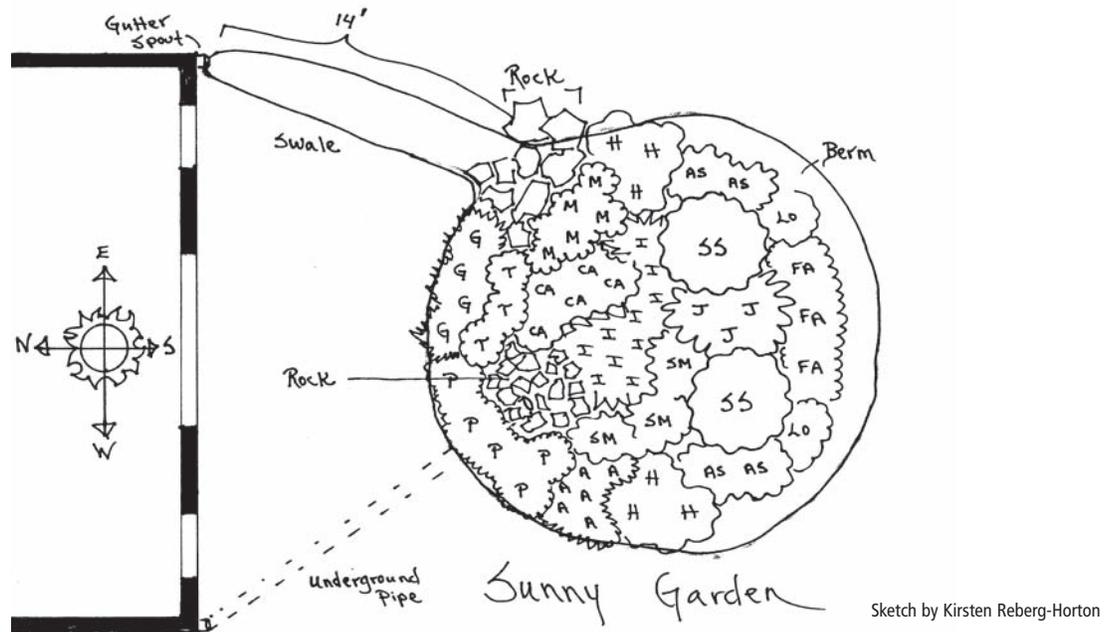


# Hampden *Highlights*

Quarterly Newsletter, Town of Hampden • Issue 15, April 2009



## A Rain Garden for Hampden!

By Laura Wilson

The town of Hampden is planning to install a rain garden outside the town office this spring. A rain garden is a depression in the ground that is planted with water-loving native perennials and shrubs. Water from a gutter downspout or other source flows into the rain garden, where it soaks into the ground and is used by the plants. Hampden's rain garden will capture polluted runoff from the town office parking lot.

Rain gardens are a Low Impact Development (LID) tool. LID is a new, comprehensive land use planning design approach with a goal of maintaining the pre-development water regime in developing areas. When designed and installed correctly, rain gardens reduce the amount of runoff from hard surfaces by up to 98 percent. As this water is no longer running over the surface of the land, it cannot transport pollutants to nearby streams via surface runoff or storm drains. Not only are rain gardens great to fight pollution, they are also beautiful in the landscape! Since they are flexible in size, shape, and appearance, they can fit into almost any landscape and lifestyle. While the rain

garden for the town office will be very large, most rain gardens installed next to single family homes are much smaller. In addition to adding beauty to lawn areas with height and color, rain gardens can replace lawn areas, which would otherwise need mowing, with an interesting combination of native plants. Rain gardens can also eliminate unsightly erosion problems by reducing excess water runoff from rooftops or driveways. They can complement any home style, as there are many choices of shapes and plants that can be incorporated into your garden. Rain gardens can even attract birds and butterflies! Rain gardens will NOT harbor mosquitoes. A properly constructed rain garden will drain water, not hold it. In a well-designed rain garden, water will soak into the ground in a day. Mosquitoes will not survive in areas that dry out in seven days or less after a summer rain, because the development of a mosquito from egg to adult takes longer than seven days. Rain gardens are easy and inexpensive to install and maintain. During the first year, especially during the dry summer months, the rain garden will need to be watered. Weeding will also



