



# Historic Bakersfield News and Notes

BAKERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

## 2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Ongoing:** BHS normally meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in our building. Please call to confirm date, location and time--call 827-3042. Our meetings are open to anyone and everyone who is interested in the history and future of Bakersfield.

**Saturday, June 25: Brigham Academy Alumni Meeting and Luncheon** at the Historical Society Building.

**Saturday, July 2: Independence Day Celebration.** *There will be one this year!!!!*

The Historical Society will have their traditional sale of Ice Cream Cones, water, pies, and maple sugar candy and will sell raffle tickets for a chance to win firewood.

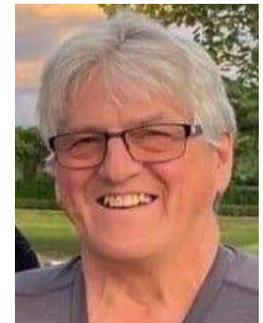
There will be a "Sap Bucket" auction with prizes including: VT teddy bear, autographed photo of Red Sox player JD Martinez, Cabot cheese package, ½ gallon of Maple syrup, Twincraft basket of soaps and more. This is similar to a Teacup Auction—we will sell tickets and people can put their ticket(s) in the sap bucket assigned to the item they would like to win. All drawings, including for the firewood, will take place in the evening prior to the fireworks. Linda McCall has Sap Bucket Auction Tickets, call 827-4475 or get them at the event.



There will be burgers and dogs available. Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate will perform on the hill at 6:00 PM and there will be music by Rusty Bucket from 7 to 9 PM. Fireworks will start at dusk!

David LaMonda, an active member of the Historical Society, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 2, 2022. He enjoyed life and was the type of guy who would make friends everywhere he went. He loved joking around and being silly, and would never miss an activity his children or grandchildren were participating in. Dave was a "putterer" and always kept moving. He could fix just about anything and he was passionate about everything he did.

He is greatly missed by his many friends in Bakersfield.



A big *Thank You* to the following folks who donated time and money that helped complete tasks and defray expenses associated with our 2021 Historical Society Building Restoration Project:

Mark Doremus & Sue Sonski	Dana & Holly Reed
Martha Hyne	Rachel Boudreau
Dorothy Allard & Bill Martin	Willie & Stacey Maynard
Nancy Hunt Estate	Eric Jessiman
Susan Gregg	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Worthington
Susanne (Croft) Williams	Ricky & Marie Burleson
Joyce Morin	Dan & Kim Melhuish
Kathleen Marshia	Walter & Marcella Krul
Rodney & Deanna Allen	Dwight Ovitt
Gregory Popa	Carl & Kim Stone
Judy Bugbee	Cochran Accounting Inc.
Larry & Laurie Gervais	Betsy Reed
Burt & Kimberly Maynard	Kathy Westcom
Ron Marcotte & Jan Ketchum	Ann-Elsie Johnson
Preservation Trust of Vermont	Robert Gleason Jr.
The 1772 Foundation	Jennifer Gaffney
Jim DeRosia	Gary & Alice Foote
Sarah Waite	Lee & Sue Tillotson
Valerie Conte	Amber Foote
Dianne Quebec	Anonymous Donor
David & Joyce LaMonda	Ivan & Lisa Stone
Allen & Lori Sturgeon	Ann Mittelstadt
Damian & Susan Blouin	Mary Schwartz
Deborah & Jonathan Henderson	Penny Goss
Karen Gonyeau	Carolyn Bronz
Mr. & Mrs. R. Lavallee	Ken Carter & Melissa Dion
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Gaffney	Carol Graves
Marcia Baxter	Larry & Brenda Westcom
Michelle Bessett & Robert Iwaskiewicz	Ritchie Ryea
Bakersfield Special Concerns Committee	Phil & Allison Lumbra
Mike Lanphear	Linda McCall
Larry & Linda Krygier	Mr. & Mrs. Don Foote & Family
Steve Morse	

When our project was expanded to include the back gable of the main building, the Bakersfield Trustees of Public Funds (Lance Lawyer, Pat Evans, and Tenny Doane) came to our rescue to assist with a loan .

Restoring the foundation of the back addition as well as the brick work on the back gable and addition was an ambitious project needed to ensure the sustainability of our building for future generations. We continue to accept new donations to assist this project. All donations are tax deductible up to the extent allowed by law. Please make checks payable to: Bakersfield Historical Society and mail to: Bakersfield Historical Society, Corp., P.O. Box 70, Bakersfield, VT 05441

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Sue Tillotson has been working toward getting our town a second historical marker. This one is for the Bakersfield Historical Society Building, once St George Roman Catholic Church and earlier the Bakersfield Academical Institution, also known as South Academy. The marker will describe the history of the building from its construction in 1840 to its current use as the Bakersfield Historical Society. The sign has been approved by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and should be ready for installation sometime this fall.

## THANK YOU SPECIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE!

Bakersfield Historical Society Corp. received a donation from the Special Concerns Committee which has disbanded after serving the people of Bakersfield for many years.

