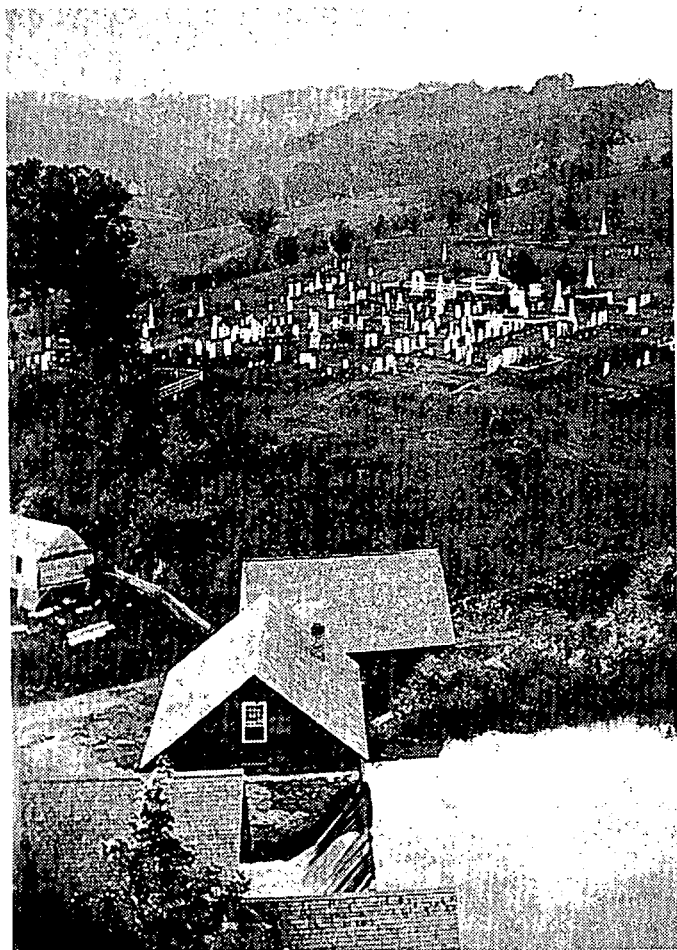


STRAFFORD, VERMONT

TOWN REPORTS



Year Ending December 31, 2003

HISTORICAL NOTE

The West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River

As the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc is where the environmental impact of the Elizabeth Mine is largely measured, the name of our river has been on more lips, and on more printed pages, in recent years than ever before. But in the days when goods could not be brought in from outside and Strafford had to be largely self-sufficient, the Ompompanoosuc was an essential resource because its water could provide power far greater than that of human or animal muscles for such tasks as turning trees into lumber and grain into flour.

Strafford's first sawmill and first gristmill were built by Lt. Frederick Smith in the first center of settlement, now Old City, on a tributary of the Ompompanoosuc known as the Mill Brook. The water rushing toward the falls was power waiting to be harnessed. A similar situation on the upper reaches of the West Branch itself gave rise to the Buzzell sawmill with its impressive stonework well up Taylor Valley and, lower down, Leonard Walker's mill which sawed wood for building the Town House. The fast flow of water in many lesser brooks all over town also served tanneries or powered mills and small factories making, for example, hay-rakes or washboards.

The almost level "hollows" below offered no such fast flow of water, but their growing villages soon needed mills. Here, each mill had to have a dam, a barrier to block the

flow across its entire width, tall enough so that the water it let pass would fall with the required force. A series of dams on the Ompompanoosuc in this valley powered a variety of historic activities over some 150 years, most notably one behind the Town House in the Upper Village; one at the lower end of the same village; one at the Route 132 crossing in the Lower Village; one below the ball park; and one at Furnace Flat.

The Town House dam was central to the lives of two important local families, the Morrills and the Hatches. Leased in part to Justin Morrill's father, Nathaniel, in 1807 (for 999 years) this dam already powered a carding mill that prepared raw wool for spinning. Morrill, a blacksmith, used its power for a grindstone, a blower, and a trip hammer that prepared work for two forges. A son and a grandson followed him there.

On the south bank across the river, the carding mill was succeeded in 1825 by S.S. Kiblinger's fulling mill, which processed cloth woven in Strafford homes. In 1853, Royal Hatch bought Kiblinger's water rights and built a factory where his sons would make bedsteads and other furniture until the late 1890s. The buildings were torn down in about 1930.

Two early millers and sawyers ran mills at the dam at the lower end of Strafford Village in the very early 1800s: Silas Alger Junior and Noah

continued on inside back cover

Cover: View from Town House belfry showing Hatch bedstead factory, dam, millpond, Morrill blacksmith's shop, and Strafford cemetery.

From a stereograph by H.H.H. Langill, Hanover, N.H., in a private collection

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOWN BUSINESS

Town Officers	2
State Elected Officials	5
Permit Fees	5
Warning for Town Meeting 2004	6
Proceedings of Town Meeting 2003	7
Selectmen's Report	11
Reports of Other Town Officers	14
Town Accountings	
Budget	23
Balance Sheet	30
Other Accounting Information	31
Tax Information	34
Delinquent Taxes	36
Vital Statistics	38
Animal Licensing Information	40
Funds and Scholarships	42

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Morrill/Harris Library	46
Firemen's Association / F.A.S.T. Squad	49
Other Strafford Organizations	53
Health, Social and Planning Services	62
Solid Waste and Recycling	75

STRAFFORD SCHOOLS

Warning for School Meeting 2004	78
Proceedings of School Meeting 2003	79
School Directors' Report	82
Principal's Report	84
Newton School Assessment Results	87
Superintendent's Report	94
Thetford Academy	97
School Accountings	
Budget	101
Three Year Comparison	114
Balance Sheet	115
Other School Accounting Information	117
Orange/Windsor Supervisory Union Budget	119
State Aid for Special Education	125
Secondary School Enrollment and Tuition	126
Graduates and Newton School Enrollment	127

TOWN OFFICE HOURS AND SERVICE SCHEDULES	128
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TOWN OFFICERS

Moderator:

Melvin Coburn Term expires March 2004

Town Clerk and Treasurer:

Shelby Coburn Term expires March 2006

Selectmen:

John Freitag Term expires March 2006

Kathleen L. Campbell Term expires March 2005

Stephen Willbanks Term expires March 2004

Listers:

Alan Davis Term expires March 2006

Vacant Term expires March 2005

Robert Johnston Term expires March 2004

Auditors:

Nellie Pennington Term expires March 2006

Lynn Thorp Term expires March 2005

Ann Kynor Term expires March 2004

School Directors:

Tom Cecere Term expires March 2006

Tom Diamond Term expires March 2005

Therese Linehan Term expires March 2005

Gretchen Rittenhouse (*appointed*) Term expires March 2004

Kerry Claffey Term expires March 2004

Delinquent Tax Collector:

Jeanne O. Castro Term expires March 2004

Town Grand Juror:

Monty Tilles Term expires March 2004

Town Agent:

Monty Tilles Term expires March 2004

Trustees of Public Funds:

Kevin Plunkett Term expires March 2006

David Taplin Term expires March 2005

Rockwell Fuller Term expires March 2004

Agent to Deed Real Estate:

Shelby Coburn Term expires March 2004

Harris Library Trustees:

Kathleen Campbell (*appointed*) Term expires March 2006

Tom Moye Term expires March 2005

Linda Williams (*appointed*) Term expires March 2004

Cemetery Commission:

Margaret Gramling Term expires March 2006

Nat Guyer Term expires March 2006

Gary Kendall Term expires March 2005

Al Finn Term expires March 2005

Sheila Kendall Term expires March 2004

Appointive Officers

Road Foreman	Jon MacKinnon
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Beth Conant
Administrative Assistant	Shelby Coburn
Zoning Administrator	Curt Albee
Sewage Officer	Tom Clark
Emergency Management Director	William Burden
Emergency 9-1-1 Contact	Fred Wolfe
Town Health Officer	Elizabeth Preston, R.N.
Dog Officer and Pound Keeper	Edwin Eastman
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	James Conduct
Town Service Officer	Susan Coburn
Fire Chief, elected by Firemen's Association	D. Kris Brown
Fire Warden, appointed by the State	Kevin Cole
Fence Viewers	James Conduct, Greg Lewis, David Brown

First Constable

Gile S. Kendall	Term expires March 2004
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Second Constable

Edwin Eastman	Term expires March 2004
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Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Brian Johnson	Term expires March 2006
David Lamb	Term expires March 2006
Jane Brown	Term expires March 2005
William Williams	Term expires March 2005
Terrence Garrison	Term expires March 2004

Planning Commission:

Eric Thorp	Term expires March 2006
Kent Penfield	Term expires March 2006
James Conduct (Chair)	Term expires March 2005
Gretchen Fairweather (Secretary)	Term expires March 2005
Karl Johnston	Term expires March 2005
Russell Ward	Term expires March 2004
Sherm Wilson (Vice Chari).....	Term expires March 2004
Guy Denechaud	Term expires March 2003
<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2003

Conservation Commission:

Jeanne McMahan (Committee Chair)	Term expires March 2007
Sally Mansur (Chair)	Term expires March 2006
David Taplin (Treasurer)	Term expires March 2006
Anne Peyton (Vice Chair)	Term expires March 2005
Steve Faccio (Secretary)	Term expires March 2004

Regional Planning Commission:

Kendall Mix	Term expires March 2004
Guy Denechaud (alternate)	Term expires March 2004

Appointive Officers (continued)

Recreation Board:

John Freitag	Term expires March 2006
Bartley Rutledge	Term expires March 2005
Fred Schaafsma	Term expires March 2005
David Taplin	Term expires March 2004

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Representative:

<i>Vacant</i>	Term expires March 2004
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Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District Representative:

Stephen Willbanks	Term expires March 2004
Judy Bowden (Alternate)	Term expires March 2004

Upper Valley Ambulance Representative:

Kendall Mix	Term expires March 2004
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Robert Ordway Scholarship Fund Committee:

Joanna Hawkins	Term expires March 2006
Diana Leddy	Term expires March 2005
Kay Plunkett	Term expires March 2004

Ruth Wallace Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee:

Joanna Hawkins	Rockwell Fuller	Cynthia White
Maureen Wilson	Rod Maclay	

Carrie Sanborn Trust Committee:

Joanna Hawkins	Barbara Murray	Rose Silloway
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South Royalton Area Senior Center Representative Susan Coburn

Deputy Registrars Lyndon Mann, David Barnard
Michael Polli, Greg Hodge

Notaries Public

Edmund Coffin	Shelby Coburn	Violet B. Coffin
Beth Conant	Rod Maclay	

Justices of the Peace (Elected at General Elections)

R. Curtis Albee		Charles H. Brown
Catherine L. Linehan	Vincent Robinson	Fred Wolfe

Hatch bedstead factory

R.H. Nicholls photo, Strafford Historical Society collections

Elected State Officials

Senator James Jeffords	800-835-5500
Senator Patrick Leahy	800-642-3193
Congressman Bernard Sanders	800-339-9834
Governor James Douglas	802-828-3333
Lt. Governor Brian Dubie	802-828-2226
State Senator Mark MacDonald	802-433-5867
Representative Ann Seibert	802-649-1282
Representative James Masland	802-785-4146

While the Vermont Legislature is in session, you may call the Sergeant-at-Arms and leave a message at 1-800-322-5616.

Permit Fees

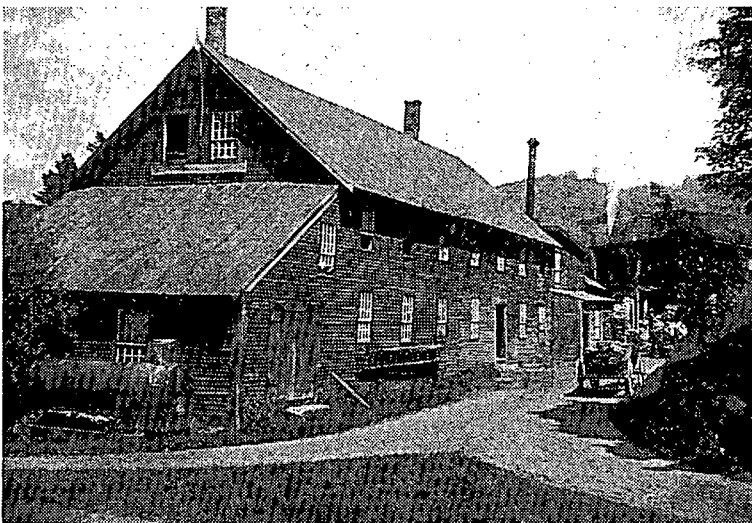
Zoning Application	\$15.00 + \$7.00 Recording Fee
Zoning Variance Application	\$10.00 + \$7.00 Recording Fee
Subdivision Application	\$35.00 + \$7.00 Recording Fee
Septic Application	\$10.00 + \$7.00 Recording Fee

Regional Environmental Office

For information on Sewage Disposal, Water Supply, Act 250, Act 249, Electrical and Plumbing Inspection and Fire Safety, contact the Regional Environmental Office:

Act 250 Permits
Springfield Office
100 Mineral St., Suite 305
Springfield, VT 05156
885-8855

Act 249 Permits
Barre Office
324 North Main St.
Barre, VT 05641
479-3621



WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

March 2, 2004

The legal voters of the Town of Strafford are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town House on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following articles of business:

Article 1: To elect a Moderator.

Article 2: To hear and act upon the report of the Auditors.

Article 3: To hear and act upon the Town Budget and see if the Town will levy a tax in the amount of \$636,782.00 to defray budget expenses and appropriations of this meeting and authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for these same purposes.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total taxes due. The first payment is due September 1, 2004, with a 1% interest per month charge on late payments. The second installment is due December 1, 2004, with the penalty and interest schedule as established for the collection of delinquent taxes.

Article 5: To elect the following officers:

For a term of three years:

Selectman (paper ballot)

Lister (paper ballot)

Auditor (paper ballot)

Trustee of Public Funds

Cemetery Commissioner

Harris Library Trustee

For a term of one year:

Lister (paper ballot)

Delinquent Tax Collector

Town Grand Juror

Town Agent

Agent to Deed Real Estate

Article 6: To see if the voters will authorize the Selectmen to purchase a Freightliner Tandem (10-wheeler) truck from the Equipment Fund for a sum of money not to exceed \$110,500.00.

Article 7: To transact any other legal business to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 30, 2004

By: Strafford Selectmen

Stephen Willbanks

Kathleen L. Campbell

John Freitag

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD
ANNUAL MEETING**

March 4, 2003

Melvin Coburn, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. After the flag salute, he then read the qualifications of a voter and stated that all Articles have to be moved and seconded before they can be discussed. He then read the Warning in its entirety.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator.

The article was moved and seconded. Melvin Coburn was nominated by Jim Conduct. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and one ballot cast. Melvin Coburn was elected.

Article 2: To elect a Town Clerk for a term of three years.

The article was moved and seconded. Shelby Coburn was nominated by Nellie Pennington. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and one ballot cast. Shelby Coburn was elected.

Article 3: To hear and act upon the report of the Auditors.

The article was moved and seconded. Nellie Pennington presented the report of the Auditors with one correction of expense of \$4,000 to the Fire Truck Fund. The report of the Auditors was accepted.

Article 4: To hear and act upon the Town Budget and see if the Town will levy a tax in the amount of \$588,011 to defray budget expenses and appropriations of this meeting and authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend unanticipated funds from sources other than the property tax for these same purposes.

The article was moved and seconded. Rod Maclay said that the bridge reconstruction by the store was completed with a 90/10 grant from the state. The repair of flood damage in various areas amounted to approximately \$93,000 and we received \$53,951 from the emergency fund. The new grader has been appreciated with all the snow and drifting. Kay Campbell presented the Administration, General Services and Community Services part of the budget. The changes were in part due to rise in cost of living, moving Ambulance Services to the Community Services portion of the budget and increase in Librarian's hours. Steve Willbanks presented the General Services. He explained that usually grants are not included in the revenue portion since they vary from year to year. The County Tax is a problem every year since Orange County doesn't complete their budget until January 31. Insurance has increased in every category. Health insurance increased 16.2%. We have contacted VLCT to help explore options to keep expenses down. The \$10,000 for the Municipal Building is the first of two payments for the water and septic that we share with the Brick Store. The \$1,300 increase is for a contract with a company to remove toxic and potentially toxic fluids to satisfy environmental requirements. There has

been some serious leakage causing damage to vertical supports in the tower of the Town House. Need to do extensive repairs to the supporting system. We are looking for grants and will ask the Historical Society to help fund raise. Rod Maclay presented the Highway budget explaining that the winter roads overspending of \$45,250 was due to so many snowstorms and the traffic packed snow turning to ice. Each load of salt (approximately \$900 per load) will only do the roads two times. The flood did a lot of damage and we have to repair or close the roads. The cross walk by the gym will be finished this summer by applying the epoxy to put on a brick-like surface. The drain at the town garage needs to be plugged, oil filters need to be taken by a special contractor, and a pad installed on which to fuel trucks. These are all unfunded mandates. The salt and sand piles also will need to be covered within the next five years but the state is trying to get an extension on this. Steve Willbanks said that we had a cumulative deficit over two years. In previous years we had a sizeable fund balance and for the past two years almost none. Much of this is due to repair of bridges and the flooding. The state is not as generous as FEMA with emergency funds. The vote was called and Article 4 was accepted.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one-half of the total annual taxes due. The first payment is due September 1, 2003, with a 1% interest per month charge on late payments. The second installment is due December 1, 2003 with the penalty and interest schedule as established for the collection of delinquent taxes.

The motion was made and seconded. Amy Huyffer made a motion to amend the article to read "To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes in two installments. Each installment would be one half of the total annual taxes due. The first payment is due September 1, 2003 or next business day, with a 1% interest per month charge on late payments. The second installment is due December 1, 2003 or next business day with the penalty and interest schedule as established for the collection of delinquent taxes." The motion was seconded. The vote was called on the amendment. The amendment was accepted. The vote was called on the article as amended. Article 5 was accepted as amended.

Article 6: To elect the following officers:

For a Term of three years:

Treasurer – Shelby Coburn was nominated. Nominations were closed and the clerk was directed to cast one ballot in favor of Shelby Coburn.

Selectman – John Freitag and Roderick Maclay were nominated. Nominations were closed and the vote was by paper ballot with 180 votes cast. John Freitag 121, Rod Maclay 59. John Freitag was elected.

Lister – Alan Davis was nominated. Nominations were closed and the clerk was directed to cast one ballot. Alan Davis was elected.

Auditor – Nellie Pennington was nominated. Nominations were closed and the clerk was directed to cast one ballot. Nellie Pennington was elected.

Trustee of Public Funds – Kevin Plunkett was nominated. Nominations were closed. Kevin Plunkett was elected.

Cemetery Commissioner – Nat Guyer was nominated. Nominations were closed. Nat Guyer was elected.

Cemetery Commissioner – Margaret Gramling was nominated. Nominations were closed. Margaret Gramling was elected.

For a term of one year:

Delinquent tax collector – Jeanne Castro was nominated. Nominations were closed. Jeanne Castro was elected.

Town Grand Juror – Monty Tilles was nominated. Nominations were closed. Monty Tilles was elected.

Town Agent – Monty Tilles was nominated. Nominations were closed. Monty Tilles was elected.

Agent to Deed Real Estate – Shelby Coburn was nominated. Nominations were closed. Shelby Coburn was elected.

Article 7: To see if the Town of Strafford will vote to continue to exempt disabled veterans \$20,000 of appraised value.

The motion was made and seconded. It was determined that at this time only three properties are exempt and that it was for residents. The vote was called and Article 7 was accepted.

Article 8: That the Town voters authorize an appropriation of \$300 to support the services of Safeline, Inc.

The motion was made and seconded. This is a program to eliminate domestic violence. The vote was called and Article 8 was accepted.

Article 9: Be it resolved that the citizens of the town of Strafford urgently call upon our municipal leaders, state legislators, governor, and Congressional delegation to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically, we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont's homes, businesses, public buildings, and transportation system, and to encourage expansion of the renewable energy industry in the state of Vermont.

The motion was made and seconded. This article is being voted on in 85 towns in Vermont to ask our government leaders to look at how we use our energy resources. The vote was called and Article 9 was accepted.

Article 10: To transact any other legal business to come before the meeting.

Moderator Coburn recognized State Representative Jim Masland. Mr. Masland said he is willing to hear from anyone at anytime. Legislature is still trying to find other ways to fund Act 60, possibly a surcharge on income. The House has proposed a tax on services such as lawyers and accountants.

Steve Willbanks expressed his personal gratitude to Rod Maclay for his years as a selectman and his knowledge of the roads. The voters responded with a round of applause. Rod said he had enjoyed this term on the Selectboard and would continue to help where he could.

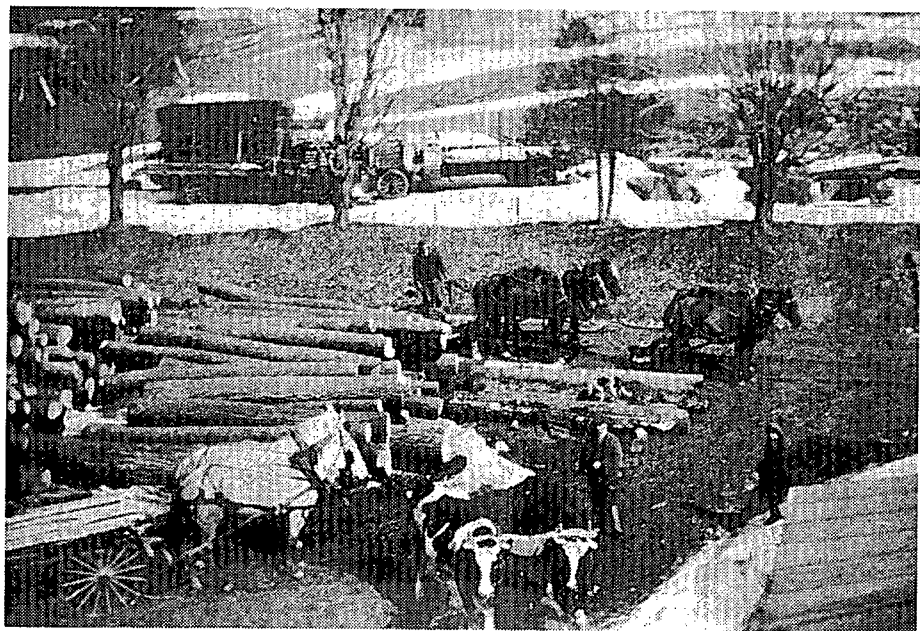
Sarah Rooker said that through the generosity of Kendall Mix the Strafford Historical Society had a new home in the Brick Store.

There being no other business, the motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Melvin Coburn
Moderator

Shelby Coburn
Town Clerk

Stephen Willbanks
Selectman



Sawmill yard at southern end of Strafford Village

Strafford Historical Society collections

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

While you were sleeping, you may not have been aware that our road crew was often out by 3 AM on mornings when the bus routes needed special attention to be safe and that routinely during the winter they are on the job by 5 AM. Of course during storms they continued to put in long hours on weekends, nights and holidays (including the past two Christmases).

We believe we have an exceptional road crew, all with strong Strafford connections, including Danny Prescott, P.D. Hardy, Jim Moses and our very capable Road Foreman, Jon MacKinnon. We think that these local connections make what they do for us more than just a job. We are grateful for their dedication.

Strafford, by the way, is one of only a handful of communities in Vermont which has no roads maintained by state highway crews. Our total of sixty-eight miles of roads which we must maintain ourselves, and essentially at our own expense, is among the highest in the area.

As unpredictable as the weather can be, it was reassuring during a year of intense rains, when towns on either side of us were experiencing costly washouts, to have our roads come through intact. Some of it may have been luck, but the fact that our road crew had been actively cleaning ditches and establishing turnouts for water drainage at every opportunity prior to the heaviest of the downpours had to have helped.

This attention to detail of course comes at a cost. Our Spring Maintenance budget, for example, may have been overspent last year, but the reason was simply that our road crew was out with the York rakes anytime, day or night, when temperatures cooled down sufficiently to firm up the muddy roads. The York rake opens up the uppermost layer of road material, allowing it to dry in the air. It is one of the few answers to Mud Season that we have found and when it works, it can work very well.

Our budget for the upcoming year comes with a modest increase which we believe reflects realistic costs for the services we have come to expect. Next year we intend to start on a phased approach to the reconstruction of the Justin Morrill Highway between the villages, a stretch of road that is deteriorating rapidly. Because of the expense, it may take us some years to complete, but we do not intend to leave sections unpaved for any length of time.

The Select Board will also be requesting the Town's blessing at Town Meeting to purchase a ten-wheeler, rather than a standard dump truck, to replace the 1997 Ford Louisville, scheduled for replacement last year, but, due to budget considerations, kept for another year. Its repair history was not good and its resale value diminishes the longer we keep it. Many surrounding towns have been persuaded of the advantages of adding ten wheelers, including the much greater carrying capacity when used to haul material such as sand or gravel. They can be fitted out with sanders and plows, just as with standard dump trucks, but a single load of sand can cover an entire section of town roads without the multiple trips back and forth to the sand pit. The new truck would be financed entirely through the Equipment Fund.

The anticipated inconvenience and disruption of life in South Strafford brought on by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Emergency Response Action to stabilize the tailings dam at the Elizabeth Mine did not materialize. The expected fifty ten-wheeler trucks per day over many weeks this fall were diverted from South Strafford village by the use of Tyson Road. The Select Board is especially grateful to the residents on Tyson Road and those on the Mine Road for their patience during that period.

We would also like to acknowledge the EPA's willingness to negotiate in good faith with the Town on the details of the trucking route which minimized the impact of so many trucks on our small community and made, at least so far, for a very safe trucking project. For various reasons, in particular the wet weather and then the heavy December snows, the trucks actually reaching the site were fewer than the EPA had hoped and more trucking will follow in the spring.

The EPA is also playing another role in Strafford unrelated to the Super Fund Project. Federal Storm Water Regulations will likely be implemented in Vermont in the coming year, which, in their proposed form, may make it necessary to find another site for the Town Garage. A Town Garage committee has been organized to assist the Select Board in determining the effect of the proposed regulations, reviewing alternative sites and analyzing costs as well as building designs. Our thanks go to Russ Farley, Eric Thorp, Sherm Wilson, Dave Taplin, Jill Michaels and Calvin Benjamin for their interest and the time they have devoted to this project.

The Town Garage Committee was an outgrowth of a study of issues related to South Strafford village, including septic, water, parking, pedestrian safety and the possible relocation of the town garage, made possible by a \$15,000 Municipal Planning Grant from Vermont's Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Among the goals of the project were mapping water and septic sites in South Strafford, creating an awareness of these critical issues as a means to begin to plan for future solutions and examining options to increase pedestrian safety and to alleviate parking congestion.

Because of safety considerations (snow plows and passenger cars really don't mix on stormy mornings) and the possibility that a new town garage might have to be located at the sand pit, there has been a continuing conversation between the Select Board and representatives of the Fire Department about the use of the field adjacent to the South Strafford Fire Sub-Station. As it now stands, the regulatory hurdles regarding the use of the site for a Recycling Center have been cleared and a source for funding the preparation of the site without using town revenues may be available. We await only a final legal review of a memorandum of understanding by the Fire Department.

The Town of Strafford has also embarked on a three-year project to create tax or parcel maps for the entire town. This will greatly assist the Listers and make for a more accurate Grand List. This project will be paid for in part by another Municipal Planning Grant, state funds available to the Listers, donations and an allocation by the Strafford Planning Commission. There are more than 600 properties in Strafford.

Regarding the Listers, whose responsibilities have increased in complexity due to the demands of Acts 60 and 68 and the funding for public education in general, they are considering a significant change in the way they carry out the duties of their office. As in many small communities across the state, our Listers are considering retaining a professional appraiser to keep the Grand List up to date or, alternatively, creating a 'lead' Lister, someone who takes on the duties more as a full-time or nearly full-time job and is paid accordingly. We have been fortunate to this point to have had Listers with the time and the expertise to manage these challenges, but it is becoming increasingly difficult across the state to recruit residents who have the time and the requisite computer skills to take on the challenges of this job.

For those of you who remember last year's report, the Select Board was anticipating a major fundraising campaign to make much-needed structural repairs to the tower of the Town House. This year that campaign will begin in earnest with grant applications submitted in February and then the subsequent need to raise money through individual donations. This work is tentatively scheduled to begin in the fall (2004) and shouldn't interfere with the use of the building.

There is now an asphalt ramp from the sidewalk into the Town Clerk's Office which makes the Municipal Building more accessible to the handicapped than has been the case before. The Select Board appreciates Rocky Fuller's suggestion for this low-cost solution to what had been a serious deficiency. Yet to be resolved, however, is the lack of additional space in the vault. This is a problem being faced by every community in Vermont and you may be reassured to know that the Legislature has proposed a blue-ribbon committee to review the entire issue of retention and storage of documents. Stay tuned.

The Select Board would like to express its appreciation on the Town's behalf to Ned and Vi Coffin for generously allowing the use of their cornfield for the location of both the water supply and the mound septic system for the Municipal Building's shared use with the Brick Store. This should satisfy the Municipal Building's needs for the foreseeable future and we are grateful for the Coffins' public-spiritedness.

As always, we try to express our incalculable debt of gratitude to Town Clerk/Treasurer Shelby Coburn for all those tasks she performs for the Select Board and our thanks to Beth Conant who has been a nearly perfect fit for the job of Assistant Clerk/Treasurer.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Rod Maclay who served the Town for six years as a Selectman. We all learned more about roads and water drainage and the details of bridge and road construction than we otherwise would have and appreciate his willingness to continue to help whenever we need his advice.

Stephen Willbanks
Kathleen L. Campbell
John Freitag

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

With the low interest rates of 2003 and all the resulting refinancing, as well as the 43 property transfers, we have recorded 1,821 pages of land records filling over three land record books. This is quickly filling up our remaining vault shelves. Fourteen septic permits, 34 zoning permits and 7 subdivision permits were applied for this year. Beth has managed to get all the previous years septic and zoning permits filed into individual parcel number folders. This will greatly improve our research time. The filing of the subdivision permits to individual parcel number files should be finished in 2004.

Please remember that April 1 is the deadline for licensing dogs in the town where they live. This is a state requirement, not town. The fire department conducts a rabies clinic at the sub-station in late March. The town clerk and assistant are there to issue licenses if your dog has a current rabies certificate.

Please be sure to check with the town office before you start a project to see if a permit is required for septic installation or changes, building construction, access to town highways or subdividing property.

Shelby A. Coburn
Town Clerk/Treasurer

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have examined the funds, accounts, and balance sheets of the Town of Strafford for 2003. Based on our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Town of Strafford. We have found audited accounts to be consistent and well-managed.

We would like to thank Shelby Coburn, Donna Benoit and other town and school officials for their continued cooperation in the auditing process and in the preparation of the Town Report. The Listers once again allowed us extensive use of their computer at the town office, for which we are very grateful.

Nellie Pennington
Lynn Thorp
Ann Kynor

REPORT OF THE TOWN AGENT AND GRAND JUROR

Since the settlement of the Barker-Sargent landfill lawsuit as noted in the 2000 Town Report, there have been no further activities to report.

Monty Tilles

LISTERS' REPORT

The Listers continued the annual cycle of noting property transfers, assigning parcel identification numbers, performing appraisals and developing the town's Grand List. The 2002 reappraisal of the town still provides us with an important snapshot of Strafford at that moment in time and a useful tool for our ongoing work.