Photos by Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly



## Swimathon Highlight of December School Vacation

*By Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly*

When many kids were hitting the ski slopes during Christmas break, swimmers in Hampden hung out at the Lura Hoit Pool for the Second Annual Susan G. Abraham Swimathon. This event, sponsored by the Hampden Academy Swim Team, is a growing success each year.

The event originated after the tragic death of Susan Abraham, a swim team member and employee of the pool. Susan was a junior when she passed away in May of 2007, but her legacy of giving carries on with proceeds from the swimathon creating opportunities for children in the SAD 22 area to enjoy swim lessons at the Lura Hoit Pool.

Assistant Swim Team Coach, Sam Manhart says \$1,100.00 was raised for this very purpose and additional funds were delegated to swim team purchases, such as instructional DVD's and repairs to the starter clock. Also, a favorite among swim team members is the pending purchase of starting blocks at the Lura Hoit Pool.

Manhart says, "This annual event brings Hampden Academy swim team members, alumni, and members of the greater SAD 22 community together to swim, to remember Susan, and to raise funds to support a truly fantastic cause."

This year, the Abraham family shared a display board of pictures from throughout Susan's young life. Through this, the Second Annual Susan G. Abraham Swimathon participants were able to share in the vibrancy that Susan always fostered.



# Why We Recycle

By Jean Lawlis

**T**wo factors make our operations at the transfer station cost-effective and environmentally sound. The first is our recycling program. The second is the way we dispose of non-recyclable trash – burning it in a clean burning plant in Orrington that produces electricity as a byproduct and is less expensive than other disposal options.

Hampden recycles cardboard, paper, plastic, cans, and glass. Separating out materials takes time for residents, but has both economic and ecological benefits to the town. Recycling saves us money because instead of paying disposal fees we are paid by recyclers. The money we receive for our recyclables is down (demand softens for materials when the economy weakens), but still is a net gain after transport costs. When the economy recovers, our revenues from recyclables will increase.

## What Happens to Our Recyclables?

Our cardboard, paper, plastics, metals, and glass become raw materials for various manufacturers. For example, some of our cardboard may end up in Waterville and be made into drink trays by Huhtamaki Food Service. Plastic jugs may become motor oil containers in Pennsylvania and scrap metal may be used for car parts and new appliances. The newspaper you read today may be made from paper from the newspaper you read last month and recycled at the transfer station.

Recycling saves raw materials; it saves the trees that would have been harvested, the metals that would have been mined, and the petroleum products that would have been consumed in creating plastics. Also, using recycled materials instead of raw materials usually requires less energy in the manufacture of products.

We benefit from our recycling in three ways: saving costs for the town, saving energy consumption for the manufacturer, and saving on the consumption of raw materials.

## How You Can Help:

Recycle. And when you do:

Separate glass by color; this makes it possible for the glass to be reused in new bottles (a more valuable use) instead of being ground and used as filler in highway paving.

Flatten cardboard and plastic. Containers will hold more and transportation costs will be lower.

