THE BOLTON GAZETTE

THE TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

"THE LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS"

3045 THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY, BOLTON VT 05676

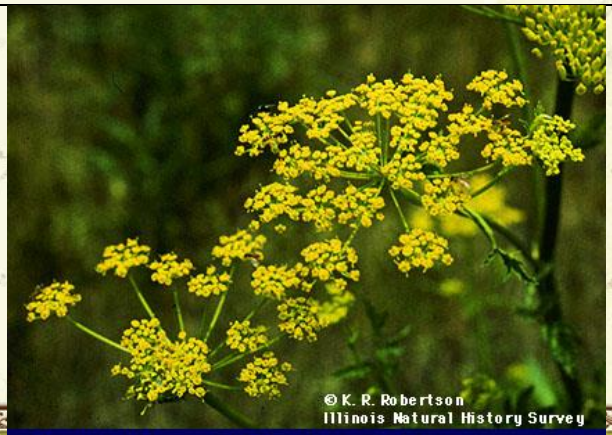
JUNE 2014 EMAIL: BOLTONGAZETTE@GMAVT.NET VOLUME #2 ISSUE #6

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR BOLTON GRADUATES!

June is graduation month and we want to congratulate all of our Bolton graduates…from Smilie fourth graders, to CHMS eighth graders to our MMU High School and Technical Center seniors and beyond ~ congratulations! Here's to your continued academic success and to a lifetime love of learning!

A PINK LADY SLIPPER IN BLOOM NEAR PRESTON POND

WHAT IS THIS PRETTY YELLOW FLOWER? DON'T PICK IT! SEE PAGE 8 TO FIND OUT WHY!



Here is a close-up of the clusters of tiny yellow flowers in wild parsnip

CLERK'S CORNER

AMY GROVER * TOWN CLERK & TREASURER
CLERKBOLTON@GMAVT.NET

WEST BOLTON FIREWORKS & COOKOUT REMINDER!

Mark your calendars for the Streeter's annual **Fireworks Display and Cook Out on July 12th!**

John Streeter is collecting donations for the fireworks display ~ look for the donation jars at local stores. Donations are also welcome by mail ~ send to John Streeter, 30 Cemetery Road, Jericho, VT 05465. For more information please contact John at 434-6454, or Vicky at 310-8876.

Thank you, hope to see you there!

PHOEBE ON THE LONG TRAIL

PHOEBE'S KIDS' QUESTION OF THE MONTH!

I love to get muddy hiking, do you? My humans & I really like that we have so many great places to hike here in Bolton, including the Long Trail! Can you guess how many miles of the Long Trail there are in Bolton? Find out the answer and more about the Long Trail in next month's issue!

WOOF! WOOF!!

Last month's answer: When I was swimming in Joiner Brook last month, the water temperature was 48 degrees! My humans thought that was pretty chilly, but not me! Remember if you and your family choose to swim in Joiner Brook too, please make safe choices about where and when to swim, and *remember that nobody can park on the "traveled portion" of the Bolton Valley Access Road. That is not safe for anyone, and risks getting your vehicle towed away!*

CLERK'S CORNER CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

SMILIE SCHOOL NEWS

Bolton Merger Update

The Bolton School Board met on May 14th with a few community members to discuss the progress of the merger discussions. The conversation centered on process and timeline, and the advantages of a merger for students and taxpayers. The Modified Union structure will allow up to two existing elementary districts to remain separate if they choose, while the other elementary districts would join together with the existing Mount Mansfield district to form a new Mount Mansfield preK-12 district.

Currently, the merger committee is working on Articles of Agreement that outline how the new district would function. These Articles would need approval by the State Board of Education before being brought to the voters. The working timeline would have the merger vote in November 2014. Elections for representatives to the new-MMU board would occur on the same day. If approved, the new district would be formed July 1, 2015. The draft articles require that students would attend schools as they do now for at least the first year (2015-16), and that no schools could be closed for at least four years. It is important to note that the merger committee has not anticipated any school boundary adjustments or school closings. Any potential changes would be made by the new-MMU board after it has had sufficient time to consider the benefits of any alterations.

Students across the new district would benefit from increased equity, unified planning, and potential choice. The existing disparities between elementary schools in technology, facilities, and offerings (like enrichment) would be reduced over time. The new district would be able to plan curriculum and hold schools accountable for student performance for all grades, as compared to the current fragmented approach. Additionally, the new-MMU district could potentially offer elementary school choice to respond to circumstances -- an option not presently available without tuition payments.

In addition to our students, taxpayers would also reap some benefit. Initial calculations include savings on administration, bookkeeping, and operating expenses. Further cost reductions could be realized by more efficient use of staff and facilities, including the potential to move our central office to a district-owned building. Unlike other towns where the tax implications are less dramatic, Bolton would see significant savings. Our cost per pupil would be averaged across the new district, instead of just our small school. All merging districts would receive incentive-reductions in the tax rate of $0.08 the first year (and then $0.06, $0.04, and $0.02 in three subsequent years). We are hopeful the merger can be completed on schedule. The Modified Union School District structure will allow Bolton and other districts to enjoy the benefits of merging while other schools may prefer to remain separate and unaffected.