Rapid changes in the real estate market, government regulation and the overall economy require the Listers to continually review their work to meet their twin goals of providing fairness to all taxpayers and a fiscal basis for Strafford's use in raising revenue to provide services to the town. The annual review of town taxes by the Vermont Department of Taxes (Vermont's Equalization Study) has indicated a widening gap between the current assessed value of properties in Strafford and their fair market value in a rapidly rising real estate market. Our work in the coming year will focus on reviewing this trend and working to keep it as narrow as possible by making corrections, additions and adjustments designed to keep pace with changes in the market place.

During the past year the Listers heard 2 grievances. Neither of these were passed on for review by the Board of Civil Authority.

We are currently on track to have the 2004 Grand List completed by the due date of June 4. We will be available after that date to respond to any questions concerning changes of valuation placed on parcels and for both informal and formal grievances.

The Listers are available to meet most Tuesdays at 4:00 PM at the Town Offices. We encourage you to call before coming in case we are out doing fieldwork. We are also willing to respond to questions about property valuations or to correct errors such as acreage amounts or 911 numbers at almost any time.

As always, we are grateful for the help and understanding of all taxpayers as we work for you to do the town's business throughout the year.

Alan Davis
Bob Johnston

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

During the summer, Gary and Sheila Kendall mowed in Kibling, Old City, Robinson, Flanders, Buzzell, Dow, Clough, and Cook Cemeteries.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Kendall

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Nationally, 2003 was a year of heightened concerns about security and terrorist threats. Some of that was fueled by the Iraq invasion and by increases in intelligence-gathering activity. While our village is probably not on any terrorist map, we are still subject to possible emergency situations locally as well as possibly helping with shelter support in the event of an incident in a large Northeast city.

The Homeland Security Department focused much of the grant funding activity in 2003 on communications and other equipment for first responders (Fire, EMT, FAST Squad, Law enforcement, etc.). In Vermont the funding comes through Vermont Emergency Management to the regional planning commissions. In our case we are part of the Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Regional Commission (TRORC). Within TRORC is Local Emergency Planning Committee 12 (LEPC12) which encompasses 27 towns in Windsor and Orange Counties, including Strafford. LEPC12 coordinates training, support, planning and grant application efforts within its district and we meet 6 times per year to coordinate efforts. I am the Strafford delegate to LEPC12 and serve on the newly formed Communications subcommittee to look at the overall communications needs of the LEPC.

We have had a lot of activity with regard to emergency planning and equipment in 2003:

The Strafford Fire Department applied for and received a \$6,000 grant for two high-tech radio systems to replace 20-year-old radios in two of their trucks.

Constable Ed Eastman replaced his older radio system with another of these new radio systems.

We worked with the American Red Cross chapter in Rutland and now have four Red Cross designated shelters in town – Barrett Memorial Hall, Newton School, Tyson Gym and the United Church of Strafford. We are now working on preparing to apply for grant funds to get one or two generators to support the shelters.

We are in the process of moving the existing generator at the town offices (our designated Emergency Operations Center) to a slab and housing that is separate from the building. We will be testing this independent power system as soon as that process is complete.

Strafford has provided a complete yearly update of the state-mandated Rapid Response Plan which provides local contact and telephone information for all first responders and key town officials and leadership.

We have completed and submitted a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to the state. This plan identifies potential hazards within the town and associated risk assessments. This was the first step in looking at specific hazards/problem areas and identifying pre-disaster actions that can be taken to reduce or eliminate that risk.

With the support of the Red Cross, we placed pamphlets on personal safety and emergency preparedness at the town offices and Barrett Hall.

DISASTER PLANNING FOR YOUR FAMILY

Local and regional disasters come in many forms, both natural and manmade. In Strafford, the most common problems relate to power outages and flooding. There are, however, other more serious and longer term disasters that we may encounter, including forest fires, severe ice storms, hurricanes and severe winter blizzard conditions.

While man-made disasters, such as terrorist attacks, hazardous chemical spills and bio-terrorism are not very likely in our villages, there are impacts of these disasters on urban areas that can affect us.

This insert is intended to provide some local information and guidelines for your own emergency preparedness plans.

Getting local information in an emergency situation:

Radio- (Battery operated)

100.9 FM

96.1 FM

550 AM

Fire/Fast Squad/Amb-	911
Town office (EOC)-	765 4411
Town garage-	765 4550
Selectboard chair-	765 4530
Emergency Preparedness Director-	333 4623

Power outages;

If a power outage looks like it will be more than 24 hours, you may experience food shortages and lack of heat and water. You may need to consider evacuating to a friend or relative's home until the power is restored. If you have a generator, make sure that you have several days supply of fuel, based on using the generator 5-6 hours per day. Test the generator at least once per month for 5-10 minutes to make sure it will start and run properly.

If the telephone lines are still working, remember that cordless phones depend on commercial power to operate. It's best to have one or two regular "wired" telephones available in that circumstance. Cell phones may or may not work depending on your location and whether cell tower power backup activates.

When the power goes out, shut off all appliances, computers, television sets, etc, until power has been reliably restored.

Don't go near downed wires- the possibility of electrical shock is very high!

PREPARING YOUR FAMILY AND HOME

- *Install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers
- * Keep fresh batteries in radios and detectors
- *Make sure your family knows basic first aid, how to use a fire extinguisher, and how to turn off gas, water and electricity.
- *Teach children how and when to call 911.
- *Leave your phone number with friends/relatives in region and ask them to call if an emergency occurs.
- *Keep enough food and water in your home for at least three days.

Assemble a disaster supply kit in case you need to evacuate your home.

This kit should include as a minimum:

1. A three-day supply of water- one gallon/day/person
2. Food that won't spoil
3. A change of clothing and footwear for each person
4. One blanket or sleeping bag for each person
5. A first-aid kit and prescription medications
6. Emergency tools and a battery operated radio
7. A flashlight and spare batteries
8. An extra set of car and house keys, important family papers, credit cards and cash
9. Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members

I was invited to speak on emergency preparedness by the Seniors Group that meets for lunch each Wednesday.

In addition to attending the LEPC12 meetings, I witnessed an emergency drill in Newbury involving a simulated LP truck/school bus collision with simulated casualties. I also attended a course on the Integrated Command System for emergency responders. I represented Strafford at the EPA meeting in West Lebanon on planning for the truck routing and control for the mine project that has been ongoing this fall and early winter.

What's ahead? Grant funding for 2004 will focus on training and exercises, and we hope to take advantage of some good training opportunities. Fire grants for 2004 will provide another opportunity for the fire department to look at its equipment needs. We will be writing the emergency operations plan for Strafford and will be completing an emergency brochure specific to Strafford for distribution to everyone. And the Red Cross needs some volunteers to take training for staffing our shelters in the event of local shelter needs or evacuations from urban areas.

My thanks to the Selectboard, the first responders, and many people in town who have helped this year to move our planning process forward. (A special thanks to Shelby and Beth for cheerfully handling all the paper that I generated this year!)

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Burden

Strafford Emergency Preparedness Director
william.burden@valley.net

REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

The 2003 fire season proved to be different from the last due to plenty of rain keeping things wet.

Thanks to the residents of Strafford calling for burning permits, we did not have any uncontrolled wildfires in Strafford. However, there were 101 fire reports with 95.47 acres burned in the state; 100 caused by humans for 92.7 acres, and 1 caused by lightning with 3 acres burned.

Please remember that a permit is required for open burning if within 200 feet of grass, woodland or buildings, or if less than one inch of snow is on the ground.

Burning permits are free of charge. To acquire a permit or information, call your Forest Fire Warden at 765-4570 or 333-4043. Again, I would like to thank those who obtained permits.

Kevin Cole
Forest Fire Warden

SEPTIC REPORT

2000	2001	2002	2003
15 permits	9 permits	14 permits	14 permits
1 violation	1 violation	0 violations	0 violations

Ask your septic tank service man (pumper) about installing a septic tank effluent filter. It's very inexpensive and can substantially prolong the life of your system. It's sort of like a coffee filter on the outlet pipe. A zoning permit must be denied if the septic and road access permits are not obtained within the 30-day period even if the property meets the zoning requirements. Septic tank pumping on a 3-year basis can greatly prolong the life of your septic system.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Clark

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

There were a total of 31 applications filed in 2003. In addition, there were revised applications filed which had been approved in preceding years – two from 2002 and one from 2001.

	2001	2002	2003
Houses (dwellings)	6	9	8
Mobile Homes	0	0	2
Additions/Porches	9	5	7
Barns/Sheds/Outbuildings	6	4	5
Garages	5	2	6
Detached seasonal dwellings	0	0	2
Other (ramps, signs, windmill, studio, pool)	2	4	2
Subdivisions			2
TOTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS *	28	22	34

* Some houses and garages on same application

PERMITS:

Denied	1	1	2
Withdrawn	0	0	0
Pending	0	0	0
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	27	22	32

Curt Albee, Zoning Administrator

REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

Membership: The Strafford Planning Commission is made up of the following members: Jim Condict, Chairman, Sherm Wilson, Vice-chairman, Gretchen Fairweather, Secretary, Guy Denechaud, Eric Thorp, Karl Johnston, Russell Ward and Kent Penfield. Selectman Kay Campbell serves as our liaison with the Selectmen. Steve Marx resigned in November. We would like to thank Steve for his many years of serving on the Commission, both as Vice-chairman and Chairman. We currently have an opening on the nine-member board.

Zoning Ordinance: We continue to work on updating and clarifying the Zoning Regulations. This year most of the work has involved adding state mandates to the existing ordinance, what we refer to as "housekeeping." We would like to thank the staff at the Two Rivers/Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Agency for their valuable input.

Actions: The Commission approved 6 minor subdivisions in 2003, four more than in 2002. Two minor subdivisions were referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals for lack of required road frontage.

Miscellaneous: Jim Condict continues to serve on the Elizabeth Mine Community Advisory Group and reports to the commission at our regular meetings. Eric Thorp, Sherm Wilson and Jim Condict attended the South Strafford Village study meetings. Gretchen Fairweather attended the Vermont Extension Service spring meeting of workshops for Planning and Zoning. The Commission supported the Conservation Commission with a \$100 donation from our funds. We also supported the Selectmen with the property mapping project.

The Planning Commission meets at 7 PM in the Town Clerk's office the third Monday of the month. We welcome citizen participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Fairweather, Secretary

STRAFFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE

In early 2003, in service to the Selectboard, the Strafford Energy Committee was formed. The committee has representatives from the Conservation and Planning Commissions and meets informally every two to three months, usually at the home of one of the members. The committee's members are Sally Mansur, Co-Chair, Bob Raives, Co-Chair, Mark Albee, Doc Bagley, Roz Finn, Terry Garrison, Steve Marx, and Jim Schley. We welcome your participation at meetings and in our projects. Please contact any of the Committee members about how you can become involved.

The mission of the Strafford Energy Committee is to promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, environmentally sound use of energy resources, and use of renewable energy in Strafford's homes and buildings. We hope to offer a workshop about energy conservation measures for homeowners and renewable energy around Earth Day, 2004.

Here is a list of the projects from our work plan:

- 1) Work with the Sustainable Energy Resources Group (SERG) Energy Club to assist participating Strafford residents by reviewing participant surveys to assess the energy efficiency of their house.
- 2) Promote the design and construction of energy efficient structures through recommended efficiency standards and partnership with Efficiency Vermont's Energy Star program.
 - a) Lead tours of energy efficient homes (partner with Solar Homes Tour and expand).
 - b) Hold a workshop for local builders. Seek sponsorship by Mark Albee, discussion/speaker Jeff Wolfe. Include a session about renewable energy and new legislation. Provide information to builders about the Vermont Energy Code and energy efficiency building programs through Efficiency Vermont.
- 3) Encourage local development of renewable energy resources.
 - a) Hold a workshop to educate homeowners about renewable energy and new legislation.
 - b) Write to legislators and Public Service Commission about selling energy back to the grid (and starting at 0 in January).
- 4) Increase public awareness and use of energy efficient lighting and educate about energy conservation practices.
 - a) Establish a ride-share program for commuters by making a ride-share board.
 - b) Sell compact fluorescent bulbs to fund Committee activities.
 - c) Publish energy Tip of the Month in Strafford News.
- 5) Get grant funding and hire someone to evaluate the energy efficiency of Town owned buildings and facilities and private homes by conducting audits and providing access to energy efficient lighting.
 - a) Offer surveys and energy audits of homes on Strafford for interested participants.
 - b) Follow up with surveys already received – either through SEC or an intern.
- 6) Provide cost-effective weatherization assistance by publicizing the state Weatherization Assistance Program for low-income homes. Partner with Strafford Lion's Club.

This information is also available on Strafford's website at www.straffordvt.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Mansur

Co-Chair, Strafford Energy Committee

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Membership: The Strafford Conservation Commission is made up of the following members: Sally Mansur (Chair), Anne Peyton (Vice Chair), Dave Taplin (Treasurer), Jeanne McMahan (Committee Chair), and Steve Faccio (Secretary). In September 2003, we established the Town of Strafford Conservation Fund to help support our work. We are pleased to report that town residents generously contributed more than \$1,500 since the fund's inception!

Projects:

Riverbank Stabilization and Restoration – We continue our efforts to stabilize the banks of the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River between the upper and lower villages. In the spring of 2003, Newton School 7th and 8th grade students planted 750 trees and shrubs along four sections of the river to help prevent the riverbed from shifting and the banks from collapsing. In the near future, we hope to develop our own nursery from which to continue these annual plantings. The Commission recently applied for a grant from the Fifteen Mile Falls Mitigation and Enhancement Fund to conduct a Phase I Assessment of the river between the villages and to begin stabilization work on one or more of the most seriously eroding sections.

Tree Planting – Sugar maples have been purchased from Brown's Nursery and will be planted in the upper village in the spring of 2004 to replace trees that have died in recent years.

Strafford Trails Committee – A Trails Committee was formed to plan and construct trails for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and other forms of passive recreation. We are particularly interested in establishing a trail on a parcel of land at the top of Sharon Hill that will connect with existing conservation lands. We are also interested in establishing a trail that will link the two villages. The committee is open to anyone who is interested, and includes residents and members of the Strafford Conservation and Planning Commissions.

Keeping Track – The Commission hosted a "Keeping Track" slide show by biologist and photographer Susan Morse who teaches wildlife tracking workshops. We hope to offer a Keeping Track training program in 2004 for volunteer outdoor enthusiasts from Strafford.

Natural Resource Maps – We are working to develop maps of Strafford's natural resources, including wetlands, trails, rare species, and natural communities.

The Conservation Commission meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 7 PM in the town office. All are welcome to attend.

Steve Faccio, Secretary

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

It has been an honor and a pleasure to represent you in Montpelier during the past year. During FY 2004 we balanced our state budget while retaining the most critical social services. There have been some changes on how we provide medical care to the elderly and disadvantaged that are far from perfect. And, as most of you know, we finally managed to make changes to Act 60, the education funding statute. For the most part, the education funding debate will be less contentious than in previous years. Some difficult questions have yet to settle out. I look forward to your comments on this and other issues that you'd like me to look into.

Controversial problems that we will deal with this session include the following: environmental permit reform, school funding cost containment, stormwater permits, containing healthcare costs, jobs and economic development, the proposed State Energy Plan, and purchasing the dams along the Connecticut River.

Please remember that the Vermont State House and all committee rooms are accessible to all of you, regardless of weather, or via the web. You can keep in touch with legislative issues by calling me at home or in Montpelier or via the web at one of the contacts listed below.

I look forward to hearing from you about any issue, large or small.

Representative Jim Masland

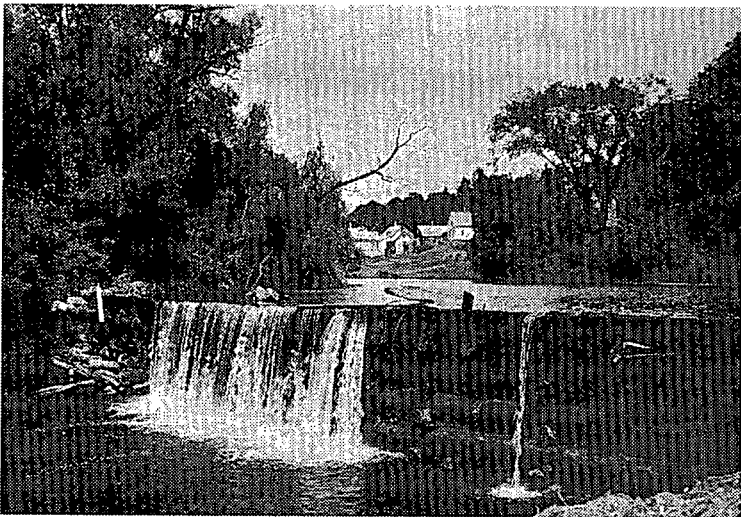
Home phone – 785-4146

State House (Sergeant at Arms Office) – 800-322-5616

Fax – 802-828-2424

Email – jmasland@leg.state.vt.us

www.leg.state.vt.us



Dam at southern end of Strafford Village

R.H. Nicholls photo, Strafford Historical Society collections

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

BUDGET ANALYSIS AND STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2002, 2003, and Proposed 2004

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	2002 Actual	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2004 Proposed
ADMINISTRATION					
Selectmen-Salary	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ -	\$ 1,350.00
- Expenses	3,162.86	4,700.00	3,129.42	1,570.58	4,700.00
Town Clerk/Treasurer	22,457.76	23,133.00	23,118.69	14.31	23,827.00
Asst. Town Clerk/Treasurer	9,052.35	15,425.00	16,598.88	(1,173.88)	17,097.00
Financial Services	165.00	400.00	1,976.63	(1,576.63)	1,500.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 36,187.97	\$ 45,008.00	\$ 46,173.62	\$ (1,165.62)	\$ 48,474.00
GENERAL SERVICES					
Town Office	\$ 6,600.29	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 7,599.07	\$ 650.93	\$ 8,700.00
VLCT Dues	679.00	950.00	950.00	-	1,018.00
Town Meetings and Elections	-	100.00	-	100.00	400.00
Printing Town Report	2,389.63	2,325.00	2,254.16	70.84	2,425.00
Auditing	1,208.05	1,360.00	1,200.00	160.00	1,360.00
Listing & Grand List	3,842.11	7,150.00	6,157.35	992.65	14,575.00
Parcel Mapping	-	-	1,712.00	(1,712.00)	-
Police Services	14,703.80	15,500.00	16,709.40	(1,209.40)	15,725.00
Dog Officer	1,601.47	900.00	816.56	83.44	930.00
Fire Protection	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	20,000.00
Ambulance Service	-	15,675.00	15,675.00	-	15,675.00
Solid Waste	14,017.13	14,500.00	17,360.51	(2,860.51)	16,000.00
Solid Waste Coupons	111.50	-	-	-	-
Fast Squad	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	-	2,500.00
TOTAL GENERAL SERVICES	\$ 67,652.98	\$ 89,210.00	\$ 92,934.05	\$ (3,724.05)	\$ 99,308.00

EXPENSES (CONTINUED)	2002		2003		2003		(Unfavorable)		2004	
	Actual		Budget		Actual		Favorable		Proposed	
<u>COMMUNITY SERVICES</u>										
Clara Martin Ctr./OCMHS	\$ 2,700.00	\$	2,700.00	\$	2,700.00	\$	-	\$	2,700.00	
Visiting Nurse Alliance	2,020.00		2,400.00		2,400.00		-		2,500.00	
Adult Basic Education	800.00		800.00		800.00		-		800.00	
CVCAC	300.00		300.00		300.00		-		300.00	
Senior Citizens Center	2,000.00		2,000.00		2,000.00		-		2,000.00	
Streetsights	4,061.68		4,500.00		4,408.89		91.11		4,500.00	
Library	19,969.00		22,559.00		22,559.24		(0.24)		24,535.00	
Ambulance Service	15,675.00		-		-		-		-	
Tennis Court Reserve	750.00		750.00		750.00		-		750.00	
VT Ctr. for Independent Living	155.00		155.00		155.00		-		155.00	
Orange County Diversion	200.00		200.00		200.00		-		200.00	
Central Vermont Council on Aging	100.00		100.00		100.00		-		100.00	
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$ 48,730.68	\$	36,464.00	\$	36,373.13	\$	90.87	\$	38,540.00	
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>										
Town Planning	\$ 8,122.69	\$	5,700.00	\$	13,200.00	\$	(7,500.00)	\$	6,000.00	
Regional Planning	1,155.00		1,155.00		1,155.00		-		1,155.00	
Town Zoning/Septic	1,518.16		1,700.00		1,552.15		147.85		1,700.00	
County Tax	19,510.00		20,800.00		21,904.00		(1,104.00)		26,723.00	
Leaseland Rent	85.00		85.00		85.00		-		85.00	

EXPENSES (CONTINUED)	2002 Actual	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	(Unfavorable) Favorable	2004 Proposed
INSURANCE:					
Social Security Tax	13,357.69	14,000.00	13,774.45	225.55	14,500.00
Municipal Retirement	6,080.36	6,500.00	6,718.62	(218.62)	6,820.00
Workmen's Comp.	8,005.89	9,976.00	9,943.00	33.00	10,415.00
Unemployment Ins.	1,542.00	1,550.00	1,552.32	(2.32)	1,661.00
Health & Dental Ins.	44,804.39	48,020.00	52,222.04	(4,202.04)	55,861.00
Property & Liability	5,789.00	7,293.00	7,335.95	(42.95)	6,405.00
Legal Fees & Consultants	912.50	5,000.00	2,591.48	2,408.52	5,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 110,882.68	\$ 121,779.00	\$ 132,034.01	\$ (10,255.01)	\$ 136,325.00
MUNICIPAL PROPERTY					
Municipal Building	\$ 2,883.56	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 23,261.67	\$ (8,861.67)	\$ 14,600.00
Town House	1,180.73	3,575.00	2,388.37	1,186.63	3,840.00
Town Garage	9,460.54	11,950.00	12,790.13	(840.13)	13,950.00
Town Cemeteries	750.00	1,500.00	840.00	660.00	2,000.00
Town Common	675.00	775.00	775.00	-	820.00
Recreation Areas	6,113.86	6,350.00	4,407.00	1,943.00	6,350.00
TOTAL MUNICIPAL PROPERTY	\$ 21,063.69	\$ 38,550.00	\$ 44,462.17	\$ (5,912.17)	\$ 41,560.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES					
	\$ 474.42	-	\$ 3,342.37	\$ (3,342.37)	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES GENERAL FUND	\$ 284,992.42	\$ 331,011.00	\$ 355,319.35	\$ (24,308.35)	\$ 364,207.00
HIGHWAY FUND-EXPENSES					
Winter Roads					
Wages	\$ 39,692.22	\$ 45,500.00	\$ 48,587.36	\$ (3,087.36)	\$ 45,000.00
Salt	31,643.32	22,500.00	28,453.22	(5,953.22)	30,000.00
Sand	29,499.42	15,000.00	28,686.68	(13,686.68)	30,000.00
Contract Services	18,086.52	24,000.00	12,395.82	11,604.18	15,000.00
Equipment Use	66,315.00	58,000.00	84,384.00	(26,384.00)	80,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 185,236.48	\$ 165,000.00	\$ 202,507.08	\$ (37,507.08)	\$ 200,000.00

EXPENSES (CONTINUED)

Class II Summer						
Wages	\$ 11,733.37	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,718.56	\$ (718.56)	\$ 8,000.00	
Materials	7,690.38	8,500.00	2,228.98	6,271.02	8,500.00	
Contract Services	10,872.70	7,500.00	702.00	6,798.00	3,500.00	
Equipment Use	13,791.00	7,000.00	9,873.00	(2,873.00)	10,000.00	
TOTAL	\$ 44,087.45	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 20,522.54	\$ 9,477.46	\$ 30,000.00	
Class III Summer						
Wages	\$ 40,269.96	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 37,454.51	\$ (2,454.51)	\$ 30,000.00	
Materials	31,363.15	8,000.00	20,177.07	(12,177.07)	10,000.00	
Contract Services	9,062.18	4,500.00	7,683.85	(3,183.85)	5,000.00	
Equipment Use	60,495.50	32,500.00	49,030.40	(16,530.40)	35,000.00	
TOTAL	\$ 141,190.79	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 114,345.83	\$ (34,345.83)	\$ 80,000.00	
Retreatment						
Contract Services	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 41,949.80	\$ 8,050.20	\$ 50,000.00	
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 41,949.80	\$ 8,050.20	\$ 50,000.00	
Resurfacing/Gravel						
Wages	\$ 3,131.92	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 183.04	\$ 4,816.96	\$ 4,000.00	
Materials	15,681.58	27,000.00	13,060.10	13,939.90	30,000.00	
Contract Services	562.50	8,500.00	4,812.76	3,687.24	7,000.00	
Equipment Use	7,676.00	9,500.00	264.00	9,236.00	9,000.00	
TOTAL	\$ 27,052.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 18,319.90	\$ 31,680.10	\$ 50,000.00	
Spring Maintenance						
Wages	\$ 12,226.19	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 12,089.63	\$ (4,089.63)	\$ 10,000.00	
Materials	3,915.76	6,500.00	2,072.06	4,427.94	3,500.00	
Contract Services	18,052.00	3,000.00	1,542.03	1,457.97	1,500.00	
Equipment Use	21,840.00	12,500.00	31,103.50	(18,603.50)	25,000.00	
TOTAL	\$ 56,033.95	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 46,807.22	\$ (16,807.22)	\$ 40,000.00	

EXPENSES (CONTINUED)	2002	2003	2003	2003	2004
	Actual	Budget	Actual	(Unfavorable)	Proposed
Bridges					
Wages	\$ 1,817.96	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,634.70	\$ 865.30	\$ 4,500.00
Materials	3,407.63	25,000.00	17,975.93	7,024.07	10,000.00
Contract Services	127,606.26	10,000.00	4,385.62	5,614.38	4,500.00
Equipment Use	2,119.00	7,500.00	3,677.00	3,823.00	6,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 134,950.85	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 32,673.25	\$ 17,326.75	\$ 25,000.00
Municipal Property					
Wages	\$ -	250.00	\$ 363.68	\$ (113.68)	\$ 250.00
Materials	249.70	250.00	3,207.82	(2,957.82)	1,000.00
Contract Services	-	250.00	125.00	125.00	150.00
Equipment Use	-	250.00	559.00	(309.00)	600.00
TOTAL	\$ 249.70	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,255.50	\$ (3,255.50)	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES	\$ 588,801.22	\$ 456,000.00	\$ 481,381.12	\$ (25,381.12)	\$ 477,000.00
FIRE TRUCK FUND-EXPENSES					
Fire Truck Expenses	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 56,490.00	\$ 7,000.00	49,490.00	\$ 56,490.00
TOTAL FIRE TRUCK FUND EXPENSE	\$ 56,490.00	\$ 56,490.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 49,490.00	\$ 56,490.00
TOTAL EXPENSES - ALL FUNDS	\$ 930,283.64	\$ 843,501.00	\$ 843,700.47	\$ (199.47)	\$ 897,697.00

REVENUE	2002	2003	2003	(Unfavorable)	2004
GENERAL FUND	Actual	Budget	Actual	Favorable	Proposed
Town House Donations	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00	-
Fees for Services	16,554.07	14,000.00	16,804.13	2,804.13	13,535.00
Interest Income	2,401.43	2,000.00	2,168.17	168.17	1,500.00
Fish & Game Land Tax	3,750.89	3,200.00	3,815.54	615.54	3,200.00
State of VT Reappraisal Fund	4,753.00	4,800.00	4,020.00	(780.00)	4,020.00
Equal Education Grand List	-	-	670.00	670.00	670.00
State of VT Planning Grant	14,532.00	6,000.00	8,475.00	2,475.00	5,000.00
EPA Redevelopment Grant	111.52	-	-	-	-
Misc. Income	1,661.55	-	5,244.97	5,244.97	-
General Fund Taxes	215,044.21	259,011.00	249,681.59	(9,329.41)	286,782.00
Parcel Mapping	-	-	1,336.99	1,336.99	-
State of VT Hold Harmless	43,130.00	38,000.00	49,911.00	11,911.00	45,000.00
PILOT	1,531.00	1,000.00	1,670.00	670.00	1,000.00
Balances Forward	5,574.00	-	-	-	-
Net Del. Tax Interest Income	1,819.57	1,500.00	2,805.44	1,305.44	2,000.00
1% Interest on 1st Payment	2,195.60	1,500.00	2,273.30	773.30	1,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE GENERAL FUND	\$ 313,658.84	\$ 331,011.00	\$ 349,426.13	\$ 18,415.13	\$ 364,207.00
HIGHWAY FUND					
Gas Tax Appropriations	\$ 128,551.34	\$ 127,000.00	\$ 134,427.76	\$ 7,427.76	\$ 127,000.00
Highway Fund Taxes	274,409.00	329,000.00	329,000.00	-	350,000.00
Grants for Public Works	109,364.00	-	-	-	-
State of Vermont Emergency Fund	57,559.60	-	-	-	-
Balances Forward	-	-	-	-	-
Misc. Income	1,912.50	-	1,222.00	1,222.00	-
TOTAL REVENUE HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 571,796.44	\$ 456,000.00	\$ 464,649.76	\$ 8,649.76	\$ 477,000.00
FIRE TRUCK FUND					
Fire Truck Fund Taxes	\$ 56,490.00	\$ 56,490.00	\$ 56,490.00	\$ -	\$ 56,490.00
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE FIRE TRUCK FUND	\$ 56,490.00	\$ 56,490.00	\$ 56,490.00	\$ -	\$ 56,490.00
TOTAL REVENUE ALL FUNDS	\$ 941,945.28	\$ 843,501.00	\$ 870,565.89	\$ 27,064.89	\$ 897,697.00

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
EQUIPMENT FUND - BUDGET 2004
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2002 and 2003

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	2002	2003	2003	2004
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Wages	\$ 11,527.50	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 10,906.45	\$ 12,000.00
Gas & Oil	14,339.89	14,500.00	16,821.54	17,000.00
Supplies	17,655.19	19,000.00	18,463.39	19,000.00
Insurance	3,002.00	2,829.00	2,156.88	2,343.00
Capital Expense (Note 4)	170,487.00	30,000.00	-	30,000.00
Interest Expense	1,114.78	1,800.00	2,133.33	1,200.00
Equipment Rental	19,680.00	15,000.00	8,033.76	10,000.00
Repairs & Parts - Total	11,218.61	15,500.00	9,632.12	16,500.00
<i>Truck 1</i>	<i>1,012.65</i>		<i>1,990.45</i>	
<i>Truck 2</i>	<i>7,642.23</i>		<i>2,981.99</i>	
<i>Truck 3</i>	<i>499.16</i>		<i>683.50</i>	
<i>Truck 4</i>	<i>183.29</i>		<i>690.85</i>	
<i>Grader</i>	<i>597.98</i>		<i>981.10</i>	
<i>Loader</i>	<i>1,283.30</i>		<i>2,304.23</i>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$249,024.97	\$110,629.00	\$ 68,147.47	\$108,043.00
<u>INCOME</u>				
Equipment Earnings	\$172,236.50	\$110,629.00	\$182,205.00	\$108,043.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$172,236.50	\$110,629.00	\$182,205.00	\$108,043.00
<u>HOURLY EQUIPMENT USE RATES</u>				
Truck 1 Ford 4x4	\$17.00			
Truck 2 Ford	\$22.00			
Truck 3 International	\$22.00			
Truck 4 Freightliner	\$22.00			
Grader	\$60.00			
Loader	\$24.00			

The accompanying notes are a necessary part of this financial statement.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET ALL FUNDS & ENDOWMENTS

For Years Ending December 31, 2002 and 2003 (Note 1)

	General	Highway	Fire Truck	Equipment	Endowments (Note 2)	12/31/2003	12/31/2002
ASSETS							
Cash	\$116,703.67	\$ (68,012.74)	\$ 40,920.60	\$179,498.85	\$ 57,999.29	\$327,109.67	\$105,604.68
Delinquent Tax Receivable	49,287.60					49,287.60	46,444.72
Interest on Delinquent Tax Receivable	737.43					737.43	711.48
Reserve for Uncollectible	(1,023.77)					(1,023.77)	(1,023.77)
Accounts Receivable	43.87	3,252.50				3,296.37	136,866.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$165,748.80	\$ (64,760.24)	\$ 40,920.60	\$179,498.85	\$ 57,999.29	\$379,407.30	\$288,603.11
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE							
LIABILITIES							
Deferred Revenue	\$ 51,209.62					\$ 51,209.62	\$36,439.88
Accounts Payable	2,798.98					2,798.98	-
Notes Payable	10,000.00		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 63,333.34		103,333.34	174,666.67
Bonds Payable			80,000.00			80,000.00	80,000.00
Logging Bond		\$ 500.00				500.00	500.00
Due to School District	37,160.00					37,160.00	32,181.00
Due to Tax Collector	3,579.50					3,579.50	2,090.10
Miscellaneous Liabilities	(62.99)					(62.99)	(185.91)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$104,685.11	\$ 500.00	\$110,000.00	\$ 63,333.34	\$ -	\$278,518.45	\$325,691.74
FUND BALANCE							
Restricted (Note 3)	\$ 40,735.84	\$ (65,260.24)	\$ (69,079.40)	\$116,165.51	\$ 57,999.29	\$ 80,561.00	\$ (90,449.79)
Unrestricted	20,327.85					20,327.85	53,361.16
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 61,063.69	\$ (65,260.24)	\$ (69,079.40)	\$116,165.51	\$ 57,999.29	\$100,888.85	\$ (37,088.63)
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$165,748.80	\$ (64,760.24)	\$ 40,920.60	\$179,498.85	\$ 57,999.29	\$379,407.30	\$288,603.11

The accompanying notes are a necessary part of this financial statement.