Do your own backyard recycling. Approximately 25% of household waste is material that is easily composted. Composted grass clippings and kitchen scraps create a great soil amendment for vegetable and flower gardens; shredded leaves make great mulch and reduce the need for watering and weeding in the garden. If you can't compost, you may have a neighbor or a friend who is a gardener and would be happy to take compost/mulch materials from you. ■

## Rain Garden *continued from page 1*

be necessary in the first few years before plants become established. Once the plants mature and become established, maintenance of a rain garden is nothing more than routine landscape maintenance: minor weeding, pruning, plant replacement, mulching, and supplemental watering during dry spells. The Town of Hampden is partnering with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Bangor Area Storm Water Group, and CES, Inc. for the design and installation of

this rain garden. Other partners will be needed to help install the garden, and donations of materials such as compost, mulch, and plants are welcome. Please contact Laura Wilson at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Water Quality office (581-2971, or [lwilson@umext.maine.edu](mailto:lwilson@umext.maine.edu)) for more information or to find out how to help! Our rain garden will be a beautiful addition to our town! ■

**Hampden** *Highlights* is published quarterly by the Town of Hampden, and its success depends upon a community-wide effort. We ask you to please forward news, notes and tips about friends, neighbors, colleagues — or yourselves — to Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly by emailing: [Anne.OReilly@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Anne.OReilly@umit.maine.edu), drop off at the Town Office, or mailing to *Hampden Highlights*, Town Office, 106 Western Avenue, Hampden, ME, 04444. You can find *Hampden Highlights* on the Web at [www.hampdenmaine.com](http://www.hampdenmaine.com). We welcome your feedback. Edited by: Anne Gabbianelli O'Reilly, Susan Lessard, and Mark Pierce • Layout and design by Val Williams

# Can You Find the Big Ol' Tree?

*By Jim Feverston*

## Hampden Tree Board

**M**aine, more than any other state in the country is blessed with trees. The Hampden Tree Board, together with the Maine Forest Service, is looking for the largest specimens we can find in town. In conjunction with the Hampden Tree City USA--Arbor Day celebration to be held May 21, 2009, the Tree Board is seeking nominations for the largest trees in Hampden.

Nominations for the 2009 Register of Hampden's Big Ol' Trees contest will be received through May 15, 2009. Winning property owners and nominators will be presented certificates as part of the Arbor Day celebration.

Since 1968, the Maine Forest Service has been compiling a list of the largest known specimens of native and naturalized trees in Maine. The 2007/2008 Maine Register of Big Trees lists 160 trees, representing 150 species. The Maine Forest Service has been notified that five listed trees are now dead, including the National Champion Tamarack, located in Township 13 Range 8. Maine also has two other trees that are national champions; the Eastern White Pine, located in Morrill, and the Bigtooth Aspen located in Appleton.

Sadly, none of Hampden's beautiful old trees are represented in the Register. With your help and the help of other town citizens, we have a chance to potentially identify a state champion while simultaneously compiling a local registry of Hampden's biggest trees.

State champion big trees capture our imagination for size and strength; however, there is more to a champion than just its size -- they are symbols of all the good work trees do for the environment and our quality of life in Hampden. Big trees provide more cooling shade and more places for wildlife to live, perch, or nest. They sequester more carbon dioxide, trap more pollutants, and purify more water than any other plant on the planet.

To determine if a tree is a champion, the Maine Forest Service gives each tree a score based on a formula that adds circumference, height in feet, and one quarter of the crown spread. Nomination forms are available at the town office or on the town website at [www.hampdenmaine.com](http://www.hampdenmaine.com). The Maine Register of Big Trees can also be viewed by visiting the Project Canopy website: <http://www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/projectcanopy/>

For more information on the Maine Register of Big Trees, the Hampden Big Ol' Tree contest, to receive a nomination form, or to request help in identifying or measuring a tree contact: Gretchen Heldmann at the town office, 862.4500, or email [hampdenmemaps@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenmemaps@gmail.com). Nominators may also contact Tree Board members Jim Feverston at 862.4647, Lance Case at [gee.o.nut@gmail.com](mailto:gee.o.nut@gmail.com), Chris Packard at [packardcs@aol.com](mailto:packardcs@aol.com), or Phil Stack at [pastack1@hotmail.com](mailto:pastack1@hotmail.com). Remember to send or drop off nominations to the town office by May 15, 2009. Good Luck! ■



