

Town of
Ryegate
Vermont
2003 Annual Report



Ryegate Road Crew – 2003

RYEGATE'S ROAD CREW

The town of Ryegate is fortunate to have an excellent road crew. The four men pictured on the front cover of this report are the full time employees of the town of Ryegate. They are (left to right) Moses Roy, five years; Clark (Chief) Bogie, 23 years, road commissioner 16 years (1987); Fred Lakin, 12 years; Gordon Peterson, 5 years.

On call six days a week, 24 hours a day, this crew is ready to respond in all kinds of weather to road conditions needing attention be it snow, ice, water damage, or road obstruction. Their routine week to week responsibility finds them grading the gravel roads, maintaining bridges, cleaning out culverts and ditches, repairing guard rails, building new or reconstructing present roads, hauling sand, maintaining the town's three trucks, backhoe, grader, plows and other equipment, and whatever needs to be done to maintain the roads in good condition for the increasing number of cars and trucks which use them daily.

The Town of Ryegate takes this opportunity to say "Thank You" to a great road crew.

Town of
Ryegate
Vermont
2003 Annual Report

Report of Town Officers for the year
ended
December 31, 2003

Please bring this report to Town Meeting
Tuesday, March 2, 2004
One o'clock

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Edward P. Sulham
(1926-2003)

Ed was the third of seven children born to Perley and Winona Henderson Sulham of Ryegate where he lived most of his life. At age nine he became a muleskinner and worked on several local farms. His common sense and clever mechanical ability led him to a long career in heavy equipment. In 1949 he married Virginia E. Hitchcock and they raised four children.

The Town of Ryegate employed Ed as Road Commissioner and road crew member for periods from the late 40's to the late 90's. He helped build and maintain the good roads that Ryegate has today. He was always ready at a moments notice come deep snow or high water. Ed, also, operated his own trucking and excavation business.

Ed enjoyed gardening, hunting, and fishing and he shared his musical talents through hosting many kitchen junket like gatherings for family and friends. He is remembered for his service and dedication to Ryegate.



TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND INFORMATION

COTTAGE HOSPITAL		603.747.2761
DOG CATCHER	Andy Smith	633.2260
E. RYEGATE FIRE DISTRICT #2- (Water, lights, sewer)	Vicky	757.3983
Darby		
FIRE PERMITS-	Gene	584.3611
Perkins		584.3667
	Fremont	
Nelson		
GOVERNOR'S ACTION LINE		1.800.649.6825
HISTORIAN		584.2520
NE KINGDOM WASTE MANGEMENT		800.734.4602
NE KINGDOM YOUTH SERVICES		802.748.8732
PHOTO DRIVER'S LICENSE-Mobile Van Unit		
Located at the Elkslodge, 118 Western Ave., St. Johnsbury		
Every Thursday, except Holidays, 9 am – 3:15 pm		
RECYCLE HOURS (E. RYEGATE DROP)		
Saturdays 8 am – 10 am		
REP. BERNIE SANDERS-action line		1.800.339.9834
REP. LEIGH LAROQUE-home		802.748.3481
RUBBISH REMOVAL		
DNLS-LaClure		429.2208
PETE'S RUBBISH-Dave O'Clare		603.989.5300
S. RYEGATE VILLAGE ASSOC.	Dick Fraser	584.3328
SELECTMEN-	Al	584.3500
Sponheimer		633.2260
<i>Selectmen meet the second</i>	Andy	757.3801
Smith		
<i>and fourth Mondays, 7 pm,</i>	Paul	
Keenan		
<i>at the Town Office</i>		
SEN. JAMES JEFFORDS-action line		1.800.835.5500
SEN. JULIUS CANNIS-home		802.748.4871
SEN. PAT LEAHY-action line		1.800.642.3193
SEN. ROB IDE-home		802.592.3995
STATE POLICE		222.4680
TO REPORT FIRE OR EMERGENCY		.911
TOWN CLERK-phone and fax		584.3880

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 1 pm – 5 pm

Friday 9 am – 1pm

VT CENTER FOR INDEP. LIVING	1.800.639.1522
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TOWN OFFICERS

MODERATOR

TOWN CLERK

TREASURER

SELECTMEN:

Term expires March 2004

Term expires March 2005

Term expires March 2006

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR

FIRST CONSTABLE

SECOND CONSTABLE

Appointed

TOWN AGENT

FIRST GRAND JUROR

LISTERS:

Term expires March 2004

Term expires March 2005

Term expires March 2006

AUDITORS

Term expires March 2004

Term expires March 2005

Term expires March 2006

LIBRARY TRUSTEES:

Term expires March, 2004

Term expires March, 2005

Term expires March, 2006

Term expires March, 2007

Term expires March, 2008

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER:

Term expires March, 2004

Term expires March, 2005

Term expires March, 2006

Term expires March, 2007

Term expires March, 2008

UNION SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

Term expires March, 2004

Term expires March, 2004

Term expires March, 2005

Term expires March, 2006

ROAD COMMISSIONER

2003

Dean Rowden

Marsha Nelson

Lorinda Blood

Albert Sponheimer

Paul Keenan

Andrew Smith

Dale Wright

Vacant

Andrew Smith,

John Zampieri

Dean Rowden

Joan Smith

Bruce Beauvais

Beverly Allen

Ellsworth Frost

Kathryn Bergh

Gail LaVaude

Jennifer Nelson

Maydene Bone

Deanna Arnosky

Richard Fraser

Holly McLure

Richard Colby

Ellsworth Frost

Daniel Leonard

William Nelson

Judith Gandin

Thomas Bryer

Jamie O'Connor

Robert Rowden

Ron Phillips

Clark Bogie

TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN

Clerk for the Selectmen
 Fence Viewers
 Pound Keeper
 Surveyor of Wood & Lumber
 & Weigher of Coal
 Tree Warden
 Agent to Convey Real Estate
 Town Service Officer
 Health Officer
 Energy Officer
 Green Up Chairman
 NEK Waste District

Marsha Nelson
 The Selectmen
 Jill Skochdopole, DVM
 Bruce Beauvais

 Darcy Nelson
 Dean Rowden

 Stephen Genereaux, MD
 Marsha Nelson
 Darryl Perkins
 Gene Perkins, Supervisor
 Andrew Smith, Vice Super

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Term expires 2004
 Term expires 2004
 Term expires 2004
 Term expires 2005
 Term expires 2005
 Term expires 2005
 Term expires 2006
 Term expires 2006
 Term expires 2006
 Term expires 2007

Bruce Beauvais
 Beverly Allen
 Libby Hillhouse
 Lunnie Clark
 Margaret Pearl
 Stephen Genereaux
 Fremont Nelson
 William Elder
 Scott Ordway
 Mary Dole

Northeastern VT Develop Assoc
 Term expires 2004

Al Sponheimer

Connecticut River Joint Commissions

Al Sponheimer

Justices of the Peace, elected to office, who make up the Board of Civil Authority: Earl Ashcroft, Bruce Beauvais, Thomas Bryer, Catherine Davie, Mary Dole, Jennifer Nelson, Dean Rowden

The Selectmen meet the second and fourth Mondays at 7:30P.M. at the Town Office. Town Clerk's Office Open as posted: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 1:00 to 5:00P.M., Friday 9:00A.M. to 1:00P.M. Phone: 802-584-3880 FAX: 802-584-3880

SELECTMEN'S NARRATIVE

The Year of 2003 has left, with the papermill still on the back burner.

We are hoping to have the St. Johnsbury Correction Center clearing brush along our stone walls.

Speeding is still an ongoing problem, but we hope to add a constable to help the sheriff. Please help us! The speed limits are 35 mph on unpaved roads and 50 mph on paved roads.

On a more pleasant matter, we bought two trucks this year. We were able to get a second one at a very good price, so all of our trucks are covered under an extended warranty. We had paving done at Ryegate Corner and South Ryegate. Also the bridge in South Ryegate was completely resurfaced. We would like to do more, but time and money do not allow it.

In the report this year, you will find the highway and equipment fund broken down. You can see how each year is planned out and where the money goes.

Thank you for letting us serve you another year.

Respectfully,
Your Selectboard

Laura Clark

Laura Clark Retired as Postmaster of Ryegate Corner Post Office after 41 years of service. Always solicitous and cheerful, she will be fondly missed by her patrons.