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT
ANALYSIS OF FUND BALANCES
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2003

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Fire Truck Fund	Equipment Fund
Fund Balances Dec. 31 2002	\$ 84,288.91	\$ (66,992.26)	\$ (118,569.40)	\$ 2,107.98
Less Transfer Out (Note 5)	20,000.00	1,536.62	-	-
Plus Transfer In (Note 6)	2,668.00	20,000.00	-	-
Add Revenues:	349,426.13	464,649.76	56,490.00	182,205.00
TOTAL BALANCES AND ADDITIONS	\$416,383.04	\$416,120.88	\$ (62,079.40)	\$184,312.98
Deduct Expenditures	355,319.35	481,381.12	7,000.00	68,147.47
FUND BALANCES,				
December 31, 2003	\$ 61,063.69	\$ (65,260.24)	\$ (69,079.40)	\$116,165.51

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending December 31, 2003

Capital Improvement Note				
Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
December 12, 2004	10,300.00	(300.00)	10,000.00	-

Terms: 3% interest. Original amount borrowed \$20,000. Banknorth Vermont.

2002 Caterpillar Grader				
Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
June 30, 2004	31,200.00	(1,200.00)	30,000.00	30,000.00
June 30, 2005	30,600.00	(600.00)	30,000.00	-

Terms: 2% interest. Original amount borrowed \$90,000. State of Vermont.

2002 Freightliner				
Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
June 30, 2004	3,400.01	66.67	3,333.34	-

Terms: 2% interest. Original amount borrowed \$10,000. State of Vermont.

2001 American Eagle Rescue Pumper				
Payment Date	Payment	Interest	Principal	Balance
June 30, 2004	30,600.00	(600.00)	30,000.00	-

Terms: 2% interest. Original amount borrowed \$90,000. State of Vermont.

The remainder of the funds necessary for the purchase of the Fire Truck were financed through the sale of sixteen \$5,000 Bonds which mature in 2006 with 5% interest paid semi-annually.

For other indebtedness information, please refer to Note 7 in the "Notes to Financial Statements."

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending December 31, 2003

Note 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FUND ACCOUNTING - The accounts of the Town are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operation of each fund is accounted for on the modified accrual basis with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenues and expenditures, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purpose for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

GENERAL FUND - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the town. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - *Highway Fund* - The operating fund for road maintenance and improvements funded by a specific revenue source and restricted for road maintenance use only. *Equipment Fund* - The equipment fund was established for the purchase of equipment to be used by the Highway Fund and charged to the Highway Fund for services used. Proceeds from the Highway Fund are used to purchase new equipment and are reflected as Equipment Earnings in the Equipment Fund. *Fire Truck Fund* - The Fire Truck Fund was established in 2001 to purchase a new fire truck.

Note 2: ENDOWMENTS - This number represents both principal and interest of all endowments/trust funds. Each endowment is shown further on in these statements.

Note 3: RESTRICTED FUNDS:

GENERAL FUND:

Reserve-Tennis Courts	\$ 6,750.00
Reserve-Town House	20,662.97
Reserve-Town House Clock	1,116.78
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	5,666.00
Reserve-Planning Grant	6,540.09

HIGHWAY FUND:

Reserve-Traffic Calming Grant	\$ 134.60
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Note 4: EQUIPMENT FUND CAPITAL EXPENSES:

There were no capital expenditures in the Equipment Fund in 2003.

Note 5: FUND BALANCE TRANSFER OUT:

GENERAL FUND:

Fund Equity to Highway Fund	\$ 20,000.00
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HIGHWAY FUND:

Traffic Calming Expenses	\$ 1,536.62
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Note 6: FUND BALANCE TRANSFER IN:

GENERAL FUND:

Tennis Court Reserve	\$ 750.00
Reserve-Recording Surcharge	1,918.00

HIGHWAY FUND:

Fund Equity from General Fund	\$ 20,000.00
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Note 7: Strafford's share of indebtedness due to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, as of December 31, 2003, is \$21,815.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Equipment Inventory

2002	Freightliner FL80 with 2-way Viking Plow and Wing and MG 4-Season Body and Sander in one	
2002	Caterpillar Grader 143H	
1999	Ford F350 1-ton Dump Truck with 2-way Housatonic Plow and Swenson Sander	
1999	International Model 4900 with Flink Tailgate Sander, Plow and Wing	
1997	Ford Louisville Dump Truck with Flink Tailgate Sander, Snowplow and Wing	
1994	John Deere 544G Loader	
1 –	Motorola Base Radio	1 – 325 Husqvarna Power Broom
7 –	Motorola 16 channel Scan Mobile Radio	Wagner Line Sprayer
2 –	Motorola 2 channel Hand Held Radios	Superheated Steam Thawer
2,000	Gallon Diesel Fuel Storage Tank	York Rake
1,000	Gallon Diesel Fuel Storage Tank	Front Mount York Rake
275	Gallon Kerosene Tank for Garage Furnace	1963 Gillett Stick Welder
1 –	20' x 20' Sand Screen	Landa Power Washer
1 –	Jonsered Chain Saw	Hydraulic Hose Press
3 –	Husqvarna Chain Saws	Culvert Compactor
1 –	225 Husqvarna Weed Cutter	1969 Mitt-Merrill Wood Chipper
3 –	11 foot Viking Snowplow	
1 –	11 foot 2-Way Plow	

Highway Department Buildings

Main Garage Building – Two bays
Rear Storage Shed – Three bays
Salt Shed

TOWN OF STRAFFORD

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2003

	Grand List
Real Estate	116,412,181
Less Exemption	(40,000)
Less Current Use	(10,163,399)
Less Town Exempt Property *	(398,333)
TOTAL	105,810,449

* *Strafford Athletic Association Gym, Barrett Hall, by vote at Town Meeting*

TAXES BILLED			TAX RATE		TAX
General Fund	1,058,104.49	x	0.2500	\$	264,526
Highway Fund	1,058,104.49	x	0.3100		328,012
Firetruck	1,058,104.49	x	0.0553		58,513
Local Agreement	1,058,104.49	x	0.0047		4,973
School - Local Share	1,058,104.49	x	0.7000		740,673
School - Statewide	1,058,104.49	x	1.0300		1,089,848
TOTAL			2.3500	\$	2,486,546

Rounding adjustment	1
Total Taxes Billed	<u>\$ 2,486,547</u>
Abatements & Errors	(1,035)
Total Taxes Due	<u>\$ 2,485,511</u>

TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR AS FOLLOWS:

Collections	\$ 2,396,877
Delinquent Taxes to Collector (December, 2003)	88,635
TOTAL TAXES COLLECTIBLE	<u><u>\$ 2,485,511</u></u>

REAL ESTATE and PERSONAL PROPERTY **2003 LISTED VALUES**

Category	Resident	In-State	Corporation	Other	Total
Residential less than 6 acres	22,178,227	662,580	-	2,226,312	25,067,119
Residential more than 6 acres	41,775,250	459,390	476,161	11,711,220	54,422,021
Mobile home without land	166,840	-	-	-	166,840
Mobile home with land	490,590	195,870	-	-	686,460
Vacation home less than 6 acres	-	30,040	-	709,790	739,830
Vacation home more than 6 acres	388,000	594,540	-	5,678,582	6,661,122
Commercial	707,420	294,860	352,170	639,200	1,993,650
Commercial Apartments	564,980	-	-	-	564,980
Utilities Electric	-	420,247	1,570,494	-	1,990,741
Farm	5,244,842	242,531	662,360	869,875	7,019,608
Woodland	1,452,225	574,980	186,833	1,878,210	4,092,248
Other				70,900	70,900
Miscellaneous	950,761	322,746	138,380	923,043	2,334,930
TOTAL VALUE	73,919,135	3,797,784	3,386,398	24,707,132	105,810,449

TOWN OF STRAFFORD, VERMONT

Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Year Ending December 31, 2003

Name	2003	2002	2001 & prior
* Boutwell, et al.	\$ 0.06		
Bucchi, Peter A. & Linda M.	554.60		
Day, Edith	344.70		
Devlin, Francis	66.11		
Devlin, Francis	36.97		
Doyle, Peter & Emmeline	724.43		
Emerson, John	226.31	198.08	1,174.50
* Ford, Thomas	536.98		
Fraser, Anna	3,002.13		
Guyer, William F. & Paula	1,425.40		
* Josler, Jacqueline	1,567.45		
* Kidder Trust	3.84		
Kitchell, Ann	4,484.26		
Kramer, Robin M.	3,273.55		
Lawrence, et al.	9.10		
Lepenven, Larry & Kristen	1,714.41		
Litchfield, Etta	3,045.84		
Manning, Alford C. & Nancy	1,211.95		
Manning, Alford C. & Nancy	1,656.98		
Manning, Bernard	682.68		
McEachern, Karen	1,583.90		
Osmer, Daniel	94.00		
Phelps, Jane C.	687.43		
Piel, Lila	5,256.25		
Pixley, Marvin & Kandy	1,238.69	184.00	
Sawyer, Kevin & Pearl	1,136.93		
Soule, Emily	2,277.31		
Swasey, Monica & Wayne	729.29		
1 Welch, Paul & Kelly	585.62		
* 1 Whiteman, Maude	866.21		
* Whitman, Dean & Robyn	1,988.10	1,740.22	439.64
Wich, Craig & Laura	4,186.43		
* Wilson, James H.	353.25		
Delinquent total Dec. 31, 2003	\$ 45,551.16	\$ 2,122.30	1,614.14 \$ 49,287.60
Plus December Collections	43,083.37	541.24	- 43,624.61
	<u>\$ 88,634.53</u>	<u>\$ 2,663.54</u>	<u>\$ 1,614.14</u> <u>\$ 92,912.21</u>
Previously uncollected	\$ 4,277.68		
2003 Delinquent Tax Warrant	88,634.53		
Total Delinquency Dec. 31, 2003	<u>\$ 92,912.21</u>		

* Indicates taxes paid in full by January 23, 2004.

1 Taxpayer listed above sold property after Grand List was lodged. The taxes were not paid by the new owner, whose name is not referenced above.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVABLE

Year Ending December 31, 2003

	Total	2003	2002	2001 & prior
Balance Jan. 1, 2003	\$ 46,444.72		\$ 42,393.33	\$4,051.39
Delinquent to Collector	88,634.53	88,634.53		
Subtotal	135,079.25	88,634.53	42,393.33	4,051.39
Collections	(85,791.67)	(43,083.37)	(40,271.03)	(2,437.27)
Balance Jan. 1, 2004	\$ 49,287.58	\$ 45,551.16	\$ 2,122.30	\$1,614.12

TOTAL DELINQUENT TAX WARRANTS COMPARED TO THE NUMBER OF TAXES BILLED

1994-2003

Delinquent Tax Warrant	Warrants Issued	Total Bills Issued	% of Parcels Delinquent
December 1, 1994	60	651	9.22%
December 1, 1995	63	658	9.57%
December 1, 1996	71	657	10.81%
December 1, 1997	90	666	13.51%
December 1, 1998	96	652	14.72%
December 1, 1999	72	657	10.96%
December 1, 2000	56	660	8.48%
December 1, 2001	78	663	11.76%
December 1, 2002	74	656	11.28%
December 1, 2003	61	661	9.23%

TOTAL DELINQUENT TAXES COMPARED TO TOTAL TAXES BILLED

1994-2003

	Delinquent Taxes	Tax Year	Total Taxes Billed	% of Taxes Delinquent
January 1, 1995	\$ 75,141.36	1994	1,555,223.00	4.83%
January 1, 1996	\$ 73,113.22	1995	1,635,759.96	4.47%
January 1, 1997	\$ 79,580.67	1996	1,542,438.52	5.16%
January 1, 1998	\$ 62,715.07	1997	1,562,106.00	4.01%
January 1, 1999	\$ 21,992.63	1998	1,492,830.49	1.47%
January 1, 2000	\$ 23,238.83	1999	1,552,943.00	1.50%
January 1, 2001	\$ 38,184.81	2000	1,814,554.00	2.10%
January 1, 2002	\$ 40,384.62	2001	2,119,059.00	1.91%
January 1, 2003	\$ 42,393.33	2002	2,167,474.32	1.96%
January 1, 2004	\$ 49,287.60	2003	2,486,546.80	1.98%

VITAL STATISTICS

Marriages

NAME OF GROOM	RESIDENCE	NAME OF BRIDE	RESIDENCE	DATE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
Alan C. McNabb, Jr.	Lebanon, NH	Charity R. Appell	Strafford, VT	1/11/03	Norwich, VT
Danny C. Prescott	S. Strafford, VT	Jane A. Lapointe	Enfield, NH	5/10/03	S. Strafford, VT
Richard F. Holbrook	S. Strafford, VT	Judith K. Bowden	Thetford, VT	5/16/03	Strafford, VT
Christopher J. Bird	Claremont, NH	Ashley M. Sanborn	Claremont, NH	5/31/03	Strafford, VT
John T. Horn	Strafford, VT	Suzanna L. Smith	Strafford, VT	6/21/03	Goshen, VT
Jesse M. Blodgett	Strafford, VT	Fran J. Clark	Strafford, VT	8/23/03	Strafford, VT
Eric K. Bachman	Washington, DC	Meagan T. Mitchell	Washington, DC	9/13/03	Strafford, VT
Mark S. Ollmann	Worcester, VT	Lila H. Piel	Strafford, VT	9/17/03	Strafford, VT
Boe C. St. Peter	Phoenix, AZ	Amy E. Sullivan	Phoenix, AZ	9/20/03	Strafford, VT
Richard W. Tidman	San Francisco, CA	Jill Rosenblum	San Francisco, CA	9/21/03	S. Strafford, VT
James D. Kendall	S. Strafford, VT	Pace C. Mehling	S. Strafford, VT	10/6/03	Strafford, VT
Stephen C. Martin	S. Strafford, VT	Roberta A. Robinson	S. Strafford, VT	10/25/03	Strafford, VT
Paul D. Mulloy	Cumberland, RI	Denine M. Norton	Pawtucket, RI	12/12/03	Strafford, VT

Births

NAME OF CHILD	SEX	DATE	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER'S NAME	FATHER'S NAME
Jackson B. Ransom	M	12/24/02	Strafford, VT	Amy Huyffer	Earl J. Ransom
Naia N. Tower-Pierce	F	5/8/03	Randolph, VT	Julie A. Tower-Pierce	Hugh D.F. Tower-Pierce
Lyric S. Wilson	F	6/3/03	Randolph, VT	Karen T. Wilson	Richard E. Wilson

VITAL STATISTICS (cont.)

Deaths

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	RESIDENCE
Alta L. Varney	F	74	Lebanon, NH	12/2/01	S. Strafford, VT
James A. Finn, Jr.	M	81	S. Strafford, VT	12/28/03	S. Strafford, VT

Burials

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX	AGE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH	PLACE OF BURIAL
Alice G. Ford	F	77	New York	1/8/03	Evergreen Cemetery
Eva M. Perkins	F	86	Lebanon, NH	5/9/03	Strafford Cemetery
Arthur D. Pixley	M	67	St. Albans, VT	5/24/03	Strafford Cemetery
Eva R. Robinson	F	89	Lebanon, NH	8/4/03	Robinson Cemetery

These vital statistics represent marriages, births, deaths and burials recorded in the Strafford Town Office.

Note that certificates filed elsewhere are not automatically forwarded to the Town Office.

If you would like those statistics to be included in this report, please arrange for copies of the records to be sent.

If you would prefer not to have your vital statistics listed in the Town Report due to privacy concerns or for any other reason, please notify the Town Clerk's office.

ANIMAL LICENSING REPORT

22	Male dogs
116	Neutered dogs
19	Female dogs
159	Spayed female dogs

Total receipts for dogs \$1,976.00

Dog License Information

All dogs or wolf-hybrids six months of age and older must be licensed annually on or before the first day of April. Before obtaining a license, a copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate must be presented to the Town Clerk. Current vaccination is as follows:

- (1) a dog or wolf-hybrid of less than one year of age has been vaccinated.
- (2) a dog or wolf-hybrid of one or more years but less than two years of age has been vaccinated within the preceding 12 months.
- (3) a dog or wolf-hybrid of two or more years has been vaccinated within the preceding 24 months.

License fees are \$5.00 for a neutered male or spayed female, and \$9.00 for an unspayed female or unneutered male dog. Dog licenses issued after April 1st will be subject to a 50% increase in the fee. Dogs obtained after April 1st shall be licensed within 30 days. Dogs obtained after October 1st shall be licensed for one-half the fee otherwise required. One dollar of the collected fee is turned over to the State of Vermont for rabies control.

Proof of spaying or neutering, signed by a veterinarian, must be exhibited to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing.

Dogs should wear tags at all times, because if the dog is lost, it is more likely to be returned.

If you should find or lose a dog, report it to the Pound Keeper, Ed Eastman – 765-4083 and/or the Town Clerk immediately.

Dog violations: First offense – \$10.00; Second offense – \$30.00; Third offense or any subsequent offenses within a six month period – \$40.00; Care and maintenance of confined dog – \$5.00 per day.

VERMONT RABIES HOTLINE

1-800-4-RABIES (1-800-472-2437)

Hours: 8:00-4:30 Daily

TOWN OF STRAFFORD
TOWN ENDOWMENTS AND TRUST FUNDS - SELECTMEN, TRUSTEES

Year Ending December 31, 2003

Fund	Principal	Trust Income Balance 12/31/02	Interest Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Carrie Sanborn Trust ⁽¹⁾	\$	26,508.12	\$ 2,932.64	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 21,440.76
Frank Brown Fund	\$ 10,000.00	5,408.20	588.45	0.00	16,317.36
Selected Highways	320.71				
H.N. Mattison Fund	528.53	467.87	9.05	0.00	1,005.45
Harris Library					
James S. Morrill Fund	1,000.00	1,110.65	19.13	0.00	2,129.78
Municipal Building					
James Morrill Fund	3,000.00	1,076.66	42.59	0.00	4,741.52
Selected Highways	622.27				
George Brown Fund	5,000.00	3,081.45	296.93	0.00	8,538.74
Town House	160.36				
Francis Dunbar Fund	200.00	1,329.14	13.86	0.00	1,543.00
Cemetery-Flanders Lot					
Howard Robinson Fund	1,000.00	953.05	17.71	0.00	1,970.76
Robinson Cemetery					
Ada J. Smith Fund	50.00	259.13	2.79	0.00	311.92
Smith Lot - Old City Cemetery					
TOTAL	\$ 21,881.87	\$ 40,194.27	\$ 3,923.15	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 57,999.29

⁽¹⁾ The income of this trust (principal \$102,615.) is to be used for the poor and needy of Strafford.
A committee dispenses these funds upon referral or request. Please contact Joey Hawkins.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS REPORT

FUND	12/31/98	12/31/99	12/31/00	12/31/01	12/31/02	12/31/03	Total Change	Amount Disbursed	Change Before Disbursements
Cobb *	\$ 41,275.72	\$ 42,897.21	\$ 46,535.33	\$ 44,122.10	\$ 40,241.27	\$ 46,973.35	\$ 6,732.08	\$ 500.00	\$ 7,232.08
Gilman	4,360.35	4,478.21	4,893.79	4,766.75	4,488.81	5,234.44	745.63	-	745.63
Mix	20,367.86	20,835.67	23,200.18	22,638.72	21,373.29	24,856.82	3,483.53	-	3,483.53
Newton	44,288.95	43,514.72	47,553.11	44,318.23	41,460.69	48,181.93	6,721.24	500.00	7,221.24
Ordway	134,968.96	134,617.67	142,607.40	133,130.53	121,241.05	138,288.82	17,047.77	5,200.00	22,247.77
Robinson	2,874.50	2,951.76	3,225.63	3,142.03	2,959.01	3,450.30	491.29	-	491.29
RWW	8,051.14	7,833.42	9,081.65	8,907.53	8,686.27	9,994.91	1,308.64	-	1,308.64
SCE	-	1,775.00	2,044.28	2,002.81	1,901.56	2,198.43	296.87	-	296.87
Combined	\$256,187.48	\$258,903.66	\$279,141.37	\$263,028.71	\$242,351.94	\$279,179.00	\$36,827.06	\$6,200.00	\$43,027.06
Disbursed	7,000.00	6,750.00	5,000.00	8,150.00	3,250.00	6,200.00			

* Cobb corpus (\$10,000) invested in US Government backed securities.

Overall change before disbursements

17.75%

INVESTMENTS

Cash	Market Value
Mascoma Checking	\$ 696.57
T. Rowe Price Summit MM	4.79
Vanguard Prime MM	846.12
Vanguard Federal MM	10,254.85
Total Cash	<u>\$ 11,802.33</u>
Fixed Income	
Vanguard Short-Term Federal	\$ 569.73
Vanguard Short Term Bond Index	92,311.33
Total Fixed Income	<u>\$ 92,881.06</u>

Total Cash and Fixed Income

\$104,683.39

Equity Funds	Market Value
Fidelity Real Estate	\$ 18,501.43
Fidelity Low Priced Stock	27,426.80
TRP Science & Technology	7,333.56
Vanguard Index 500	14,695.57
Vanguard Sp Health Care	44,076.05
Vanguard Equity Income	19,274.75
Vanguard Windsor II	18,495.00
Vanguard International Growth	12,269.16
Vanguard Growth and Income	12,423.30
Total Equity Funds	<u>\$174,495.62</u>

End of the year total

\$279,179.01

GARDNER N. COBB CHILD WELFARE FUND

In 1968, the Town of Strafford received under the Will of Gardner N. Cobb \$10,000 to be held in Trust with the Corpus to be invested in direct obligations of the United States, with the net income to be disbursed by the Trustees for "the promotion of child hygiene, the treatment of remediable defects of needy children, including dental, or orthopedic or other medical care, routine immunizations against disease, and detection and elimination of tuberculosis and the dissemination of literature on the subject of Child Welfare."

ROBERT I. GILMAN AND EVELYN ROBERTS GILMAN TRUST FUND

In 1988 \$2,000 was given by Mr. and Mrs. R. Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Gadzinski to establish the Robert I. Gilman and Evelyn Roberts Gilman Trust Fund to be used to benefit the Municipal Building.

ROBIN MIX MEMORIAL FUND

On September 2, 1987 the Town of Strafford received, under a Trust Agreement, \$5,407.83 establishing the Robin Mix Memorial Fund for Preservation of the Strafford Town House. "The purpose of this Fund is to provide an augmenting source of funding for the accomplishment of extraordinary repairs to, and for major preservation and restoration projects for, the Strafford Town House."

NEWTON FUND

In 1931 the Town of Strafford received, under the Will of William E. Newton, \$14,200 to be held in trust, the income from which is "to be used first in keeping the two Newton lots in the cemetery at South Strafford in good condition, and then in any public improvement or for any public purpose in the village of South Strafford."

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND

In 1980 the Town of Strafford received a bequest under the Will of Robert H. Ordway of \$56,671.99 in trust, from which the income is "to be used in assisting a deserving high school graduate or graduates who are inhabitants of the town of Strafford, Vermont in obtaining education above the high school level." See the Robert H. Ordway Scholarship Committee Report for further information.

WALTER C. ROBINSON FUND

On December 23, 1985 the Town of Strafford received \$1,000 under the Will of Walter C. Robinson "to be held in trust by the Trustees of Public Funds and to use the interest for the care of the Willard Robinson and Daniel Robinson cemetery lots in the Robinson Cemetery."

THE STRAFFORD COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL FUND

The purpose of this fund is to receive and grant money to aid educational programs in the Town of Strafford, Vermont. The Strafford Community Educational Fund Advisory Committee raises money for the fund and makes recommendations to the Trustees regarding distributions. The members of the committee (Dierdre E. Dennis-DeVries, Rebecca Seibel, and Danette Harris) welcome your inquiries. Donations to this fund can be made through the Trustees of Public Funds.

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate. The Newton School Library is named in her honor.

The award is for Strafford residents recently graduated from High School who are preparing for teaching careers. It will be granted periodically at the discretion of the Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship committee.

Donations to the fund are welcome and can be made through the Trustees of Public Funds.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

We distributed \$6,200 from three Funds this year:

Twelve Strafford college students received \$400 each and two received \$200 each from the Ordway Fund (\$5,200 total).

The Cobb Fund granted \$500 to the Strafford School-Based Health Clinic.

The Cemetery Committee received \$500 from the Newton Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Rockwell Fuller

David Taplin

Kevin Plunkett

ROBERT H. ORDWAY FUND SCHOLARSHIP

The Robert H. Ordway Fund Committee establishes guidelines, evaluates applications and determines award recipients. The awards are funded by proceeds derived from the Trust established by Robert H. Ordway's will.

The Trustees of Public Funds manage the Trust and their financial statement and report appear elsewhere in this report.

The committee has developed criteria based on academic achievement, citizenship and character.

High school students must apply by May 1 of their senior year. Application forms may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office. All graduating seniors wishing to further their education beyond the high school level are encouraged to apply.

2003 Awards:

Erica Johnson, Noelle Lafasciano, Calen Pennington, Elijah Garrison-Botsford

Joey Hawkins

Kay Plunkett

Diana Leddy

RUTH WAINWRIGHT WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Fund was established in 1971 and was turned over the Trustees of Public Funds for investment management in 1994. Ruth lived in Strafford and was a student advocate; the Newton School Library is named in her honor.

The Award is for Strafford residents recently graduated from High School who are preparing for teaching careers. It will be granted periodically, at the discretion of the Ruth Wainwright Wallace Scholarship Committee.

Donations to the fund are welcome and can be made through the Trustees of Public Funds.

Applications can be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office, and sent to any member of the committee.

Committee members: Maureen Wilson, Cindy White, Rocky Fuller, Joey Hawkins, Rod Maclay.

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

This has been a year of transition for the library. With the help of donations from many generous community members and a large grant from the Freeman Foundation, we expanded the inside of the library without changing the outside of our historic structure. We have new lights in the reading room, making it possible to actually read there. We built a large loft area in the back room, creating a second open well-lit space to replace our former cramped stacks room. Community members donated comfortable furniture for an added reading area near the fireplace and, in general, the library is a more welcoming site. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to librarian Maureen Wilson, who wrote the grant and kept the whole operation on track, while keeping the library open despite the noise of power tools.

Unfortunately, we ended 2003 having to accept Maureen's resignation. During her eight years as librarian she expanded library services by geometric progression. We have more programs, more videos and audio books, more computers, access to a satellite connection, more story hours, more reading groups, and more fundraisers than ever before. Any time a new program was made available, Maureen brought it to us. She has written press releases, entertained authors, coordinated with caterers, catered, made coffee, swept, and read stories. She did all this while maintaining the day-to-day rituals of the library, ordering and processing books and helping patrons find information. We are grateful to Maureen for her efforts to offer programs for all age ranges and all interests. We are a small but diverse community and Moe made an effort to offer something for everyone. She succeeded. As I write this, we are searching for a successor, acknowledging that we can never find a replacement for Moe. We all wish her the best and thank her.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Kurland, chair
Joan Williams, treasurer
Christine Bartlett, secretary
Morrill Trustees

Tom Moye
Linda Williams
Kathleen Campbell
Harris Trustees

MORRILL MEMORIAL AND HARRIS LIBRARY

January 1 - December 31, 2003

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2003

Checking account	\$ 26,959.20
Petty cash	30.00

Beginning Balance

\$ 26,989.20

Income

Town of Strafford	\$ 7,500.00
Restricted Contributions	125.45
Unrestricted Contributions	1,840.00
Miscellaneous Income	688.29
Program Co-sponsorship	217.00
Fund Raising:	
Appeals Letter	250.00
Book Sale Income	1,265.27
Grants - Construction Project	23,370.00
Donations - Construction Project	12,940.00
Holiday Sale	6,691.60
Town House Series	4,996.12

Total Income

\$59,883.73

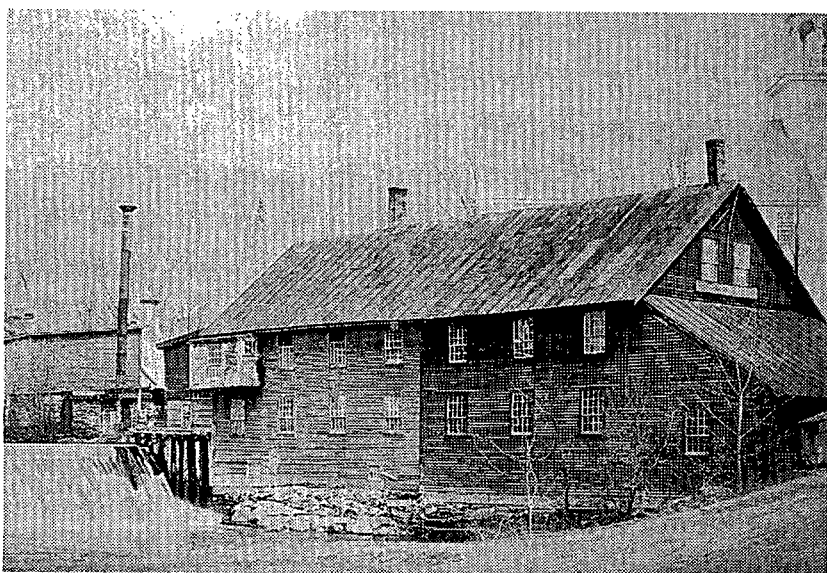
Expenses

Construction/renovation expenses	53,076.92
Fund Raising Expense	
Holiday Sale	2,166.23
Town House Series	2,633.37
Materials & Programs	
Periodicals	12.00
Shipping	6.27
Program Expense	469.50
Processing	21.85
Internet Access	832.74
Video	296.10
Audio	507.68
Book Purchases	3,621.91
Computer Equipment	609.99
Librarian Expenses	
Supplies	375.77
Asst. Librarian	1,199.11
Dues & Fees	66.00
Workmen's Comp.	221.00
Mileage	220.00

Administration	
Telephone	523.81
Office Supplies	109.68
Supplies	801.81
Liability Insurance	888.00
Postage	384.43
Finance Charges	70.00
Bookkeeper	600.00
Buildings & Grounds	1,697.00
Utilities	1,952.00
Miscellaneous	75.00
Total Expenses	\$ 73,438.17
Ending Balance	\$ 13,434.76
Equipment Reserve	\$ 2,380.08
Building Maintenance Reserve	\$ 863.79
Unreserved Funds	\$ 10,190.89

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Beginning Balance January 1, 2003	\$ 101,694.22
Gifts to the Endowment Funds	-
	<u>\$ 101,694.22</u>
Market Value December 31, 2003	\$ 121,526.84
Transfer into Operating Funds	<u>190.68</u>
Total	\$ 121,336.16



STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Fire Department responded to calls in 2003, as follows:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 chimney fire | 1 structure fire |
| 1 brush fire | 4 alarm activations |
| 2 downed power lines | 1 carbon monoxide investigation |
| 2 searches | 4 car accidents |
| 3 service calls | 2 FAST Squad assists |
| – overheated furnace | – landing zone DART |
| – gas stove problems | – trauma assist |
| – plugged chimney | |
| 11 mutual aid calls: | |
| 5 structure fires – Thetford, Norwich, Sharon, 2 West Fairlee | |
| 1 truck fire – Thetford | |
| 1 road closure – Thetford | |
| 1 alarm activation – Thetford | |
| 3 station coverages – 2 Thetford, 1 Vershire | |

We received Mutual Aid from Thetford and Tunbridge at different times through the year.