Sue Lessard, Town Manager

## Weathering the Storm

By Sue Lessard

As everyone knows – the country as a whole is facing an unprecedented economic upheaval and that upheaval is not just at the state and national level, it is at the local level as well. It is reflected in job losses, business failures and foreclosure numbers. Although the Town of Hampden is an extremely fiscally solid community, we are preparing the 2009/2010 budget with a plan that keeps taxation funding flat from last year to this year on the municipal side of the budget. We are working toward that goal because we know that every single person in this community either has been themselves or has had a family member or friend or business associate that has been negatively impacted by the economic downturn. It is not 'business as usual' given the very serious state in which we find ourselves. It is our belief that the dust is still settling and that we must be prudent in looking beyond just the immediate year at the likelihood that recovery will take more than one year.

In order to accomplish this, we are taking a long, hard look at all of the services we provide and how we provide them and we will be making changes in some in order to be more efficient and to save money. The Town employees have been very supportive of this overall plan even though it means no cost of living raise for them to be included in the 2009/2010 budget and a change in their health insurance coverage. Even our Union employees have agreed to open their labor contract and insert an additional year in which there is no cost of living increase and the change to health insurance.

One idea under serious discussion is the possibility of changing our town office operating hours from 8a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. from Monday through Thursday. The ability to shut down half of this complex for three consecutive days would demonstrate a substantial savings in both heat and electrical costs. In addition to saving money, this proposal would provide 'before and after' work hours for the tax-paying public who find difficulty in accessing services under the current schedule. This change would be instituted in the month of May of 2009

## FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN MANAGER

*Sue Lessard, Town Manager*

- OOPS! Tax due date for the second half of property taxes was April 1, 2009.
- The Council will begin budget meetings on the 2009/2010 budget during May of this year – all meetings will be televised on Time Warner Cable Channel 7.
- Did you remember to get your 2009 Transfer Station Decal? Eligible residents must have one to access the facility. ■

## 4th Annual Regional Stream Cleanup

By Robert Osborne

The Bangor Area Storm Water Group is seeking individuals and teams to participate in our Annual Regional Stream Cleanup. This event is a coordinated effort to involve area citizens and businesses in removing litter from our local waterways. In the process we will help beautify our communities, improve the water quality of our local water bodies, and increase awareness about the impact of litter and storm water pollution. Come out and show your community and neighborhood spirit! Volunteers will be meeting in Hampden May 9, 2009 at 9:00 am at Hamlin's Marina. Contact: Bob Osborne, 862-6527, ozz788@me.acadia.net. Free BBQ & T-shirts!! ■

so that we had a 'trial run' before the budget was finalized in late June.

The Lura Hoit pool has minimal use on Sundays in the summer and the pool may begin closing on those days to save on heat, electricity and staff time. Changes already in place at the transfer station will allow us to budget nearly seventy thousand dollars less this year for that operation than last year even though 2008/2009 was flat funded from the prior year.

We recognize that high-quality services are expected by the taxpayers of the community – and we pledge no deviation from that mission. However, it is important for you to understand that the relationship between the Town and its residents is a partnership. We will do everything possible to hold the line on tax costs and still provide good service – and we are looking to you to work with us to make any necessary changes successful. ■



## DEPARTMENT: ASSESSING

Our assessor, Vivian Gresser, is being asked, "With property values declining, are the assessments going to decrease?" In a word, "Maybe." However, remember when the assessments decrease the mil rate will have to increase to meet the budget needs of the schools, town, and county. It seems that even though some sale prices are lower than a year or so ago, they are still higher than most of the assessed values in Hampden. The last town wide study completed after November sales were tallied showed our assessments still at 95% of market value. So, at this time, I estimate that most assessments will not change.