Treasurer's Report (Comparative Balance Sheet)

Current Assets:	12/31/2002	12/31/2003
Petty Cash	\$30.00	\$30.00
Cash in Bank	\$452,439.10	\$449,430.36
Property Tax Rec.	\$67,386.15	\$67,798.74
So. Ryegate Sewer Rec.	\$3,150.00	\$4,050.00
E. Ryegate Sewer Rec.	\$2,370.84	\$2,651.74
Due from other funds	\$178.35	\$2,187.13
Other Receivable	\$142.77	\$0.00
Due from St of VT	\$29,520.00	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$555,217.21	\$526,147.97
 Current Liabilities:	 12/31/2002	 12/31/2003
Accounts Payable	\$5,226.10	\$279.90
Ticklenaked Pond Grant	\$3,036.45	\$1,538.32
Reappraisal	\$10,266.00	\$10,266.00
Total Liabilities	\$18,528.55	\$12,084.22
 Fund Bal - Prior Year	 \$411,198.75	 \$464,641.32
Fund Bal- SR Sewer	\$6,576.45	\$12,525.09
Fund Bal- Fire Dept	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Fund Bal- Bridges	\$63,069.66	\$13,069.66
Fund Bal- Restoration	\$4,399.08	\$5,622.66
Current Year Earnings	\$50,444.72	\$18,205.01
 Current Liabilities & Fund Balance	 \$555,217.21	 \$514,063.74

Treasurer's Report (Changes in Fund Balance)

Fund Balances January 1, 2003 **\$536,688.66**

Receipts:

Taxes	\$1,922,445.07
Interest- Delinquent Taxes	\$10,486.20
Interest- Other	\$9,949.13
State of Vermont	\$115,155.50
Dog Licenses	\$1,334.00
Town Clerk's Fees	\$11,009.69
Hold Harmless/Current Use	\$22,180.00
Fund Balance/Prior Year	\$50,000.00
Other	\$28,884.60

Total **\$2,171,444.19**

Disbursements:

School	\$1,451,583.00
School- Bond	\$120,738.00
Roads	\$308,007.18
Insurance	\$66,089.29
Town Office Clerk/Treas	\$36,692.13
Town Office/Listers	\$9,611.25
Machine Fund	\$40,000.00
Fire Department	\$39,446.04
Ambulance	\$15,959.00
CountyTax	\$12,464.88
Payroll Taxes/Retirement	\$19,058.08
Contributions	\$6,158.26
Other	\$27,432.07

Total **\$2,153,239.18**

Fund Balance Adjustments 2003 **(\$40,829.93)**

Total of all Fund Bal (12/31/2003) **\$514,063.74**

Treasurer's Report (Taxes Receivable 12/31/03)

Property Tax:

Del 2000 Tax due 12/31/2002	\$1,579.92
Del 2000 Tax Paid in 2003	<u>(\$1,579.92)</u>
Balance Due 12/31/2003	\$0.00
 Del 2001 Tax due 12/31/2002	 \$15,032.53
Del 2001 Tax Paid in 2003	<u>(\$15,000.73)</u>
Balance Due 12/31/2003	\$31.80
 Del 2002 Tax due 12/31/2002	 \$50,773.70
Del 2002 Tax Paid in 2003	<u>(\$39,474.02)</u>
Balance Due 12/31/2003	\$11,299.68
 Del 2003 Tax due 12/31/2003	 \$56,467.26
 TOTAL DEL TAX DUE	 \$67,798.74

So. Ryegate Sewer Users:

Del 2002 Tax Due 12/31/2002	\$3,150.00
Del 2002 Tax Paid in 2003	<u>\$3,150.00</u>
Balance Due 12/31/2003	\$0.00
 Del 2003 Tax Due 12/31/2003	 \$4,050.00
 TOTAL DEL TAX DUE	 \$4,050.00

COMPARATIVE BUDGET REVENUES

Income	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget
Real Prop Taxes	\$2,035,689.87	\$1,922,445.07	\$2,112,456.20
Pilot	\$0.00	\$1,141.40	\$0.00
Equal Gr List Maint	\$0.00	\$5,502.00	\$0.00
Interest- Del Tax	\$6,000.00	\$10,486.20	\$6,000.00
Tax Collector's 8%	\$0.00	\$5,442.49	\$0.00
Liquor Licenses	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Permits/Zon&Plan	\$0.00	\$275.00	\$0.00
Zoning Books	\$0.00	\$23.00	\$0.00
Mar & C Union Lic	\$0.00	\$265.00	\$0.00
State Aid-Hwys	\$100,000.00	\$115,155.50	\$110,000.00
Town Clerk's Fees	\$7,000.00	\$11,009.69	\$7,000.00
Fax Fees	\$0.00	\$61.00	\$0.00
Dog License-Male	\$400.00	\$202.00	\$400.00
Dog Lic-Female	\$400.00	\$229.00	\$400.00
Dog Lic-Sp or Neu	\$400.00	\$862.00	\$400.00
Dog Lic-Kennel	\$0.00	\$41.00	\$0.00
Fire Dept Grant Rmb	\$0.00	\$1,765.00	\$0.00
Town Hgwy Bridge	\$0.00	\$12,584.79	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$8,000.00	\$9,949.13	\$2,000.00
Traffic Control	\$0.00	\$467.86	\$0.00
H Hrmls/Cur Use	\$0.00	\$22,180.00	\$0.00
T Sale Inc for Fees	\$0.00	\$995.42	\$0.00
Bridge Fund Bal	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
Misc Other	\$0.00	\$311.64	\$0.00
Year Total	\$2,207,889.87	\$2,171,444.19	\$2,238,706.20

COMPARATIVE BUDGET EXPENSES (Page 1)

Expense	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget
Selectmen Salaries	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
County Tax	\$12,464.87	\$12,464.88	\$10,774.00
Insurance Medical	\$48,000.00	\$46,559.75	\$44,000.00
Insurance Work Comp	\$8,227.00	\$7,221.56	\$10,046.00
VLCT PACIF	\$8,485.00	\$8,485.00	\$8,565.00
VLCT PACIF- Prev Yr	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Unemployment Ins	\$533.00	\$532.80	\$381.00
Town Patrol	\$3,000.00	\$3,290.18	\$2,000.00
Tax Sale Notices	\$0.00	\$237.60	\$0.00
Elections Advertising	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Meeting Advertising	\$50.00	\$298.00	\$50.00
Town Report	\$1,400.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,400.00
Auditor's Salaries	\$800.00	\$103.13	\$800.00
Auditor's Supplies	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Ballot Clerk Salaries	\$750.00	\$150.00	\$750.00
Lister's Salaries	\$12,000.00	\$7,718.28	\$12,000.00
Lister's Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$502.61	\$700.00
Lister's Telephone	\$500.00	\$544.36	\$600.00
Lister's Comp Sup & Prg	\$650.00	\$846.00	\$635.00
Tax Collector's 8%	\$0.00	\$5,442.49	\$0.00
Tax Collector's Exp	\$200.00	\$148.00	\$200.00
State Fees- Dog Lic	\$200.00	\$203.00	\$200.00
Section Total	\$100,759.87	\$97,822.64	\$95,601.00

Town Officers			
Tn Officer's Salaries	\$28,500.00	\$27,726.00	\$28,500.00
Tn Officer's Supplies	\$1,700.00	\$1,824.62	\$1,700.00
Tn Officer's Postage	\$1,000.00	\$917.32	\$1,000.00
Tn Officer's Telephone	\$750.00	\$752.26	\$775.00
Tn Officer's Groundwork	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$400.00
Tn Officer's Utilities	\$550.00	\$467.08	\$500.00
Tn Officer's Fuel Oil	\$650.00	\$824.73	\$1,000.00
Tn Officer's Mach & Eq	\$1,400.00	\$1,563.87	\$1,400.00
Tn Officer's Eq Repair	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Tn Officer's Conference	\$700.00	\$398.40	\$500.00
Tn Officer's Comp S & P	\$1,500.00	\$1,564.85	\$1,500.00
Tn Officer's Total	\$37,300.00	\$36,489.13	\$37,425.00

COMPARATIVE BUDGET EXPENSES (Page 2)

Highway Department	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget
Fuel Oil	\$1,200.00	\$1,477.03	\$1,500.00
Supplies	\$8,000.00	\$6,136.61	\$8,000.00
Uniforms	\$1,900.00	\$1,967.99	\$2,000.00
Motor Oil	\$750.00	\$1,232.85	\$1,000.00
Diesel	\$5,000.00	\$5,250.93	\$5,500.00
Gasoline	\$13,000.00	\$15,081.32	\$16,000.00
Tires	\$3,000.00	\$99.90	\$1,500.00
Utilities	\$1,300.00	\$1,174.66	\$1,300.00
Telephone	\$1,200.00	\$1,148.11	\$1,200.00
Summer Rd Labor	\$54,160.00	\$48,354.10	\$54,000.00
Winter Rd Labor	\$68,684.00	\$65,225.11	\$71,000.00
Chloride	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Culverts	\$2,500.00	\$224.90	\$2,500.00
Gravel	\$30,000.00	\$30,025.40	\$30,000.00
Cold patch	\$500.00	\$635.46	\$500.00
Guard Rails	\$5,000.00	\$5,660.00	\$5,000.00
Equipment Rent	\$2,000.00	\$4,702.00	\$2,000.00
Roadside Mowing	\$3,200.00	\$3,150.00	\$3,250.00
Brush Cutting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,150.00
Salt	\$10,000.00	\$5,381.66	\$10,000.00
Sand	\$8,000.00	\$11,637.50	\$8,000.00
2003 Road Job	\$0.00	\$7,623.03	\$0.00
2003 Bridge Job	\$0.00	\$7,883.50	\$0.00
2000 Chevy Truck	\$500.00	\$1,846.82	\$0.00
2001 Chevy Truck	\$500.00	\$25.00	\$500.00
2003 Chevy Truck	\$0.00	\$53.27	\$0.00
2004 Chevy Truck	\$0.00	\$148.25	\$0.00
1999 Chevy Truck	\$500.00	\$147.95	\$0.00
1993 Grader	\$2,500.00	\$5,944.80	\$2,500.00
2001 Loader	\$500.00	\$207.87	\$500.00
Road Resurfacing	\$75,000.00	\$75,561.16	\$75,000.00
Highway Total	\$301,894.00	\$308,007.18	\$307,900.00

COMPARATIVE BUDGET EXPENSES (Page 3)