## THE SUGAR ON SNOW REPORT

The Sugar on Snow party was highly successful this year with record attendance. Clearly there was a great pent up need for getting out of the house and celebrating spring this year. Shirley Deuso of Enosburg won the raffle for the Maple Syrup and Brenda Churchill of Bakersfield won the Bakersfield history book. Raffle tickets for the firewood are still available and the drawing will be held at the Independence Day bash on Saturday, July 2.



**Rusty Bucket Band with audience and dancers at Sugar on Snow March 2022**

Photos above by Amber Foote



## AND THANK YOU GARDENERS

Volunteers Lisa and Ivan Stone, Ann Mittelstadt, Lyle and Carol Willey, and Linda McCall, teamed up, to transform the center flowerbed of the Town Common into a place of beauty! It is very much appreciated!!!

We all had a great time and are looking for more volunteers, says Linda



This project started with some local folks expressing an interest in "cleaning up" that flowerbed. The task proved to be more challenging than anticipated! Hand digging up out-of-control perennials that were root bound and entangled with massive amounts of weeds and grass. It appeared that it was going to be an all-summer effort. When Lisa Stone went home exhausted, dirty, and with numerous bug bites, her husband, Ivan came to the rescue with his Kubota tractor equipped with a BIG SHOVEL!

Voila! He accomplished in less than 2 hours what would have taken us at least 2 months. (An attempt was made to salvage as many perennials as possible. However, Siberian Iris and Gout Weed were still badly entangled into the roots.) Lyle Willey, driving by and seeing all this activity, became a passionate volunteer. Shrubs that had been at each end of the Honor Roll Monument were also removed to stop their roots from going under the monument and causing future damage. Ivan's Kubota made short work of this removal. This was the beginning of a community garden club.

A meeting of these volunteers was held, and the decision was made to replace the perennials with annuals. The goal is to have a garden that is easier to maintain in the future. The decision was made to replant with Red Geraniums, bordered by White Alyssum, and crowned with a Fountain Grass.

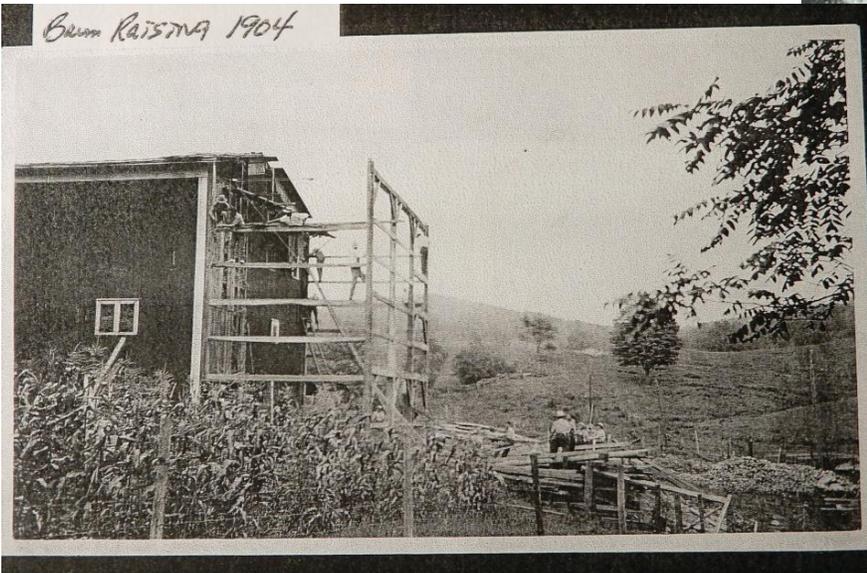
Danny Forand roto-tilled the garden after the old mound, with its contents, had been removed. Lyle Willey brought in loads of fresh topsoil with the shovel of his tractor. A new fresh mound was manually formed. With flowers, funded by the Cemetery Commission, the volunteers gathered for planting. The result is a flower garden that helps restore the historic character of the Town Common, as it is described in Elsie Wells' written history of Bakersfield.