Assessed values are determined by what is present on the property on April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and based on sales that took place prior to April 1st of each year. When declarations of sales through March 31<sup>st</sup> are received, the assessor begins 'sales studies' of each of the 60+ neighborhoods in Hampden. Inspections of buildings under construction are accomplished and new assessments are figured. The final assessments are usually not ready until the first part of August each year. Mil rates are based on budgets which are adopted in June. The budget is divided into the final assessments to set a mil rate in August, shortly before the tax bills are mailed. ■

## Spring Over to the Lura Hoit Pool

By Darcey Peakall

Spring is the time to enjoy the water and at the Lura Hoit Pool, swim lessons start April 26 and run through June 20. We offer all levels of lessons at great prices.

Are you looking for a way to get into shape for summer? Come check out one of our aqua exercise classes. No need to register, just drop in when you can. If you are not into group exercise, we offer lap swimming at many different times throughout the day, seven days a week.

Do you have an upcoming birthday or looking for a fun place to go with your group? We offer five different time slots per week for you to host a party. Check out our web site for more information on our pool schedules, swim lessons, aqua exercise and rentals. ■



Kid Kampers getting creative  
Photo by Jill McLaughlin

## Children Wanted... Fun Promised

By Shelley Abbott

The 2009 summer Kid's Kamp program offered by the Hampden Recreation Department is sure to be what every parent needs...action packed activities that will guarantee the kids will come home tired but still wanting more. Kid's Kamp Director, Jill McLaughlin, has redesigned this summer's day kamp program to include a new location, new enrollment fees, extended hours at one flat rate, and increasing kamper enrollment slots, including adding the 6th grader enrollment opportunity!

Also new this year will be daily themes. We are still in the planning stages, but parents will be notified each week on what is planned for that week! Each week will include a special field trip or event. Old favorites will still be on the schedule too...games, crafts, playground time, free play, and lots of water fun!

Currently, there is still space in all 6 weeks available. If you are looking to save some money, the Kid's Kamp program is offering a Special Deal....

Sign up for all 6 weeks and save!

\$600 for all 6 weeks ~paid in full by the first day of kamp.

Kids Kamp Dates: July 6 – August 14

Whether for one week or all six, we would love to have your child join us at Kid's Kamp this summer. For more information, contact the Hampden Recreation Department at 862-6451. Program brochures and registration forms are available at the Hampden Town Office or online at [www.hampdenmaine.com](http://www.hampdenmaine.com). ■

## Fire Department Helps Expand AED Availability

If you've been to Edwards' Family Shop-N-Save recently, you may have noticed something new. In January, Edwards' purchased a potentially lifesaving Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Mounted in a cabinet on a wall near the pharmacy counter, the Defibtech Lifeline AED is available for emergency use by CPR-trained store employees and customers. Edwards' also expanded its employee-training program to include AED use.

Edwards' isn't alone, however. There are several locations in town that have AEDs. There's one at the Lura E. Hoit Pool. Every school building in town now has at least one, and the school even sends one with some sports teams when they travel. The Hampden Fire Department hopes to expand AED availability even further.

"Our hope is that someday an AED will be almost as common as a fire extinguisher. It wasn't that long ago that they were more than \$5,000 each. With contract pricing made available through the state, these devices can now be purchased for less than \$750. That's a huge price drop," said Matt Thomas, public education officer at the Hampden Fire Department. "At that price, many small businesses, churches, and community organizations can afford to make the investment."

An AED is a battery-operated portable device about the size of a laptop computer. When someone is pulseless, self-adhesive electrodes from the device are placed on their chest. A loud, clear voice guides the rescuer through each step of the process. Most cardiac arrests are caused by one of two lethal heart rhythms, ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia. The AED automatically analyzes the heart



rhythm and if either is present, it will deliver a shock. In many cases this shock will cause the heart to begin beating normally again. The devices are simple to use and require only modest training and little maintenance. In fact, a 2007 study showed that even sixth graders were able to use them effectively with no prior training at all.