Fire Department	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget
Forest Fire Exp	\$0.00	\$149.47	\$0.00
Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$839.08	\$1,000.00
Training	\$1,200.00	\$1,661.71	\$1,400.00
Dispatching	\$1,588.00	\$1,588.00	\$1,085.00
Dues	\$1,190.00	\$1,163.68	\$1,200.00
Repairs	\$2,500.00	\$1,823.83	\$2,500.00
Gasoline	\$500.00	\$728.68	\$750.00
Diesel	\$400.00	\$449.15	\$550.00
Utilities- Ryegate C	\$795.00	\$840.35	\$875.00
Utilities- So. Ryeg	\$475.00	\$409.56	\$450.00
Fuel Oil- Ryegate C	\$1,000.00	\$1,463.31	\$1,500.00
Fuel/Gas- So. Ryeg	\$875.00	\$1,408.90	\$800.00
Telephone	\$1,900.00	\$3,020.31	\$700.00
Bldg Rep/Maint-RC	\$500.00	\$457.09	\$500.00
Bldg Rep/Maint-SR	\$500.00	\$140.00	\$2,200.00
Machinery & Eq	\$6,000.00	\$6,208.70	\$6,000.00
Dry Hydrant Fund	\$500.00	\$530.00	\$500.00
Pumper Fund	\$13,264.00	\$13,264.02	\$13,264.00
Insurance/WC	\$1,062.00	\$541.20	\$700.00
Insurance/ACC	\$1,759.00	\$1,759.00	\$1,759.00
Equip Repl Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Fire Dept Total	\$38,008.00	\$39,446.04	\$38,733.00

COMPARATIVE BUDGET EXPENSES (Page 4)

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget
Zoning Expense	\$50.00	\$187.39	\$50.00
Planning Comm. Exp	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Tn Clerk Fees- Dog Lic	\$400.00	\$422.00	\$400.00
Marriage License Fees	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
Legal Fees	\$5,000.00	\$4,978.53	\$5,000.00
Ryegate History Comm.	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Ryegate Historical Soc	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Town Bldg Rep & Maint	\$5,000.00	\$1,884.70	\$5,000.00
Town House Parking Lot	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Machine Fund	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
VLCT Dues	\$748.00	\$1,021.00	\$1,082.00
Retirement	\$7,300.00	\$6,732.58	\$7,500.00
Road Signs	\$500.00	\$580.72	\$500.00
Section Total	\$66,398.00	\$58,066.92	\$61,932.00
Cemetery Appropriation	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,500.00
Cem. Fencing & Repair	\$1,000.00	\$840.76	\$1,000.00
Cemetery Flags	\$250.00	\$273.00	\$275.00
FICA- Employer	\$13,000.00	\$12,325.50	\$13,000.00
Dog Catcher Expense	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Animal Care Expense	\$500.00	\$150.00	\$500.00
Fire Warden Expense	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Ambulance	\$15,410.00	\$15,410.00	\$15,410.00
Ambulance Res	\$400.00	\$549.00	\$400.00
Beach Rep & Maint	\$1,200.00	\$1,259.74	\$1,200.00
Health Officer Exp	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Town Recycling	\$2,000.00	\$1,120.01	\$2,000.00
Section Total	\$37,360.00	\$34,928.01	\$41,935.00

COMPARATIVE BUDGET EXPENSES (PAGE 5)

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget
Contributions:			
NVDA	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
NEK Human Srv.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Rivers Reach**	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00	\$0.00
Cal Home Health	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
VT Vet. Memorial	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
VT Ctr for Ind Liv	\$265.00	\$265.00	\$265.00
BMU Little Leag.	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
VT Green Up	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Ryegate Green Up	\$300.00	\$288.26	\$300.00
Groton Fd Shelf	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Libraries	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$200.00
VT Off on Aging	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
NEK Youth Srv.	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
NEK Adult Bas	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Umbrella	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Ryegate Heritage	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
4th of July Comm	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Catamount Arts	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
RCTransportation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$90.20
Contributions			
Total	\$6,170.00	\$6,158.26	\$5,130.20
 BMU School	 \$1,500,000.00	 \$1,451,583.00	 \$1,532,000.00
BMU Bond	\$120,000.00	\$120,738.00	\$118,050.00
 Year Total	 \$2,207,889.87	 \$2,153,239.18	 \$2,238,706.20

** Additional Contribution per Town Meeting 2002 vote

BRIDGE SUMMARY

BRIDGE #9642- HILLSIDE DRIVE

	Town of Ryegate	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Bridge</u> <u>Fund Balance</u>
FY1999		\$5,573.95	\$10,000.00	
FY2000		\$17,972.27	\$20,000.00	
FY2001		\$5,728.95	\$32,000.00	
FY2002		\$1,047.15	\$0.00	
		\$30,322.32	\$62,000.00	\$31,677.68

BRIDGE #9643- STONE ROAD

	Town of Ryegate	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Bridge</u> <u>Fund Balance</u>
FY1999		\$5,432.22	\$10,000.00	
FY2000		\$574.91	\$20,000.00	
FY2001		\$23,480.48	\$32,000.00	
FY2002		\$1,120.41	\$0.00	
		\$30,608.02	\$62,000.00	\$31,391.98

Total Bridge Fund Balance 12/31/02	\$63,069.66
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Bridge Fund Bal to Gen Fund 2003	\$50,000.00
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Total Bridge Fund Balance 12/31/03	\$13,069.66
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TOWN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

REAL ESTATE:

Town House & Contents	\$82,000.00
Town Clerk's Office	75,000.00
Storage Shed	16,724.00
Corner Fire Station	97,275.00
Concession Stand & Contents	10,500.00
So. Ryegate Fire Station	40,000.00
New Town Garage & Contents	180,000.00
Historical Society Building	40,000.00
& Contents	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL REAL ESTATE	\$542,499.00

HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT:

2001 John Deere Loader	\$80,000.00
1993 John Deere Grader	10,000.00
2001 Chevrolet Truck & Sander	29,210.99
2003 Chevrolet Truck & Sander	28,605.00
2004 Chevrolet Truck & Sander	33,227.00
New plow	4,290.00
Miscellaneous equipment	<u>7,500.00</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY EQUIP.	\$192,832.99

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER'S OFFICE:

Desks, Tables, Chairs, Files	3,250.00
Typewriter	200.00
2 Calculators	200.00
Copier	1,000.00
Computers	6,000.00
FAX Machine	<u>200.00</u>
TOTAL OFFICE:	\$ 10,850.00

TOTAL ALL PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

Town Report 2003	<u>\$746,181.99</u>
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RYEGATE FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Water Treatment System	\$1,000.00
1979 Forestry Pickup	1,200.00
1979 Tanker - '88 Ford	15,000.00
1976 Tanker - '76 Chevy	10,000.00
Thikol Amphibious track vehicle	10,000.00
1997 Ford LN 8000 1500 gpm	<u>134,000.00</u>

\$171,200.00

MISCELLANEOUS FIRE EQUIPMENT 40,150.00

TOTAL ALL FIRE EQUIPMENT \$211,350.00

COMMUNITY ICE RINK

We now have a new community ice rink located at the Blue Mountain Union School. The Selectmen made funding for the rink available through a gift made to the children of Ryegate by Mr. John Weesner, honoring his daughter. Area businesses and community members made other donations. Thanks also to the Ryegate Fire Department for coming to fill the rink.



Pictured on the rink are Eli and Jakob LaVaude

TOWN OF RYEGATE CAPITAL NEEDS

TOWN HIGHWAY MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT CURRENT YR PLUS 5 YR ESTIMATE

		Cost	Cost	Cost	Cost	Cost	Cost
		Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008
Capital Items							
2003- Truck		\$28,605					
2004- Truck		\$33,227					
2003- Plow		\$4,290					
2004- Grader/Trade 1993			\$125,000				
2005- Truck/Trade 2001				\$35,000			
No purchase anticipated					\$-		
2007- Truck/Trade 2003						\$36,000	
2008- Truck/Trade 2004							\$36,500
Balance in Savings Jan 1		\$137,855	\$113,566	\$29,066	\$34,566	\$75,566	\$80,566
Annual Deposit		\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Annual Cost		\$(66,122)	\$(125,000)	\$(35,000)	\$-	\$(36,000)	\$(36,500)
Annual Interest Earned		\$1,833	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200
Balance in Savings Dec 31		\$113,566	\$29,066	\$34,566	\$75,566	\$80,566	\$85,266

FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY SELECTMEN & TREASURER

	Beg Bal dep,w/d	Int Credit	End Bal
1) Softball Field #268570	\$380.50	\$3.32	\$383.82
2) So. Ryegate Sewer #273086	\$1,508.07	\$13.18	\$1,521.25
3) Rural Development #306513	\$3,916.36	\$34.19	\$3,950.55
4) Act 200 Funds #310392	\$6,147.90	\$53.68	\$6,201.58
5) Fire Dept Building Fund #48867	\$503.71	\$3.29	\$507.00
6) Fire Dept Eq. Repl. #707651 transferred to #632300	\$10,495.14 dep \$2,692.15	\$133.55	\$13,320.84
7) Machine Fund-Hwy #706685	\$52,966.81	\$1,055.21	\$54,022.02
8) Machine Fund-Hwy #612080	\$84,888.60 dep \$40,000.00 w/d \$66,122.09	\$777.76	\$59,544.27
9) Ryegate History Committee #602001	\$14,848.09 dep \$2,000.00	\$136.04	\$16,984.13
10) Ryegate History Commission #524317	\$658.97	\$5.75	\$664.72
11) Nicole A. Hayne #528494	\$13,085.56 dep \$1,000.00	\$114.37	\$14,199.93
12) M. Hall Library #195892	\$5,093.50 dep \$409.68 w/d \$546.20	\$44.35	\$5,001.33
13) W. Sutton Memorial #552067	\$100.98	\$0.88	\$101.86

FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY SELECTMEN & TREASURER

(PAGE 2)

