

Revival News & Notes



The Newsletter of Revitalizing Waterbury, Inc.

Spring 2005

No. 3

Revitalizing Waterbury's Fundraising Campaign for Railroad Restoration Project Surpasses \$1 Million

Thanks to recent contributions from individuals and area businesses, Revitalizing Waterbury, Inc. (RW) has reached more than three-quarters of its fundraising goal for the Waterbury Railroad Station restoration project with more than \$1 million raised as of mid-April.

Carolyn Goodwin Kueffner, RW vice president and chair of RW's campaign committee, said recent contributions have pushed the total amount raised to date to \$1,077,000. RW is working to raise a total of \$1.4 million to renovate and restore the historic railroad station in downtown Waterbury.

Fundraising was given a tremendous boost earlier this year with a pledge from the Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Foundation to match contributions for the project up to \$450,000.

Recent contributors to the project have included: the American Legion Post 59 (a donation from their 2005 USO Show), Jack Carter, Century 21 Jack Associates, Chittenden Bank, Grenier Land Company, Perkins-Parker Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Pilgrim Partnership, Ernest Pomerleau, Ted Schultheis, Ken and Elizabeth Squier, and John and Val Vincent.

Other funding for the project includes \$369,000 from the Vermont Agency of Transportation and two grants from the Preservation Trust of Vermont/Freeman Foundation and the Great American Station Foundation totaling \$50,000. The GMCR Foundation grant will be paid over nine years and relies on a loan from the Waterbury Village Urban Development Action Grant to cover the funds in the meantime.

Built in 1875, the railroad station was a downtown landmark during the first half of the 20th century and is on the National Register of Historic Places. But as the community's interest and focus on rail transportation shifted in recent decades, the railroad station fell into disrepair.

Today, the station operates as an Amtrak rail stop and will continue to do so through and after the restoration project, Laura Parette, president of RW, said. The renovations will also add new uses to the railroad station building. RW hopes to create a multi-modal transportation center and Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. plans to create a GMCR café and visitor's center. In addition to offering specialty coffee beverages and light fare, GMCR will use the space to provide information about the company, its coffees, and its operation in Waterbury.

Parette said RW is working with local tourism officials to include tourist information about Waterbury and the surrounding area at the renovated station as well.

RW hopes to receive bids on the project this summer with a goal of starting construction this fall and completing the work early next year. GMCR plans to open its café and visitor's center by June 2006 in conjunction with the company's 25th anniversary.

"We hope the station will be a renewed centerpiece for our downtown – a great compliment to the adjacent Rusty Parker Park where so many activities happen," Parette said. "Ultimately this will benefit our downtown business area and the whole community."

Members are encouraged to become a part of the effort to make this wonderful project a reality. Consider joining RW's Capital Campaign or Events committees, where we currently have openings. Contact Laura Parette at 244-1575, Carolyn Goodwin Kueffner at 244-7830 or Jack Carter at 244-5321. Contributions to the station project can be made by sending a check to Revitalizing Waterbury, Inc, P.O. Box 473, Waterbury, VT 05676 or online at www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org

Photo credit: Mitch Mooraski



What remains of Waterbury's once glorious 1875 railroad station.

Vermont Green Up Day

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 7th this year!

Please join us at 9am as we clean up the railroad tracks from the station to the dry bridge, and perhaps beyond. Bring gloves and wear long pants! We'll provide the bags. This is the 6th year we've participated, and it is always a wonder how much trash we pick up, just in this little stretch.

Village Beautification Update

Keep an eye out for new color in the village this spring. The pilot version of our Village Beautification Project will be underway soon. Whiskey casks filled with flowers will soon be gracing the streets of the village. The village trustees have graciously supported our efforts and A River Runs Through It (ARRTI) has lent their design skills. We'll let you know how it went in the next issue!

www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org

The RW web site went live on December 1, 2004! It has already become an attraction, and a valuable tool for fundraising and signing up new members.

We would like to thank Willie Docto and Liz Schlegel for putting our site together. Willie's eye for detail has created a very handsome site, and Liz's knowledge of web site architecture has provided us with an easily navigated site. Please visit, and let us know what you think...

Please also note that the history of RW on the web site was written by our late friend, Kathy O'Dell. When asked to contribute to the site, Kathy wrote furiously and provided us with the essay found online.

RW selects '05 officers

We welcome Carolyn Goodwin Kueffner as our new vice-president. Carolyn is leading the charge for the capital campaign for the Railroad Station. Iona Kemp agreed to add the secretary's duties to her treasurer's duties for this year. Laura Parette remains president. Jeanne Kirby was happily added to the board replacing the seat of Chuck Kletecka who stepped down after many years of insight and support to RW.

We welcome our members to become board members. There is a lot going on for RW these days, and more hands are always appreciated. Our monthly meetings are 90 minutes long, and committee work and other projects, such as fundraising for the station or planning for the Village Beautification Project, take more time. It is rewarding work. Please join us during this exciting time and help put your stamp on the continuing revitalization of Waterbury.

RW meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm in the conference room of the Chittenden Bank.
Future meeting dates: May 10th • June 14th • July 12th

OFFICERS:

Laura Parette
President
Carolyn Goodwin Kueffner
Vice President
Iona Kemp
Treasurer and Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jack Carter
Rick Darby
Janet DiBlasi
Jeanne Kirby
David Luce
Bob McLeod
Joyce Rogan
Tom Stevens
Sarah-Lee Terrat

SELECT BOARD NOTE:

Revitalizing Waterbury board members Jack Carter and Tom Stevens were elected to the Waterbury Select Board on Town Meeting Day, March 1, 2005. It is with great pride that we wish them well with their new duties. Both Jack and Tom will remain on the board of directors of RW.

WDEV Accepts Community Service Award

Revitalizing Waterbury has awarded the 2004 Kathy O'Dell Memorial Community Service Award to Radio Vermont Group and Waterbury's own WDEV!

Station manager Eric Michaels was presented with the award at the Waterbury Community Fair, an annual event presented by RW. RW Board President Laura Parette presented Michaels with the award, represented by a hand-painted image of Stowe Street created by RW board member Sarah-Lee Terrat, during WDEV's live broadcast at the Fair.



From left to right: Eric Michael's of WDEV, Sarah-Lee Terrat; artist and RW Board member and Laura Parette; RW president.

This is the second year that RW has awarded the Community Service award; last year Green Mountain Coffee Roasters was the honoree. The award has been renamed to honor Kathy O'Dell, founding board president of RW, who died in February.

Parette noted that the choice of WDEV/Radio Vermont to receive this year's community service award was an easy one for the RW board. "This radio station does so much for this community – it is the heart of Waterbury! And everyone at the station contributes, from providing airtime and sponsorship for nonprofit events, to inviting community members to talk on the air about their projects, to helping small businesses with advertising. They are living the RW mission: to help this community be strong economically and culturally, in an authentic small-town way."

Visit our website: www.RevitalizingWaterbury.org • info@RevitalizingWaterbury.org • PO Box 473, Waterbury, VT 05676 • 802.244.5321

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at the Waterbury Railroad Station

PO Box 473
Waterbury, VT 05676