AEDs must be used in the first few minutes of a cardiac arrest to be most successful. For every minute defibrillation is delayed, a cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival drops by 7-10 percent. Even in Hampden with full-time EMTs and paramedics on duty 24 hours per day, it still takes an average of eight minutes to respond depending on the location. Early EMS activation by calling 911, effective CPR, and quick defibrillation with an AED can dramatically improve survival. Over 335,000 people die every year in the United States from sudden cardiac arrest and it frequently strikes Hampden residents. Even children are affected as in the case a few years ago when a child collapsed and died in Hampden while participating in a sporting event. This tragedy resulted in a widespread community effort to place AEDs throughout MSAD 22.

"We're committed to helping every interested Hampden business and organization acquire an AED and establish an ongoing CPR/AED training program," explained Thomas. "I've personally seen an AED save the

life of a young woman, and she walked out the front door of the hospital less than a week later. If an AED hadn't been available, she almost certainly would not have survived."

American Heart Association HeartSaver CPR/AED classes are available through a partnership between the Hampden Fire Department and MSAD 22 Adult Education. For more information or to register for a class, call 862-6422. Businesses or community organizations that would like more information about establishing an AED program can call the Hampden Fire Department at 862-4586. ■

### Hampden AED Locations

#### Hampden Academy

- Cafeteria
- Gym
- Nurse's office

#### Reeds Brook

- Near Gym
- Second floor hallway

#### McGraw School

- Gym

#### Weatherbee School

- Outside the gym

#### Lura E. Hoit Pool

- Front desk

#### Edwards' Family Shop-N-Save

- Near pharmacy

Do you know of another AED in town? Please let the Fire Department know so that they may update the list.

# Learning Experience for International Students and Hampden Academy

By Robin Clifford Wood

Every year, between two and three thousand teenagers from all over the world choose to leave their home countries in order to spend a year attending high school in the United States through the American Field Service (AFS) international exchange program. These brave young people have no idea which part of the country will become their home for ten or eleven months. Since 1995, fifty-seven of these students from twenty-four different countries have spent their US year attending Hampden Academy.

Hampden Academy has a long-standing relationship with AFS, a 60 year-old organization with a commitment to strong local support systems for their students. Nancy Grant, volunteer local coordinator for AFS, speaks highly of HA's principal, Ruey Yehle; "Ruey has always been very open" about accepting students to attend Hampden Academy. Each year, Yehle and Grant discuss how many students may attend Hampden and how many can be matched with host families in the school district, and they agree upon a number. Then the Academy welcomes them with open arms.

There are challenges in integrating students of multiple nationalities into school programs. Teachers may make accommodations for students with language limitations – occasionally pairing them up with other students as helpers or allowing oral presentations in place of written work. "The challenges, however, are far outweighed by the benefits," says Yehle. These students "bring a new experience to discussions and activities. They see every day stuff through a different lens, so they broaden perspectives." Even something as simple as how a soccer practice is run, the use of school lockers, or the variety of cafeteria food can become unique points of contrast.

"Our kids learn a lot."

"It is important to find a balance," says Yehle, between offering international students a "typical American experience" and putting them in the limelight in order to teach us about their culture. All exchange students study US History during their year at HA to see our history from a US perspective. At the same time, their contributions to discussions add a new perspective to the other students' learning. Sometimes exchange students offer special presentations about their host countries in various classes to share information about history, politics, food, art, music, or foreign relations. Visiting students are encouraged to take classes that may not be offered in their home country where there is often less choice in school subjects. Many AFS students take art, music and cooking classes. Valerie Maurais has students from Brazil, Germany, Italy, and Thailand in her foreign foods class this year and has taken full advantage of the opportunity for all of her students to learn from each other about international cuisine. Latin teacher Ben Johnson dusted off his fencing gear for the first time since college and sparred in the old gym with Max Meisenheimer from Germany. An impromptu gathering of Hampden students gathered to watch the first ever fencing competition.