	Beg Bal dep,w/d	Int Credit	End Bal
14) E. Ryegate Library			
#9358817841	\$1,830.58	\$7.59	\$1,838.17
15) Tax Sale/Mace			
#564635 opened 12/2003	\$1,302.85	\$0.00	\$1,302.85
16) Tax Sale/Robertson			
#564634 opened 12/2003	\$74.41	\$0.00	\$74.41
17) John F. McColl Cemetery			
#800156	\$2,678.71	\$55.23	\$2,733.94
#234630	\$1,988.32	\$17.36	\$2,005.68
18) McDonald Cemetery			
#290409	\$304.58	\$2.66	\$307.24
19) Byrne-Buchanan Cemetery			
#304502	\$467.26	\$4.08	\$471.34
20) C A Park Cemetery			
#506625	\$663.38	\$5.79	\$669.17
21) Cameron Cemetery			
#702507	\$2,314.53	\$43.83	\$2,358.36
22) Ryegate Cemetery Fund			
#601600	\$10,948.97	\$98.76	\$11,047.73
23) E. Hall Cemetery			
#195915	\$4,651.36	\$41.95	\$5,058.11
	dep \$364.80		
24) M. Hall Cemetery			
#195928	\$2,343.03	\$21.66	\$2,620.01
	dep \$255.32		
120 Shares Bk of NY			\$3,974.40
132 Shares Fleet			\$5,761.80
6 Shares Bk of NY			\$198.72

ALLOCATION OF TAXES

TAXES RAISED: RATE

School 1.61

Roads & General .36

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>GRANDLIST</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>TAXES</u>
1998	960,409.87 (Real)	1.75	1,680,717
	*54,443.75 (PP)	.20	10,889
1999	958,175.76 (Real)	2.14	2,050,497
	*96,620.56 (PP)	.38	36,716
2000	939,604.32	2.02	1,898,001
	*76,021.25 (PP)	.38	<u>28,888</u>
		TOTAL:	1,926,889
2001	998,571.42	2.12	2,116,971
	*82,240.40	.48	<u>39,475</u>
		TOTAL:	2,156,446

*No education tax on personal property

2002	Education	976,726.75	1.47	1,435,788
	Municipal	975,408.75	.44	<u>429,179</u>
			1.91	1,864,967
2003	Education	975,853.32	1.61	1,571,123
	Municipal	974,810.45	.36	<u>350,931</u>
			1.97	1,922,054

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TAX BILL

The tax rate is per \$100 of your assessment; so to figure your tax, you must move the decimal two places to the left, and then multiply by the tax rate.

SAMPLE BILL:

Your Appraisal	Tax rate per 100	Tax due
\$75,000	1.97 x 750.00	\$1,477.50

Delinquent South Ryegate Sewer Tax 12/31/03

Tim Page	\$450.00
John Knox	\$450.00
Carrie Patneade, Estate	\$450.00
Leonard Spencer	\$900.00
William Herbert	\$450.00

Total Due Report Printing	\$2,700.00
Total Paid Since 12/31/03	\$1,350.00
Total Due 12/31/03	\$4,050.00

2001 Delinquent Taxes as of 12/31/03

Richard Niles	\$16.96
Theopheile & Laurie Patten	\$14.84

Total Due 12/31/03	\$31.80
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2002 Delinquent Taxes as of 12/31/03

Elizabeth Achilles	\$1,780.12
Ryan Bessette	\$15.28
Brian Blood	\$922.53
Roger Bolduc	\$11.46
William Burke	\$19.10
Peter & Michelle Kalnins	\$1,279.70
Gary & Linda Lipp	\$842.98
Longmeadow Farm/Canlon	\$2,391.77
James & Faith Nelson	\$234.93
Richard Niles	\$15.28
Norman & Jeanne Page	\$181.16
Tim & Colleen Page	\$302.62
Theopheile & Laurie Patten	\$13.37
Tracy & Sherri Phelps	\$807.65
Forrest Shangraw	\$229.36
Irving & Eugenia Wilson	\$919.35

Total Due Report Printing	\$9,966.66
Total Paid Since 12/31/03	\$1,333.02
Total Due 12/31/03	\$11,299.68

2003 Delinquent Taxes as 12/31/03

Elizabeth Achilles	\$1,836.04
Michael & Christina Barata	\$311.26
Brian Blood	\$951.51
Russell Bullard	\$1,678.44
William Burke	\$19.70
Bruce Darling	\$1,245.71
George Englert	\$1,051.98
Furniture Outlet	\$1,483.41
Jeff & Carol Hale	\$2,842.71
William Herbert	\$673.74
Peter & Michelle Kalnins	\$1,485.38
Pamela Kaufman/Steven Bushey	\$2,393.55
Gary & Linda Lipp	\$1,814.37
Raymond & Ellen Canlon	\$4,426.59
Victor Makris, Trustee	\$525.99
David Marocchini	\$445.60
Lillian Mason/Sam McFarland	\$564.97
James & Faith Nelson	\$242.31
Richard Niles	\$15.76
Jeanne & Norman Page	\$756.48
Tim & Colleen Page	\$1,343.54
Carrie Patneau, Estate	\$300.67
David & Elizabeth Paye	\$894.38
Carlton & Kathleen Pelletier	\$232.65
Tracy & Sherri Phelps	\$1,016.52
Walter Robertson, Jr.	\$1,056.66
Rodney Rood, Jr.	\$2,212.31
Robert Scadding/Verne Scadding	\$195.03
Forrest Shangraw	\$1,371.12
Steve & Janette Sullivan	\$746.63
Paul Theriault/Gayle Nanopoulos	\$1,885.29
Susan Waller	\$1,432.19
Stewart & Joyce White	\$1,847.74
Irvin & Eugenia Wilson	\$937.72
Total Due Report Printing	\$40,237.95
Total Paid Since 12/31/03	-\$16,229.31
Total Due 12/31/03	\$56,467.26

LISTERS REPORT

Tax maps are on display at the town office. They are updated every 2 years to reflect changes that have occurred. If landowners note any errors, Listers would appreciate an enclosed sketch with the request for correction. Requested corrections will be reviewed by tax mapper, Russell Graphic in October 2004. Certified surveys are very important in the development of accurate tax maps. We encourage all landowners to share their surveys with the town office.

Please notify the Listers if you have a change of mailing address or any change to your property such as new construction, alterations to existing buildings or removal of structures.

Grievance hearings are held in late spring. The date will be posted at the town office and the Ryegate post offices two weeks prior to grievance hearings. Call the town office for an appointment.

For landowners interested in enrolling in the Current Use Program, applications are available in the town office. Questions about the program can be directed to Property Valuation and Review in Montpelier. (802-828-5861).

If you would like an appointment with the Listers, please call the town Office. (802-584-3880)

RYEGATE LISTERS

Beverly Allen
Bruce Beauvais
Joan Smith

PLANNING COMMISSION/ZONING BOARD REPORT

The Ryegate Planning Commission / Zoning Board is currently reviewing the Zoning Ordinance for re-adoption by the town. We will post dates for future hearings.

The Board and the Zoning Administrator have been working with landowners that were in violation of the by-laws. Most residents have been very cooperative in resolving these violations; however the Zoning Administrator has been to court twice this year with several residents and progress is being made. Hopefully these problem areas can be corrected this year.

The permits issued last year for cell towers have expired with no action being taken by the permit holder. If they desire to build a cell tower at this time a new permit will have to be issued. Other companies have expressed interest in placing cell towers in town although no permit applications have been received by the Zoning Administrator.

Building permits are necessary for any new structure or building alteration prior to starting construction. Also, land that is being subdivided needs site-plan approval from the Board as well as from the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

We welcomed Scott Ordway to the Board this year and look forward to his input. If you have questions concerning zoning, call: Al Sponheimer, Zoning Administrator at 802-584-3500.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Beauvais, Chairman
Beverly Allen
Lunnie Clark
William Elder
Scott Ordway
Margaret Pearl
Libby Hillhouse-Manning
Fremont Nelson

BURN BARRELS



In Case there is any Vermonter who doesn't know, burn barrels are banned in Vermont. Burning solid waste threatens Vermonters' health and the environment.

Today's trash contains plastic, dyes, chemicals, heavy metals, and other materials that produce highly toxic substances when burned. Some cause acute respiratory symptoms and eye irritations. Others may accumulate over time to cause long-term respiratory problems, cancer, or birth defects.

Trash in burn barrels burns at a low temperature with low levels of oxygen. Dangerous chemicals are not destroyed, there are no smokestacks to capture toxins, and the ashes are rarely disposed of safely. Smoke containing poisons are released at ground level, so they directly contaminate places where we live and work and where our children play.

So, if you or anyone you know is using a burn barrel to burn solid waste, put a stop to it. It's dangerous, and it's against the law.

Adapted from The Seedling, Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions, Summer 2003.

Submitted by the Ryegate Selectman. Printed in the December 2003 Vermont Local Roads News, Saint Michael's College, One Winooski Park, Box 260, Colchester, VT 05439

FOREST FIRE WARDENS REPORT

Ryegate had wild land fires this year. After Green Up we had enough rain to keep the fuels wet thus reducing the chance of fires.

Burn permits are issued for the burning of leaves, brush, and deadwood and tree cuttings from normal property cleanup onsite providing it does not cause a nuisance to neighbors. Untreated natural woods such as demolition debris may be burned after acquiring a permit from the Agency of Natural Resources Air Pollution Division and then a local burn permit from your town warden.

BURNING TRASH IS ILLEGAL IN THIS STATE

Burn barrels are for burning wood products as stated above only.