SMILIE NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MR. MENZ GRADE 3 &4

Mr. Menz's students were honored to visit the East Bolton Cemetery on Route 2 in May and place American flags at the graves of Bolton's veterans. With our thanks to Betty Wheelock, Cemetery Commissioner, for purchasing the flags.

SMILIE NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

CLERK'S CORNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

BOLTON UP AND DOWN TOWN CLUB SENIOR DINNER

Summer is almost officially here and it's time to break out the grill!
Date: Thursday, June 26, 2014
Time: 5 p.m.
Place: Bolton Fire Station
Menu: Grilled smoked sausages, pasta salad, vegetables, watermelon, and blueberry cobbler!

See you there! Doris Wheelock 434-3769

BALD EAGLES NESTING IN BOLTON

Last month, the Gazette noted that Bolton's soaring cliffs are often prime nesting sites for Peregrine Falcons, and this month, we have word from a resident that believes we may have Bald Eagles nesting in Bolton! To minimize disturbance, the location remains a secret with the reporting resident, but keep an eye out – you may see them as well! To learn more about the Bald Eagles' recovery in VT (home to at least 16 territorial pairs), or to report your sightings go to: http://vt.audubon.org/bald-eagle-recovery-vermont

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO "GREENED –UP" IN BOLTON!

Many thanks to all who helped to "Green –Up" Bolton on Green Up day in May! Information provided by Green Up Vermont for 2014 showed that Bolton collected .99 tons of trash and 125 tires! Bolton was down in the amount of trash collected compared to the average from 2000 – 2013, of 1.5 tons, so we are hopeful that people are littering less! ☺

TICK ALERT!

We all know that ticks are here in Bolton. Vermont is home to three species of ticks; Blacklegged Tick (Deer Tick), Lone Star Tick, and Dog Tick. One of the most common tick-borne diseases is Lyme disease, transmitted to humans by Deer Ticks. Learn how to protect yourself from ticks and learn more about symptoms of Lyme disease at: http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/zoonotic/tickborne/ticks.aspx

BOLTON GAZETTE INFORMATION

Reminder: The deadline for submissions in the 15th of the previous month for the following month's edition. To OPT IN to receive the Bolton Gazette electronically and in color (help the town save $ on paper and postage costs!) email boltongazette@gmavt.net

We welcome all submissions, in any format: stories, news, events, art, poetry, photographs. Drop submissions at the town office or, you've got it, email them to boltongazette@gmavt.net!

MS. CAFFERTY'S 4TH GRADER READERS ENJOY READING WITH MRS. COLE'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS

What could be better than reading a great book? Why reading a great book with a buddy outside on a gorgeous sunny spring day! Our 4th graders enjoy teaming with our kindergarteners to "buddy read."

Did you know that during our Smilie READS Program, "Driven to Read" this spring,

Smilie Students read 2,611 books? WOW!!!!

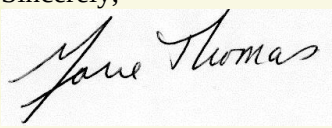
SMILIE NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Our Community Cares Camp, Inc.
PO Box 503
Richmond, VT 05477
Email: occc@gmavt.net
802-434-6006

Dear Bolton Neighbors;

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) provides an important service to the children of Bolton. Each year, from 10 – 15 Bolton children attend 4 weeks of summer camp and eat two healthy meals a day. Bolton children who attend CESU summer intervention programs also receive two healthy meals a day from OCCC. We are writing to you to request your support of OCCC with a cash donation to help us meet our goals. OCCC's budget is $65,000. Our goal is to raise $4,000 from Bolton residents. We hope you can help.
Currently, one out of every three children in enrolled at Smilie Memorial School may face hunger in their lives. Children may also experience what is referred to as an achievement gap if they do not participate in brain-stimulating activities over the long summer. OCCC provides stimulation through art, music and organized games and creative play.

We invite you to support OCCC with a tax-deductible contribution. Every donation is important to show that our community cares about its young people and wants to give them a chance to be successful. You can also donate online at our website (**www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org)** or Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/OCCCVT).
Please contact me with questions about OCCC or the services we supply to Bolton children (434-6006 or occc@gmavt.net). Please "Like" us on Facebook and check out our website for photos, videos and other news. Please come and visit us from July 7 – 31, Monday – Thursday 8:30 – 12:30 at Camels Hump Middle School. Once you experience OCCC in person you will better understand how important this work is for these wonderful children.
Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.
Sincerely,



Marie Thomas, President

That Pretty Yellow Flower Is Wild Parsnip…Watch For It Near the Road and Take Action Soon! By Heidi Racht

Don't pick that pretty yellow flower! It's beautiful and might look fantastic in a bouquet on your porch or dining room table, but is not your typical wildflower like Queen Anne's Lace or Goldenrod. Brush against the tall spiky weed with a yellow rosette flower on a sunny day and you might find yourself with a bad burn.