The purpose of foreign exchange programs is to broaden intercultural awareness with the ultimate goal of a more understanding and peaceful world. At Hampden Academy, in our small way, we are making connections between our community and the rest of the world, to everyone's benefit. Principal Yehle recounted with a smile the connections she observed in an interpretive dance class. Among the participants were students from the life skills program, some of whom rely on



Front row, L to R: Francesco, Max, Kevin, Abdullah. Back row, L to R: Ricardo, Arthur, Pathawee ("Kandy"), Chanya

Photo by Robin Wood

non-verbal communication, as well as exchange students for whom English is a challenge. There was laughter, engagement, and plenty of communication. "Everyone really got into it...They had a blast!"

This year Hampden Academy is hosting six AFS students and two more exchange students from another program, AYUSA. They are: Abdullah Al-Khayyat from Saudi Arabia, Kevin Angelinetta from Italy, Ricardo de Lima from Brazil, Arthur Geremia from Brazil, Francesco Maino from Italy, Max Meisenheimer from Germany, Pathawee Sarawan from Thailand, and Chanya Udomphorn from Thailand.

Hampden Academy exchange students:

Host country, number of students since 1995  
Germany 8, Finland 6, Italy 4, Switzerland 4, Thailand 4, Belgium 3, Chile 3, Norway 3, Japan 3, Brazil 2, New Zealand 2, Russia 2, Spain 2, Australia 1, Austria 1, Costa Rica 1, Iceland 1, Indonesia 1, Malaysia 1, Paraguay 1, Saudi Arabia 1, Slovak Republic 1, Turkey 1, Venezuela 1.



Mrs. Edna Bragg shown with Rep. Andre Cushing receiving a sentiment from the Maine Legislature in honor of her 104th birthday. A party was held at Roe Village with many of her friends and family in attendance. Congratulations Edna! You are an inspiration to us!



## BOOKS AND MORE

By Jane Jarvi

The annual Edythe Dyer Community Library book sale will be held from 9 am – 2 pm, May 2. The Library is located at 269 Main Road North in Hampden, and a Coffee House will be available for the purchase of pastries and soup. The sale area is not handicapped accessible due to space constraints. Books for all ages and interests are available. Your support will allow the library to enhance its services to our community and to purchase an emergency defibrillator. ■



Moose, the dog, enjoying a visit with a library patron  
Photos by Cheri Condon



Opie, the pooch, showing appreciation for the stories that were read to him

# Reading to the Dogs

By Debbie Lozito

Reading is a basic element of education. With this in mind, in October 2008 the Edythe Dyer Library launched a new reading program. The program pairs first and second grade readers with a dog. Yes, a dog! The children come to the library once a month and read to their dog partner. These children are just beginning to read and reading aloud, especially to adults, can be intimidating. Sitting and reading to your pal is a more relaxed atmosphere. Dogs offer the children a safe, nonjudgmental interaction and provide the kids the opportunity to build reading skills and confidence and for the dogs there are plenty of hugs and faces for doggie kisses.

The dogs, Moose (handled by Kelly Anderson), Opie, Skylar, (handled by Ron and Cheryl Lare), and Soren (handled by Rob and Lynn Boulier) are all certified therapy dogs. Their handlers are all volunteers and very dedicated to enhancing the kids' reading experience. The program owes much to them for the time they take preparing the dogs, coming to the library, and working with the children.

The program started with three participants in October and saw 12 by January. February had 11 readers with five dogs, and in March 14 were reading with dogs. It is set up in three-month blocks. At the end of the block, the parents are asked to fill out a questionnaire to help the library improve the program and it asks if the children would like to attend another three months. To date, five of the first eight children have asked to continue for the additional months.

Parents are excited about the improvements they have seen in their children's self-confidence and desire to read. One family now makes a library trip a part of their Saturday mornings. They said that the entire family is reading more.

The library works with teachers at a local school to determine the children who would most benefit from this type of program and to ensure age and reading level appropriate books. ■

# Highlighting Hampden

By Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

On a Saturday morning in January when many were tucked away in their homes, avoiding the below zero temperatures, others braved the cold and enjoyed all that Hampden Highlights Day offered.