To request a permit call: Gene Perkins, Warden 584-3611

Fremont Nelson 584-3667

Pat Enger 584-4070

State of Vermont Fire statistics for 2003	
# Of human caused fires	100
# Of lightning caused fires	1
# Of acres burned caused by human	92.7
# Of acres burned caused by lightning	3
Total # of fires	101
Total # of acres burned	95.7
10 yr total average # of fires	142
10 yr total average # of acres burned	243

Respectfully submitted

Gene A. Perkins, Warden

RYEGATE FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

This year we applied for four grants and to this date we have received one. The Jefford's and Dry Hydrant grants that we have received for the past several years were both turned down for the same reason: we had received grants in the past and departments that have never applied before got their requests. With the help of Louis Greenstein in writing the F.E.M.A. grant, we applied for money to build a tanker. As of this date we have not received a yes or no. A new grant became available this year as a Home Land Security grant in which we requested \$105,000.00 for a command vehicle but received \$20,000.00 for UHF, VHF radios, and a Thermal Imaging Camera.

This year our Department sponsored two very successful weekend training events in our station for area departments and ourselves.

The following is a brief of this year's runs:

Building Fire	3
Chimney Fire	3
Brush	2
Rubbish	1
Accident	14
Cover	5
EMS Assist	3
False	3
Public Service	7
Mutual Aide	3

The Department wishes to thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted
Gene A. Perkins

RYEGATE HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Reprint of the 1913 Ryegate History with pictures has been well received by the community and those at a distance who have roots in the town. During the year, 105 of the 500 copies were sold at \$35.00 per copy. These are available at the Town Office.

The report of the Ryegate Historical Society listed several of the significant items, which have been donated. These are much appreciated and invaluable to the author in writing of the 20th Century History. Every effort is being made to include as many pictures of building, some of which no longer exist, but also of present buildings, which will be of value to later generations of citizens. Town affairs as well as the work and leadership of community organizations and businesses is being recorded. Some of the material is not readily available and takes considerable time to research. Other items of interest include the effects of disasters such as the 1927 flood, the 1938 hurricane, and devastating fires in both Ryegate Corner and South Ryegate.

Edward Miller collected material on the town and its families throughout his life but died in 1900 without writing. A few years after his death the town hired Frederic Wells to write the History which was published in 1913 using Mr. Miller's and others material as well as his own careful research. Yours Truly is in danger of being a second Edward Miller as there is no end to the research! There is on hand a wonderful collection of pictures, and some segments of the history are written. What remains is some final research on organizations in order to produce a history, which is accurate, informative and readable. Target dates for publication have come and gone. It is hoped to go to press no later than early 2005.

Please contact the author at an early date if you have pictures or other written material, which will help in making this as complete a History as possible. It will be much appreciated.

Dwight A. White
For the Committee

RYEGATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

During the year the Ryegate Historical Society held three membership meetings with an average attendance of 46. The programs were as follows: July 9: Lynn Bonfield on "Area Civil War Quilts and Letters"; August 20; Howard Coffin on "The Battered Stars, Vermont and Grant's Overland Campaign of 1864", cosponsored by the VT Council On the Humanities; October 15: Dwight White on "20th Century Ryegate".

The Annual Meeting was held on August 20 following the Potluck Picnic Supper and prior to the evening's program. Officers elected were: President – Dean Rowden; Vice president – Earl Ashcroft; Secretary-Treasurer – Dwight White, and Board member for 3 years, Hoyt Darby St.

A Whitelaw Hall Renovation Fund was established by the Board in late summer. This was necessitated by a lightning incident, which destroyed the basement hall wiring, but fortunately did not cause a fire. The decision was made to rewire the entire building, as it was the original knob and tube type with the insulation badly deteriorated. This required meeting State electrical codes thus new electrical panels, breaker boxes, receptacles and meter. The old steel ceiling and wall covering were removed and new luan ceiling with fluorescent lights was installed. The cost was \$4,941.00. The balance to be raised is \$1,639. While this project was not planned at this time, it was an alert that precautionary work needed to be done.

Donations to the Society this year have included the scrapbooks of Edna White, by Lois Boemig; Early Town Reports by David Warden and Eleanor Placey; Old #2 school books by Doris Berry; Civil War Discharge of Charles Wallace by the Wallace, Chamberlin and Keenan families; papers and diaries of Edward Miller as well as several of his books, by the Miller heirs, and significant pictures of buildings, persons, and scenes of 20th century Ryegate by many persons. The RHS is grateful.

The RHS thanks the Town for its annual support and residents for their interest and support.

Dwight A. White, Sec./Treas.

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS NARRATIVE

The Commission met several times during 2003 to upgrade and manage our cemeteries. Thanks to Jim Winget and his team for their hard work mowing the cemeteries and keeping them looking neat

Research is underway to determine the feasibility of removing overgrown trees at the top of Hillside Cemetery by gaining permission to access the land or possibly purchasing 50 feet from current landowner. The trees, although a picturesque backdrop for the cemetery, may become a liability unless measures are taken to protect the cemetery property and monuments.

The old water spigots have been removed from Pinehurst. There is a wonderful artesian well available for plant watering at the entrance. The Hartman family, responsible for this donation, has attractively planted flowers and landscaped the area around the well and granite bench. It's worth a visit if you are driving by and have yet to see it.

The fence builders, Rick Colby and sons now complete the Blue Mountain Cemetery fence project on the upper side with a white-stain coat. Although budgeted, continued cleaning and straightening of the cemetery stones was not completed; however the monies will be carried over to 2004 and the work will progress as planned by Gandin Bros.

Discussions are underway with the selectmen and the road crew to grade and smooth the upper road entrance to Blue Mountain, which will prevent vehicle undercarriages from hitting. No lots in either cemetery were purchased or recorded in 2003

Caretakers remain the same as Year 2002 – Harvey Ricker (584-3236) in charge of South Ryegate and Tony Dennis (584-3110) of Blue Mountain. Our appreciation extends to them for their interest and good work. The Commissioners want to express appreciation for the continued town appropriation support for our cemeteries. . The by-laws, adopted in 2002, can be obtained from any Commissioner or the Town Clerk.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Nelson, Chairman
Rick Colby, Vice-Chairman
Daniel Leonard, Treasurer

Ellsworth Frost, Ass't. Treasurer
Judy Gandin, Clerk

CEMETERY TREASUER'S REPORT 2003

Balance in Checking 1/1/03	\$1,461.08
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
American Investment	145.32
Comcast	21.72
Putnam	744.01
AT&T	23.08
Town Appropriation	3,000.00
From CD 808101	3,000.00
From Savings 551291	2,200.00
From Savings 31813	200.00
Sale of Cornerstones	<u>65.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$9,399.13
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Mowing	\$5,800.00
Electricity	185.58
Cornerstones	<u>130.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,115.58
Balance in Checking 12/31/03	\$4,744.63

INVESTMENT BALANCES 12/31/03

Acct. #	Beg Bal	Int. & w/d	End Bal
184003273 WGSB-CD	23,858.59	485.05	24,343.64
31813 WGSB-SAVINGS	4,907.92	31.32 w/d 200.00	4,739.24
551291 WRSB-SAVINGS	2,208.22	13.15 w/d 2,200.00 w/d 5.00	16.37
174994 WRSB-SAVINGS	674.43	5.89	680.32
807525 WRSB-CD	49,368.25	663.38	50,031.63
808101WRSB-CD	6,242.42	74.78	33,17.15
AM. FUNDS 41218223	282.610 SHARES @ 28.84		8,150.47
PUTNAM INV. A01-1-03-6000914-BBBK	28,233.77	4,158.76	32,392.53
AT&T 3606-4661	5.2 SHARES @ 20.36		105.56

NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Supervisors Report

The district grew by one more member with the addition of Irasburg. The 2004 budget increased by less than 1% and the surcharge decreased by .50 cents to \$21.00 per ton. The recycling market remained stable last year thus we realized a surplus in revenues again. This year we will be retiring the debt. Please take time to read the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District 2003 Report in particular paragraph five. Note the date of our local Hazardous Waste collection in Peacham.

Groton/Ryegate Recycling increased its volume of materials taken in and the number of participants using the service. A number of changes were made this year in our operations.

1. #1 & 2 plastics are mixed, (caps must be removed)
2. Junk mail and ledger paper are mixed. (Not enough volume separately)
3. Glass of any color or type is mixed (Including window glass, porcelain, Pyrex, safety glass and others)
4. Dates and times of operation are every Saturday, 8:00am-10:00am
5. A trash hauler has been added to operations

Respectfully Submitted
Gene A. Perkins

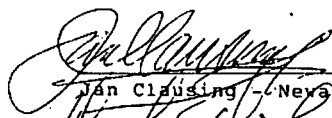
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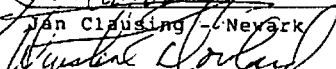
NEK WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET VOTE

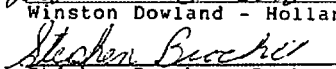
MARCH 2, 2004

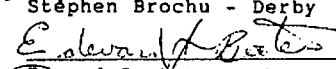
The legal voters of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District are hereby notified and warned to vote, by Australian Ballot, at the polling place and between the hours specified by their municipality on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 to act on the following article.

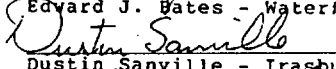
ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$ 464,608.39?