The fire department had a successful fund-raising year. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Lamb and his family for their time and efforts to make the rabies clinic a success. And thank you to those community members that participated in our 4th of July activities.

The department received a Homeland Security Grant for two new dual band radios. We would like to thank Bill Burden for securing this grant for us, also for all the time he is contributing as Strafford's Emergency Preparedness Director.

Due to mechanical problems with our tanker, the department has started the process to replace it. This will be done from the fire department funds and should be finalized in the early spring of 2004.

Renovations to the Main Station are ongoing, with one wall and windows left to renovate along with roof replacement.

D. Kris Brown
Fire Chief

Hatch bedstead factory, with dam and Town House

Geo. H. Johnston photo, Strafford Historical Society collections

STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
COMBINED PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT
January 1 - December 31, 2003

INCOME

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Auction	\$ 2,541	
Barbecue	2,039	
Brush Burns	-	
Chimney Cleaning	2,200	
Cook Shack	166	
Donations Received	4,041	
Duck Race	118	
Grants	-	
Interest	682	
Misc Income	1,362	
Rabies Clinic	1,139	
Reimbursement FAST	1,702	Workmen's Comp, Auto & Liability
Table Rental	130	
Town Operating Income	20,000	
Total Income	\$36,120	

EXPENSES

Bank Charges	\$ 6	
Banquet Expense	1,471	
Building Repairs/Maint.	5,145	
Capital Expenses	3,260	deposit on tanker
Coburn's Charge	480	
Donations Given	100	
Electricity	1,122	
Equipment Purchases	6,234	\$4700 for radios/grant will reimburse
Equipment Repairs/Maint.	1,497	
Heating Oil	2,502	
Insurance	12,919	Workmen's Comp, Auto & Liability
Member, Dues, Subscription	1,289	
Misc Expenses	619	
Postage & Office Supply	161	
Promotional Materials	477	
Training	450	
Vehicle Repairs/Maintenance	963	
Total Expenses	\$38,697	
Profit (Loss)	\$ (2,577)	

STRAFFORD FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET

Balances	1/1/2003	12/31/2003
Operations Checking	\$ 979	\$ 1,768
Reserve Checking	37,746	68,920
CD-Apparatus (CD#1)	34,614	-
CD-Memorial (CD#2)	4,914	4,988
	<u>\$ 78,253</u>	<u>\$ 75,676</u>

As of 12/31/03, \$6,128.09 is allocated to the Memorial Fund, a restricted fund.

As of 12/26/03, \$29,340 is earmarked for the purchase of a tanker.

\$4,700 expected reimbursement from Homeland Security grant, for two radios purchased.

STRAFFORD F.A.S.T. SQUAD Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand Dec. 31, 2002		\$ 7,320.39
Income		
Donations & Fundraising	\$ 790.00	
Interest from Savings Account	33.70	
	<u>\$ 823.70</u>	<u>823.70</u>
		\$ 8,144.09
Expenses		
Insurance	\$ 1,701.85	
Education	865.00	
Equipment repairs	964.19	
Postmaster	7.40	
Supplies	677.76	
	<u>\$ 4,216.20</u>	<u>4,216.20</u>
Balance on hand Dec. 31, 2003		\$ 3,927.89

Mark Pippy VT-EMT-I
Treasurer, Strafford FAST Squad

STRAFFORD F.A.S.T. SQUAD

The Strafford F.A.S.T. Squad continues to provide assistance evaluating and stabilizing victims of trauma or medical emergencies at the scene of injury and preparing them for transport by ambulance if needed. We are increasingly stretched to cover calls (36 this past year) with few active members remaining on the Squad and most of us working out of town, but several members have joined since this time last year which has helped with coverage. We also realize we have been hard to get hold of to ask about joining, as meetings sometimes do not happen on schedule. If two members happen to have other commitments there aren't enough left to have a meeting! If you do want to talk about joining, please call Beth Preston as I seem to be more often in town. We will set something up. You need not already be an EMT to join. If you take and pass a course the Squad picks up the cost of that course. We will also see that you get the equipment you need.

Please take a minute some evening to see if your 911 numbers are easily visible to a driver coming from either direction in the dark who doesn't know whether to be looking at the mailbox, a tree or somewhere on the house itself. An added help is to turn on flashers in a vehicle at your house so we figure out one of us is there already! If Dispatch does not get a response from anyone in Strafford they tone out Thetford as mutual aid. They are not usually much, if any, ahead of the ambulance but the additional support is invaluable for lifting or taking care of multiple victims. The Firemen are also sometimes tapped for lifting help – and we do appreciate it!

Through the Homeland Security Grant program, Strafford has acquired two more Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) and funds to pay for training to use them. These are the units that are now in many airports, on planes, etc. We have one which is kept with Rescue, but success depends on early use so it will be a big advantage to be able to spread out the equipment. Users must be CPR certified, and we will certainly consider training anyone who is certified in CPR to use the AED.

Thanks, as always, for the support from the Town budget and individual contributions.

Beth Preston, Secretary
Strafford F.A.S.T. Squad

STRAFFORD SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CLINIC

The Clinic is located in the Gardner Cobb Health Room at the Newton School. The Clinic's professional staff provides physical, mental and some dental health services to Strafford children. Clinic medical services are similar to those provided at a doctor's office. Children are commonly seen for well child checkups, sports/camp physicals, chronic illness management (for example asthma) and acute illnesses and injuries. The easy accessibility to medical services has encouraged prompt and convenient treatment at school. Parents are always welcome to attend their child's visits, but most find phone consultation sufficient and appreciate not having to miss work. The Clinic also provides flu and hepatitis B vaccines for Newton School students and staff.

The Clinic opened in January 1998 and operates for part of each day whenever school is in session. Currently seventy percent of Newton School students are enrolled in the Clinic. Preschool and high school students living in Strafford also receive Clinic services. The Clinic's services were begun with seed money provided by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and assisted by the Vermont Agency of Human Services. Gifford Medical Center is the sponsoring agency and provides professional and administrative services to the Clinic. The Newton School is a collaborative partner with the Clinic and community members have been involved since the beginning of the program. The Clara Martin Center provides counseling services and access to specialized mental health programs as needed.

We were one of the first school-based health clinics to open in Vermont and we are very proud of the services we provide to the community and the children of Strafford.

The original Robert Wood Johnson Grant was for three years and while our funding was extended for a fourth year, our grant funding ended in June 2001. The Clinic bills health insurance providers for patient visits. The Clinic is exploring other funding sources in order to continue providing health care services. Each year the Strafford community generously donates \$900.00 for mental health services to be used by local families for counseling. We very much appreciate the support that the Strafford community members show during our annual fund raising appeal and during our annual silent auction.

The Clinic Board of Directors meets monthly and welcomes community members to attend our meetings. Please call the Clinic for meeting dates (765-9937).

Clinic Staff: Dr. Rebecca Foulk, Frank Lamson, CPNP, Ellen Gnaedinger, RN, and Annemarie Hier, MSW.

Clinic Board of Directors: Kiafar Haghkerdar, Chairperson; Gretchen Rittenhouse, Treasurer; Beth Sekinger, Secretary; Lou Lafasciano, David Harris, Linda Cole, Janet Koes and Kim Knoerlein.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Gnaedinger, RN
Clinic Coordinator

ELIZABETH MINE CLEANUP AND RE-USE PROJECTS

In the winter of 2003, EPA presented information at an EMCAG meeting concerning the risk that the earthen dam that holds tailing pile 1 could fail if a certain saturation level is reached accompanied by a major storm or another earthquake. Existing drainage pipes within the tailing piles may become blocked and not work properly to drain water from the top of the tailing pile or the flow of Copperas Brook. Through computer modeling, EPA demonstrated how failure of the dam would cause a huge mudslide of waste tailings that would destroy about a dozen homes in Thetford and cause enormous ecological damage as far downstream as the Connecticut River.

EPA began what it calls an Emergency Response Action to ensure that the tailings dam would not fail by constructing a soil buttress and draining the pond on tailing pile 1. Last fall, EPA began hauling sand to stop erosion at the foot of the tailing dam and replaced the water diversion pipe from the tailing pile. The Select Board worked closely with EPA to plan the route that the trucks would use at this time for hauling materials, taking into account the very serious concerns of safety, traffic, noise, and disruption. The EPA has agreed to work with the Agency of Natural Resources and the Select Board to identify and ultimately develop an alternative access to the site over the longer term.

In an update given to the Select Board in the fall of 2003 EPA Project Manager Ed Hathaway stated that completion of the Emergency Response Action would eliminate direct threats from the mine to existing human habitations. He added that future cleanup work at the mine site would be ecologically based, intended primarily at improving conditions for the biota in the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.

At the present time, the new surface water diversion pipe installation is complete. This pipe eliminates the need to rely on the old pipe within the tailing piles to carry the flow of Copperas Brook. The diversion pipe also eliminates the need for high-capacity pumps for surface water this coming spring. Hauling of buttressing materials and other stabilization activities are finished for the winter and will be resumed in the late spring.

Currently there is no funding for the final cleanup of the site. This is due to inadequate funding of the Superfund program by Congress and will likely delay action at the Elizabeth Mine site. Representatives from local groups and state agencies working on the clean up have approached Vermont's congressional delegation and EPA to seek reestablishment of Superfund funding for this and other projects.

An agreement about preservation of historic resources at the mine and mitigation for any damage done during cleanup was drafted in the summer of 2003. When final, the agreement will have EPA provide funding to allow local groups to conduct historic preservation and environmental education activities. This agreement will only receive funding, however, if the site cleanup is funded in Washington.

As part of the effort to identify re-use options for the Elizabeth Mine, a Site Re-Use Plan was drafted in spring 2003 and meetings were held with community members

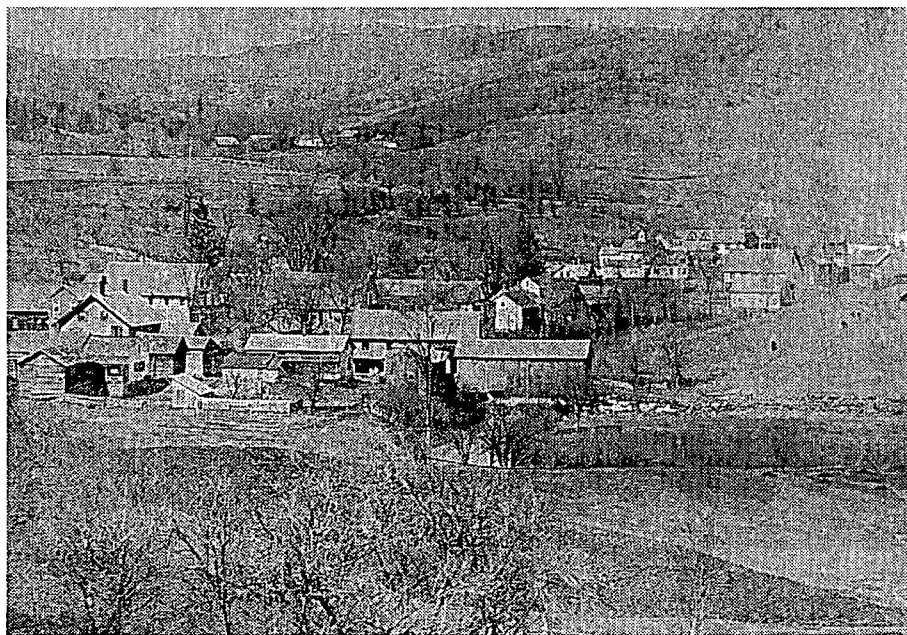
about the plan. The final plan, expected in February 2004, will include site re-use recommendations that take into account the current fiscal realities for the site's cleanup. Specifically, the report provides guidance on formation of a regional non-profit organization to undertake historic preservation and environmental education activities at the Elizabeth Mine and the two other copper mines in the area, Ely and Pike Hill.

The Elizabeth Mine has a web site that was set up by Dartmouth College. You can get there from link on the Strafford web page, www.straffordvt.net, or go directly to www.dartmouth.edu/~cehs/CAGsite.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally B. Mansur

Technical Advisor, Town of Strafford



Part of South Strafford Village, with mill building and covered bridge (center)

Strafford Historical Society collections

STRAFFORD AREA LIONS CLUB

The motto for all Lions Clubs is "We Serve." The Strafford Area Lions Club is a member club of Lions International, which is a network of the clubs in the United States and around the world to provide service to the world community in many different capacities. "We Serve" by running the recycling center, Harrington Hill rope tow and the SLC Pond. We sponsor the Rosa Tyson ski school at Dartmouth Skiway, the skating rink at the home of the Linehans and the 4th of July Talent Show. We help with requests for financial aid with sight and hearing problems of the community, as well as with other local requests.

The support that is given when we do our fundraising events and in volunteering in our many programs is very much appreciated. We meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month, which is our business meeting. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, which is our dinner meeting; at this meeting we usually have a speaker. Our dinner meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Please contact any Lions Club member or myself for information about the club or how to join.

Rachel Claffey, King Lion

STRAFFORD RECREATION BOARD

The Strafford Recreation Board oversees the town recreation areas: the Varney ball-field, the Murray field and tennis court and the Old City Falls Nature Preserve. Along with the Strafford Lions Club and Strafford Athletic Association, we also work to promote recreational activities in our community.

The excellent shape our areas are in is due primarily to the efforts of David Taplin, John Linehan, and Robert Murray. These gentlemen have for decades worked to maintain and improve our recreation areas which are recognized as being among the finest of any town our size. We deeply appreciate all they do.

A priority for the upcoming year will be looking at what can be done to improve the surface of the tennis court. We also remind all dog owners that the recreation fields and common in town are used as a play area and be considerate and clean up after your pets.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag, Recreation Board Chair

STRAFFORD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Strafford Athletic Association exists to support and improve athletic and recreational facilities for the young people and adults of Strafford. Over the years what we can do has been shaped by forces larger than our own community. Because of the insurance crisis of the 1980's the SAA turned over the running of the pond and ski hill to the Strafford Area Lions Club who were able to put these facilities under their blanket insurance policy. We are now facing a similar financial situation in regards to the Rosa B. Tyson Gym which is currently owned by the SAA and leased to the school.

Due to changes in the educational funding in our State, the taxpayers of Strafford are now required to send approximately \$5,000 per year to the State education fund as property tax on the Gym. The Listers and the SAA have appealed the inclusion of the Gym as taxable property but were denied an exemption. In the ruling the State did find that "were the gymnasium owned by the Strafford school the gymnasium would be exempt from taxation."

The SAA recognizes that because we are a small town with a limited tax base, all possible efforts must be made to maximize our resources. It is for this reason that we have decided to offer as a gift the Rosa B. Tyson gym to the school. The only provisions that we ask are that the school set up a capital reserve fund to insure the continued proper maintenance of the building and that this reserve be funded at roughly the same rate as the school now pays for rent (\$6,000) year. The other provision is that the school continue to provide some access to the community at large for use of the gym when it is not being used for school programs. We hope that the school and the town will be able to act on our offer, if not at Town Meeting, in time to benefit from the tax saving for the upcoming year.

The transfer of the title of the Rosa B. Tyson gym does not mean the end of the SAA. The SAA currently helps to fund athletic programs in town and the upgrading of our athletic facilities as well as providing athletic scholarships. We look forward to continuing and hopefully expanding this role.

Finally, it is important to recognize the contributions of Fred Schaafsma, who, with his very supportive family, is moving to a new home in Thetford. While Fred has served as both President and Treasurer of the SAA, it is his long term commitment to the upgrading of the athletic facilities and in particular the gym that has made a huge difference in what we are able as a community to enjoy. Over the years, Fred has overseen and/or provided much of the labor on such projects as insulation and new supports in the cellar of the gym, new stairs and a deck in the back of the gym, replacement and repair of the roofing, new scoreboard and basketball hoops, and the installation of new doors and windows. Old buildings need continued care and his continued attention to detail has resulted in a significant upgrade of this important building in our community. We are extremely grateful for all that Fred has done and will miss him greatly.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag

President, Strafford Athletic Association

STRAFFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What a year it has been for the Strafford Historical Society. First and foremost is the move of our collections into space at the Brick Store generously provided by owner Kendall Mix. A well-attended Open House was held at the end of March. The Historical Society room is now open and staffed by volunteers every Wednesday morning from 9-12 and Saturdays 10-noon. We welcome all to stop by and visit.

This past year the Society along with our spin-off organization, the Friends of the Morrill Homestead, hosted the 50th Annual Meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies. Vermont Governor Jim Douglas was the keynote speaker, and it was a treat to share our historic upper village and its treasures with representatives from many other historical societies from all over the state.

At the Vermont History Expo in late June the Society joined forces with the historical societies of Vershire, West Fairlee, Corinth, and Thetford in mounting a joint exhibit on the Orange County Copper District. Our joint presentation was considered to be one of the best in the two-day event. Right next to the Copper exhibit was another project sponsored by the Society and which proved very popular: a new history teaching unit based on the 1911 diary of then eight-year-old Alice Bushnell who lived at the top of Old City Falls Road.

In December we held our second Open House of the year in the Historical Society room. At this event new acquisitions were displayed and many came to visit.

Any one of these projects, carried out in addition to our usual work, would have been in and of itself a worthy undertaking for a Society of our size. To accomplish all of them in one year has been a wonder and frankly a bit of a stretch for all involved. In order to keep on with our mission of both preserving the rich history of our town and making people aware of it, we ask that if you are not already a member of the Strafford Historical Society, you consider becoming one. Contact Toni Pippy at 765-4522 or myself if you would like to become a member or are interested in becoming more involved with the history of Strafford.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freitag, President
Strafford Historical Society

THE FRIENDS OF THE MORRILL HOMESTEAD

Our year began with a tour of the Homestead by Governor Jim Douglas while he was here as keynote speaker for the League of Local Historical Societies annual meeting in May. We were honored and hope he remembers to think of us kindly when budget time arrives.

Transportation Enhancement grants for 2003 were frozen, leaving us with no hope for construction funds last year for our Visitor's Center. The program was re-instated this year and our 2004 application was successful. Our proposed Visitor's Center is now almost fully funded. We await only the legislature's approval of an appropriation for the grant

matching funds. We don't anticipate any difficulty in this, but it remains a hurdle. Despite the year's delay, planning proceeded. In February 2003, we selected Smith and Vansant of Norwich as the architects for the project. We expect to have plans ready for public review this summer. Look for the announcement, as a public meeting will be required.

In November we launched our first Annual Fund appeal. Over 1,000 mailings included everyone in town plus our own list of friends across the country. As of this writing we have received over \$7,000 in donations. Thanks to all who contributed and if it slipped your mind, it's not too late! Contributions are fully tax-deductible. This fund will be a great help in improving the Morrill Homestead in many ways. For example, it will cover printing and distribution costs for the new brochure Ann Thorp worked hard to create for the Morrill Homestead. It's a lovely brochure designed to catch the attention of the traveler. We mailed copies with the Annual Fund appeal and it will be in Vermont welcome centers and on tourist information racks this year.

Our *19th Century Apple Festival* (a 2003 Vermont Top Ten Fall Event) in October was very well attended. We saw many new faces at the Homestead that day from throughout New England and hope to build on this success for 2004. Croquet continues enthusiastically and we hope to play some summer evenings before the July 18th tournament. Croquet will be our 2004 Vermont History Expo theme at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds June 27th and 28th. We are working on a variety of new programs and will be continuing old favorites this summer. Expect a calendar in the mail this spring. The first workshop will be pruning young apple trees, planned for a day in April. Look for an announcement in the Strafford or Valley News. Other new ideas include a tulip bulb harvest, 19th Century soft drinks, Gothic Architecture, conservation of stone monuments, building rustic garden furniture, meditation in the garden, and a heritage craft weekend. If you have something you would like to present or know of something you'd like to see at the Homestead, please let us know.

The Division for Historic Preservation needs another docent on staff this year. The position is a Vermont State part-time seasonal job. It pays a little and the hours are few and will be irregular, but it can be rewarding sharing this treasure with our visitors. Talk to Lorenz Rutz. If you are looking for volunteer work at the Homestead, the Friends will welcome helping hands at events, on committees, and on the Board. Speak with anyone on the Board if you are interested.

The Morrill Homestead is open Memorial Day through Columbus Day, Wed.-Sun., 11 AM - 5 PM, house tours on the hour. Admission \$4, under 14 free, Strafford residents have return privileges.

Susan Cain, President; John Dumville; Debbie Reese; Mary Vic Giersch, Vice President; Euclid Farnham; Townsend Swayze; Therese Linehan, Treasurer; Ingrid Webb; Andersen Thorp, Honorary; Lorenz Rutz, Secretary; Caroline Steele, Candidate; Liz Clarke, Candidate; Tinka McArdle, Candidate; Reuben Sotak, Candidate.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorenz Rutz, Secretary

Friends of the Morrill Homestead

STRAFFORD CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

The members of the board for the 2002-2003 school year were: Kim Knoerlein President; Annie Penfield, Secretary; Chrissy Jamieson, Treasurer; Donna Derenthal; Jessica Brown; Suzanna Liepmann; and Leslie Tilles.

The Preschool continues to run five mornings a week with full enrollment each day. The Creative Preschool is a fully licensed non-profit corporation.

Last fall we welcomed new director Heidi Haghighi to the staff; she joined Leslie Berger, Dawn Doyle and Norma Hench. An aide, Lissa Luckey, was hired part way through the year.

New this year was the introduction of a Spanish program funded through the generosity of the Marshall Frankel Foundation. The Marshall Frankel Foundation granted \$1,500, of which \$1,000 was matched by a gift and applied to operating expenses. We participated in artists in residence program funded by a grant from the A.D. Henderson Foundation. This program brought puppet, movement, and dance programs to the preschool.

The board met monthly and worked to secure operational and scholarship funds through a number of efforts including the Fourth of July booth, the Annual Appeals Letter, grant writing, Pancake Breakfast, Southwestern Dinner/Bingo night, Bake Sale, children's portraits, raffle.

The Preschool community is grateful to the many friends and neighbors who contribute generously to our annual appeal and to our fundraising events. Our scholarship funds were used to assist two families. We received a \$500 scholarship grant from the Edwards Foundation.

The Board wishes to extend its appreciation to the preschool parents and members of our community who help support our program, and the United Church of Strafford, our landlord, for continued cooperation and understanding.

2003-2004 Board: Suzanna Liepmann, co-president; Annie Penfield, co-president; Chrissy Jamieson; Todd Binzen; Nikki Kendall; Julie Benjamin; and Sharon Lamb.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Penfield

CABIN FEVER UNIVERSITY

Cabin Fever University is a non-profit adult education program based in Strafford and Thetford. It offers affordable classes taught by community members on a variety of topics. Since 1995 classes and one-day sessions have been well attended and some of the most popular are felting, chair caning, making chocolates and making sushi. In 2003 the offerings are similar – artisan bread and tarot card reading among others. We now have classes at Newton School, Barrett Hall, Thetford Academy and Harris and Morrill Library. Classes, held in late winter, are a wonderful chance to meet and learn from your neighbors. We welcome volunteers and ideas for new or rerun classes. Eva Behrens, Kate Linehan and Marianne Wakerlin are the Strafford board members.

Kate Linehan

CENTRAL VERMONT ADULT BASIC EDUCATION IN STRAFFORD

Adults in Strafford who want help with learning basic reading, writing, math and English as a second language may receive that help through a free program of instruction provided by Central Vermont Adult Basic Education. Men and women 16 years of age and over who are enrolled in the program also have the opportunity to study for their high school equivalency (GED) exam or the adult diploma program.

Students and teachers meet in one-to-one and/or small group sessions and design an individual learning program to suit the requirements of each adult student. This "school without walls" ties together basic literacy and math skills with such practical interest areas as child care, budgeting, filling out forms and applications, beginning computer skills, studying for a driver's permit or a Commercial Driving License (CDL), writing reports and memos and reading work related texts.

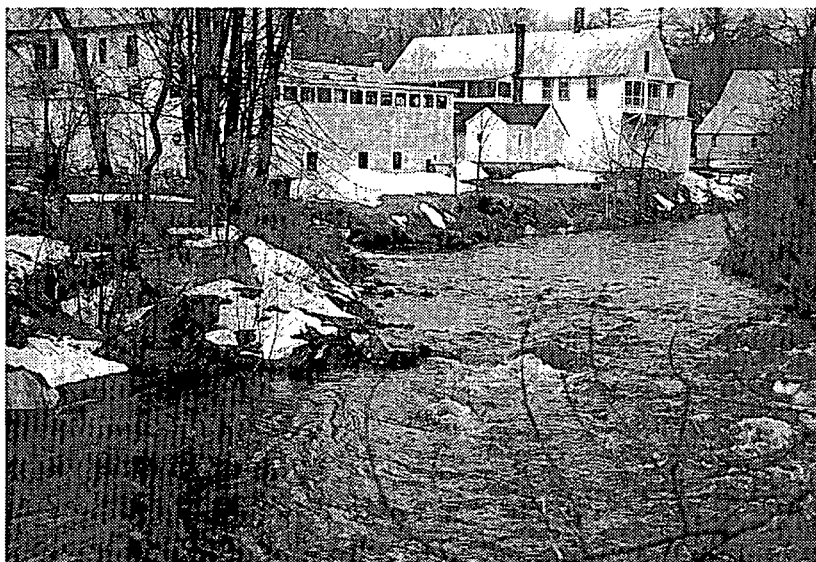
Adults who are interested in enrolling in the program as students or in helping out as volunteers may contact Central Vermont Adult Basic Education for more information at:

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education

Main Office
18 North Main Street
Barre, Vermont 05641
(802) 476-4588

One Main Street
PO Box 917
Bradford, Vermont 05033
(802) 222-3282

In Strafford, call 765-4354



Site of an early 1800s dam in South Strafford

Strafford Historical Society collections

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) teaches people with significant disabilities how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. We also conduct public education and systems change activities that promote the full inclusion of disabled people into community life.

An estimated one in five Vermonters has a disability. VCIL, a private not-for-profit corporation, is Vermont's first and only cross-disability center for independent living and the first organization in the state to be directed and staffed by a majority of people with diverse disabilities.

Statewide, from October 1, 2002 through September 11, 2003, VCIL responded to 1,974 requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information and referrals on a broad range of subjects related to living with a disability. We provided one-on-one peer counseling to 342 individuals to help increase their independent living skills and life opportunities; provided 405 households with financial and technical assistance for making their bathrooms and entrances accessible to a disabled family member; provided over 340 with personal assistance and/or assisting technology; provided communications equipment to 67 Deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech-impaired individuals through our Telecommunications Equipment Distribution program, and served home-delivered meals to almost 533 Vermonters through VCIL's Meals on Wheels Program for Individuals Under 60 with Disabilities.

VCIL's central office is in downtown Montpelier with three smaller regional offices in Bennington, Brattleboro and Burlington. The Montpelier office houses our resource library and our toll-free information line, which provides answers to disability-related questions from every Vermont community. Our locally-based Peer Advocacy counselors are available to people with disabilities in every municipality in Vermont.

During FY 2003, VCIL provided direct services to Vermonters, utilizing the following services/programs:

1. Information & Referral
2. Home and Community Access program
3. Meals on Wheels (people with disabilities under the age of 60)
4. Peer Advocacy Counseling
5. Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution program
6. Sue Williams Freedom Fund

To learn more about VCIL, call us toll-free at 1-800-639-1522.

CENTRAL VERMONT COUNCIL ON AGING

The Central Vermont Council on Aging is a private, nonprofit organization that supports elders to remain independent as long as possible in their own homes and communities. We use federal, state and local funds to provide a variety of programs and services for elders, either directly or under contract with local groups and organizations.

Services include case management, information and referral, community and home delivered meals, senior center services, transportation and a number of volunteer opportunities for people of all ages. Thirty six residents of Strafford received services from CVCOA in the past fiscal year.

The Case Manager for the Town of Strafford is Carol Spooner. Case Managers are trained to assess needs and create care plans for individuals that include public, private and volunteer resources.

The Council on Aging contracts with South Strafford Senior Meals for the provision of community and home delivered meals for seniors. Noontime meals are served on Wednesday at Barrett Hall. Home delivered meals are also delivered to the homes of elders who cannot get out to the meal site.

Transportation is provided under contract with the local transportation authority. Under this agreement, rides are provided to elders to get to and from meal sites, medical appointments and shopping.

Calling the senior help line at 1-800-642-5119 can provide other services such as legal assistance, health insurance information and referrals to other agencies.

We appreciate the support for programs and services for central Vermont elders from the Town of Strafford. Please call us for more information or assistance.

Charles W. Castle, Executive Director

SOUTH ROYALTON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

The South Royalton Area Senior Center, Inc. serves the towns of Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. There are two meal sites involved, one in Royalton (the Academy Building) and the other in Strafford (Barrett Hall). Volunteers deliver meals to shut-ins. Meals are served on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Royalton and on Wednesdays in Strafford. A total of 10,787 meals were served in the year 2002-2003. Other services included blood pressure clinics, foot clinics and flu shots. In addition there were four very enjoyable trips this year: (1) St. Patrick's Day Party at the Indian Head Resort in NH; (2) Lipizzans in North Hero, VT; (3) Maine Cruise; (4) Dinner and Show plus a Christmas Lights spectacular in MA. Susan Huff continues to do an excellent job as our Director and Louise Caron and Linda Ducharme are still our wonderful cooks. We are also blessed with faithful volunteers.

S.R.A.S.C., Inc. Board of Directors
Elizabeth M. Balser, President
Shirley Wright, Vice President
Susan Coburn, Secretary
Joni Latuch-Lyman, Treasurer

Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2003

Expenses		Revenue	
Personnel & Taxes	\$27,357	Federal / CVCOA	\$31,015
Nutritional & Center	15,225	Participants	17,500
Transportation	1,529	Town Funds	7,750
Rent & Utilities	6,168	Community Donations	1,126
Insurance	3,156	Fund Raising	2,905
Equipment & Repairs	<u>190</u>	Grants & Interest	771
Total	\$53,625	Thrift Shop	<u>6,123</u>
		Total	\$67,190

VISITING NURSE ALLIANCE OF VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, INC.