What's the deal with these roadside weeds? There are two issues with Wild Parsnip (Pastinaca sativa l.): ecological and health.

First, Wild Parsnip is everywhere and it is spreading quickly. It is an invasive weed that pushes out native plants like chickweed, grasses and clover. Tenacious, in the past few years it has taken over the local roadways, spreading into fields, creating masses of tall, attractive yellow sprays, similar to Queen Anne's Lace. It starts at the edge of the road and spreads inward. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the plant invades slowly, but once population builds it spreads rapidly and can severely modify open dry, moist, and wet-moist habitats. As the weeds by the sides of the road are mowed by highway crews, the Wild Parsnip that has spread out of the right of way will be visible. By mid-July, it will have flowered and set seed. Property owners who do not maintain the edges of their fields near the road will see this spread further into areas to be hayed, grazed or even into their lawns.

By definition, invasive plants are alien species that show a tendency to spread out of control. Although not synonymous with "exotic plants," the "invasive" label is now typically reserved for plants that have been introduced from other regions and spread quickly in their new habitats. According to the Vermont Department of Health, Wild Parsnip is a wild version of the common garden parsnip, the flower heads are the second year growth from the carrot-like roots. It is a close relative of carrots, parsley, angelica, and giant hogweed. Parsnips were introduced into North America from Europe and Asia during the 17th century. It is surmised that early colonists brought parsnip to America as a food source.

The Wild Parsnip flower produces hundreds of seeds. It is a biennial, which means the plant flowers and sets seeds in the second year. However, not all seeds will germinate (sprout and produce plants) the following year and once the plant seeds are dispersed, the invasion begins in earnest.

Second, Wild Parsnips produce a sap, or plant juice, that can cause burns to the skin in the presence of sunlight. The term for this is phytophotodermatitis.

In some cases, the burns are similar to second-degree sunburns, and can cause painful rashes and raised blisters. In some sensitive people, the burns can cause scarring.

Thus, a simple walk through the field can result in burns, especially in young children, who are often shorter than the plant itself.

The Vermont Department of Health advises people to avoid the sap or juice produced by the Wild Parsnip. Avoid skin and eye contact with this sap. If you need to work with the plant:

- Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs.
- Wash clothes that come in contact with the sap.

• Work with the plant on cloudy days, and always wash your skin immediately after coming in contact with the sap.

• If you are using string trimmers or power mowers in areas where this plant grows, wear eye/face protection, in addition to long pants, long sleeves, and gloves.

If you get sap on your skin:

• Wash the skin thoroughly with soap and water as soon as possible.

• Protect the exposed skin from sunlight for at least 48 hours.

If you experience a skin reaction, call your physician.

One side consequence of the spread of wild parsnip and other "unfriendly" plants is that animals that would avoid it in the field can unknowingly ingest it when it is in hay. A known case is a horse in Huntington affected by eating hay that had phytophototoxic plants in it. As this horse had white pigment on his face, he developed blisters from the sun, requiring treatment by a veterinarian, who diagnosed a systemic reaction caused by eating Wild Parsnip. The Huntington horse had an injection, twice daily oral antibiotics and antibiotic cream.

Controlling Its Spread These plants are commonly found growing in fields, pastures and along roads. The best way to keep the parsnip at bay is to mow your property to the road and keep it low to the ground (this has the added benefit of reducing obstructions to drivers clearing the visibility at the shoulders).

The next way to control its spread is to pull the plant before it flowers and sets seed - which is now!. The parsnip has a taproot and is easy to pull when it is small. It can also be cut off at ground level with a shovel or other sharp implement. If you can't get it before it flowers, you can still pull it out. The optimum time to do this is late in the day when the sun is going down and you won't risk getting burned.

Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) encourages property owners and activists to put the parsnips in large plastic bags and bring it to the composting facility. The heat of the composting process there will kill any weed seeds.

Finally, but not recommended, chemicals can be used to control. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources suggests using a spot application or sparing use of glyphosate or selective metsulfuron in quality habitats.

Don't wait! Before early July is a great time to get out and remove the wild parsnip from your property. In Huntington, for the past three summers a small group of people have been working on behalf of everyone to try to keep out parsnip infestations like those that now plague other areas of Vermont and can be seen densely blanketing areas along Interstate 89. It can seem like a daunting task, but if everyone works a little, a lot can be accomplished.

(Heidi Racht is a UVM Extension Master Gardener volunteer. To learn more about this program: http://www.uvm.edu/mastergardener/) Article was reprinted, with permission, from The Times Ink of Richmond and Huntington.

MRS. LEFRANCOIS GRADE 1 & 2

Mrs. LeFrancois' writers enjoyed writing with inspiration from Bolton's natural beauty!