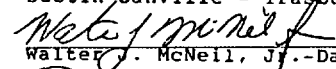

Jan Clausen - Newark

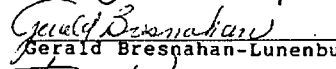

Winston Dowland - Holland

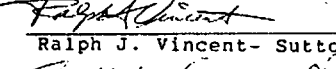

Stephen Brochu - Derby



Edward J. Bates - Waterford

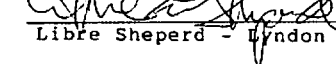

Dustin Sanville - Irasburg



Walter J. McNeil, Jr. - Danville

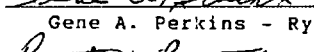

Gerald Bresnahan - Lunenburg

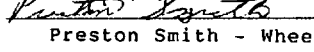

Ralph J. Vincent - Sutton

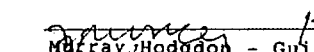

Philip Sorrell - Concord

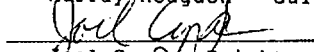

Libre Sheperd - Lyndon

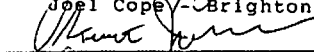

Gene A. Perkins - Ryegate

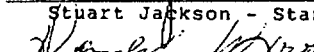

Preston Smith - Wheelock

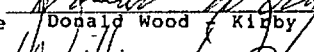

Murray Hodgdon - Guildhall

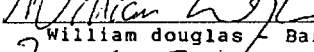

Joel Cope - Brighton


Stuart Jackson - Stannard


Donald Wood - Kirby


William Douglas - Barnet


Frederick McKnight - Peacham


Arthur B. Sanborn - Lyndon

NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District provides many services for the town of Ryegate. The 2003 Recycling rate for the towns of Groton and Ryegate was 27.4%. Every ton of trash costs approximately \$100, while recycling costs a subsidized hauling fee of \$47.14 per ton. Therefore, as residents recycle more the town can lower its overall waste management costs. Twenty Ryegate residents came to the household hazardous waste collection held at the recycling center, and many more brought in oil, batteries and bulbs.

The money for the NEKWMD budget comes from the sale of recyclables (20%), State grants (3%), hauling fees (8%), miscellaneous fees and income (9%), and a surcharge on every ton of trash disposed of from NEKWMD towns (60%). This is the fourth year in a row that the surcharge has dropped. Residents of the Town of Ryegate paid less than 1.5% of the District budget in 2003, based on hauling fees and surcharge. The surcharge for 2004 is \$21.00.

The hazardous waste depot in Lyndonville is open from June 1 to October 1 by appointment. A household hazardous waste collection is in Peacham on Saturday, July 10 from 8am to 12 noon. Ryegate residents are welcome at this collection. Clothing drop and swaps are scheduled for April 9-10 and September 10-11 at the Fenton Chester arena in Lyndonville.

You can call us a 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602 or reach us by email at progmgr@nekwmd.org or on the web at www.nekwmd.org.

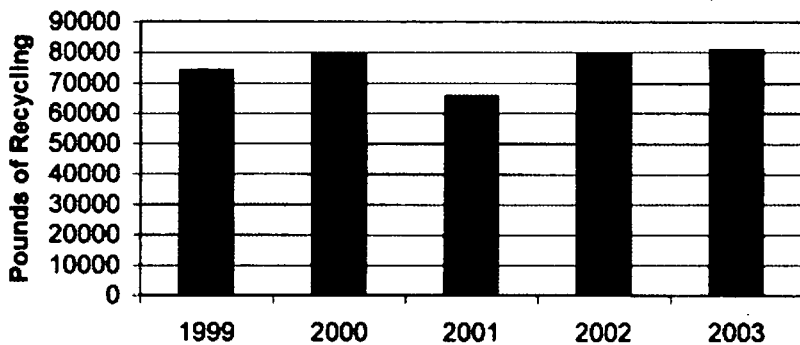
Yearly Totals
TOWNS OF: Ryegate-Groton
 Date: January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003

Materials

Amount in Pounds

	#1 Quarter	#2 Quarter	#3 Quarter	#4 Quarter	TOTAL
Cardboard	1068	953	1092	0	3113
Brown Paper Bags/Boxboard	705	1301	741	1143	3890
Newspaper/Magazines	9184	15451	7765	11539	43939
White Paper	0	135	0	0	135
Color Paper	984	1717	943	830	4454
Junk Mail	0	0	0	0	0
Tin Cans	1054	1594	865	953	4266
Aluminum Cans	213	563	260	382	1398
Clear Glass	1873	1685	1413	1838	6809
Green Glass	1300	2663	1351	717	6031
Brown Glass	392	514	0	520	1426
#1 PETE Plastic	384	560	524	878	2326
#2 HDPE Color Plastic	395	819	449	218	1881
#2 HDPE Natural Plastic	283	421	281	189	1154
Textiles	0	0	0	0	0
Other - Scrap Metal	0	169863	0	126520	296383
TOTAL RECYCLABLES	17775	188239	15484	145707	80822

Ryegate-Groton Recycling 1999 to 2003
 (without scrap metal)



2003 REPORT OF SO. RYEGATE PUBLIC LIBRARY, INC. (To account for Revenue Sharing Funds only)

Revenue Sharing funds in Treas. 1-1-03.....	\$0
Received Town of Ryegate 11-20-03.....	\$150.00
Expended toward operating expenses.....	<u>\$150.00</u>
Revenue Sharing Funds in Treas. 12-31-03.....	\$0

2003 REPORT OF MARION HALL TRUST FUND So. Ryegate Public Library Inc:

Bal. In Treas. 1-1-03.....	\$486.01
Received Ryegate Treasure 9-30-03.....	<u>500.00</u>
Total Receipts.....	986.01
Books Purchased 2003.....	<u>486.01</u>
Balance in acct. 12-31-03.....	\$500.00

S/ Virginia E. Ross, Treasurer
12-31-03



RYEGATE CORNER LIBRARY REPORT

Beginning checkbook bal. 1-01-2003	\$756.39
2003 received from town	150.00
2003 books purchased	37.70
Librarian's bonus	<u>50.00</u>
Checkbook balance 12-31-2003	\$818.69

The library is currently in the post office in Ryegate Corner. There may be new hours. Please contact Marsha Nelson at 584-3667 or 584-3880. Besides the local book collection, books are obtained three times a year from the Regional Library. Book requests may be called in to the above numbers.

WENDELL LORD VFW POST No. 5125

The Ryegate and Groton VFW has performed about 700 hours of community service in the towns during 2003. The Veterans of Foreign Wars' motto is "honor the dead by helping the living". The members perform services for fire departments, churches, senior services, and Senior Meals.

The following Ryegate members are officers in the Post: Senior Vice Commander Charles Bennett; Junior Vice Commander Ellsworth Frost. The Service Officer is Leonard Doscinski. His office number is (802) 296-5168 or toll free 1-866-687-8387.

If any veteran is interested in joining the post, contact any officer or the Post Commander, Richard Partington at 584-3074.

S/ Ellsworth Frost



TICKLENAKED POND ASSOCIATION

The Ticklenaked Pond Association (TPA) continues to work toward improving the water quality of Ticklenaked Pond. During 2003 property owners planted 800 plants purchased with grant money to create a vegetative buffer along the shoreline to prevent erosion and filter run off. TPA has purchased a boat in order to test the pond for clarity, phosphorus, and other pollutants. When camp Inglenook burned on July 9, TPA encouraged the owners to have the burned debris cleared from the water and shore before more pollutants could wash into the pond. The TPA is looking for help with a watershed survey to be conducted during 2004.

S/ Holly McLure
Clerk



**George D. Aiken Resource
Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**

22 North Main St., Suite 2
Randolph, VT 05060
(802) 728-6526
Fax (802) 728-5951

*"A non-profit non-partisan network of local people
dedicated to helping communities conserve and develop
their natural and human resources."*



The George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) has prepared an extensive network of resources to help towns, schools, fire departments, and watershed groups in six southern Vermont counties focus technical and financial resources to solve problems. Your town can upgrade back roads, create water-supply plans, obtain engineering assistance for dry hydrants, and provide fire fighters with protective gear, write grants to support agritourism, solve flooding problems, control erosion, stabilize stream banks, and develop recreation fields. We work on a request basis. Call for a free consultation with Kenneth Hafner, Coordinator, at (802) 728-9526 or email:

kenneth.hafner@vt.usda.gov



90 Swiftwater Road, P.O. Box 2001, Woodsville, New Hampshire 03785-2001 • 603-747-9000 • FAX 603-747-3310

There have been several areas of growth at Cottage Hospital in 2003, including three new Obstetrics providers and achievement of Critical Access designation.

At Cottage Hospital we are proud of the personal care we give our patients. We are extremely grateful for the financial support from area towns. Although funds are always needed and welcomed at Cottage Hospital, our Board of Trustees has decided NOT to ask Ryegate for financial support for the tenth consecutive year.

Thank you for your continued support.

S/ Reginald J. Lavoie
Administrator



ANNUAL REPORT - 2003
Riverbend Subcommittee
Connecticut River Joint Commissions

This year the Riverbend Subcommittee began to update our *Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan* with a close look at water quality and water-related issues in our region, particularly the need for more complete information on the safety of the river for swimming, fishing, and boating.

The towns of Concord, Newbury, Littleton, Haverhill, and Bath have sent new representatives to the Subcommittee, bringing new ideas and interests to ensure that discussions continue to be well-balanced. Ryegate is currently not represented. Citizens interested in representing the town are invited to contact the selectmen.

The Subcommittee has continued to carry out our legal obligation to provide information and assistance to the states, towns, and local landowners on projects near the river. We have advised the State of New Hampshire on the importance of keeping river flow gages in service to help with river management.

We have encouraged all towns in our region to review our current *Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan*, and to incorporate its recommendations as they update town plans and revise their zoning ordinances, particularly for shore land protection. The heavy rain of last August demonstrated the critical importance of giving rivers and streams enough room.

The Riverbend Subcommittee is advisory and has no regulatory authority. The public is welcome to participate in our meetings, on the fourth Thursday evening of every other month, at Littleton Community House. More information, including a calendar, advice on bank erosion and obtaining permits for work in or near the river, and a summary of the *Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan*, is on the web at www.crjc.org/localaction.htm.