The Visiting Nurse Alliance is like the police and fire departments – a strategic part of the community's safety net – with services that must be continuously available to anyone in need. The need varies dramatically from month to month and year to year. The VNA provides a comprehensive range of care, requisitioned by hospital staff and physicians, for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

We value the continued partnership with the Town of Strafford to help us meet your residents' home care, hospice and family health needs. Town funding accomplishes the following:

- Enables your family, friends and neighbors to remain independent at home as they receive skilled clinical care during times of injury, recovery from surgery or accidents, disability, whether for short-term or chronic illness. For many such patients, many are addressing multiple medical, emotional and social issues at the same time.
- Provides emotional support plus pain and symptom management during terminal illness. Hospice care extends to family members as well. More and more patients want to be at home during the end of their life, and through hospice they have that control.
- Provides community-wellness programs and assistance to young families at risk. Clients range from fathers and/or mothers who want to be more effective parents through learning parenting skills or providing a balanced diet; infants who require hi-tech health care; and children who grow and learn through play groups that offer interaction with other children.

The Visiting Nurse Alliance of Vermont and New Hampshire provided the following services in the Town of Strafford this past year:

<i>Visits</i>		<i>Family Support Services</i>	
<i>(July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003)</i>			
Skilled Nursing	52	Families served	1
Physical Therapy	51	Individuals served	3
Occupational Therapy	1	Fatherhood Program, Dads served	1
Medical Social Worker	1	<i>Orange County Parent Child Center</i>	
Home Health Aide	25	Families served	8
Homemaker	14	Children served	13
Total Visits	144	<i>MCH</i>	
		Children	3
		Home Visits	7

On behalf of the people we serve in your community, thank you for your continued confidence.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Larman, BSN, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Vermont Department of Health works to protect and improve the health of all citizens. The following are some of the essential services available to residents of Strafford.

Food & Lodging Inspections: Public health sanitarians inspect eating establishments (restaurants, schools, fairs) to decrease risk of food borne disease outbreaks. Inspections include review of a 44-item checklist to evaluate food storage, preparation and handling and to identify where there is a high likelihood of practices contributing to illness if left uncorrected. Of the 3 establishments in Strafford, 2 were inspected by a sanitarian in 2002.

Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): WIC improves the health of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children by assuring access to health care, teaching families about good nutritional practices, and providing an individually designed package of nutritious food to eligible individuals. During 2002, 21 women, infants and children living in Strafford received foods as well as health screening and individualized nutrition education through this program at an average value of \$35 per person per month.

Vaccine-preventable Diseases: Proper vaccination protects children and adults against many diseases, saves health care dollars, and minimizes sick leave from school or work. Immunization has reduced reportable cases of preventable diseases in Vermont to record low levels. Still, total annual hospital charges from vaccine-preventable disease in Vermont is \$2.6M, and each year 150-200 Vermonters die of pneumonia or influenza. During 2002, the Health Department distributed 6,055 doses of vaccine to health care providers in Orange County. This represents a value of \$83,000 to these communities, including children living in Strafford.

West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance: WNV first appeared in the U.S. in New York City in 1999 and has become well established in the United States. Birds, mammals and people can get WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito. The Vermont Departments of Health and Agriculture conduct surveillance for WNV each year from June until cold weather limits mosquito activity in the fall. In 2003, 5 Town Health Officers in different parts of the state also participated in the program, assisting primarily with mosquito trapping. As of September 19, 2003: 450 mosquito pools were tested, with 9 positive for WNV, and three horses have tested positive (one each from Addison, Orleans and Franklin Counties). In Orange County from June-Sept. 16, 2002, 38 dead birds were reported, 13 were tested, and one found to be infected with WNV. There were no reported human or equine cases reported during this same time period.

New public health issues emerge every year. Some challenges being addressed by the Health Department include emergency preparedness and response to disease threats like SARS or potential acts of bioterrorism; expansion of substance abuse prevention and treatment, and improving health care for people with chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease.

If you would like more information about these efforts, or if you have a public health concern, please call the White River Jct. District Office at 802 -295-8820. Visit our web site at www.HealthyVermonters.info for information on health topics, public health emergency preparedness and response, news releases, publications, reports and general public health information.

VERMONT ENHANCED 911 BOARD

Statewide System Operations: The following information is from the period January 1, 2003 to November 30, 2003.

	Wire-Line	Wireless
Total Calls Handled	113,763	60,374
Total Abandoned Calls	15,464	3,656
Average Call Answer Time	5 seconds	
Average Call Duration	1 minute 54 seconds	

The Vermont E-911 system continues to perform within established benchmarks.

The Enhanced 911 Board operates ten 911 call answering points, known as Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). They are located at the Springfield Police Department, the Hartford Police Department, the Montpelier Police Department, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office, the Saint Albans Police Department, the Shelburne Police Department, and the State Police Barracks at Williston, Rutland, Rockingham and Derby to be operational by January, 2004.

E 911 Address Confidentiality

In 1996, the General Assembly passed a law requiring Towns that created new street addresses for enhanced 911 to provide a confidentiality option to residents.

This option allows residents to prevent their names from being linked with their new street addresses in municipal public records, such as the Grand List. If you choose to exercise this option, you are required by law to provide the Town Clerk with an alternate mailing address, such as a Post Office box. Copies of the "Confidentiality Option Form" and instructions are available at your Town Office or on the internet at www.state.vt.us/e911. Your Confidentiality Option Form is not a public record and is exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Law. Town officials are required to preserve your privacy.

UPPER VALLEY AMBULANCE, INC.

We are pleased to present our 13th annual report to the citizens we serve. Upper Valley Ambulance, Inc. has continually provided emergency and non-emergency ambulance service to our eight communities since July 1, 1990. In the past thirteen years, Upper Valley has responded to over 17,000 ambulance calls. This year we will have responded to over 800 requests for emergency medical assistance from the eight communities we serve.

2003 has proven to be a very challenging year. Like many small businesses, we have had a difficult time finding qualified employees in a tight labor market. We continue to absorb double digit increases in health insurance, workers compensation and liability insurance. Reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid and most other payors

continues to lag well behind the actual cost of providing service. Despite this, we continue to provide a high level of service.

2004 should be no different. The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 which placed ambulances on a fixed fee schedule was implemented in 2002 and "adjustments" are ongoing. Insurance rates continue to climb, and the job market remains tight. After countless hours of discussion and thought, the UVA Board of Directors have approved the 2004 budget reflecting no increase in our request of \$15.00 per capita.

The Town of Corinth asked to join Upper Valley Ambulance. The Corinth Selectboard and the Fast Squad have been very proactive and have contracted UVA services on a trial basis. Things are running well since July on a trial basis. The Selectboards of the UVA member towns have voted to approve Corinth joining as the ninth town served by UVA. The transition of Brookside from a nursing home to a drug and alcohol rehab center will adversely affect our budget. But as mentioned above, we do not anticipate needing to increase the \$15 per capita request. We were presented late last year with long-standing concerns from the Fast Squad and Fire Department of one of our member towns. With ongoing discussions which included the Selectboard, we feel we were able to appropriately address their concerns.

Our Domicile Risk Assessment Program, "Home Sweet Home...Home Safe Home," continues to grow. Members of Upper Valley Ambulance trained in identifying hazards in and around your home will meet with you to offer recommendations for a safer home environment. This no cost program was developed to reduce risks around your home and help you identify hazards in the hopes of preventing an injury from occurring. We strongly urge everyone to take advantage of this free program. If you would like to schedule an assessment, or would like to volunteer to assist us with this worthwhile program, please give our office a call.

Many of you are familiar with our Subscription Service. The yearly membership fee of \$30 entitles you to medically necessary emergency medical services at no additional cost to you. Applications are available at your local Town Offices, or at our business office on Lake Morey Road in Fairlee.

We encourage you to join your friends and neighbors who stop by to visit, or have their blood pressure checked at our Lake Morey Road facility. Please feel free to contact John Vose, Administrator or your Town Representative, if you have any questions concerning our service.

We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to serving you in the future. The Board of Directors, Administration and Employees of Upper Valley Ambulance, Inc. will continually strive to provide the highest quality emergency medical care at the lowest possible cost to all the citizens we serve.

Larry Lancaster, Chair
Board of Directors
Upper Valley Ambulance, Inc.

THE CLARA MARTIN CENTER

The Clara Martin Center's programs serve children, families and individuals coping with behavioral challenges, emotional stress, mental illness, alcohol and other drug problems. Services are confidential and include, but are not limited to:

- Counseling
- Psychiatric services
- Short term crisis intervention
- School-based and home-based services
- Education for families
- Community resource assistance
- Free walk-in clinic
- Help with job training
- Alcohol and other drug treatment
- Respite care
- 24-hour emergency system

Why should you help? The Clara Martin Center has continually demonstrated its commitment to the greater Orange County community and the 2003 calendar year has been no exception. In May, our Challenger School was awarded a long-term approval rating from the State of Vermont Department of Education. Staff were noted as being "top notch," with an overall sense of caring and flexibility regarding the needs of children.

In July, the Clara Martin Center received another three-year accreditation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities). This marks the 10th consecutive year in which the Agency has been accredited. A rigorous peer review demonstrated the Agency's adherence to internationally recognized standards. Strengths identified include the following:

- *Staff members throughout all areas of the organization demonstrate dedication and a commitment to providing quality services to individual persons served and the local community.*
- *The collaboration between CMC and other healthcare providers in the community allows for a more thorough and comprehensive approach to the care of persons served.*
- *The organization takes pride in and emphasizes maintaining a safe environment for the staff members and the persons served.*

	Total Served <u>in FY 2003</u>	Clients in <u>Strafford</u>
Children and Family Services	635	11
Adult Services	474	7
CSP Services *	180	1
Substance Abuse Services	1,140	3
Walk in Clinic Services	106	1
Emergency Contacts	<u>2,274</u>	<u>—</u>
Total Served:	4,809	23

Additionally, the Clara Martin Center provides services within the Newton Elementary School through our Home School Coordinator program.

**CSP is our community support program serving the chronically mentally ill population.*

CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

Since 1965, the Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc. has served low-income residents of Lamoille, Orange, and Washington Counties and nine communities in Windsor, Addison, and Rutland Counties. CVCAC's programs and services are designed to help families work toward better lives and to improve the overall quality of life in their communities. This year, CVCAC worked with nearly 9,000 individuals in 4,700 households through Head Start/Early Head Start, our Child Care Food Program, Community Economic Development programs, Family/Community Support Services, Welfare to Work programming, Weatherization assistance, Crisis Fuel resources, and Community Action Motors.

In our most recently completed program year, Central Vermont Community Action helped 4 individuals in 4 Strafford families with emergency assistance and comprehensive program services designed to teach important skills and help people access the resources they need to build better futures.

Here are some CVCAC program statistics for Strafford:

3 households received emergency assistance with food, shelter, Crisis Fuel, and other basic needs.

1 individual participated in our Community Economic Development programs, which include micro business development, individual development accounts, the Central Vermont Revolving Loan Fund, and the Vermont Women's Business Center.

Our 2004 Funding Request: Community Action uses a formula for our funding requests to all towns based on population, number of residents served, and dollars spent in each community. Based on that formula, we are requesting \$300 from the citizens of Strafford to support Community Action. Your support is critical to our work, and the Board and staff of Community Action are most grateful for your help.

Central Vermont Community Action Council is supported in part by the towns we serve!

ORANGE COUNTY COURT DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Orange County Court Diversion Program (OCCDP) is a cost effective alternative to the criminal court system for first offenders referred by the State's Attorney. It offers both juveniles and adults an opportunity to make amends for their offenses in a way that teaches responsible behavior and deters future delinquent or criminal activities. The State's Attorney dismisses the charges of participants who successfully complete Diversion, resulting in a clean record.

The OCCDP is a local non-profit organization run by a Board of Trustees and staffed by a three-quarter time director, a one-fifth time caseworker and the 28 community volunteers from Orange County who serve as Review Board members. A volunteer citizen Review Board interviews each offender and decides who will be accepted into the program. The main criteria for acceptance into the program are an admission of wrongdoing and no prior history of criminal activity. Each client accepted into

diversion is required to discuss all issues and questions concerning their offense with the Review Board. Throughout the discussion, the client is made aware of the concerns and needs of both the victim and the community, and held responsible for the offense. The Review Board designs an individualized contract that specifies the conditions of the person's participation. Contracts may involve an apology to the victim, mediation between offender and victim, restitution, mental health or substance abuse counseling, a jail tour, community service, a donation to a worthy cause, completion of a GED, a job search, writing an essay, or other appropriate activities related to the offense. Diversion clients have performed volunteer work for local libraries, hospitals, cemeteries, road crews, recycling centers, schools, senior centers, volunteer fire departments and the like. Approximately 85% of the clients who participate in the Orange County Court Diversion program successfully complete the program. Less than 5% of the clients who successfully complete the program end up becoming repeat offenders.

The citizen Review Board replaces the judge and jury in deciding how an offender must make amends for his/her wrongdoing. This approach is a powerful way to help the offender realize the impact and seriousness of the crime to his community and its citizens. For the offender, it takes the act out of the abstract and puts it in a real context where responsibility is both unavoidable and an expected outcome of the program.

In addition to processing criminal cases from court, the Orange County Court Diversion program administers Orange County's Teen Alcohol Safety Program for first time, civil cases of underage drinking. All clients who are referred on a civil offense of underage drinking meet with our Review Board and are required, in addition to other contract conditions, to complete an alcohol assessment and any recommended follow-up counseling or treatment services.

A total of 177 clients were referred for services during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2003. Of this number, 104 clients were referred from juvenile and adult court for criminal offenses, and 73 clients were referred for a civil offense of underage drinking. With the exception of a few cases that were transferred from other counties throughout the state, nearly all of the client caseload represented crimes and offenses that occurred in Orange County. In cases involving criminal offenses, clients who successfully completed their Diversion contract during FY 2003 paid a total of \$11,747 in restitution to victims and victim related causes, and performed 368 hours of community service.

Orange County Court Diversion budgeted \$70,421 for its FY 2003 operating budget. Approximately 80% of the operating budget was funded by a State grant and client fees. The remaining 20% of the program's funds came from miscellaneous and local funding sources. These local sources were Green Mountain United Way, town appropriations, and individual donations. For a number of years we have been proud to be supported by appropriations from every town in Orange County.

Thank you for your continued support. Questions and additional information concerning the program should be directed to David Savidge, Executive Director, Orange County Court Diversion, P.O. Box 58, Chelsea, VT 05038. (802-685-3172)

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns' mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. Most government services used by Vermonters on a daily basis are those provided by its cities and towns. These include highways, police, fire, recreation, sewer and water. Vermont municipal officials are responsible for raising and expending nearly one-half of the non-federal taxes raised in the state.

In large part, volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials lead these governments. VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns to serve and strengthen the ability of these officials to provide quality services at affordable levels of taxation:

Advocacy representation before the State legislature, administration and judiciary, ensuring that municipalities have the resources and authority to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate and in securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs.

Training, technical assistance, and publications to strengthen the ability of municipal officials to serve their communities. In the past year, we have responded to almost 50,000 calls, 21,200 of them from local officials on the toll-free telephone line available to them. Our Municipal Assistance Center and Group Services staffs provided over 750 workshops and small group training sessions attended by over 4,000 municipal officials and answered over 2,300 legal questions posed by municipal officials. VLCT distributed over 575 copies of local government publications and distributed over 3,200 copies of VLCT's *Weekly Legislative Report* to municipal officials each week during the legislative session.

Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost. These include an array of municipal insurance programs, among many others. Examples of how this saves local taxpayers' dollars are the securing of municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to your employees. The value of VLCT PACIF to all our members was made painfully clear this year when the major re-insurer for the largest private sector option available for municipal property and casualty insurance was placed in receivership by the State of Pennsylvania, threatening the payment of claims made under those policies.

All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 140 other municipal entities including villages and fire districts. Membership dues are \$0.72 per capita plus a \$250 service fee per year. VLCT maintains its offices in Montpelier and employs 42 staff members. It has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3.0 million.

Individuals interested in finding out more about Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including reviewing its audited financial statements, can visit its website at www.vlct.org.

TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

During 2003, the Regional Commission continued to provide technical expertise and resources for municipal officials as well as advocated for members' needs with the State Legislature and with state and federal agencies. We function as staff for many of our towns and most of our work was initiated at the request of Selectboards, Planning Commissions, and other town officials. Major accomplishments for this past year included:

Regional and Local Transportation Planning – The Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) worked with member municipalities on numerous local transportation projects. Two Rivers' staff wrote many Transportation Enhancement Grants and assisted our towns in procuring design engineers, processing requisitions for payment, and organizing public meetings for local input – Two Rivers helped projects get built. This office also assisted communities as they worked their way through the environmental permitting process on transportation projects.

Local Technical Assistance – Over the past year, we provided advice and support to all town officials on a wide range of activities. This included grant writing and administration, assistance on town plan revisions, ordinance development, GIS mapping, transportation planning, and Act 250 development review. The TRORC Region once again received the largest share of municipal planning grants statewide. This allowed our towns to conduct the planning necessary to respond to changes in state and federal requirements.

Emergency Planning Activities – The Regional Commission's emergency management planning program continued to be funded by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. Projects focused on all-hazards planning associated with natural- and man-made disasters. Our staff helped write and coordinate many of the \$800,000 First Responder Grants for safety equipment received by our towns.

Economic Development Planning – In 2003, the Regional Commission continued working on a \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant to assess the level of contamination on many sites throughout our Region. Once the level of contamination is known, the Regional Commission will help towns locate funding sources for clean-up. Additional federal dollars are being sought to continue this program. In addition, TRORC spent considerable time obtaining and maintaining the eligibility of our Region for federal economic development administration money. This resulted in over \$800,000 for the Town of Randolph.

We value your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
William B. Emmons, III, Chairperson, Pomfret

GEORGE D. AIKEN RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) has been "making things happen" for towns with natural resource conservation and rural development projects over the past year. We are here to serve your community. We coordinate and facilitate assistance to town governments, school districts, fire departments and nonprofit organizations in the six southern Vermont counties. By bringing together help from our extensive network of resources, we can focus technical and financial resources on your specific needs. We get technical assistance and staff help through the U.S. Department of Agriculture but private sources make up most of our budget. The Council is a self-supporting 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Highlights of our work in the six counties in 2003 include:

- 14 towns received funding to improve water quality and upgrade backroads through our better backroads grants.
- Two towns received complete water supply plans identifying all potential useable water sources for fire fighting in the town.
- 16 towns received funding and engineering assistance to design and install dry hydrants as a source of water to fight fires.
- 6 towns received Jeffords fire safety grants to purchase personal protective gear for firefighters.
- Numerous farmers received technical and marketing assistance with agritourism ventures.
- 5 farmers received grants to support agritourism on their farms.
- 10 towns received assistance from a consultant to help them prepare for an ISO (Insurance Service Office) evaluation. Towns are given a rating from 1 to 10 by the ISO and many insurance companies use that rating to set their rates. If a town can lower their ISO rating, it may lead to lower insurance costs for businesses and residents in that town.
- We continue to serve as the fiscal agent for the White River Partnership and Connecticut River Birding Trail.
- Teams of high school students from throughout the area participated in the Vermont Envirothon.

Other current projects include helping a town with flooding problems, erosion control and streambank stabilization in several locations, helping to develop community centers and recreation fields. We currently have funding available for low interest loans (3.0-5.0%) to develop agritourism ventures on farms. Do you have a project or program that could use some assistance to "make it happen"? Over the years, the George D. Aiken RC&D Council has helped many communities and organizations on a variety of projects. We work on a request basis, so the first step is up to you, giving us a call. For information and free consultation, call Kenneth Hafner, our RC&D Coordinator, at 802-728-9526 or email kenneth.hafner@vt.usda.gov.

STRAFFORD RECYCLING REPORT

The switch to a 'commingled' collection system has been made and dramatically simplified the handling of the recyclables by our volunteers. In fact, we have for the most part reduced the volunteers' presence to one person per Saturday rather than two or in some cases more. After holidays or at certain times of the year, especially during special collections, it still makes sense to have several volunteers present, but for all practical purposes most of the heavy lifting and the frantic pace are a thing of the past.

The next change on the horizon is the relocation of the Recycling Center to the field adjacent to the South Strafford Fire Department Sub-Station. The membership of the Fire Department generously offered the field to the Town for consideration as a site for the recycling program, recognizing that there is a safety hazard at the Sand Pit on Saturday mornings during winter storms with the town plow-trucks coming in to load up with sand and that there is at least the possibility that the Town Garage may someday be relocated there. The Fire Department has approved a memorandum of understanding, subject to a legal review by an attorney of its choice, for the use by the Town of that field for the Recycling Center. The state regulatory requirements have already essentially been satisfied and the Town may, in addition, have access to solid waste district funds which could help with the cost of developing the site.

The Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District's (GUV) tentative schedule for special collections in the coming year include a scrap metal collection on Green Up Day (5/1/04) and another one on 9/18/04. Nearby, tires and big trash will be collected in Thetford on 4/24/04 and tires collected in Sharon on Green Up Day. Household Hazardous Waste will be collected at the Hartford Recycling Center on 6/12/04 and again on 9/11/04. Contact GUV at 296-3688 for more specific information.

Another advantage of the reduced volunteer coverage with the 'commingled' collection system is that our loyal volunteers work less frequently during the course of the year. As with many things, including cars and tires, the less use, we hope, means the longer they will last. Again our thanks go to all our volunteers and especially to Vince Robinson, Sherm Wilson and Dan Deneen for their willingness on occasion to open and set up the Recycling Center.

Strafford's Recycling Center is open Saturdays from 9 AM to Noon. It is sponsored by the Strafford Area Lions Club and coordinated through the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District. Special recycling collection events are available through GUV.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Strafford is a charter member of the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District which was created in 1990 for the express purpose of managing waste generated within its member municipalities. Services to Strafford and its residents in 2003 included:

- Access to household hazardous waste & recycling services required by the State of VT.
- Planning for the town's long-term waste management needs, including continued planning and development of the North Hartland landfill.
- Technical assistance to Strafford in planning efforts for the Town's recycling center.
- Direct service to 255 Strafford residents who participated in District sponsored events including household hazardous waste events, scrap metal collection, used oil collection, compost bin sales, tire collections, clothing recycling, bulky waste collection, and computer recycling events.

We welcome your suggestions on ways to improve our services and are always on the outlook for new opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle. District events for the upcoming collection season will be available at Town Meeting, at all Town Clerks' offices, and the District office at 296-3688 or www.guvswd.org.

Fred Moody
Executive Director, GUVSWMD

CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District provides leadership, education, and services for residents and businesses in reducing and managing their solid waste in order to protect public health and the environment to the greatest extent feasible.

From July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, the District worked toward achieving both measurable results, such as increased recycling and resident participation rates, as well as the kinds of qualitative results that grow out of hands-on educational workshops and one-on-one interactions.

The District board of supervisors and staff also developed the District's new Solid Waste Implementation Plan during this time, and submitted it to the state. This document will guide the District's work for the next 10 years, and sets a new tone for District programming. From this point forward, we will be striving to develop and implement a philosophy and programming which leads to a Zero Waste region. Our hope is that we will no longer produce "trash" which needs to be disposed of, but will instead utilize it as resources for the production of something new. For example, business and residential food and yard waste will no longer be seen as "waste," but rather as the raw materials for compost, improving the soil throughout the region and increasing the health of our agricultural economy.

We are excited about the possibilities, and we encourage you to review our Plan for yourself. It's available on our website: www.cvswwmd.com, under the Member Town Info link.

Here are some of the highlights of the District's program work. Please contact us for

more information about specific programs and services – 802-229-9383. Please call for a copy of our complete FY 2003 Annual Report.

- **Illegal Dumping Prevention** – Three new illegal dump sites were cleaned and adopted through the Adopt-A-Site program, bringing the total number of sites member communities have worked on to 38. Work at new sites and maintenance of existing sites yielded 2.8 tons of trash, 9 electronic components, 12 yards of metal, 146 tires, and one gallon of household hazardous waste. The cleanups cost \$1,110 and were undertaken by 108 volunteers in 151 volunteer hours.
- **Illegal Burning Prevention** – Burning garbage, tires and treated wood in barrels, wood stoves and open piles is dangerous to humans and the environment. The District's approach to this persistent problem is education first. Information was distributed throughout member communities via point-of-purchase displays, radio and print ads, fliers, and at home shows.
- **Recycling Depots** – During FY 2003, more than 770 tons of recyclables were collected at 9 District staffed and volunteer depots, in addition to 71 tires, 425 tons of metal, 411 tons of cardboard, and 391 appliance freon units. In addition, the District was responsible for managing the trash collected at three of the depots; it totaled 1,168 tons.
- **Hazardous Waste** – 392 households and 30 businesses utilized the nine collections held May through October 2003, *104 more households and 18 more businesses* than last year. Hazardous wastes collected included: 17,239 lbs. of paint products; 518 lbs. of household products; 11 mercury thermometers; 3.5 lbs. of mercury; 585 lbs. of pesticides; 5,462 ft. (more than one mile!) of fluorescent bulbs; 92 lbs. of asbestos; 3,715 lbs. of flammable liquids; 240 lbs. of acids, bases and reactives; 204 lbs. of oily solids; 1,241 lbs. of ballasts; and 41 propane tanks.
- **Non-Toxics Education** – 210 families in 13 elementary schools throughout the District took part in the eight-week DeTox Family Program for parents and school staff. The program aims to help reduce the use of toxic products in the home and in schools. 73% of follow-up survey respondents indicated they use fewer hazardous products now, as a result of the program.
- **Art & the 3Rs Workshops** – Education staff led 19 Art & the 3Rs Workshops in nine District communities via community centers, alternative education programs, Community Connections, school-based Green Up Day celebrations, Studio Place Arts in Barre, and the Washington County Youth Service Bureau Teen Center.
- **Clothing Drop 'N Swap** – This biannual event diverts tons of clothing from disposal; about 1,000 District residents take part in each event.
- **Junk Car Assistance** – The District offers assistance with the free removal of junk cars from member towns. We helped 51 residents recycle 66 vehicles in FY 2003.
- **Green Up Day Grants** – 18 member communities received reimbursement for Green Up Day activities in FY 2003. The average reimbursement per town was \$266.52.
- **Computer Collections** – The District collected 36,894 lbs. of computer equipment for recycling through an on-going collection at the Barre Town Recycling Depot and 3 special collections held in conjunction with satellite household hazardous waste collections.

**TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 2, 2004**

The legal voters of the Strafford Town School District are hereby **WARNED AND NOTIFIED** to meet at the Town Hall in Strafford on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 1:00 P.M., to transact the following business:

- Article I.** To Elect a Moderator.
- Article II.** To Hear and Act upon the report of the School Directors.
- Article III.** To See if the voters will authorize the Board of School Directors to accept the gift of the Rosa B. Tyson Building, described in a deed at Book 31, Page 220, from the Strafford Athletic Association, Inc., and approve the creation of a capital reserve fund in the amount of \$6,000 for maintenance projects and capital improvements to the building.
- Article IV.** To Vote the sum of \$2,367,169 for the support of the School District for the 2004-2005 school year.
- Article V.** To Authorize the expenditure of \$31,861 for the 2004-2005 school year to permit the operation of a second bus and second regular bus route for students of The Newton School.
- Article VI.** To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years and one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.
- Article VII.** To Address any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Dated: January 26, 2004

Strafford Board of School Directors:

Tom Diamond, Chairperson
Therese Linehan, Vice Chairperson
Kerry Claffey, Clerk
Tom Cecere, Member
Gretchen Rittenhouse, Member

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
TOWN OF STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
March 4, 2003**

Melvin Coburn, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Moderator Coburn then read the Warning for the School District in its entirety.

Article I: To Elect a Moderator.

The article was moved and seconded. Melvin Coburn was nominated. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed, one ballot cast and Melvin Coburn was elected.

Article II: To Hear and act upon the report of the School Directors.

The article was moved and seconded. Josh Kahan, Vice Chairman of the School Directors, in the absence of Chairman Bill Williams, introduced the other members of the Board and the Orange Windsor Supervisory Union staff. He thanked Lou Lafasciano for a job well done noting that when one goes to the school they can easily see a hardworking staff and happy kids. He thanked Barbara Murray who is retiring after 35 years of service to the school. Tom Diamond then gave a brief overview of the past year. He said that under the leadership of Bill Williams one of the major goals was to continue building confidence with the community and that at the end of the school year the school district had no outstanding debt. There may be a small deficit for the coming school year due to a couple of clerical errors in the teachers' salary scale and restoring the second bus. Other items such as Special Education increases and failed septic systems are beyond the Board's control. However, starting the new school year the debt was at zero. Therese Linehan, representative to Thetford Academy Board, said they are trying to make the school the best it can be. Test scores are rising and SAT scores for Thetford ranked second. Martha Rich was introduced and said that a 3-year agreement had been signed for the Acceptance of Designation guaranteeing that any student from Newton can go to Thetford at any time. Newton has one of the best writing programs in the state. Thetford has aligned its science curriculum to Newton's. Kerry Claffey reported on the transportation. There will be changes next year, as the bus service will be contracted out. The school board will have say in the buses and drivers. Lou Lafasciano felt that the five-member board has been a success, citing the division of labor as the key. We have a wonderful school staff who makes things happen in our school.

Representative Ann Seibert was invited to speak. She is on the Education Committee. Work is being done on Act 60 possibly raising the State Education Tax to \$1.38 and the Block Grant to \$7,000. She would support some of the education funding being raised by income tax. Legislature is considering a consumer tax and service tax to help fund Act 60.

Moderator Coburn called for the vote and Article II was accepted.

Article III: To Vote the sum of \$2,223,653.00 for the support of the School District for the 2003-2004 school year.

The motion was made and seconded. Josh Kahan presented the budget. More money is being requested but people need to go through the school and see what is being done with those funds. Last year the \$192,000 deficit was wiped out. This year there will be a small deficit due to the NAP program being short and problems with the septic system. The increase to \$2.2 million for the 2003-2004 year will keep the same quality of education. We will see changes in transportation due to selling our buses and contracting out the service. The 6.8% increase will result in a 16% increase in the tax rate. We have continued to improve on the programs. The high school tuition in the range of \$700,000 will go up on population alone. Transportation being contracted out means no expense to maintain buses. Josh was asked to explain the NAP deficit. In the past it was accounted for in a special account. \$20,000 was designated for the program but only \$5,000 came in for revenue. Lou said that it was a service that had been expanded from 3 to 5 days but this year parent use of the program had dropped off. It has been dropped from the budget since there doesn't seem to be a need. Concern was expressed about sending Special Ed students to other schools at \$50,000 to \$60,000. Josh said that we couldn't service mandates for highly specialized needs. There are kids that need help beyond the services of this school. Don McMahon, Special Ed Coordinator at OWSU, said that we don't want to send kids out but other communities have programs that meet their needs. There are two students that are sent out part-time. One voter commented that proposals of 40% tax increases have been made in the last 2 years and that the budget should be voted down. Josh said that only those with an income over \$70,000 get the full 16% increase. The general consensus is that the School Board has done a good job. It would send the wrong message to the children and detract from their education to vote the budget down. We do need to send a message to Montpelier that Act 60 needs a lot of work and to Washington that Federal unfunded mandates are not acceptable. About 75% of Vermonters get rebates. This year we will have to pay \$88,000 into the sharing pool and next year we will have to raise \$770,000 for the local education share and pay \$130,000 to the sharing pool. Moderator Coburn called for the vote and Article III was accepted.

Article IV: To Authorize expenditure in amount of \$11,219 to provide instruction in a foreign language for the 2003-2004 school year.

The motion was made and seconded. Therese Linehan said that this was presented as a separate article to see how voters feel about foreign language in the curriculum. The younger children start foreign languages, the better the results. Middle schools in our area offer some form of foreign language. If the article passes, the classes will be mandatory for grades 5 through 8. This is a critical component for an excellent education. Foreign language benefits our kids in verbal skills. Joey Hawkins taught Latin last year but she only teaches 4 mornings per week now. When we lost her full time, we lost the program. The vote was called and Article IV was accepted.

