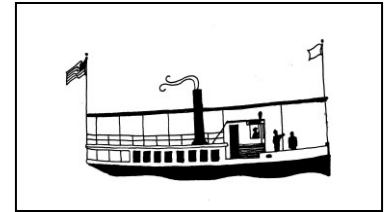


Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee, New Hampshire Historical Society, Inc.
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603-763-9872
Spring 2024



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Charrette. On 12 & 13 April, the Town of Sunapee, assisted by other civic groups, hosted a charrette—a brainstorming effort in which all citizens are encouraged to express their thoughts on how they would like part of the town to develop, and volunteer experts from across the state suggest changes that might be considered. Discussion was lively and the team gave us all much to think about. There seemed to be general agreement that the rural and historic nature of the Harbor area should be preserved. If you haven't seen the slides used by the charrette team to present their suggestions, they can be found here: town.sunapee.nh.us/home/news/sunapee-charrette-presentation. A written report will follow in 6 weeks or so. For the derivation of the term “charrette” please see page 2. And for more information on charrettes, see PlanNH.org.

Summer Programs. Our schedule is set! Please see the card or file that accompanies this newsletter for the full listing. We'll begin the season on 27 June with Archaeologist Dr. Robert Goodby talking about the Native American presence in NH, especially in this area—a program supported by NH Humanities. Programs will continue on alternate Thursday evenings at the Museum through August with the addition of a joint program at LSPA's Center for Lake Studies with Mary Kronenwetter on the subject of the Corbin Animal Park in North Newport and Croydon—another NH Humanities program

Special Events. Our **History Cruise**, this time covering lakeshore development at the southern end of the lake, will be presented on 1 July and again on 5 August. Reservations can be made anytime by email or phone with payment to follow.

Stories from the Grave, postponed from last year, will be presented in the South Sunapee Cemetery in early October.

All programs will be advertised in the *Shopper* and are listed on our website. Please feel free to call if you have questions.

Volunteers Needed! As you think about your summer schedule, we hope you will schedule in some time to help at the Museum. A stint as greeter/docent takes only 2 ½ hours and is a great way to meet some interesting people. Or maybe you'd like to bake cookies for one of our programs or take on some other job. On Saturday morning (9-noon) **18 May**, we'll be cleaning up the Museum to ready it for opening the following weekend. **Come and join us!**

Photos Wanted. Since photography has become digital, we worry that we will not be able to document life in Sunapee the way we can with the work of early professional photographers. If you have photos of town events or life in town, we'd love to have them, whether to scan or as copies of digital ones. Remember that today's activities will be history tomorrow!


We're looking forward to seeing you soon at the Museum!

Becky Fitts Rylander

SUNAPEE HARBOR'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Did our recent charrette spark your interest in the historic aspect of our Harbor area? Our Sunapee Harbor Historical Walking Tour, available on your smart phone via The Clio app or on your computer at theclio.com, will fill you in regarding the histories of 15 different sites around the Harbor. Try it out and let us know what you think!

Take a walk with us through the early stories of Sunapee Harbor

Download the CLIO app

and search under “Tours” by either Location or Title *Sunapee Harbor Historical Walking Tour* ~ Enjoy!

- Follow the numbered pins on the map
- Enjoy the pictures of then and now
- Read the back story of Sunapee Harbor's historic buildings & places

603-763-9872

Did you know?.....

In the course of its history, Sunapee has had some 19 dams on its rivers and brooks—a testament to the importance of water for a multitude of uses.

We are all aware of three remaining dams on the Sugar River:

- The Lake Sunapee Dam, originally built on the lake side of the bridge in the early 1800s, was operated for years by the Sunapee Dam Corp, which was chartered by the state in 1820 and given the right to build a dam for the benefit of Sugar River mill owners. Early photographs in our collection bear testimony to the drastic variations of the lake level. Discussion of the appropriate lake levels became contentious and the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) was formed in 1898 to support the interests of lake shore owners. By 1901, the NH Supreme Court was hearing a case (Shore Owners & Woodsum Steamboat Co. vs. Sunapee Dam Corp) regarding lake levels and damages. Settlement was reached in 1904 establishing a highwater maximum on the harbor gauge of 11.5 feet and a low of 9.0 feet during the summer months. The dam was rebuilt by the Town in 1927 on the river side of the bridge. In 1961, the Sunapee Dam Corp was dissolved and operation of the dam was taken over by the State of NH DES Dam Bureau.
- The Upper Sugar River Dam at River Road was built in 1837 by the Sunapee Company, a group of 9 industrialists. In 1931, it was deeded to the Town and a new concrete cap was added. It feeds a 1932 hydro-powered water pump penstock and a 1923 hydro-electric station rebuilt in 1984 with a new penstock. The Leo Osborne Reflecting Pool was added just below this dam in 1966.
- The Sugar River dam at Wendell Marsh was originally built about 1837 by Abiather Young for his sawmill. It was rebuilt in 1924 by the Lake Sunapee Power Co with a 6-ft diameter penstock and again in 2014 by NH Fish & Game.

Eleven other dams once existed on the Sugar River between Sunapee Harbor and the Sunapee-Newport town line to support a variety of industries. Please visit our Flanders-Osborne Museum to view a map of the Sunapee section of the Sugar River, its dams, and the industries that thrived along its banks during the time that water power was crucial to industry.



Five other dams in Sunapee:

- Red Water Creek Dam is a stone dam built by Adam Reddington and son John to power a wooden bowl turning mill in the 1820s and still exists. It can be found in the Frank Simpson Preserve off Hell's Corner Road (trail map available at Sunapee Historical Society).
- Otter Pond Dam at Springfield Road was first built about 1790 to support a gristmill and sawmill. It has been rebuilt many times, most recently by the Town in 1993. Two other dams, once located on Otter Brook, no longer exist.
- Ledge Pond Dam at the west shore was first built about 1850. It was rebuilt in 1900, then deeded to the Town in 1906 and used to raise the pond level for a municipal water system for Georges Mills. It was rebuilt by the Town in 1994 and the pond's use as a reservoir ended in 1996.
- Perkins Pond Dam near the Croydon town line was built in 1901 to raise the pond 4 feet to support a sawmill. It still exists but does not hold water.
- Mountainview Lake Dam was built by Benjamin Chandler for his shingle mill in 1865. It was rebuilt by his grandson in 1927 to hold the lake level, and ownership remains with the Chandler family.

--Research by Barbara Chalmers

Charrette. So, what is a charrette and why is that the term used? A charrette as run by Plan NH consists (for its volunteers) of a tour of the part of a town under discussion, a meeting with the town's stakeholders, two listening sessions at which all citizens are invited to express their thoughts and desires (all on Friday) with an intensive planning session most of the day on Saturday up until a presentation of suggestions in the late afternoon.

The term is derived from a French word meaning "cart" or "chariot." Wikipedia synthesizes the derivation this way: "Its use in the sense of design and planning arose in the 19th century at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where it was not unusual at the end of a term for teams of student architects to work right up until a deadline, when a charrette would be wheeled among them to collect up their scale models and other work for review. The furious continuation of their work to apply the finishing touches came to be referred to as working *en charrette* or 'in the cart.' The term evolved into the current design-related usage in conjunction with working right up until a deadline."

For those of us who witnessed the end of the planning session, this is certainly an apt use of the word!

Please thank these businesses for their support!

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Thank you!

Sunapee Echoes

Sunapee Historical Society

PO Box 501

Sunapee, NH 03782

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