CALEDONIA HOME HEALTH CARE AND HOSPICE

Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice (CHHC) is certified by Medicare and Medicaid to provide home care and hospice services to Caledonia County. This agency does not receive direct subsidies from the state or federal governments.

Our mission continues to be to provide necessary services to individuals and their families regardless of their ability to pay. We feel strongly that each resident who qualifies is entitled to home care services. Town contributions are used to counter losses experienced when free care is provided.

Last year we made over 60,000 visits to your neighbors and relatives. We, also, offer a variety of screenings and community clinics for flu shots, blood pressure checks, foot care, and health education. In collaboration with NVRH we conducted a cancer support group. Our Private Duty and Healthy Baby programs have grown.

All Town appropriation money will go directly to preserve the health care you and your neighbors deserve. Other services provided include: Bereavement Program; Maternal Child Health; Adult Health Screening and Education; Flu Clinic; Long Term Care; and Support Groups.

Ryegate Visit Statistics for 2003

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>		<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Nursing visits	479	416	Social Services	21	22
Home Health Aide	791	884	Homemaking	36	1
Therapy visits	191	257	Hospice	25	6
(Physical, occupational, speech)			TOTAL	1545	1586



Northeast Kingdom **Youth** Services

24 Bagley Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Phone: (802) 748-8732 • Fax: (802) 748-2383
Email: nekys@kingcon.com

Youth Services served over 3,422 people in Caledonia and Essex Counties. WE SERVED 16 IN RYEGATE DURING 2003. NEKYS works with Youth and Families to develop positive life skills through prevention programs and support services.

NEKYS has provided essential support to 429 youth and families through the **Shelter and Parent Education Programs**. Through mediation, counseling, and parent and youth support groups, the Shelter Program gives families the tools they need to cultivate safe, nurturing home.

The **Caledonia and Essex Court Diversion Programs** worked with 239 clients. The State's Attorney refers first-time criminal offenders, plus 50% of the juvenile delinquents in Caledonia County Family Court to Youth Services' Diversion Programs. Since it costs thousands of dollars to process one person through the court system, it is easy to see that the \$248 spent on one Diversion client is well worth the cost.

The **Transitional Living Programs** served over 400 youth and family members. Homeless and foster care youth, 15 to 21 years old, were given information, support, and life-skills education to help them live productively on their own.

The **Living Room**, a day shelter, serves an average of 13 youth a day. The Living Room is open 12:30-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is a safe, comfortable learning environment for 15 to 20 year-olds who are homeless, at risk of being homeless, or just lonely and isolated. The Living Room offers youth a place to eat, rest, shower, do laundry, socialize in a substance-free environment, and the use of a computer for homework and resume writing.

The **JUMP Youth Mentoring Program** is successfully matching at-risk 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students with adult mentors once a week in the students' school. Activities support students with homework, career and college preparation and provide them with an opportunity to learn and experience new cultural and social activities.

Youth Services also offers weekly dinners, outreach to schools and communities, as well as alternative opportunities for youth to be successful.



Fostering communities of strong women, supported families and safe homes.

Umbrella, Inc. is a private, non-profit progressive resource organization that serves the residents of Caledonia County. Umbrella offers advocacy, crisis counseling, information and referral, eligibility determinations for child care subsidies, and support groups through our Domestic & Sexual Violence Program and Child Care Support Services. Our main office in St. Johnsbury works with victims of domestic and sexual violence.

In fiscal year 2003, Umbrella served at least 8 Ryegate residents with domestic/sexual violence support services and 21 children exposed to violence (unduplicated counts). Another 35 families received childcare referrals or assistance in applying for subsidy, and 3 childcare providers took advantage of our professional development programs.

Some of the services available are: 24 hour crisis hotline; a safe house network; training for child care providers; assistance to parents in finding child care; assistance obtaining child care subsidies; support groups for women and children; prevention programs in schools; assistance accessing area resources.

We need financial support from Ryegate to continue to meet the rising need for Umbrella services. Thank you for your support.

970 Memorial Dr. St. Johnsbury, VT 05819. 802 748-8645

Crisis line: 748-8141

RIVER'S REACH

River's Reach is pleased to report another successful year of operation made possible by generous support from local communities and individual donors. As one of 6 Patch sites in Vermont, River's Reach shares a commitment to serve and represent all individuals, without regard to income, age or affiliation, and to provide community-based success to services in the following manner:

1. Facilitate direct services through out-posting, Patch programs, and referrals.
2. Identify and bridge service gaps in under-served communities.
3. Involve local community members and service providers in decisions.
4. Provide advocacy on issues important to individuals and communities.
5. Organize and promote volunteer services in the community.

During 2003, River's Reach experience 831 total contacts. Of that number, 90 were generated by Ryegate residents requesting resources related to the following:

Income support	12	utilities/fuel	2
Food/clothing	10	other service categories	9
Housing/shelter	7	general information	3
Education/schooling	3	Patch programs*	39
Medical/dental	2		
Children/youth	3		

*Used computers, tax preparation, jobs for kids, community garden.

Our Office Hours Are:

Monday through Friday 10 AM to 2 PM
Tuesdays and Thursdays until 6 PM
(802) 757-3137

NORTHEASTERN VT DEVELOPMENT ASSOC. (NVDA)

True to our mission, Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) worked hard during the past year to meet the economic development and planning needs of the region's municipalities and businesses. 2003 was our 53rd year of dedicated service to the people of the Northeast Kingdom.

Many of our projects were regional in nature and therefore benefited every single community in this region. A good example of this is the unmet transportation needs survey, which gauged the gap between the availability of and the need for transportation services in the Northeast Kingdom.

We also continued to provide essential technical services to town and city officials. For Ryegate, NVDA conducted traffic counts and provided technical assistance with planning, subdivision, and zoning issues. Other work for the region included conducting transportation studies; preparing, reviewing and commenting on municipal planning documents; certifying Municipal Plans; interpreting and explaining planning law to planning and zoning officials; and preparing GIS maps. NVDA also continued to offer reliable and knowledgeable grant writing and grant administration services to a number of towns.

As in the past, in 2003 we continued to work closely with the Small Business Development Center to create and retain jobs throughout the Northeast Kingdom.

Companies that NVDA assisted in the recent past include MSA Gallet in Newport, which continues to grow and receive contracts for its high quality helmets from the US Army; and Bogner of America, also located Newport, which has diversified from being solely a garment manufacturer to a warehouse and distribution center for some large clothing companies.

Four business loans were approved from our revolving loan funds in 2003. NVDA also added a technical assistance grant program in order to help small businesses with a variety of projects. We approved twelve grants for small businesses in eight communities. We look forward to continue serving you in 2004, and we appreciate your much-needed support.

Sincerely,
Steve Patterson, Executive Director

NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

The State of Vermont contracts with NKHS to provide a broad range of services to individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, children with severe emotional disturbance and their families, and individuals with developmental disabilities including mental retardation and autism. The Tri-County Substance Abuse Program, a division of NKHS, also offers services to individuals with alcohol and drug problems.

NKHS provides emergency and outpatient services to individuals with various, less severe social, emotional and psychological problems. To an extent these services are subsidized by state and local dollars. NKHS provides the services on a sliding fee scale based on the person's ability to pay.

Our annual report details the services we provide and is available free of charge by calling (802) 334-6744. Or you may write to NKHS, PO Box 724, Newport, VT 05855.

FY 2003 SUMMARY OF SERVICES FOR RYEGATE

2000 Census Count for Ryegate: 1150 Persons served: 14

Our request for support at \$1.05 per capita = \$1,207.00

Kathleen C. Hemmons, MSW
Executive Director

William Gardyne
President, Board of Directors

GROTON/RYEGATE F.A.S.T. SQUAD

Your F.A.S.T. SQUAD answered 71 calls for medical assistance this past year. Slightly more than fifty percent were to Ryegate. In approximately a half dozen calls, the Squad was not able to respond with medical personnel. This happens during daylight hours during the workweek. This highlights our major short fall, the lack of a sufficient number of trained personnel available during those hours. Six individuals answer the bulk of the calls.

Current Members:

Associate Members:

Johns, B	Paramedic	Enger, S	Attending EMT Basic class
Johns, A	Paramedic	Austin-Shortt, J	Waiting for next class
Bouffard	Paramedic	Johns, J	Paramedic
Santorello, J	Paramedic	Frey, J	Paramedic
Walker, J	Paramedic	Frey, ME	EMT Basic waiting for test results
Doscinski, L	EMT-Basic		

We continue to have some difficulty in locating the residence of citizens requesting medical assistance. Inadequate directions and lack of accurate, easily seen house numbers delay response by the Squad and Woodsville Ambulance.

- ENSURE YOUR HOUSE 911 NUMBER IS CURRENT AND PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED.
- THAT IT IS CLEARLY VISABLE FROM THE MAIN ROAD
- THAT IT IS VIABLE TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES APPROACHING FROM EITHER DIRECTION.
- GIVE CLEAR DIRECTIONS TO THE 911 OPERATOR
- STAY ON THE PHONE
- IF POSSIBLE SEND A PERSON TO THE BASE OF THE DRIVEWAY AS A GUIDE.

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

CONNECTICUT RIVER JOINT COMMISSIONS

This year the Connecticut River Joint Commissions have looked at issues as wide-ranging as the status of municipal wastewater treatment plants in the watershed to the hazards of development on the varied clays left by glacial Lake Hitchcock. Appointed by the legislatures of New Hampshire and Vermont to guide growth and development in the watershed, the CRJC are advisory and have no regulatory powers, preferring instead to ensure greater public involvement in decisions that affect the river and its valley.