Article V: To Authorize the expenditure of \$14,000 for buildings and grounds for the 2003-2004 school year to permit replacement of flooring (carpet or tile) in one classroom, shim coating the pavement on the south side of the school building, and purchase of a floor machine for use on tile floors.

The motion was made and seconded. Josh Kahan did the breakout of \$6,200 for pavement, \$3,700 for floor machine, and \$2,900 for floor plus 10% for variances. The building needs a lot more work done. We will need to spend more when the septic is fixed. A voter asked if the septic could be added to the Article. John Freitag suggested we amend to read "or other capital items for greater need." The Moderator ruled the amendment out of order. Josh said the septic was an act of God and needed to be fixed. Curt Albee said that when the septic system was put in, the design was for two leach fields in case something like this happened. Josh said that capital improvements are separate from education. The buildings need to be maintained on a yearly basis and we need to get on a 3 to 5 year schedule for maintenance. The vote was called and Article V was accepted.

Article VI: To Elect one (1) School Director for a term of three (3) years and one (1) School Director for a term of two (2) years.

Tom Cecere was nominated for the three-year term. Nominations were closed and Tom Cecere was elected.

Tom Diamond was nominated for the two-year term. Nominations were closed and Tom Diamond was elected.

Article VII: To See if the voters will authorize the Strafford Board of School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of revenue to properly conduct the business of the District.

The motion was made and seconded. There being no discussion, the vote was called. Article VII was accepted.

Article VIII: To Address any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Melvin Coburn, Moderator, asked the voters if we needed both representatives to speak to us at future meetings. The general consensus seemed to be that one was enough unless we are represented by two different parties.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Melvin Coburn
Moderator

Shelby A. Coburn
Town Clerk

Joshua Kahan
School Director, Vice Chair

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT

As information for anyone who has not yet heard, the best news for our school tax rate is that Act 60 is gone. It has been revamped with some major changes, the most important one being the end of the "sharing pool" that was penalizing many supposedly wealthy communities, Strafford among them. Under the new Act 68 we no longer have to send extra money to the state's Education Fund. This will save us a considerable amount of money. Please be aware, however, that the gains are very likely to be short lived. As the new rules are phased in over the next few years, we will probably again find ourselves in an uncomfortable situation. All we can do is wait and see while continuing to do our best to control costs without jeopardizing the quality of education that Strafford has come to expect for our children.

That quality of education was again evident in the comparison of our student performance on the required standardized testing. In almost every category, the Newton School was shown to be scoring far above average compared to the rest of the State of Vermont. Vermont, it should be mentioned, was ranked very high against the rest of the country. No matter how you look at it, Newton students are doing very well. There is always room to improve, but thanks to the dedication of our staff and administration along with the hard work of our students we can and should be proud of the results.

Now let's talk budget. It is with great pleasure that we can report, as of this writing, that the School District is in good financial shape. While last year did end with a shortfall, if things don't change dramatically, we should be able to pay it off by the end of this year. Thanks to prudent fiscal policies now in place and the unfailing efforts of the entire leadership team, financial matters are under much firmer control.

When you read through the new budget presentation, please understand that there are some changes in how it needs to be reported, the most substantial of which is that under the new Act 68 rules some items that did not need to be included in the past because they were directly offset by grant funding are now part of the budget. The revenue report also includes the same changes so there is no real effect other than it makes the new budget seem bigger because it makes the bottom line larger. Rest assured that some of the apparent increase is because of these changes. For easier comparison, the budget numbers in the chart reflecting last year have been adjusted to look like they would have under the same new rules.

Other changes include the addition of the foreign language program that was voted for last year in Article IV. As was discussed then, while the Board felt teaching a foreign language was an educational need, it was left as a separate article in order for the community to discuss the issue without having it affect the vote on the main budget. This program is now under way and is considered by the Board to be a regular part of the curriculum.

For the same reason of discussion without affecting the vote on the regular budget, the new budget again includes only one bus with the second bus covered under a separate article. Last year the same reduction in service was proposed as a cost

saving measure. After cutting and then restoring the service, the Board feels that it is time to have the full community decide and provide the direction needed.

Because of a decreasing student population that allows for a projected reduction in staff, when all the math is done, even if the extra bus article is passed, you will see that the net increase to the budget has stayed below 4%. Combined with the new Act 68 funding rules, the net effect will be a lowering of the school portion of the tax rate. It is too soon to tell exactly how much, but it should certainly be noticeable. Having more exact figures to work with would be nice but please keep in mind that this is being written in mid-January and no official numbers from the state have been provided yet.

One of the other items that can be expected to come up for discussion will be the Newton School being given ownership of the Rosa B. Tyson Gym from the Strafford Athletic Association. This makes sense because it would have a positive effect on the town's tax rate. As it now stands, the building is included on the town's Grand List and counts against us for tax valuations. If ownership were given to the School District, the building would become tax exempt and lower the value of our Grand List.

The Board also wants to bring up the issue of whether the town thinks it prudent to start putting some extra money into special reserve funds to help offset future increases in items such as high school tuitions, special ed. or building and grounds improvements. What makes a reserve fund unique is that, by law, once the money is put aside it can only be used for the specified purpose. You can expect further clarification during discussion at Town Meeting.

In closing, it is necessary to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes our school community such a success. It is certainly due to the efforts of our dedicated and professional teachers, principal and the entire Newton School staff, along with the direction and guidance they (and we) receive from the leadership team at the Supervisory Union, that we have such a wonderful school. Special thanks also need to go out to our incredible PTA. We should all appreciate the seemingly unending work these devoted volunteers do for our school and students. Of course, none of it would be possible without the support, financial and otherwise, of the entire Strafford community.

Please stop in and see for yourself the wonderful learning environment that we have at the Newton School. It is something special that the whole community can take pride in.

Respectfully submitted,
Strafford School District
Board of Directors

Tom Diamond, Chair
Therese Linehan, Vice-Chair
Kerry Claffey, Clerk
Tom Cecere
Gretchen Rittenhouse

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL THE NEWTON SCHOOL

All those in favor of New England Town Meeting say, "Aye." All those opposed, say, "Nay." The "Ayes" have it! This method of governance reaches back to our very roots of existence as a democratic society. We look forward to the opportunity to speak to the issues and to discuss with our neighbors the best ways to meet our community's needs within the formal setting of Town Meeting. This year we will proudly continue that tradition.

Townpeople across Vermont will wrestle with many issues at Town Meeting. Public education is usually at the top of the list, especially since it is a responsibility for which the state is held accountable. However, the "No Child Left Behind" legislation and its embedded mandates have elevated public education to the level of national debate. As Mr. Bush pushes forward the new federal legislation which aspires to leave no child behind and contenders for the presidency such as Dr. Dean advocate to take back America, let's talk about public education at the local level. This is where the discussion belongs.

The Newton School is a public school, supported in large part by you, the taxpayers of Strafford. Property taxes of residents and non-residents alike help fund the bulk of our educational program. However, we are also fortunate to have the generosity of community members and area foundations to help our school program flourish beyond the commitment of Act 68. We work hard to blend the public and private monies which we receive to provide the very best education possible for Strafford youth while living within the financial means of our community.

This year's budget reflects a school program which has been reorganized with an eye to the future. We have established three grade-level learning clusters: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, which can accommodate the fluctuation of student population we anticipate in the years to come. As student numbers decline we will still be able to staff each learning cluster in a way which maximizes student learning while minimizing program expense. To illustrate this point the following comparison will show you the break-out of students and core staff (in Full Time Equivalents) by learning cluster for this year and next:

		2003-2004 (Actual)	2004-2005 (Anticipated)
K-2 Cluster	Students:	33	28
	Staff:	2.5	2.0
3-5 Cluster	Students:	30	30
	Staff:	2.0	2.0
6-8 Cluster	Students:	57	51
	Staff:	3.9	3.4

NOTE: This comparison does not include grant-funded staff due to the tentative nature of these grant monies. Also, foreign language is not represented in this chart.

We will continue to make every attempt at maintaining program quality while reducing costs wherever possible. Here are some other highlights to consider:

Next year in the Unified Arts we intend to staff Art, Music and Physical Education at .3 FTE (with an additional .2 FTE for Athletic Coordination by the P.E. teacher) respectively. This slight reduction permits us to continue each of these three integral programs while combining multiage groups for classes. In addition, we intend to offer Foreign Language at the middle level grades with a .4 FTE position; this is a first time offering. As we continue to implement our school's reorganization over the years to come we will now have the flexibility to adjust staffing based on our student population without impacting significantly on programming.

For me as principal it is essential that we look to the future in planning programming so our school can continue to remain viable as a community school in a cost-effective manner. To be successful you and I together will need to continue to make a commitment to providing our community's youth with a quality education. I remember being asked two questions in recent years which I want to share with you; my response to each question will give you insight into how I intend to lead our school in the future:

Question #1: "Lou, does our school really need to be that good? Don't misunderstand me; it's not that I'm against education. I just don't get why our school has to provide the best for its students."

Answer to #1: "Well, I understand the context of your question has to do with the funding of education. It's true that education costs, but it's also true that it's the absolute responsibility of every community to provide education to its children. What was 'good enough' for you growing up is no longer good enough for this upcoming generation. This is a whole new world these young people have been thrust into and it's our job and obligation to prepare them as best as we can. It's our mission! We need to do so in a manner that is responsible to the children as well as the taxpayers and make sure we're doing more than 'good enough'. We have to do our best."

Question #2: "O.K. Lou, so what you're telling me is that our school is THAT good. Where's the proof to back that up?"

Answer to #2: "That's exactly what I'm telling you! But don't take my word for it; take a look at our student achievement results and the overall performance of our school. Look at the data based on the progress of individual students; analyze in comparison to other schools in the state and other students throughout the country. We are, indeed, THAT good. Come into our school and take a look at the commitment to learning and teaching demonstrated by all the students and staff you see and meet. Listen to the comments of our school's partners at Gifford and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospitals, Clara Martin Mental Health Center, the State Department of Education and Vermont Institutes, the University of Vermont, and the list goes on. Look at the commitment from local organizations such as the school PTA, the Strafford Area Lions Club, the Strafford Athletic Association, the Upper Valley Trust, just to name a few. In other words, let the data speak for itself; don't just take my word for it. Yes, we are THAT good, and we should all be proud of this small, rural Vermont school which is setting the example for others."

Elliot Eisner (2002), Professor of Education and Art at Stanford (CA) University writes that the kind of schools we need would show evidence of the following characteristics:

“...would help students gradually assume increased responsibility for framing their own goals and learning how to achieve them;

...would recognize that different forms of representation develop different forms of thinking, convey different kinds of meaning, and make possible different qualities of life;

...would recognize that the most important forms of learning are those that students know how to use [not just inside of school, but] outside of school;

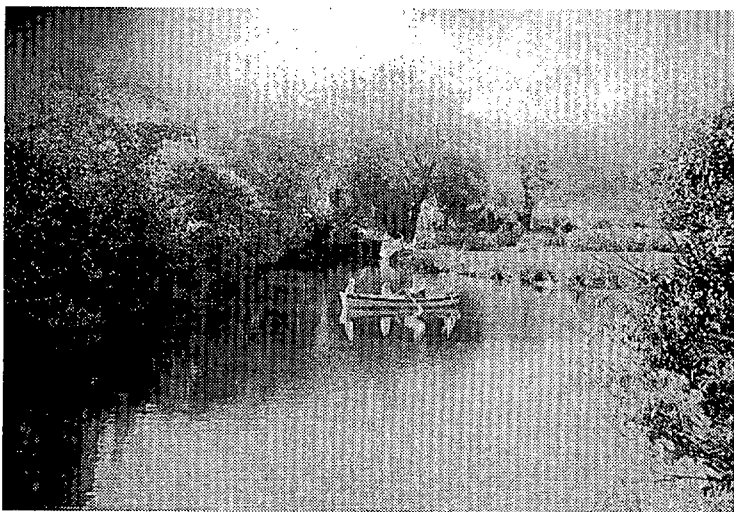
...would help students learn how to participate in that complex and subtle art [of conversation], an art that requires learning how to listen as well as how to speak...”

(pp. 576-583)

Come visit our school and see how we represent “the kind of school we need” as described by Dr. Eisner. The Newton School and all of us who belong to that school community represent an extended “Family of Learners” (Lafasciano, 2003) dedicated to the type of public education which reflects the past, focuses on the present, and keeps an eye to the future. On behalf of the board of school directors, the school staff and volunteers, the school partners and support agencies, and, especially on behalf of our students, THANK YOU for helping and supporting us to be the kind of school we are.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis L. Lafasciano
Principal



Boating on millpond at Adelbert Clark's sawmill

R.H. Nicholls photo, Strafford Historical Society collections

EDUCATIONAL REPORT OF THE STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assessment Results and Action Planning

The Newton School maintains a comprehensive assessment plan which monitors student performance. A variety of local, state and national assessments are used to gauge how well students are doing in acquiring the skills, knowledge and understanding they need as they grow and develop into young adults. The focus of the plan is to annually assess student progress in our efforts to develop life-long learners. The assessments include local grade-level test/projects/reports, statewide standards-based exams, and national norm-referenced tests commonly known as achievement tests. This school report discusses student performance on the state-required standards-based exams and the norm-referenced national tests administered at designated grade levels in the year 2003.

By the time you read this year's educational report, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the "No Child Left Behind" Act, will be fully implemented. One of the requirements of ESEA is annual testing for grades 3 through 8 in the areas of reading and mathematics by school year 2005-2006. I am very pleased to report that our school district had already implemented a comprehensive assessment plan prior to the creation of this law. A brief outline of our plan follows:

- Grade 2: Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)
- Grade 3: Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 9)
- Grade 4: New Standards Reference Exam (NSRE)
- Grade 5: Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 9)
- Grade 6: Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 9)
- Grade 7: Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 9)
- Grade 8: New Standards Reference Exam (NSRE)

The DRA is specifically designed as a reading assessment for students in grade 2. The SAT 9 is an achievement test for students in grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 which measures performance in all academic areas, including reading and mathematics. The NSRE is designed to assess students in grades 4 and 8 on English/language arts and mathematics standards. (Note: Testing of students in grades K, 1, 2 on the SAT 9 was deemed inappropriate, and the NSRE is used for students in grades 4 and 8 in lieu of the SAT 9).

In addition, portfolios of authentic student work are maintained at each grade level from kindergarten through grade 8 in writing and mathematics. Student portfolios for grades 5 and 8 writing and for grades 4 and 8 mathematics are scored locally by teachers who have been calibrated by the State Department of Education. The random sample of those portfolio scores is monitored and checked by education officials at the Vermont D.O.E. Student portfolios provide an ongoing, in-depth picture of student understanding and competence in writing and mathematics.

Background Information

The state first fully implemented standards-based testing in reading, writing and mathematics in 1998; our school was part of the previous pilot testing which took place in 1996 and 1997. Reference to prior years' Town Reports will provide the reader with a longitudinal look at our school's overall student performance and that of all students in the state of Vermont. The Newton School students have continued to perform well over the years, and this year is no exception. For a more thorough examination of our school's student performance data, feel free to go to the Vermont D.O.E.'s web site, <http://data.ed.state.vt.us/apg/index.html>.

Our school has been identified as a high performing school. In reviewing our Department of Education report at the Center for Rural Studies web site, <http://crs.uvm.edu/schlrrpt/cfusion/schlrrpt03/complete.cfm?psid=PS206>, it is apparent that we are a school that is average by most comparisons; however, when reviewing student performance data, it is obvious that we are a school which exceeds state averages. The state has instituted an accountability system based on student performance and ranked schools with an accountability index. There is no one state-wide average index for comparing our school to others. Yet, there is an average accountability index for schools with a grade configuration of kindergarten through grade 8; that average is below 400. To put this figure in perspective, the Vermont D.O.E.'s expectation is that all schools reach the maximum accountability index of 500. No school has reached 500; however, our school's index of 456 places us as one of the best performing schools in the state of Vermont.

Introduction

For our purposes in this report, it is important to note that the number of students tested in each grade level is small; assessment experts consider a small N any number of students below 20. Generally speaking, the reader must use caution when comparing test results with small samples of students. Furthermore, standards-based exam results rely heavily on curriculum alignment to the test. Although we cannot address the problem created by our quantity of students taking the test, we can and do influence the quality of their learning which the test results underscore. Teachers have worked diligently through the years to align the school's curricula with the Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities and by extension with the topics covered by the standards-based exams. Without a close correlation between what is taught and what is tested, our students would not be able to perform as well as they have. The key points to remember are that small numbers of test takers and the ongoing curriculum review/revision force us to proceed with this analysis cautiously. Other factors such as "cohort effects" and changes in the test itself further emphasize the need to exercise caution in interpreting these results and comparing them to other years and/or other schools. Despite all of these caveats, it is important to recognize that we are gaining a better understanding about student achievement at our school.

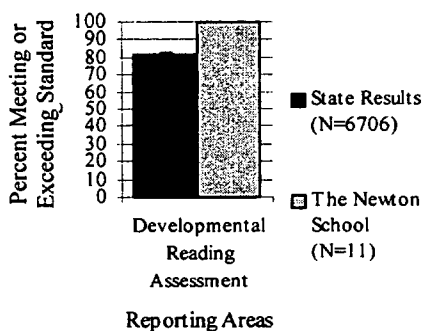
READING AND ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENTS

Highlights:

- Once again, the second grade students' reading performance was outstanding – 100% of the class met or exceeded the standard.
- A range of fourth graders (63% to 94%) consistently performed above the state average in all areas of reading and writing, with a range of 6% to 19% falling shy of the standard.
- Students in eighth grade consistently out-performed the state in all areas of reading and writing, ranging from 61% to 94% meeting or exceeding the standard.

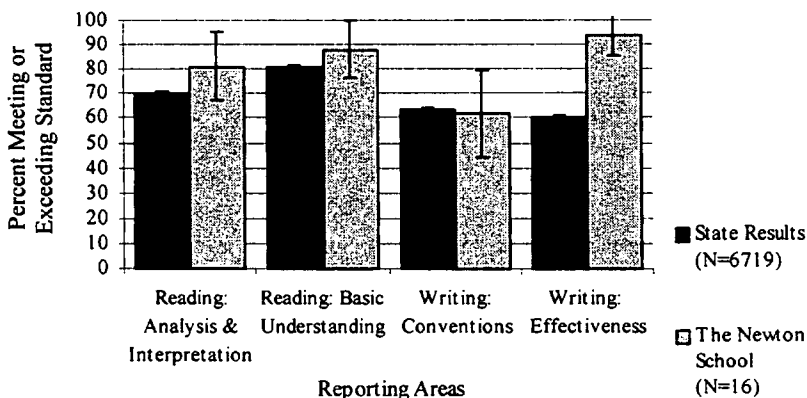
The accompanying graph shows the results of the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) administered in the spring to last year's class of 11 students. Students individually read aloud short books to a teacher and then retell what has been read. The teacher uses a standard protocol to score for reading accuracy, comprehension, and fluency. 100% of the class achieved or exceeded the standard. The past several years of consistency (the prior year 100% of the class achieved or exceeded the standard) are a testament to the hard work the K-2 teachers and staff have made in building early readers at our school.

**The Newton School (2003)
Grade 2 Early Reading**

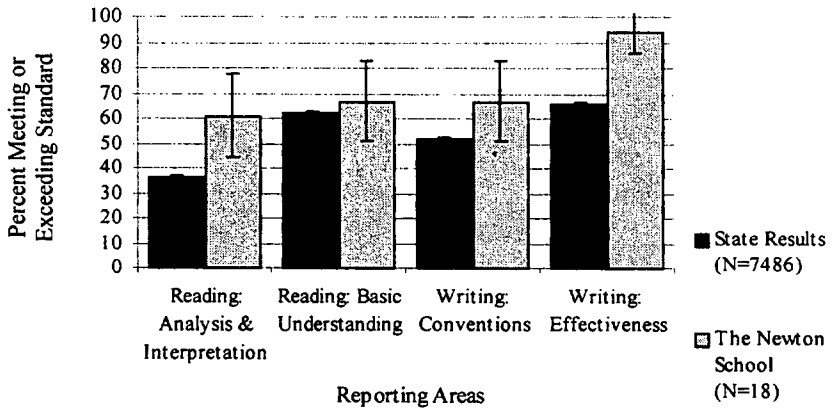


The New Standards Reference Exam in English and Language Arts was administered last spring to 16 fourth graders and 18 eighth graders. For this exam, students write an essay, complete multiple-choice questions about short passages, and write responses to questions about a longer passage. They receive two reading scores – basic understanding and analysis/interpretation; and two writing scores – conventions (grammar, usage, mechanics) and effectiveness. Although this year's results show a slight decline over the previous year's, scores are consistent with overall performance through the years and continue to be above the state averages.

**The Newton School (2003)
Grade 4 English/Language Arts**



The Newton School (2003) Grade 8 English/Language Arts

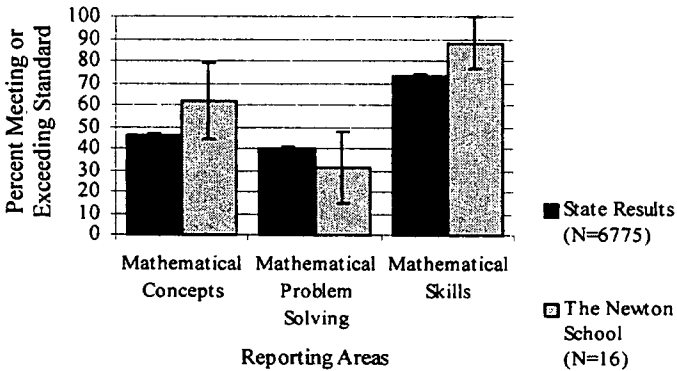


MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENTS

Highlights:

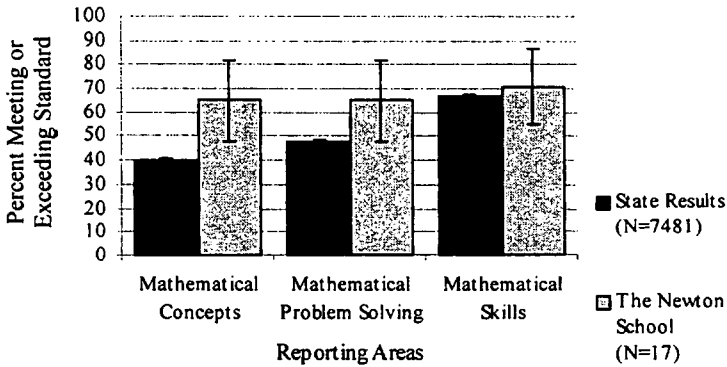
- Fourth graders continue to show strength in their overall mathematics, with the highest performance represented by 88% of students in mathematics skills and lowest achievement reflecting 63% of students nearly meeting, meeting, or exceeding the standard.
- Students in eighth grade performed consistently in all three areas of mathematics, exceeding the state average with a range of 64% to 71% meeting or exceeding the standard.

The Newton School (2003) Grade 4 Mathematics



A total of 16 fourth graders and 17 eighth graders took the New Standards Reference Exam in Mathematics last spring. Students were asked to complete multiple choice and problem-solving questions. They were assessed on accurate and appropriate use of mathematical skills, understanding of mathematical concepts, and application of skills and concepts in problem-solving in four areas – numbers & operations, functions & algebra, geometry & measurement, and probability & statistics. The overall student performance still outpaces state averages.

The Newton School (2003) Grade 8 Mathematics



ACHIEVEMENT TEST RESULTS

Highlights:

- Grade 3 students performed above grade level equivalents in all areas, earning the highest scores in Reading, Science, and Social Studies.
- Students in Grade 5 performed at or above grade level in all areas, earning the highest scores in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
- Grade 6 students performed above grade level in all areas except Spelling, earning excellent scores in Reading, Mathematics, Study Skills, Science, and Higher Order Thinking Skills.
- Seventh graders performed above grade levels in all areas with the scores in all areas ranging from 1 year above grade level to college level performance.

The Stanford Achievement Test enables the reader to compare how students are doing in relation to a large, representative national sample of students. The best single score for describing results on this type of test is the national percentile; however, the easiest to understand is the grade level equivalent scores. The national percentile represents the percentage of students in the norm group whose scores fall below a given score. The grade level equivalent represents student performance gauged against how the norm-tested students performed at related grade levels.

Last Spring, students in Grades 3, 5, 6 and 7 took the SAT 9. There were 8 third graders, 18 fifth graders, 13 sixth graders, and 26 seventh graders. Just as the reader was cautioned by the small number (N) of students in classes and the "cohort effect" for the New Standards Reference Exam, the same holds true here. The difference is that the NSRE tests students against a standard where the SAT 9 tests students as compared to other students at the relatively same age/grade level. For our purposes, grade equivalents and the percentage of students performing at or above the 50th percentile are reported here.

There are several categories of SAT 9 which assess student performance. The first area is Reading with sub-headings entitled Vocabulary and Comprehension. The second area is Mathematics with sub-categories of Problem-solving and Procedures. The third area is Language which consists of Language, Mechanics, and Expression. Spelling comprises a separate area unto itself, as do Study Skills. The Environment, Science, and Social Science (a.k.a. Social Studies) make up the next area. The final areas that follow are: Listening, Using Information, and Thinking Skills. These totals provide a broad-based comparison to the norm group which serves as the reference point for the test.

CONCLUSION

The results of various assessments of student performance that are administered continue to be very gratifying. Overall, our students excel in both the basics and higher order thinking, understanding and expression, especially in comparison with other students in Vermont and across the nation. The community has every reason to be proud of the Newton School – both students and staff alike!

These results and others in the areas of health and social well-being which are provided by the Vermont Agency of Human Services serve as the basis for the development of our school's Action Plan. Each school in the state of Vermont is required to develop a plan of action for school improvement. The steering committee for that plan consists of various members of the school community – parents and community members, teachers and staff, board members and administrators; the action plan they develop should be guided by the school's evolving mission.

The revised mission of our school proposes:

The fundamental commitment of all members of the Newton School community is to provide educational opportunities for every student that:

- *promote academic excellence, social responsibility, positive self-image, personal health and fitness, and a love of learning;*
- *recognize and develop unique talents and personal interests;*
- *provide excellent preparation for high school and life;*
- *develop effective, capable, and responsible citizens of our town, our country and our global community.*

This will be accomplished within the financial means of the Strafford Community.

The Action Plan itself is meant to serve as a road map for school improvement. Our focus on curriculum areas includes Reading/Language Arts, Science and Mathematics. It will also be essential for us to further develop our comprehensive assessment program to measure student progress and program effectiveness. In addition, our school will continue to focus on health and wellness.

The Newton School continues to serve the needs of Strafford youth. As each year passes the hope is that we become better at carrying out that responsibility in a more formal and systematic fashion.

Reading	Total Reading	84	7	7.6	86
	Reading Vocabulary	30	7	6.6	71
	Reading Comprehension	54	8	6.4	88
Mathematics	Total Math	76	4	7.5	88
	Problem Solving	46	8	10.5	100
	Procedures	30	8	4.8	75
Language	Language	48	8	5.9	88
	Mechanics				
	Expression				
	Spelling	30	8	4.1	63
	Study Skills				
Env. Science, Soc. Science	Science	40	8	8.5	88
	Social Science	40	8	6.2	75
	Listening	40	8	7.8	88
	Using Information	47	8	6.8	88
	Thinking Skills	191	7	7.3	86
Battery Totals	Basic Battery	278	7	6.7	86
	Complete Battery	358	7	7.0	86

Grade 7 (Number Tested=26)
Number Possible
Number Tested
Grade Equiv. Statistics/Median
% A/Above Nat'l 50th PR

Page 93

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REPORT

I am happy to submit this report which addresses the work of the supervisory union office during the 2002-2003 school and fiscal years. I have had the privilege of serving as superintendent of the Orange Windsor Supervisory Union for nearly three years. I have genuinely enjoyed working with the board members, administrations, staff members and citizens of the Strafford community as well as the other four schools and towns that comprise the supervisory union.

Report on the 2002-2003 School Year

Throughout my tenure as superintendent of the Orange Windsor Supervisory Union, I have been guided by the following mission statement for the central office which has been approved each year by the Orange Windsor Supervisory Union Board as a part of my annual goals:

To assist in the provision of quality education for each and every child in the supervisory union by providing needed service, relevant information, and professional leadership focused on improving student achievement.

The following are some of the areas addressed by the central office during the 2002-2003 academic year in pursuit of this mission:

1. We have continued work on school board policies which state the locally-adopted rules and procedures under which each school operates. Policies are a fundamental responsibility of each local board of school directors. The central office works continuously with each local board to review existing policies and to develop new policies as needed. The task of keeping board policies up-to-date is an arduous and never-ending task, and progress continued in all our schools over the last year.
2. During the 2002-2003 school year OWSU schools worked on new drafts of their respective school's "Action Plan." These plans, which are mandated by state law, address the improvement of pupil performance using performance data from test results and other relevant information. The central office strives to provide the necessary financial support for desirable initiatives included in the local action plans through various grant-funded sources. Our schools are now implementing the activities called for by these plans.
3. Under the capable leadership of our business manager, Donna Benoit, the amount of current financial information provided to our school boards has continued to be substantial. Ms. Benoit continues to attend board meetings regularly and meet with principals frequently to keep up-to-date on all information needed by the boards to make reasonable financial decisions and projections. The central office also sought to keep all its school boards informed of the many proposals for school finance reform before the Vermont state legislature during the 2003 spring session, and subsequently to help boards understand the funding that resulted when Act 68 was passed into law.

4. Ms. Benoit has also helped our boards move toward into compliance with financial requirements of "GASB34" which requires school districts to keep records on the value of their fixed assets effective for the 2004-2005 school year. This work has continued into the 2003-2004 year, and our schools will be ready when these requirements are in effect.

5. The central office staff continued to endeavor to be responsive to school building administrators, board members, and citizens in dealing with their inquiries and meeting their needs. Our staff is committed to friendly, courteous, helpful service. I am very proud to be working with Lori Ballou, Karen Johnson, Lori Pickett, Anne Simoni, Cynthia Powers and Regina Vogt who are sincerely dedicated to serving our schools and communities well.

6. During the 2001-2002 school year our office initiated an effort to promote regional cooperation with two of our neighboring supervisory unions. Similar efforts were begun on a broader scale during the 2002-2003 school year by Douglas Shiok, Superintendent of the Orange North Supervisory Union. The result has been the formation of the Green Mountain Forest Collaborative composed of five supervisory unions (those with central offices in Royalton, Bethel, Randolph, Williamstown, and Northfield) committed to working together whenever there are mutual benefits. The "Articles of Agreement" for membership in this collaborative was approved by our Orange Windsor Supervisory Union Board in December of 2003. All involved believe there are many potential gains and savings from this effort to share and to support one another.

7. Two other collaborative memberships also promise benefits for Orange Windsor schools. The Orange Windsor Supervisory Union was accepted into the East Central Vermont Literacy Consortium which provides supervision and training for Reading Recovery Teachers in four of our schools as well as professional development opportunities for teachers of reading and writing. Orange Windsor has also become a member of the Lamoille Area Professional Development Academy which provided high quality, readily accessible, and reasonably priced learning opportunities for educators. Costs for both these memberships are paid with federal grant funds.

8. Working with building principals, we were able to continue taking bids for fuel oil supervisory-union-wide and accepted a firm bid of 96.9¢ per gallon. We also took bids for propane and received a firm bid of \$1.07 per gallon. Further, the central office arranged for copier paper at a competitive price for two of our schools which lack adequate space to store a year's supply of the product. We continue to look for other ways our schools can save through joint purchasing and sharing services.

