerald's Property Services; The Golden Stage Inn; Cavendish Canine Camp; Beacon Pest Control and Chimney Care; Singleton's General Store and Market; Triton Builders; The Village Clipper; Blue Sky Trading Co.; Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts; Black River Produce; Timothy Mott – Builder; Mr. Darcy's Bar & Grill; Old Cavendish Products; Martha Mott, Live Authentically, LLC; Castle Hill Resort and Spa; Sam's Steakhouse; LaValleys Building Supply; Swisher Painting; and The Black River Health Center.

# Join us as a Member of CCCA!

Dues are a nominal \$35 per year for full membership. In order to join CCCA, please fill out the information below and send with a check payable to Cavendish Community and Conservation Association to:

**CCCA**  
**P.O. Box 605**  
**Cavendish, VT 05142**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Come to our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!**  
*May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00 p.m.*  
**Proctorsville Fire Hall**  
**Please Mark Your Calendar!**



**FREE PASTA DINNER FOR THE CAVENDISH COMMUNITY**

(GLUTEN FREE OPTION AVAILABLE)

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SERVICE GREEN-UP DAY! MAY 2ND, 6PM AT THE PROCTORSVILLE FIRE HALL**



ENERGY COMMITTEE • CONCERT ON THE GREEN • CANDIDATES NIGHT • CAVENDISH COMMUNITY FUND • COMMUNITY CALENDAR • CONSERVATION COMMITTEE