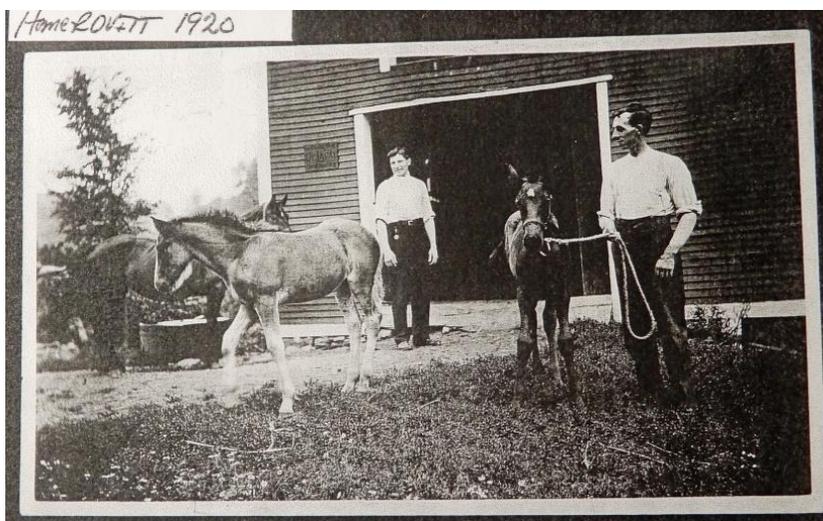
## GREEN MOUNTAIN FOLKLORE SOCIETY

The Green Mountain Folklore Society, which is dedicated to collecting, preserving and making available the folklore of the state of Vermont, held its spring meeting at Bakersfield Historical Society on May 14, 2022. The meeting included a “Gab Fest”—sharing of stories, photos, artifacts, folklore, etc., business meeting and a presentation about historical barns and farms in Bakersfield given by Paul and Linda Stanley, as well as refreshments and lunch. George Vanvlaanderen of *Doe's Leap* goat farm in Bakersfield gave a presentation on how they got started in goat farming and the progress that has got them where they are today.

Below are pictures of an unusually large multi-story shed barn built by the Ovitt Family. Hay would be stored on the top floor. Animals—cows, chickens and rabbits—on the middle floor or floors and manure would be collected on the bottom floor.

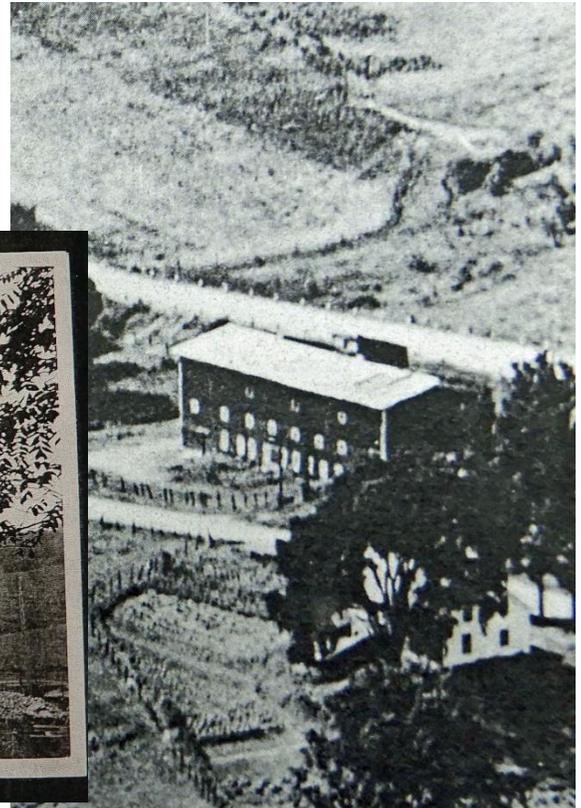


**Barn Raising at the Ovitt Farm about 1904**  
Photo donated by Dexter and Sally Ovitt



**Homer Ovitt about 1920**

Photo donated by Dexter and Sally Ovitt



**Picture of the barn from an aerial view of the farm taken in the early 1950s.**

Photo courtesy of David Ovitt

**Homer Ovitt about 1920**

Photo donated by Dexter and Sally Ovitt

## BAKERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### Officers 2022

President: Gary Foote  
Vice President: Sue Tillotson  
Secretary: Amber Foote  
Treasurer: Linda McCall  
Assistant Treasurer: Tami Brennan

### Board of Directors 2022

Deanna Allen Ann Mittelstadt  
Tami Brennan Betsy Reed  
Alice Foote Lisa Stone  
Newsletter Editor: Mary Schwartz  
Website Editor: Amber Foote

## JOIN THE BAKERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

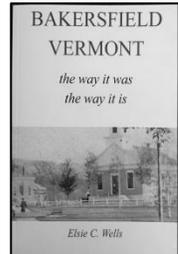
Bakersfield Historical Society  
P.O. Box 70 Bakersfield VT 05441  
Website: <https://historicbakersfieldvt.org/>  
Find us on Facebook:  
Bakersfield Historical Society, Corp.  
(802) 827-3042

### Support Your Historical Society

We depend on memberships, town grants, gifts and fundraisers to preserve our town's history, to heat and maintain our building, for educational programs, community use and much more.

### PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE by Bakersfield Historical Society

- Elsie Wells *Bakersfield: the way it was, the way it is* \$25 (shipping is included) The book is also available for purchase at H.F. Brigham Library.
- Map of Bakersfield Village – reprint of Beers Atlas color \$10



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Cut here and send to the Bakersfield Historical Society, PO Box 70, Bakersfield, VT 05441

### 2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

BENEFACTOR \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ PATRON \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

I PREFER TO SUPPORT BHS WITH A GIFT OF \_\_\_\_\_

Our Restoration Gift Campaign is to help in the restoration and use of Bakersfield's landmark building in order to preserve the past for the benefit of present and future generations

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

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Bakersfield Historical Society is a non-profit 501(C)(3) corporation. Gifts and memberships above the family level are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. You can increase the level of your support if your employer has a matching grant program.

<https://historicbakersfieldvt.org/>