



CHARLESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*P.O. Box 100
Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813*

Dear CHS Membership,

February - 2009

As 2009 progresses we are happy to report that we have accomplished some important goals this past year and continue to build on new ones. On January 22, 2009, we held our 40th Annual Meeting at the Community Room of the Charlestown Police Station. It was a well-attended, productive and most enjoyable meeting. Our membership brings a great deal of talent and passion for history to the table, and we can honestly say that the society has become a source of pride for all of us.

For 2008 our three presentations proved to be interesting and well attended. Our 2009 presentations include the Carpenters Grist Mill (1703), and a demonstration of its operation by owners Diane and Bob Smith, a lecture by one of the Stanton family descendants in the latter part of July (TBA), and a tour of the historic Shannock area as a follow-up of the lecture presented last September by Mr. Sanford Neuschatz.

The Farmers Market will be looking to begin its second season the last week of June. Its tremendous success last summer enabled us to open the District No. 2 Schoolhouse to the public every Friday morning, in addition to its normal hours on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning, and proved to be a great source of networking and growth for CHS. It was also an opportunity to fundraise with our Charlestown History Books, and T-shirts. Please come by and support the community this summer, and by all means, purchase one of our new CHS fundraising items!

An addition to the Cross Mills district this spring will be a new village sign. It will be located on the grounds of historic Cross Hall as a welcoming icon to all who enter the village district. Through community fundraising, we were able to cover the cost of the sign and hope to have it in place before May. We hope in the future to follow suit in all villages of the town and as always, encourage community support in this endeavor.

One of our goals this past year, and perhaps one of the least enjoyable, was the reconstruction of the CHS By-Laws, the last revision dating to 1984. As you can imagine, some of the language, title designations and former communication barriers brought forth quite a bit of humor while the committee worked to revise the existing policies, which made the job a little easier. Needless to say, we are happy to be operating in the 21st century at this point in time!!

During the past few months we have formed two new standing committees within CHS. These committees represent the backbone of our organization. The first, the Collections and Archival Committee, is spearheaded by VP Jean Pellam. Jean brings a great deal of experience to CHS through her time spent on the board of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society and has worked to set the standards and procedures necessary to get the ball rolling. We have a good group of members already addressing various projects. In the future they will analyze, receive and catalog all items that may be donated. PastPerfect™ Museum software will be our way & means for future archival procedures.

The second standing committee is the Research & Response Committee, headed-up by Chairperson Suzanne Ferrio. This committee will address incoming inquiries on genealogy, and dating, as well as deeding, organizing and researching the various records up at the Town Hall, in an effort to make information more accessible. Board member (and committee member) Jodi Lacroix will be overseeing our activity at the Town Hall through her position as Town Clerk. If you have a keen interest in these procedures, we could benefit from an additional one or two more people on this committee.

At this time, we also continue to write small grants to cover the costs of Museum/Archival computer software, a laptop computer, document restoration, etc. As a sign of the times, grants are a little less accessible, but perseverance will hopefully pay off (donations are always welcome)!

It has been a year since our last Membership letter, and below please find a short form to complete and send back. Our determination is steadfast for a future home, which we continually research, and our fundraising has also been a great contributing factor to that end. We hope that within the year we will be able to firm up the acquisition of a home base, and we will certainly keep you posted.

As always, the CHS Executive Committee and Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support and commitment to preserve and share the history our town of Charlestown!

Pamela Lyons – President, Jean Pellam – VP, Paul Kelley – Treasurer, Sandra Puchalski - Secretary

Visit us at: charlestownri.org

NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

ADDRESS _____

ALTERNATE ADDRESS _____

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(Important for update information)

FAMILY (all persons in one household) - \$25.00 _____

SINGLE PERSON - \$20.00 _____

ADDITIONAL DONATION - _____

Please return this portion of the page along with your check made out to:

THE CHARLESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 100, CHARLESTOWN, RI 02813

Thank You