9. Our schools were faced with a difficult situation this last spring when for varied reasons three of our four speech & language staff members left Orange Windsor. Don McMahon led an aggressive effort to find well-qualified replacements in this high-shortage specialty. Ultimately, three replacements were found, but for the 2003-2004 school year, we have one fewer fully-trained speech language pathologist than we did the previous year. Turnover of personnel has been a problem for our schools

in this field. With the cooperation of the supervisory union board, efforts have been made to make these positions in our schools more attractive and rewarding to speech and language personnel.

10. The Orange Windsor Supervisory Union assumed the fiscal management of Project Advance beginning with the 2003-2004 school year. Assuming this responsibility came after a struggle lasting over a year to keep this very successful alternative, pre-vocational program available to area students. Orange Windsor played an important role in this effort. Project Advance serves some of our students in a program that is significantly less expensive for our schools than many other alternative programs.

11. Special Education continues to be major focus of the central office. Under the leadership of our Director Special Education, Don McMahon, OWSU has provided training for special educators to help them serve their students better and comply more fully with special education requirements. Mr. McMahon has worked hard to reduce psychological testing costs by arranging for a course in the administration of one of the most commonly used tests, the Woodcock-Johnson Psycho-Educational Battery, Third Edition, in order that our own personnel could administer and score the test accurately. This obviates the need for a psychologist to do this testing. Further savings for testing are being realized as testing for the required three-year evaluations for students on IEPs have been more carefully planned and unnecessary test administration avoided.

12. Mr. McMahon also negotiated a contract with Safe-T-Transit to provide special education transportation. By working with this single contractor, we were able to achieve better compliance with state pupil transportation laws, more reliable performance with greater accountability, and cost savings.

The Strafford board and administration dealt with some challenging issues during the 2002-2003 school year. After cutting funding for one of the district's two bus routes, the board was persuaded to reinstate it in response to many concerned parents and citizens. When the second bus was begun again, it was through a private contractor. Ultimately, the board decided to switch from school-owned to contracted services for all its pupil transportation and such arrangements are now in place.

The board's Ad Hoc Finance Committee made up of citizens and school staff studied school financial issues and made recommendations which have influenced the board's thinking. The Strafford School District continues to be significantly affected by rapidly inflating property values and declining student enrollments. Given the way that both the Act 60 and the new Act 68 state school aid formulas work, this leads to decreased state support for The Newton School. It appears that this will continue to be a challenging issue for the foreseeable future. The work of the Finance Committee pointed this out clearly, and the school board has begun to respond. The community owes a debt of gratitude to those community members who served on the committee.

Principal Lou Lafasciano recognized that declining revenues and pupils meant that adjustments in staffing were necessary. In order to accommodate these realities while

preserving the tradition of high achievement at The Newton School, Dr. Lafasciano worked with staff and board to restructure the staff into grade-level clusters. While no panacea, it appears to be working as intended.

I also think it is worthy of note in this report to mention that your principal was granted a doctoral degree from the University of Vermont last spring. This is a noteworthy accomplishment. Few Vermont schools have a principal with this educational level.

In closing, let me emphasize that the supervisory union office continues to strive to meet the needs of all five of our local schools and, thereby, to serve all our citizens and impact the education of all our children in a positive manner. I am proud to be part of this effort, and will do my best to contribute to the goal of high achievement and healthy development for all of our children.

Lanning Nicoloff
Superintendent of Schools

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL THETFORD ACADEMY

This year at Thetford Academy, we've found a way to express our mission in very simple terms: "A sense of community... a source of challenge." When you're part of this diverse school community – as a student, teacher, graduate, parent, or member of the community at large – you belong to a strong tradition of excellence and commitment, cooperation and caring. As the Academy celebrates its 185th anniversary this year, we look back to the winter day in 1819 when Asa Burton called on the townspeople of Thetford to establish a local school. In doing so, he sounded the themes of community and challenge for the very first time, asking his neighbors to "consider that the mind is capable of an endless growth" and insisting that both boys and girls should have the chance to prove it.

Thetford Academy was founded on that vision, as the first "co-ed" high school in Vermont. (One Thetford girl, Mary Hosford, later became the first woman in the nation to graduate from college. One Strafford boy, Justin Morrill, went on to create the national system of land-grant universities. Both began their high school studies here.) Thetford Academy's earliest commitments – to include everyone, and to provide the chance for "endless growth" – have shaped its history right up to the present. We continue to believe that a sense of community, with respect and support for all its members, is the foundation of a challenging education.

The Academy added another page to its history this past September, when we had the highest enrollment ever. More students came from every town, for a total close to four hundred – the limit of our capacity. The constraint is partly a matter of facilities. Some buildings and classrooms feel crowded, we've run out of lockers and parking spaces, and we're hard pressed to feed everyone well in the space we have at lunchtime. Capacity, though, is also a matter of philosophy: we see four hundred

students as the upper limit for a school to function as a caring community, where each student is well known and each student matters. In other places across the country, large school districts are breaking big, impersonal schools into smaller units because research shows that students stay in school longer and achieve more in this kind of structure. With one of the highest graduation rates in the state, Thetford Academy demonstrates that theory in action.

For students, the purpose of a supportive environment like ours is building the confidence to reach for success. Rising to a challenge – whether it's learning calculus or genetics, reading your poetry aloud or showing your video, designing an electric car or a project to help other people – involves taking a risk. The risks and challenges of learning will look very different for individual students; in a diverse population, there are multiple routes to excellence. Some of this will show up in test scores and awards. Like the Newton School, the Academy was named a "Medallion School" by the Vermont Business Roundtable last year, an award given for exceptionally high scores on statewide tests in reading, writing, math, and science. This year's senior class has two National Merit Scholars, including Eric Chabot of Strafford. Our SAT scores remain well above state and national averages, and (although we do not offer AP courses) students are also passing Advanced Placement tests following independent study.

Test scores, however, tell only part of the story for any school. Even more compelling stories come from classrooms, where students and teachers are meeting challenges and reaching for excellence in new ways this year. It's our second year as Vermont's leader school for service learning, one of the reform strategies promoted in the new statewide High Schools on the Move initiative. Operation Day's Work, the international service program we share with Newton School, continued its record fundraising efforts with a focus on Bangladesh last year. Thetford and Strafford students also organized a regional ODW conference to introduce the project to other schools. A new kind of service project evolved after a visit from attorney Wynona Ward '69, a "local hero" who brings traveling legal services to victims of domestic violence; students were inspired to join in that work with educational activities, grant writing, fundraising, and donations to victims' families. In addition, our longest-running service-learning project, "Primary Partners," celebrated a decade of success in pairing Academy students and first-grade buddies by mounting a public exhibit of their art and poetry.

Poetry flourished in other contexts, as 8th-graders designed their own poetry website and older Academy students presented original poems in the dramatic "Speak Chorus" format. Sophomore writers produced radio shows with personal essays modeled on "This American Life." State Poet Grace Paley will join students in hosting a Poetry Festival on March 9, an event in our new "Connections" series for the public. We've also welcomed community audiences to plays and concerts. The small "Shark Tank" theater now includes a new lobby and backstage space: a big improvement at very low cost, thanks to a crew of summer volunteers. An Acting Workshop for students, based on techniques from the Yale Drama School, was a new

extracurricular option this year. In March, we plan to invite Newton students to a special performance of our one-act play, "The Actor's Nightmare," before it heads to Vermont Drama Festival competition.

Now in its third year, our Spanish program continues to attract large numbers of students. The program will sponsor a trip to Spain in April, focused on language and culture study, while another group will head to Costa Rica for environmental science and outdoor education. The Science Department is offering a new advanced elective in Genetics, and pursuing a partnership with the Simbex company on a biomechanics study. In Design Technology, teacher Gene Blank sustains the core skills of the former industrial arts program, along with new opportunities for computer-aided design and energy conservation studies. Students are designing an electric car to enter in the regional Electrathon competition this spring. In addition to the CAD lab, the Academy has expanded technology resources with the addition of a small mobile computer lab – five laptops on a cart – that helps meet the burgeoning demand for computer access in classrooms.

Along with all the new people, energy, and ideas thriving at the Academy, we've also paused for some farewells in the past year. Cross-country Meet Director Dan Grossman retired this fall, after thirteen years of extraordinary volunteer service – and not long after he helped host a ceremony on the trail to honor Larry Drew for his 40-year coaching career. That legacy was evident this fall in a state championship for boys' cross-country, a team that included Strafford runner Leon Odell. Although we'll continue the trail events with the help of many community volunteers, one farewell in 2003 was truly the end of an era, as Virginia Anderson passed away last spring at the age of 102. Her years as a teacher, friend, and inspiration to generations of Academy students will live on in the memory of all who knew the remarkable "Mrs. A."

As we prepare to graduate the Class of 2004, the largest in TA's long history, we're proud to have Strafford students among them, and grateful for the continuing partnership with the town. Trustees Therese Linehan and Karen Odell have been active, positive members of our board, advocating for quality programs at affordable cost and sustained connections between the two schools. I value, as always, my own professional partnership with Lou Lafasciano, and the support of loyal alumni and friends in the town of Strafford. In serving as your designated high school, the Academy extends its "sense of community" to you, with appreciation for your role in advancing our many sources of challenge.

Martha Jane Rich
Head of School

NEWTON SCHOOL PTA

The Newton School PTA is an organization that supports Strafford's school and community. We are a group of parents, teachers and community members working together to provide the very best in support programs to benefit the entire student body.

The PTA sponsors and supports many events throughout the year, including Winter Carnival, Fourth of July Fair, school field trips, holiday celebrations, after school arts workshops, artist-in-residence programs, and scholarships for various student needs. PTA fundraising efforts ensure the sponsorship of these and many other programs. The funds raised to support these programs come from sales of Strafford Community Calendars, Telephone Directories, Annual Rummage Sale, Spring Plant Sale, appeals to the community, and other efforts.

Significant funding is received through the generosity of our community and supporters, both locally and beyond. As a result of this financial support the Newton School PTA has been able to grant many requests from school staff to enhance existing school curriculum. These funds also allow us to take on larger projects, such as the newly completed playground structure at the school and arts and music programs.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all of the Strafford community for your contributions of time, talent, and funds in support of programming for our children. We would not be able to meet our goals without your continued generosity.

Charlotte Faccio, Co-president
Tracy McFadden, Co-president
Therese Linehan, Treasurer
Siobhan Lopez, Secretary
Rebecca Seibel, Arts Committee Chair

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

The auditors have reviewed the accounts and balance sheets of the Strafford School District for the year 2002-2003 and the report of the audit of the Strafford School District prepared by Angolano & Company, Certified Public Accountants. Based on our experience, and to the best of our knowledge, we feel that the financial statements and other related reports in this Town Report accurately present the financial status of the Strafford School District.

Nellie Pennington

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

2004-2005

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
<u>Regular Programs</u>							
Performance Pay	\$ 8,500	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Substitutes Salary	8,500	4,815	6,000	6,190	5,000	10,574	6,000
Employer Taxes/Benefits	683	704	480	2,181	2,109	2,535	1,951
Assemblies & Programs	2,000	1,185	-	1,149	-	-	-
Repairs & Maintenance	3,000	597	1,000	85	-	-	-
Supplies/504 Expenses	-	194	1,000	2,066	1,500	1,500	2,000
Copier Lease/Fax	4,500	4,500	6,250	5,315	5,000	5,000	5,000
Equipment	2,500	4,304	750	282	-	-	-
Total Regular Programs	\$ 29,683	\$ 20,199	\$ 19,980	\$ 21,468	\$ 18,109	\$ 24,109	\$ 19,451
<u>Support Services - Pupil Testing</u>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 865	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
<u>Guidance Services</u>	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
<u>Health Services</u>							
Nurse's Salary	\$ 19,110	\$ 19,260	\$ 19,950	\$ 18,600	\$ 19,431	\$ 19,431	\$ 20,208
Health and Dental Benefits	5,667	5,180	5,978	4,359	7,361	7,361	8,068
Employers Taxes/Benefits	1,546	1,558	1,598	1,495	1,556	1,556	1,639
Contracted Services	250	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies	250	145	-	346	300	300	250
Books & Periodicals	200	200	200	91	200	200	100
Audio Visual	200	-	200	-	150	150	100
Equipment	200	99	200	99	150	150	100
Total Health Services	\$ 27,423	\$ 26,442	\$ 28,126	\$ 24,990	\$ 29,148	\$ 29,148	\$ 30,465

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
<u>Support Services</u>							
Course Reimbursement	\$ 7,500	\$ 3,306	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,007	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
Staff Training Expense	500	109	-	-	1,000	1,000	500
School-Wide Prof Development	1,000	90	-	-	-	-	-
Mileage Reimbursement	500	460	-	67	-	-	500
Total Support Services	\$ 9,500	\$ 3,965	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,074	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 17,000
<u>School Library Elementary</u>							
Integrated Arts Teacher (Library)	\$ 10,958	\$ 10,958	\$ 22,574	\$ 21,271	\$ 23,250	\$ 23,250	\$ 24,180
Salary Aide	10,000	9,576	-	-	-	-	-
Health and Dental Insurance	80	1,228	397	554	397	397	5,039
Employer Taxes/Benefits	1,663	1,731	1,806	1,725	1,863	1,863	1,961
Repairs & Maint.	100	74	-	-	500	500	500
Postage	100	-	-	-	100	100	100
Supplies	100	69	-	102	-	-	100
Books & Periodicals	2,000	2,191	3,000	885	2,000	2,000	3,000
Audio-Visual	500	388	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Dues & Fees	500	550	-	-	500	500	250
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Total School Library-Elementary	\$ 26,001	\$ 26,765	\$ 27,777	\$ 24,537	\$ 29,610	\$ 29,610	\$ 36,230
<u>School Board</u>							
Board stipends(expenses)	\$ 1,200	\$ 861	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Studies & Act 60 projects	500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Fees	-	-	-	1,456	-	-	1,000
Other Services(sect 125 admin)	-	-	-	-	-	-	750
Errors & Omissions Insurance	700	714	715	1,168	1,000	1,000	1,000
Fidelity Bond Premiums	105	-	105	-	150	150	150
Advertising	500	1,468	250	3,337	500	500	1,000
Travel Reimb./VSBA Conference	500	50	500	-	500	500	200
Supplies	100	-	-	255	-	-	100

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
VSBA Dues	1,500	1,338	1,400	1,397	1,400	1,400	1,400
Total School Board	\$ 5,105	\$ 4,431	\$ 4,170	\$ 7,613	\$ 3,550	\$ 3,550	\$ 7,100
<u>Office of the Superintendent</u>							
Office of Superintendent	\$ 15,091	\$ 15,091	\$ 16,459	\$ 16,549	17,396	17,396	16,471
Fiscal Services	24,226	24,226	24,757	25,096	26,653	26,653	25,594
Speech Services	10,179	10,179	12,415	11,818	9,851	9,851	8,830
Spec. Ed Administration	9,428	9,428	5,004	4,987	5,981	5,981	4,890
EEE Services	8,679	8,679	6,522	6,465	7,152	7,152	6,873
Total Office Of Superintendent	\$ 67,603	\$ 67,603	\$ 65,157	\$ 64,915	67,033	67,033	62,658
<u>Office of the Principal</u>							
Principals Salary	\$ 63,483	\$ 66,483	\$ 64,983	\$ 64,983	\$ 66,932	\$ 66,932	\$ 68,940
Assistant Salary	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Performance Pay	-	-	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Clerical Salary	21,004	23,619	19,000	21,635	20,000	20,000	18,540
Health, Dental & Life/Disability Ins	15,529	19,275	19,035	20,927	23,373	28,724	31,038
Employer Taxes/Benefits	7,019	7,449	6,838	7,135	7,160	7,234	7,297
Professional Development	-	2,010	2,500	2,500	-	-	-
Retirement Contribution	500	538	500	538	-	900	834
Repairs & Maintenance	500	156	-	-	500	500	-
Telephone Expense	7,500	4,373	5,000	3,546	4,500	4,500	3,500
Postage	1,000	804	500	547	500	500	500
Mileage Reimbursement	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,000
Supplies	1,000	210	500	515	500	500	-
Dues & Fees	1,000	845	1,000	614	1,000	1,000	700
Total Office of the Principal	\$ 121,535	\$ 127,762	\$ 122,356	\$ 125,440	\$ 128,465	\$ 134,790	\$ 134,849

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
<u>Town Services</u>							
Treasurer Salary	\$ 1,000	\$ 538	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Employer Taxes	-	-	-	76	-	-	76
Audit Services	1,500	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,450	2,100	2,450
Postage	250	3	250	429	100	100	250
Supplies	250	155	250	263	150	150	250
Dues & Fees	100	21	50	28	50	50	50
Total Town Services	\$ 3,100	\$ 2,817	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,896	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,400	\$ 4,076
<u>Buildings</u>							
Salaries	\$ 27,045	\$ 28,152	\$ 27,856	\$ 28,018	\$ 28,692	\$ 28,692	\$ 29,553
Summer Salaries	-	-	2,000	2,016	500	500	1,500
Health/Dental Ins and Retirement	7,361	7,672	11,428	11,010	13,561	10,492	11,555
Employers Taxes and Benefits	3,108	3,193	3,551	3,584	3,458	3,696	4,053
General Liability Insurance	4,000	5,523	6,465	7,353	7,144	4,739	7,144
Supplies	5,000	5,423	7,000	7,358	8,000	8,000	8,500
Rubbish Removal	2,500	3,700	3,000	4,240	4,000	4,000	4,000
Repairs & Maintenance	7,500	6,617	11,000	13,725	11,000	11,000	12,000
Barret Hall Rental	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,650	1,650	1,650
Tyson Gym Rental	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Supplies	1,000	-	1,000	430	-	1,000	-
Electricity	17,000	15,614	18,500	16,818	18,500	18,500	18,500
Fuel Oil	5,000	4,810	6,000	6,496	6,000	6,000	7,000
Maintenance Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000
Emergency Repairs	9,000	3,500	3,000	2,467	3,000	7,743	3,000
Total Buildings	\$ 96,014	\$ 91,704	\$ 108,300	\$ 111,015	\$ 111,505	\$ 112,012	\$ 118,455
<u>Grounds</u>							
Snow Removal	\$ 1,000	\$ 944	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,443	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Repairs & Maintenance	1,500	422	1,500	755	1,500	1,500	750
Supplies	1,500	165	-	-	-	-	-
Total Grounds	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,531	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,198	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,750

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
<u>Capital Improvements</u>							
Kitchen Repairs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,212	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<u>Transportation</u>							
Salary	\$ 27,045	\$ 25,032	\$ 9,000	\$ 4,592	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Field Trip Transportation	-	-	1,000	143	1,500	1,500	-
Health/Dental Ins and Retirement	7,361	7,613	4,052	1,842	-	-	-
Employer Taxes and Benefits	3,108	2,400	1,382	1,048	-	-	-
Other Purchased Services	500	331	-	1,400	2,000	2,000	2,500
Contracted Transportation	-	-	-	11,156	62,500	62,500	32,487
Repairs & Maintenance	1,500	6,157	3,000	12,280	-	-	-
Bus Insurance	3,000	1,626	1,500	1,912	-	-	-
Fuel	1,000	3,182	2,000	2,911	-	-	-
Lease/Purchase Payments	15,000	14,957	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transportation	\$ 58,514	\$ 61,298	\$ 21,934	\$ 37,284	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 34,987
<u>Debt Service</u>							
Interest	\$ 9,200	\$ 4,093	\$ 3,000	\$ 906	\$ 1,200	\$ 805	\$ 1,200
Principal	50,000	-	50,000	-	20,000	20,000	-
Total Debt Service	\$ 59,200	\$ 4,093	\$ 53,000	\$ 906	\$ 21,200	\$ 20,805	\$ 1,200
<u>Art - Elementary</u>							
Salaries	\$ 6,938	\$ 7,998	\$ 6,050	\$ 5,037	\$ 6,324	\$ 3,940	\$ 3,270
Employer Taxes/Benefits	561	642	485	407	507	324	265
Dental Insurance	78	110	30	155	59	59	-
Supplies	650	296	-	-	300	300	300
Total Art Elementary	\$ 8,227	\$ 9,046	\$ 6,565	\$ 5,599	\$ 7,190	\$ 4,623	\$ 3,835
<u>Phys Ed - Elementary</u>							
Salaries	\$ 13,760	\$ 13,879	\$ 10,600	\$ 12,500	\$ 13,133	\$ 13,133	\$ 5,459
Health and Dental Insurance	1,748	2,178	1,621	1,876	4,453	2,326	1,052

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
Employer Taxes/Benefits	1,113	1,122	849	994	1,052	1,065	443
Supplies	650	199	300	233	300	300	300
Equipment	-	-	-	-	300	300	300
Total Phys Ed - Elementary	\$ 17,271	\$ 17,378	\$ 13,370	\$ 15,603	\$ 19,238	\$ 17,124	\$ 7,554
<u>Music - Elementary</u>							
Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,629	\$ 4,578	\$ 4,855	\$ 4,855	\$ 2,970
Health and Dental Insurance	-	-	30	1,196	2,085	2,085	1,344
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	-	370	366	388	388	241
Supplies	-	-	-	-	500	500	500
Total Music Elementary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,029	\$ 6,140	\$ 7,828	\$ 7,828	\$ 5,055
<u>General Elementary</u>							
Teacher Salaries	\$ 218,144	\$ 211,255	\$ 206,474	\$ 215,282	\$ 199,518	\$ 198,686	\$ 180,931
Aide Salary	36,350	14,784	13,627	20,159	-	-	-
Health/Dental Ins and Retirement	52,594	58,686	57,118	49,298	56,953	56,953	55,703
Employer Taxes/Benefits	21,082	18,598	17,666	19,098	15,981	15,917	14,673
Supplies	8,000	4,772	5,323	5,207	5,000	5,000	5,000
Books & Periodicals	5,000	3,657	3,000	2,695	3,000	3,000	3,000
Audio-Visual	2,000	699	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Act 60 Action Plan	1,000	690	-	-	-	-	-
Total General Elementary	\$ 344,170	\$ 313,141	\$ 303,208	\$ 311,739	\$ 281,452	\$ 280,556	\$ 260,307
<u>Enrichment-Elem/Curr Consulting</u>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,200	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$ -
<u>Literacy Instruction (formerly Remedial Instr)</u>							
Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,723	\$ 20,952	\$ 17,636
Health and Dental Insurance	-	-	-	-	6,135	6,135	6,723
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	-	-	-	1,420	1,676	1,430
Supplies	-	-	-	-	500	500	500
Total Literacy Instruction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,778	\$ 29,263	\$ 26,289

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
<u>General Middle</u>							
Teacher Salaries	\$ 90,773	\$ 86,405	\$ 89,550	\$ 122,308	\$ 128,663	\$ 128,881	\$ 88,044
Health/Dental Insurance	23,019	19,805	22,576	25,077	32,440	27,924	32,238
Employer Taxes/Benefits	7,343	7,006	7,514	9,693	10,306	10,388	7,140
Supplies	9,000	4,973	4,000	3,603	9,500	9,500	9,500
Books and Periodicals	2,500	2,449	1,300	1,102	1,500	1,500	1,500
Act 60 Action Plan	1,000	1,082	-	-	-	-	-
Total General Middle	\$ 133,635	\$ 121,720	\$ 124,940	\$ 161,783	\$ 182,409	\$ 178,193	\$ 138,422
<u>Art - Middle</u>							
Salaries	\$ 4,624	\$ 2,666	\$ 6,050	\$ 5,037	\$ 6,324	\$ 3,940	\$ 6,541
Employer Taxes/Benefits	374	224	485	407	507	324	530
Dental Insurance	51	42	30	88	59	59	-
Supplies	500	261	-	-	300	300	300
Total Art - Middle	\$ 5,549	\$ 3,193	\$ 6,565	\$ 5,532	\$ 7,190	\$ 4,623	\$ 7,371
<u>VI Grant - Literacy Consultant</u>							
Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,464
Health & Dental Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,046
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,876
Total VI Grant- Literacy Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,386
<u>World Language Middle</u>							
Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,382
Health and Dental Insurance	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,378
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,248
Supplies	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Books & Periodicals	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Total Foreign Language	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,608

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
<u>Physical Education- Middle</u>							
Salaries	\$ 4,586	\$ 4,542	\$ 6,625	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,880	\$ 7,880	\$ 8,188
Health and Dental Insurance	582	795	1,014	3,011	2,760	1,355	1,578
Employer Taxes/Benefits	371	367	531	598	631	638	664
Supplies	1,000	500	300	-	500	500	500
Equipment	-	-	-	-	200	200	200
Total Phys. Ed. Middle	\$ 6,539	\$ 6,204	\$ 8,470	\$ 11,109	\$ 11,971	\$ 10,573	\$ 11,130
Total Consumer & Homemaking	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total Industrial Arts	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
<u>Music - Middle</u>							
Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,629	\$ 4,578	\$ 4,855	\$ 4,855	\$ 5,940
Health and Dental Insurance	-	-	-	1,196	2,085	2,085	2,690
Employer Taxes/Benefits	-	-	370	366	388	388	481
Supplies	662	143	-	-	500	500	500
Books & Periodicals	500	-	-	-	300	300	300
Total Music Middle	\$ 1,162	\$ 143	\$ 4,999	\$ 6,140	\$ 8,128	\$ 8,128	\$ 9,911
<u>Athletics</u>							
Employer Taxes	\$ 153	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Coaching Stipend	750	311	-	-	-	-	-
Officials	750	-	-	-	500	500	500
Supplies	500	360	-	-	-	-	-
Total Athletics	\$ 2,153	\$ 671	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
<u>Enrichment</u>							
Salaries	\$ 10,250	\$ 3,210	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Employer Taxes/Benefits	425	23	-	-	-	-	-
Contracted Service	-	16,790	10,000	7,800	-	-	-
Supplies	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Enrichment	\$ 11,675	\$ 20,023	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated Actual 2004	Budget 2005
<u>Computer Technology/Instruction</u>							
Salaries	\$ 32,873	\$ 32,873	\$ 22,573	\$ 23,875	\$ 23,250	\$ 23,250	\$ -
Health and Dental Insurance	243	109	397	250	397	397	-
Employers Taxes/Benefits	2,659	2,471	1,806	1,925	1,863	1,863	-
Contracted Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Repairs & Maintenance	500	477	-	-	500	500	500
Supplies	500	927	-	75	-	-	-
Computer Hardware	5,500	4,647	6,281	3,187	6,281	6,281	6,281
Satellite Connection	500	438	-	819	900	900	900
Total Computer Technology	\$ 42,775	\$ 41,942	\$ 31,057	\$ 30,131	\$ 33,191	\$ 33,191	\$ 32,681
<u>NAP Program</u>							
Teacher Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,275	\$ 13,896	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Soc/Sec Med	-	-	710	3,458	-	-	-
Health Ins	-	-	1,315	1,063	-	-	-
Supplies	-	-	-	418	-	-	-
Other Benefits	-	-	103	-	-	-	-
Total NAP Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,403	\$ 18,835	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Sub-Total	\$ 1,088,834	\$ 979,071	\$ 1,006,056	\$ 1,018,312	\$ 1,080,245	\$ 1,086,059	\$ 1,043,770
<u>Food Service Program</u>							
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,000
General Fund Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000
<u>Special Education</u>							
Regular Salary	\$ 80,255	\$ 26,705	\$ 28,750	\$ 54,608	\$ 63,776	\$ 42,560	\$ 43,758
Support Staff Salaries	48,510	78,295	84,227	63,466	63,064	66,807	63,721
Substitutes	-	-	-	2,160	-	-	1,000
Health, Dental and Retirement	11,302	13,621	24,973	26,564	29,773	31,348	38,550
Employer Taxes/Benefits	7,358	8,141	9,038	9,669	10,160	8,824	8,814
Professional Development	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Estimated		Budget 2005
						Actual	2004	
Contracted Services	-	-	29,810	23,162	11,000	9,000		10,125
Purchased Professional Servs	163,000	104,808	83,000	80,542	65,500	69,500		65,500
OT Services	-	4,646	24,682	10,560	14,850	14,850		13,100
Early Ed. Program	35,974	29,895	-	34,165	6,180	6,180		11,340
Other Professional Services	-	-	7,740	10,645	-	-		-
Contracted Transportation	10,000	34,996	7,500	37,913	24,010	39,750		33,250
Tuition Other LEA	42,000	22,483	35,424	72,461	32,156	37,000		27,000
Tuition to Pri. Sch.	-	8,486	35,800	24,904	37,000	41,366		26,200
Private Tuition/outside VT	-	23,787	-	6,400	-	-		-
Supplies	1,689	12,606	500	8,286	4,200	4,200		4,500
Excess Costs/Secondary	-	6,138	-	9,085	33,267	56,400		76,778
Books & Per. Elem	450	404	500	1,367	600	600		500
Equipment	5,000	-	-	-	7,200	7,200		1,000
Contingency	-	-	25,000	-	15,000	15,000		25,000
Total Special Education	\$ 405,538	\$ 375,011	\$ 396,944	\$ 475,957	\$ 417,736	\$ 450,585	\$ 453,136	
<u>Secondary Tuition</u>								
504 Services	\$ -	\$ 59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Tuition to Other LEA's in VT	491,000	348,321	366,500	302,815	398,016	78,400		66,360
<i>Tuition to Designated HS- TA</i>	-	-	-	-	-	262,220		392,970
Tuition to LEA's Outside of VT	117,000	153,890	180,000	157,895	126,756	152,790		117,645
Tuition to Private Schools	35,000	73,470	105,000	149,476	192,900	164,680		198,858
Total Secondary Tuition	\$ 643,000	\$ 575,740	\$ 651,500	\$ 610,186	\$ 717,672	\$ 658,090	\$ 775,833	
<u>Vocational Ed.</u>								
GRAND TOTAL(Pre Act 68)	\$ 2,142,372	\$ 1,940,839	\$ 2,082,000	\$ 2,116,463	\$ 2,223,653	\$ 2,204,234	\$ 2,320,739	
<u>Vocational Education</u>								
New: ACT 68 base voc rate	\$ 27,894	\$ 27,894	\$ 29,222	\$ 29,222	\$ 28,643	\$ 28,643		\$ 26,430
Grants/Subgrants/Special Programs	\$ 40,206	\$ 40,206	\$ 17,012	\$ 17,012	\$ 30,133	\$ 30,133	\$ 20,000	

(as of 12/18/03)

Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Estimated	Budget
	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	Actual 2004	2005
Gross ACT 68 Budget (before Special Articles)	\$ 2,210,472	\$ 2,008,939	\$ 2,128,234	\$ 2,162,697	\$ 2,282,429	\$ 2,263,010	\$ 2,367,169
<u>Special Article #1</u> <u>PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT</u> <u>World/Foreign Language</u>							
Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	7,332	7,332	\$ -
Health Ins. Benefits	-	-	-	-	2,226	2,226	-
Employer FICA	-	-	-	-	561	561	-
Worker Comp.	-	-	-	-	26	26	-
Dental Ins.	-	-	-	-	74	74	-
Supplies	-	-	-	-	500	500	-
Books & Periodicals	-	-	-	-	500	500	-
Total Foreign Language	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,219	\$ 11,219	\$ -
<u>Special Article #2</u> <u>Capital Improvements</u> Buildings and Grounds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ -
<u>Special Article #1 (2004-2005)</u> <u>Transportation</u> Second Bus-Contracted Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,861
<u>Special Article #2 (2004-2005)</u> Tyson Gym-Maintenance Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000
GROSS ACT 68 BUDGET AFTER SPECIAL ARTICLES	\$ 2,210,472	\$ 2,008,939	\$ 2,128,234	\$ 2,162,697	\$ 2,307,648	\$ 2,288,229	\$ 2,405,030

STAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT PROJECTED REVENUE

2004-2005

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES						
Property Taxes Current Exp.	\$ 606,404	\$ 659,139	\$ 602,088	\$ 566,936	\$ 770,545	\$ -
Cobb Fund	2,400	-	3,000	-	-	-
Interest	9,500	4,292	8,000	3,831	4,500	4,000
Rentals	-	286	250	310	250	300
Refunds/Reimbursements	2,500	6,465	15,000	604	7,500	1,000
OWSU Surplus refund	-	-	-	4,233	-	-
Bus Sale	-	2,300	-	-	40,000	-
Donations/PTA/Miscellaneous	6,000	2,940	6,000	5,064	6,000	5,000
TA Transp	-	-	-	875	-	875
NAP	-	-	15,000	4,136	-	-
Total Local Source Revenues	\$ 626,804	\$ 675,422	\$ 649,338	\$ 585,989	\$ 828,795	\$ 11,175
REVENUES FROM STATE/FEDERAL SOURCES						
General State Aid/State Support Grant	\$ 1,169,631	\$ 1,169,631	\$ 1,139,231	\$ 1,166,189	\$ 1,147,775	\$ -
Education Spending Revenue (ACT 68)	-	-	-	-	-	1,884,326
Paid to the Education Fund	-	(52,735)	(88,853)	(80,659)	(130,580)	-
ACT 60 Related Transportation	24,000	23,082	18,061	18,061	20,000	21,000
Transp Adj	-	-	-	(3,197)	-	-
Small Schools Grant	42,000	44,646	44,389	44,389	44,389	54,855
Class Size Reduction Grant	15,434	24,872	24,000	-	-	-
Medicaid Reimbursement	6,000	4,600	6,000	6,000	4,600	4,600
Total Rev. From State/Fed. Sources	\$ 1,257,065	\$ 1,214,096	\$ 1,142,828	\$ 1,150,783	\$ 1,086,184	\$ 1,964,781

Description

SPECIAL EDUCATION REVENUES

	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Block Grant	\$ 56,171	\$ 56,171	\$ 61,069	\$ 61,069	\$ 58,234	\$ 61,372
General Intensive	193,491	168,106	187,261	212,369	182,936	212,504
Extraordinary	-	9,939	-	-	-	-
Early Education Grant	8,841	8,841	9,334	9,353	8,092	6,521
Total Special Ed. Revenues	\$ 258,503	\$ 243,057	\$ 257,664	\$ 282,791	\$ 249,262	\$ 280,397
OTHER GRANTS						
Hawkins Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,170	\$ 37,253	\$ 39,059	\$ 44,386
Title IIA (formerly CSR)	-	-	-	20,353	20,353	20,000
Total Other Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,170	\$ 57,606	\$ 59,412	\$ 64,386
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE - Pre ACT 68	\$ 2,142,372	\$ 2,132,575	\$ 2,082,000	\$ 2,077,169	\$ 2,223,653	\$ 2,320,739
Vocational Tuition						
Received for Tech Ctr- sent directly to Tech Ctr	\$ 27,894	\$ 27,894	\$ 29,222	\$ 29,222	\$ 28,643	\$ 26,430
Grants/Subgrants/Special Programs	\$ 40,206	\$ 40,206	\$ 17,012	\$ 17,012	\$ 30,133	\$ 20,000
Special Articles	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,219	\$ 37,861
TOTAL ACT 68 REVENUE	\$ 2,210,472	\$ 2,200,675	\$ 2,128,234	\$ 2,123,403	\$ 2,307,648	\$ 2,405,030

PRELIMINARY

District: Strafford
County: Orange

Expenditures

Budget (local budget approved in prior years)

82% of base payment per FTE paid by the State to the Tech Centers on behalf of the district

S.U. assessment (included in local budget)

Deficit (if included in local budget)

+ Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years

+ 1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

+ 2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

+ 3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

- Act 144 Expenditures, (excluded from "Education Spending")

Act 68 local adopted budget

+ Union school assessment

+ Deficit if not included in budget or revenues

+ Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)

Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")

+ Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)

+ Capital debt aid

+ Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)

- Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures

- Act 144 revenues

- Fund raising (if any)

Total revenues

Adjusted local revenues

Education Spending (Act 68 definition)

Education Spending per Equalized Pupil

Equalized Pupils

Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)

Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment

District spending adjustment (\$9,331 / \$6,800)

Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized (137.221% x \$1.10)

Household Income Percentage for income sensitivity (137.221% x 2.0%)

THREE PRIOR YEARS COMPARISONS

LEA: 199

S.U.: Orange - Windsor

Expenditures				
Budget (local budget approved in prior years)	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
82% of base payment per FTE paid by the State to the Tech Centers on behalf of the district	2,142,372	2,082,000	2,223,653	2,367,169
S.U. assessment (included in local budget)	n/a	n/a	n/a	26,430
Deficit (if included in local budget)	67,603	65,157	67,033	62,658
+ Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years	50,000	50,000	20,000	-
+ 1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	27,894	29,222	28,643	n/a
+ 2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	14,000	31,861
+ 3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	11,219	6,000
- Act 144 Expenditures, (excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-
Act 68 local adopted budget	2,170,266	2,111,222	2,277,515	2,405,030
+ Union school assessment	-	-	-	-
+ Deficit if not included in budget or revenues	-	-	-	-
+ Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)	40,206	17,012	30,133	-
Gross Act 68 Budget	2,210,472	2,128,234	2,307,648	2,405,030
Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-
+ Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)	366,337	429,534	435,913	482,843
+ Capital debt aid	-	-	-	-
+ Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)	40,206	17,012	30,133	-
- Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures	-	-	-	-
- Act 144 revenues	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	406,543	446,546	466,046	482,843
Fund raising (if any)	-	-	-	-
Adjusted local revenues	406,543	446,546	466,046	482,843
Education Spending (Act 68 definition)	1,803,929	1,681,688	1,841,602	1,922,187
Equalized Pupils	219,81	214,77	208,04	206,00
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	8,207	7,830	8,852	9,331
Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,331
District spending adjustment (\$9,331 / \$6,800)	n/a	n/a	n/a	137.221%
Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized (137.221% x \$1.10)	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$
Household Income Percentage for income sensitivity (137.221% x 2.0%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.74%

ESTIMATES ONLY

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET
ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS
June 30, 2003

	Governmental Fund Types		Proprietary Fund Type	Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Enterprise Fund	
ASSETS:				
Current Assets				
Cash	\$ 55,688			\$ 55,688
Accounts Receivable - State	30,993		5,088	36,081
Accounts Receivable - Sup. Union		6,522		6,522
Accounts Receivable - Other LEAs	10,919			10,919
Accounts Receivable - Other			2,206	2,206
Due from other funds	22,639	8,892		31,531
Prepaid expense	5,196			5,196
Inventory	-	-	554	554
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 125,435</u>	<u>\$15,414</u>	<u>\$ 7,848</u>	<u>\$ 148,697</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 125,435</u></u>	<u><u>\$15,414</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,848</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 148,697</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Cash overdraft	\$ 29,657			\$ 29,657
Accounts payable	33,747		\$ 1,120	34,867
Accrued Expenses	1,206			1,206
Due to other funds	8,892	6,522	16,117	31,531
Note Payable	100,000	-	-	100,000
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 173,502</u>	<u>\$ 6,522</u>	<u>\$17,237</u>	<u>\$ 197,261</u>
Fund Equity				
Fund Balances Unreserved (Deficit)	\$ (48,067)			(48,067)
Fund Balances Reserved		8,892		8,892
Retained Earnings (Deficit)	-	-	(9,389)	(9,389)
Total Fund Equity	<u>\$ (48,067)</u>	<u>\$ 8,892</u>	<u>\$(9,389)</u>	<u>\$ (48,564)</u>
Total liabilities and fund equity	<u><u>\$ 125,435</u></u>	<u><u>\$15,414</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,848</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 148,697</u></u>

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCIAL POSITION ON JUNE 30, 2003

The Strafford School District ended the 2003 fiscal year with a \$48,067 deficit in the general fund. Because of this, the Board took steps to control 2004 fiscal year spending, and it now appears that the deficit will be retired by an operating surplus during the current year. As of January 26, 2004, the school anticipates a general fund surplus of \$59,090.

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**

June 30, 2003

	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Debt Service Fund	Totals (Memorandum Only)
REVENUES:				
Property Taxes	\$ 566,936			\$ 566,936
Investment Income	3,832			3,832
Rentals	310			310
Refunds/Reimbursements	4,837			4,837
Miscellaneous	10,072			10,072
Private/Local		16,315		16,315
State	1,548,681			1,548,681
Federal	26,353	6,650	-	33,003
Total Revenues	\$2,161,021	\$22,965	\$ -	\$ 2,183,986
EXPENDITURES:				
Direct Services	\$1,698,729	\$17,012		\$ 1,715,741
Support Services:				
Students	30,355			30,355
Instructional Staff	31,609			31,609
General Administration	25,958			25,958
Area Administration	148,711			148,711
Fiscal Services	27,196			27,196
Operation and Maintenance of Building	118,425			118,425
Transportation	37,284			37,284
Debt Service: Interest Charges			906	906
Other Outlays	83,856	-	-	83,856
Total Expenditures	\$2,202,123	\$17,012	\$ 906	\$ 2,220,041
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(41,102)	5,953	(906)	(36,055)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
Transfers In (Out)	(3,406)	-	906	(2,500)
Excess of Revenues and Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Uses	(44,508)	5,953	-	(38,555)
FUND BALANCES, July 1, 2002	(2,108)	2,939		831
Prior Period Adjustments	(1,451)	-	-	(1,451)
FUND BALANCES, June 30, 2003	\$ (48,067)	\$ 8,892	\$ -	(39,175)

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRANSPORTATION EXPENDITURES

	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Transportation Expenditures						
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 37,514	\$ 35,377	\$ 15,434	\$ 7,482	\$ -	-
Contracted Transportation	-	-	-	11,156	62,500	32,487
Other Purchased Services	-	-	-	1,400	2,000	2,500
Gas	1,000	3,181	2,000	2,911	-	-
Contracted Field Trip Transp	-	-	-	143	1,500	-
Supplies, Repairs & Equipment	2,000	6,157	3,000	12,280	-	-
Insurance	3,000	1,626	1,500	1,912	-	-
Lease/Purchase Payment	15,000	14,957	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 58,514	\$ 61,298	\$ 21,934	\$ 37,284	\$ 66,000	\$ 34,987

Lease Payment Schedule

Vehicle #5 - 48 Passenger Bus	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,957	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Total	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,957	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICE
PROPOSED BUDGET 2004-2005
(INFORMATIONAL ONLY)**

	Actual 2001	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Expenditures						
Salaries	\$19,995	\$21,644	\$21,213	\$23,331	\$24,130	\$24,854
Benefits	2,105	2,441	2,233	3,325	2,346	3,694
Repairs/Maintenance	72	-	100	1,973	100	1,000
Bottled Gas	347	175	425	189	300	300
Food	31,764	31,518	34,292	30,182	33,000	34,552
Food/Sandwiches-Store	-	3,878	-	-	-	-
Supplies	112	484	1,000	75	500	500
Commodities	-	2,710	-	2,352	-	-
Equipment	2,298	289	-	1,410	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$56,693	\$63,139	\$59,263	\$62,837	\$60,376	\$64,900
Revenues						
Sales	\$37,452	\$37,334	\$38,888	\$29,141	\$40,039	\$35,000
Sandwich Sales-Store	-	6,029	-	-	-	-
Interest	257	179	200	81	200	100
State Lunch Match	709	730	750	629	760	700
State Bkfst Match	423	416	425	410	500	500
Federal Lunch Reimb	10,381	9,398	10,500	11,848	12,500	13,000
Federal Bkfst Reimb	5,600	5,279	6,000	6,487	6,377	6,600
Commodities	-	2,710	-	2,352	-	-
Transfer from Gen'l Fund	-	-	2,500	2,500	-	9,000
Total Revenue	\$54,822	\$62,075	\$59,263	\$53,448	\$60,376	\$64,900
Total Gain(loss)	\$(1,871)	\$(1,064)	\$ -	\$(9,389)	\$ -	\$ -

**STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS
Year Ending June 30, 2003**

Tax Anticipation Note

On June 19, 2003, the Strafford School District borrowed \$100,000, in anticipation of tax revenues, from Banknorth Vermont at 1.73% interest. This loan was paid in full on September 12, 2003.

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
FY 2004-2005 BUDGET PROPOSAL
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
<u>Office of the Superintendent</u>						
Administrator's Salary	\$ 72,000	\$ 73,000	\$ 74,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 79,950
Clerical Support	23,406	23,600	26,000	26,000	27,040	27,716
Health Insurance	7,744	9,378	8,940	9,074	10,544	11,549
Employer FICA	7,299	7,413	7,650	7,533	8,036	8,236
Life Ins Premiums	-	220	880	880	880	880
Support Staff Retirement Cont.	702	702	1,092	1,300	1,352	1,386
Workers Comp	-	250	-	-	452	474
Professional Development	2,025	359	1,725	876	1,500	1,500
Dental Insurance	412	430	430	516	443	457
Legal Fees	3,850	53	2,000	33	1,000	1,000
In-Service, Meetings, Etc.	525	506	825	425	825	825
Printing	200	-	200	-	200	200
Superintendent's Travel	1,500	1,391	2,240	2,380	2,240	2,240
Staff Travel	1,400	1,697	250	1,380	250	250
Books & Periodicals	2,000	610	2,000	872	2,000	2,000
Equipment Contingency	1,500	110	500	1,669	737	500
Dues & Fees	4,500	3,938	5,290	3,943	5,290	5,290
Fingerprinting Expense	150	1,602	800	2,442	1,300	1,300
Total Office of the Superintendent	\$ 129,213	\$ 125,259	\$ 134,822	\$ 134,323	\$ 142,089	\$ 145,753
<u>Special Services Department</u>						
Administrators Salary	\$ 62,400	\$ 66,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 67,600	\$ 69,290
Clerical Support/Medicaid Clerk	21,960	22,361	24,560	24,560	25,542	26,181
Medicare Billing Clerk	18,000	-	-	-	-	-
Support Staff Retire. Contrib.	659	659	1,032	1,228	1,277	1,309

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Health Insurance	11,010	12,297	12,001	12,034	14,279	15,719
Employer FICA	6,454	6,753	6,851	6,712	7,125	7,304
Workers Compensation	-	-	-	313	419	420
Professional Development	1,335	1,178	1,725	1,216	1,725	1,725
Dental Insurance	825	753	861	539	886	913
Contracted Services	-	-	-	12,070	-	-
Travel Reimbursement/Conference	2,000	1,888	4,000	1,933	3,000	3,000
Supplies	1,800	918	1,800	5,027	1,000	1,000
Medicaid Supplies	-	470	500	277	500	500
Books & Periodicals	1,000	1,028	1,000	235	1,000	1,000
Equipment & Contingency	-	-	300	6,435	300	300
Dues & Fees	1,000	1,128	1,000	322	1,200	1,200
Total Special Services	\$ 128,443	\$ 115,433	\$ 120,630	\$ 137,901	\$ 125,853	\$ 129,861
<u>Fiscal Services</u>						
Administrators Salary	\$ 50,000	\$ 51,986	\$ 54,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 59,450
Clerical Support	53,154	53,475	57,009	57,009	59,288	61,771
Health Insurance	15,460	15,459	16,848	16,903	20,051	22,088
Employer FICA	7,891	8,137	8,492	8,462	8,973	9,273
Workers Comp Ins	-	-	-	-	504	535
Support Staff Retire. Contrib.	4,094	4,094	4,662	5,550	5,864	6,062
Professional Development	600	105	-	-	300	300
Dental Insurance	1,237	861	861	861	886	913
Treasurer Services	-	600	600	600	600	600
Audit Services	1,000	1,300	1,500	1,875	1,550	1,550
Computer Maintenance	5,700	3,390	4,000	1,766	3,000	3,000
Travel/Conference	1,500	1,100	2,200	1,255	1,500	1,500
Supplies	-	1,144	1,000	1,502	1,000	1,000
Equipment Contingency	1,500	189	500	-	300	300
Dues & Fees	450	227	300	307	300	300
Total Fiscal Services	\$ 142,586	\$ 142,067	\$ 151,973	\$ 150,090	\$ 162,116	\$ 168,642

Description	Budget 2002		Actual 2002		Budget 2003		Actual 2003		Budget 2004		Budget 2005	
<u>Central Office</u>												
Merit Pay	\$	-	\$	600	\$	-		2,952	\$	-	\$	-
Workmen's Comp.		1,875		45		1,900		176		-		-
Unemployment Tax		77		165		75		259		179		180
Section 125 Admin		-		-		-		2,420		-		260
Custodial Services		-		1,665		2,500		5,321		2,500		2,580
Repairs & Maint.		5,000		6,307		5,500		17,192		1,700		1,700
Rental of Building		16,000		16,164		17,103		929		17,702		18,321
Property & Liability Insurance		1,000		917		1,000		-		1,000		900
Bond Premiums		-		196		-		-		200		-
Telephone Expense		7,500		6,712		7,500		6,630		7,300		7,300
Postage		3,000		4,220		3,500		3,577		4,300		4,000
Advertising		10,000		3,953		6,000		2,594		5,000		4,000
Supplies		7,500		10,071		9,500		9,829		9,500		9,500
Phone Equipment		4,000		4,066		-		-		-		-
Software		10,000		9,809		-		-		-		-
Electricity		2,000		2,533		2,800		3,100		3,000		3,100
Heat		975		567		1,000		1,229		800		1,000
Equipment/lease		-		-		-		1,114		5,800		5,000
Total Central Office	\$	71,427	\$	67,990	\$	58,378	\$	57,322	\$	58,981	\$	57,841
<u>Central Office - Wellness</u>												
All Expenses	\$	300	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Total Central Office - Wellness	\$	300	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
<u>EEE Direct Instruction</u>												
Salary	\$	40,405	\$	37,191	\$	42,425	\$	42,562	\$	44,133	\$	45,236
Aide Salary		14,560		5,431		6,188		5,871		7,735		7,835
Health Insurance		6,097		7,744		8,441		8,712		10,044		11,049
FICA Expense		4,204		3,261		3,719		3,508		3,968		4,060
Workers Comp		-		-		-		-		223		234

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Course Reimbursement	1,035	185	1,035	386	1,035	1,035
Dental Insurance	412	430	431	354	443	457
Travel/Conf Reimbursement	1,500	939	1,600	2,055	2,000	2,000
Supplies	600	1,237	600	246	600	600
Transfer to Royalton/see revenue	-	2,850	-	-	-	-
Total EEE Direct Instruction	\$ 68,813	\$ 59,268	\$ 64,439	\$ 63,694	\$ 70,181	\$ 72,506
<u>Speech Services</u>						
Prof Salaries	\$ 108,539	\$ 93,826	\$ 112,159	\$ 119,843	\$ 115,605	\$ 113,332
Support Salaries	-	1,074	15,357	11,291	15,976	21,658
Health Insurance	12,194	15,096	17,322	16,580	20,613	22,719
FICA Expense	8,303	8,160	9,755	9,907	10,066	10,327
Workers Comp	-	-	-	544	566	621
Support Staff Retirement	-	443	-	756	799	1,083
Professional Development	2,700	2,622	3,200	1,973	3,200	3,200
Other Employee Benefits-loan repay	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,500	-
Dental Insurance	825	2,975	1,721	1,262	1,773	1,826
Contracted Services w/ Benefits	21,000	18,141	-	-	-	-
Speech Evaluations/Outside Services	16,500	11,765	16,500	-	12,000	12,000
Travel Reimbursement	900	3,264	1,900	2,263	2,000	2,000
Supplies	3,500	3,739	3,500	3,693	3,500	3,500
Equipment	-	1,316	-	152	-	-
Dues & Fees	600	210	600	925	600	600
Total Speech Services	\$ 175,061	\$ 162,631	\$ 184,514	\$ 171,689	\$ 189,198	\$ 192,866
SUBTOTAL	\$ 715,843	\$ 672,648	\$ 714,755	\$ 715,019	\$ 748,418	\$ 767,469
<u>Title I</u>						
Grant Administrator	\$ -	9666	\$ 13,000	\$ 29,120	\$ 34,611	\$ 35,476
Student Achievement Facilitator	-	-	-	-	-	9,606
Tutoring Services	-	-	-	6,475	-	-
Soc Sec/Med	-	739	995	2,899	2,648	2,714

Description	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005
Health Ins	-	-	-	3,060	400	6,967
Workers Comp	-	-	-	-	149	156
Dental Ins	-	-	-	119	-	-
OWSU Office Networking and Server	7,500	6,949	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Grant Assistance	9,000	-	-	-	-	-
Professional Development/Training Exp	8,500	12,720	7,500	27,396	7,500	13,259
Technology Audit	-	-	-	4,500	-	-
Technology Training	-	-	-	-	-	-
new tchrrecruitment activities/advertising	-	-	-	-	-	6,768
Other Contr Services-Story Lady	-	2,979	-	4,686	3,000	1,000
Repairs/Maintenance	-	724	-	36	-	-
Pupil Transportation	-	-	-	7,115	-	-
EEE Tuition	-	-	-	1,204	-	-
Travel/Mileage Reimb	-	227	-	1,491	-	-
Supplies	-	1,124	500	1,029	500	-
Clerical Support	2,870	-	3,000	-	-	-
Equipment	-	2,124	-	-	-	-
Dues & Fees	-	-	-	1,500	-	-
Audit Services	1,000	1,000	1,000	625	1,550	1,550
Total Title I	\$ 28,870	\$ 38,252	\$ 25,995	\$ 91,255	\$ 50,358	\$ 90,596
Fund Transfers						
Surplus Rebates	\$ -	\$ 52,904	\$ -	\$ 34,496	\$ -	\$ -
Total Fund Transfers	\$ 744,713	\$ 763,804	\$ 740,750	\$ 840,770	\$ 798,776	\$ 858,065

Total Supervisory Union Budget

ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION
FY 2004-2005 BUDGET PROPOSAL
REVENUE SUMMARY

	Budget 2002	Actual 2002	Budget 2003	Actual 2003	Budget 2004	Budget 2005	November-03 Enrollment	Assessment % Bsd on Enroll.
Local Assessments:								
Chelsea	\$ 126,887	\$ 126,887	\$ 118,028	\$ 118,028	\$ 114,985	\$ 115,369	232	20.81%
Royalton	218,192	218,138	225,614	225,614	238,285	243,171	489	43.86%
Sharon	61,582	61,582	57,198	57,198	57,736	69,122	139	12.47%
Strafford	67,603	67,437	64,915	64,915	67,033	62,658	126	11.30%
Tunbridge	73,134	73,187	63,100	63,100	69,479	64,149	129	11.57%
Total Local Assessments	\$ 547,398	\$ 547,231	\$ 528,855	\$ 528,855	\$ 547,518	\$ 554,469	1,115	100.00%

State/Federal Sources						
IDEA B	\$ 114,815	\$ 121,724	\$ 160,000	\$ 184,630	\$ 183,500	\$ 195,000
Title I	57,000	38,253	25,995	91,255	50,358	90,596
Transfer to Royalton EEE	-	2,850	-	-	-	-
Total State/Federal Sources	\$ 171,815	\$ 162,827	\$ 185,995	\$ 275,885	\$ 233,858	\$ 285,596

Other Sources						
Interest	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,782	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,643	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Medicaid Admin Fees	23,000	23,951	20,000	11,969	14,000	12,000
Rent	-	900	900	900	900	-
Project Advance Admin	-	-	-	-	-	3,500
Misc.	-	4,231	-	1,055	-	-
Balance from Prior Years	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Sources	\$ 25,500	\$ 30,864	\$ 25,900	\$ 16,567	\$ 17,400	\$ 18,000

Grand Total	\$ 744,713	\$ 740,922	\$ 740,750	\$ 821,307	\$ 798,776	\$ 858,065
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ORANGE WINDSOR SUPERVISORY UNION **STATE AID FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Estimated 2003-2004

	State Block Grant	Extraordinary Reimbursement	Expenditure Reimbursement	Essential Early Education Grant	Total Estimated State Aid	Anticipated Special Ed Expenditures
Chelsea	\$ 51,186	\$ 39,784	\$ 227,731	\$ 5,026	\$ 323,727	\$ 552,781
Royalton	123,196	26,445	281,934	17,621	449,196	725,946
Sharon	74,532	13,163	156,221	9,680	253,596	441,107
Strafford	58,234	-	182,936	8,092	249,262	417,736
Tunbridge	58,237	-	80,815	10,160	149,212	266,917
Total	\$ 365,385	\$ 79,392	\$ 929,637	\$ 50,579	\$ 1,424,993	\$ 2,404,487

Estimated 2004-2005

	State Block Grant	Extraordinary Reimbursement	Expenditure Reimbursement	Essential Early Education Grant	Total Estimated State Aid	Anticipated Special Ed Expenditures
Chelsea	\$ 52,283	\$ 41,832	\$ 256,131	\$ 4,646	\$ 354,892	\$ 496,546
Royalton	122,185	-	326,000	17,614	465,799	768,960
Sharon	74,014	87,118	250,229	11,164	422,525	639,694
Strafford	61,372	-	212,504	6,521	280,397	428,136
Tunbridge	63,431	39,805	116,627	9,679	229,542	296,397
Total	\$ 373,285	\$ 168,755	\$ 1,161,491	\$ 49,624	\$ 1,753,155	\$ 2,629,733

STRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT SECONDARY ENROLLMENT AND TUITION

FY 2003/2004 First Semester Secondary Enrollment

(as of December 18, 2003)

SCHOOL	9	10	11	12	Total
Thetford Academy	13	3	6	7	29
Hartford High School	0	0	3	5	8
Hanover High School	3	3	5	4	15
Phillips Exeter Academy				1	1
Sharon Academy	5	6	6	2	19
So. Royalton High School				2	2
Special Program					1
Home School		1			1
Total Enrollment	21	13	20	21	76

Secondary Education Tuition Paid during FY 2002/2003

	Tuition Paid
Thetford Academy	\$ 244,786
Hartford High School	46,800
Hanover High School	153,890
Bethel	3,500
So. Royalton High School	7,250
Phillips Exeter Academy	7,757
Sharon Academy	136,833
Special Education (all schools)	92,992
Vocational (all schools)	9,512
Total Tuition Paid	\$ 703,320

Per pupil costs*

	2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Tuition Charged	Amount Paid	Tuition Charged	Amount to be paid
Thetford Academy	\$ 9,972	\$ 9,972	\$10,186	\$ 10,186
Hanover High School	10,563	9,972	10,186	10,186
Hartford High School	7,200	7,761	7,900	7,900
So. Royalton High School	7,250	7,098	7,600	7,600
Private Schools (state average)	varies	7,757	varies	8,234

*vocational not included

Congratulations, Graduates! ~ 2003 ~

The Newton School

Cedar Cabri-Davidson	Joshua Jenks	Leon Odell
Anna Chute	Timothy Luckey	Benjamin Pero
Sally Conant	Benjamin MacKinnon	Ashley Short
Anya Gendal	Dale Manning	Sydney Thomashow
Thomas Gex	James Moses	Fiona Tilles
Cooper Greer	Zachary Nugent	Natalie Traendly

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Thetford Academy

Ronan Alger	Elijah Garrison-Botsford	Erika Johnson
Samantha Brown	Kenneth Hodge	Maria Schaafsma
Lucas Dennis-Devries		Wes Wilson

Hanover High School

Natalie Jones	Noelle Lafasciano	Calen Pennington
	Benjamin McWilliams	

Hartford High School

Katheryn Caouette

Whitcomb High School

Kyle Lewis

NEWTON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1993-94	16	20	17	14	18	23	13	13	21	155
1994-95	15	18	19	18	16	17	28	18	13	162
1995-96	18	14	16	20	18	13	19	32	19	169
1996-97	18	18	15	14	18	20	16	22	32	173
1997-98	16	16	17	12	12	16	18	18	20	145
1998-99	16	14	15	17	14	14	19	22	18	149
1999-00	10	21	15	16	22	15	15	18	21	153
2000-01	9	9	22	18	15	23	17	16	17	146
2001-02	10	10	9	23	18	14	24	18	17	143
2002-03	12	13	10	8	20	18	13	26	18	138
2003-04	12	10	11	11	8	17	17	17	23	126

For the year 2003-04, grades were re-organized into 3 Learning Clusters: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.

Note: Reflects official October 1st student count.

STRAFFORD TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday and Wednesday - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Thursday - 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Friday - 8:00 AM to 12 Noon

TOWN OFFICE: Telephone 765-4411

TOWN GARAGE: Telephone 765-4550

Board Meetings

Selectmen - Town Office - First Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Other Wednesdays, 8:00 AM

Planning Commission - Town Office - Third Monday, 7:00 PM

Conservation Commission - Town Office - Fourth Monday, 7:00 PM

School Directors - Newton School - Fourth Monday, 6:00 PM

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance and FAST Squad: 9-1-1

or 1-603-643-3610

Orange County Sheriff: 685-4875

STRAFFORD RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICE

Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12 Noon - South Strafford Substation

Durkee Rubbish Collection - 765-4308

STRAFFORD RECYCLING CENTER

At the South Strafford Sandpit - Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12 Noon

MORRILL MEMORIAL and HARRIS LIBRARY

Monday 1:00 - 8:00 PM

Wednesday 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Thursday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

LIBRARY TRUSTEES' MEETINGS

Monthly on third Tuesday - 7:00 PM at Library

continued from inside front cover

Norton. After a century of varied use, changes of ownership and a fire, the place was still a hive of activity in the early 1900s, as Adelbert Clark's improved gristmill and sawmill had been joined by a paint shop, a carpenter's shop, a carriage shop and a shingle mill. Later owners who are still remembered in town include John and Clint Druge, Mark Perkins and then his son Ralph. The dam was not repaired when damaged in 1936, but the main building stood until 1975.

An early reference to today's South Strafford as "the village at Captain John Alger's mill" points to the existence of a dam of which no physical trace remains. Less of a ghost is the dam which Nathan Norton was granted the right to build, in 1801, to run a sawmill and a corn mill. This appears to be the origin of the dam located just upstream of the village bridge over the Ompompanoosuc. Using power from this dam, Martin Barrett and later Enoch Dow ran a woolen "factory" that included a carding machine and a fulling mill. Later additions were a provender mill for livestock feed and a planing mill. Hiram Barrett and successor John L. Barrett improved both the dam and the mill, adding among other things a cider mill producing up to a thousand barrels of cider a year. One owner in the last century was Howard Gilkey, who also ran the general store nearby but was chiefly known far and wide for the excellence of his stone-ground wheat flour. Demolition of the building in the 1950s marked the end of an era at what had long been one of the busiest and most important places in town.

Just downstream from South Strafford, Seth Norton's sawmills were an important landmark in the early 1800s, but nothing is now known of their dam. A century later, a new dam on the Ompompanoosuc below the present South Strafford fire station was built for a very different purpose: to provide water sports for Camp Ken-Jocketee, a girls' summer camp founded by the James W. Tyson Junior family in 1912.

Long before this recreational development, the copper-smelting work of family ancestor Isaac Tyson Junior had required a dam at Furnace Flat in 1830 to drive the bellows that blew air, or "blast," into his furnaces. This dam powered various related industries for over half a century. In the 1880 census its height was reported to be sixteen feet, in contrast to Barrett's dam at eight feet and Hatch's at twelve.

Even before Camp Ken-Jocketee built a dam simply for the pleasure of its pond, the advantages of such a body of water had naturally been discovered by many—as a great seasonal resource for swimming, fishing, skating, and of course ice harvesting. Men and boys built boats and invited their friends for moonlight cruises. The rare mishaps only added to the thrill—ten-year-old Justin Morrill breaking through thin ice on his father's millpond, Cornet Band leader Henry Swift and his boat going over Adelbert Clark's dam, a small boy falling off Barrett's dam while trying to walk across it.

This review of the role played by the Ompompanoosuc in the life and work of Strafford is obviously far too brief to do justice to the subject.

Gwenda Smith

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