The Community Room in the Municipal Building was decorated with balloons, there were plenty of snacks, and the door prizes were endless. All of this was available as folks meandered about the room chatting with representatives from local civic and charitable organizations like Kiwanis, Snowmobile and Garden Clubs, Children's Day and Masonic organizations as well as staff members from various Town Departments.

Dana Edwards was also on hand to share as well. At Edwards' Shop n Save, customers deposit their recyclables in the parking lot and those bottles added up to the tune of \$1,600, which Edwards' donated to local clubs and organizations. ■



Photos by Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

# Children's Day Planning

By Vivian Gresser

**Mark Saturday, August 15, 2009  
on your Calendar**



**I**t's the 30th Children's Day and worth planning for now. That's why the Hampden Children's Day Committee needs your help. The date is set and the next important thing now is to raise money to support the day-long event and fireworks. A bowlathon was held last month at the Sports Arena. I hope all of you had a chance to sponsor a bowler or a team. If not, you get another chance to participate or sponsor before June 6 when we will hold our Golf Tournament at Hampden Country Club. We will have teams for morning golf (7:30 a.m.), as well as afternoon golf (1:00 p.m.). We need business sponsors for each of the 9 holes and teams of four to play. Contact committee members Jason Frisch at Edward's Family Shop n Save or Mayor Matt Arnett at 862-5382 for more information.

Children's Day takes a good bit of time and effort to put on. We have only a handful of active volunteer members on the Children's Day Committee. The old saying: "many hands make for light work" is very true with this effort. We need folks willing to give us some of their time to do modest tasks that will go a long way towards assuring a successful day. If you have ideas for games, entertainment, can give us a few hours of work, or would like to volunteer to serve on the committee, please contact Amy Lorenzo at 433-0887, Don Darling at 944-5019, or just show up at one of the committee meetings. We know how to have fun while planning. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month now through June and more often closer to the big event. Edward's Family Shop n Save graciously allows us to use their conference room on the second floor of the supermarket. We meet at 6:00 p.m. and meetings usually last an hour or two. Thank you, and we hope to see you there! ■

## A Warmer Wednesday

By Annie Gabbianelli O'Reilly

**W**ednesday mornings are warmer these days at the Hampden Congregational Church on Main Road thanks to a \$2,000 grant from the King Foundation. "The funds will help pay for a pellet stove the church purchased and the pellets," says Diana Richardson who likes to see how the coziness of the church's Fellowship Hall has become a gathering place for many.

Each Wednesday, food cupboard clients and other community members stop by Fellowship Hall. "I've had one individual, who lives alone, tell me that she comes for the company, and she even used our facility as a neutral place for a family meeting. And the ecumenical ladies group now has all their monthly meetings at HCC, and they remain afterwards to visit and play games," says Richardson.

The church also received a large donation of snacks and beverages making it possible for church members to offer a more "extravagant hospitality" during the hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each Wednesday. ■

## BE IN THE KNOW

*By Denise Hodsdon*

**Y**ou're invited to receive important information by email. All you need to do is visit the town's website, and click on Email Sign Up on the side menu. Once you complete the information, click on submit. You then will automatically receive updates of what's happening in town along with pertinent information.

Here's the link to being in the know  
**<http://www.hampdenmaine.com>**

## TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

District 1:	Janet M. Hughes	947-5273	hughestowncouncil@gmail.com
District 2:	Thomas B. Brann	862-4954	tombrann@tds.net
District 3:	Jean H. Lawlis	862-4080	lawlistowncouncil@gmail.com
District 4:	William W. Shakespeare	862-4375	wmshakespeare@hotmail.com
At Large:	Andre E. Cushing, III	449-1358	andrec@roadrunner.com
At Large:	Matthew D. Arnett	862-5382	arnetttowncouncil@gmail.com
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TOWN OF HAMPDEN  
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