In 2003, the Commissions completed a major riverbank restoration demonstration project at the Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, which protected both a key Contact Period archeological site at the fort and a population of federally endangered mussels just offshore. We continue to work to bring the attention of federal and state agencies to *the Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan*, to give local people new influence in the decisions of their government when it comes to their river. Our five local river subcommittees are an active voice for river issues in their regions.

With the support of the four US Senators from NH and VT, the Commissions were able to provide \$85,000 in Partnership Program grants for locally-inspired projects, including grants for a bi-state Milk Marketing Study Group, an assessment of erosion control methods used along Millers Run, several historic restoration projects, and a North Country/Northeast Kingdom extension of the Connecticut River Birding Trail.

CRJC supports efforts to safeguard natural, agricultural, and historic assets of the valley, and are working with businesses and the states to strengthen the local base for tourism through visitor centers in ten "waypoint communities" along the Connecticut River Byway. This year we worked to provide signage for each of them, and provided staff and coordination for the Byway effort. Visit the Byway at www.ctrivertravel.net.

We welcome the public to our meetings on the last Monday of each month. Visit our web site at www.crjc.org for a calendar of meetings, useful information and links, and our newsletter, *River Valley News*.

VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns provides services to the volunteer, elected, and appointed municipal officials who lead local governments; to serve and strengthen the ability of these local officials to provide quality services, such as highways, police, fire, recreation, sewer, and water at affordable levels of taxation. VLCT provides:

1. Advocacy representation before the State legislature, administration, and judiciary, ensuring that towns have the resources and authority to serve citizens.
2. Training, technical assistance, and publications to help town officials serve communities.
3. Improved purchasing opportunities for needed services at low cost.

All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 140 other municipal entities including villages and fire districts. Membership dues are \$.72 per capita plus a \$250 service fee per year. VLCT employs 42 members at its Montpelier offices. The annual operating budget is approximately \$3 million. The VLCT website is www.vlct.org



Virginia Phelps

Virginia Phelps began working in the South Ryegate Post Office in 1953. The people in South Ryegate appreciate your dedicated service and recognize your 26 years as Postmaster.

MICHAEL H. BERGERON
SHERIFF
CALEDONIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
1126 Main Street Suite 2
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802-748-1684
email: calcoso@sas.state.vt.us

The Sheriff's Department continues to patrol towns and we feel that those towns are a safer place to drive because of our presence. The Sheriff's Department has seventeen law enforcement officers, one civil process server, and two clerical staff. We serve between 100 and 150 pieces of civil process a month. We do daily security for the courthouse and the hearings that go on there. We provide transportation for the prisons, SRS, and Human Services at all times of the day and night. We provide snowmobile patrols and answer snowmobile related complaints.

Through grants from Homeland Security we were able to replace all our vehicle radios with dual band radios in order to communicate with all different emergency agencies that may respond to any given situation. Our base radio has also been upgraded. We are part of a computer based system (CAD: computer aided dispatch) that shares information with other law enforcement agencies in the state. Please call if you think that the Sheriff's Department can be of some assistance to you.

Sincerely,
S/ Michael H. Bergeron Sheriff

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT OF DOG LICENSES ISSUED

21 males	\$202.00
25 females	229.00
163 spayed & neutered	859.00
1 kennel	41.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ <u>1331.00</u>
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Less state rabies fees	\$210.00
Less Town Clerk fees	420.00

NET REVENUE	\$ <u>701.00</u>
-------------	------------------

RABIES VACCINATION: All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies. The Town Clerk is required to see evidence that all dogs are currently protected against rabies. The law requires that a dog of less than 2 years of age shall have been vaccinated within the past 12 months. A dog more than 2 years of age shall have been vaccinated within the preceding 24 months.

DUE DATE: License fees may be paid after January 1 and are due April 1 and subject to a 50% penalty after April 1.

RATES: Licensing rates are \$4.00 for each neutered dog or wolf-hybrid; \$8.00 for each un-neutered dog or wolf-hybrid; plus \$1.00 for each license. The \$1.00 fees collected are to be forwarded to the State Treasurer.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

In accordance with Section 3593, V.S. as amended, we have verified the existence of stated cash balances, examined the accounts and records of town officers, and to the best of our knowledge, the preceding financial statements and reports of receipts and disbursements present an accurate record of funds handled in the year ending Dec. 31, 2003.

January 31, 2004 S/ Ellsworth Frost
Gail LaVaude
Kathryn Bergh

VITAL STATISTICS FILED IN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE 2003

MARRIAGES

<u>Names</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Residence</u>
James Keith Kidder & Jennifer Lynn Larabee	April 19	
John Lawrence Connolly & Teresa Hunt	June 7	Ryegate
Edward Kadunc & Kathleen Elizabeth Casagrande	June 9	East Douglas, MA
Christopher Ryan George & Anne Edythe McClintock	July 12	Ryegate
Corey Ryan Thompson & Ashley Denise Locke	July 12	Ryegate
Ethan Rogers Nelson & Erin Marie Snarski	August 2	Haverhill, NH
Sean Elliot Smas & Angela Marie Ricker	Sept. 13	Ryegate
James Frederic Nelson & Christy Leigh Gould	Oct. 18	Little Ryegate
		Ryegate

CIVIL UNION

<u>Names</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Donald McKenrick Leavitt & Todd Steven Paine	Aug. 25	Ryegate

BIRTHS

<u>Names</u> <u>Birth</u>	<u>Parents</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Place of</u>
Alexa Gail Maher	Heather M. Wallek James Robert Maher	April 23	St. Johnsbury
Thomas Matthew Herbert	Lara Jean Gott William Marvin Herbert II	May 13	Berlin
Rebecca Ann-Marie Herbert	Lara Jean Gott William Marvin Herbert II	May 13	Berlin
Anthony Marcellus Gibson	Martha Ann Dempsey William Stewart Gibson	Aug. 3	Randolph

Out of state, including New Hampshire, Town Clerks do NOT send copies of birth or death records to Vermont Town Clerks. If you wish vital statistics from other states recorded in Ryegate, you must secure a certified copy from the Clerk of the Town in which the event occurred and deliver it to the Ryegate Town Clerk for recording. The information will then be entered in the town report for the year recorded.

DEATHS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Residence</u>
Feb. 5, '97	Betty Lou Stearns		Venice, FL
Feb. 20, '03	Sylvia L. Gifford	95	Bradford
March 8	Lloyd L. Davis	85	So. Ryegate
April 26	Elspeth 'Elsie' T. Murphy	84	Bradford
May 4	Raymond Edgar Stearns	79	So. Burlington
May 16	Vernold T. Eastman	73	Fairlee
July 22	Irving Walter Wilson	75	Ryegate
August 8	Edward Perley Sulham	76	Ryegate
August 18	Carrie N. Patneau	70	Hernando, FL
August 23	John Gordon Batten	78	East Ryegate
Sept. 7	James Albert Downing, Sr.	77	Berlin
May 31	Keziah (Welch) LaValley	96	Brooksville, FL
Sept. 23	Madeline Rosetta Labounty	82	Ryegate
Dec. 13	John Crawford Whitcher	86	No. Haverhill

SYNOPSIS OF TOWN MEETING

March 4, 2003

- Article 1. Dean Rowden was elected Moderator.
Marsha Nelson was elected Town Clerk.
- Article 2. The reports of the Town Officers were accepted, after some discussion and clarification.
- Article 3. The Town voted affirmatively to elect a Delinquent Tax Collector with fees the same as in the past.
- Article 4. The Town voted to have the Selectboard appoint one Road Commissioner
- Article 5. The Town elected to collect taxes in one installment, due August 10th and delinquent September 10th. Arrangements may be made to pay in installments, with all taxes paid by September 10th.
- Article 6. The Town elected one School Director, Ron Phillips, for a three-year term.
- Article 7. Elected Lorinda Blood, Treasurer
Elected Andrew Smith, Selectman
Elected Dale Wright, Delinquent Tax Collector
No First Constable elected
Andrew Smith, Appointed 2nd Constable later
Elected John Zampieri, Town Agent
Elected Dean Rowden, First Grand Juror
Elected Beverly Allen, Lister for three years
Elected Gail LaVaude, Auditor for three years
Elected Kathryn Bergh, Auditor for two years
Elected Holly McLure, Library Trustee
Elected Judy Gandin, Cemetery Comm.

- Article 8. The Selectmen were authorized to borrow money, if necessary, in anticipation of taxes.
- Article 9. Town voted to raise money by taxation to meet the 2003 General Fund and Road Budgets.
- Article 10. An article asking if the town would vote to appropriate \$1,030 to River's Reach was ultimately passed with a division of the house voting 54 yes, 41 no.
- Article 11. Town defeated the article to purchase a tanker for the Fire Department for a sum not to exceed \$50,000.
- Article 12. The meeting was properly adjourned at 3:10 PM

Dean Rowden

Dean Rowden has been annually elected Moderator of Ryegate Town meeting since Norman Lowe retired in 1975.

Ryegate citizens express appreciation for his 28 years of patient guidance and humor.

Thanks Dean!



WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Tuesday, March 2, 2004

The citizens of the Town of Ryegate who are legal voters in the annual town meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Town House in Ryegate on Tuesday, the second day of March, 2004 at one o'clock in the afternoon to act on the following articles, viz:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator and a Town Clerk.

ARTICLE 2: To hear the reports of the town officers and take proper action thereon.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will elect a Tax Collector and take such action with respect to his/her fees and commissions as is judged to be advantageous to the Town.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will elect one or two Road commissioners or empower the Selectmen to appoint one or two Road Commissioners pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2651.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes on real property in installments pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 4871, and to fix the date or dates for such payment, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 4872, and provide for interest on unpaid taxes pursuant to 32 V.S.A. 4873.

ARTICLE 6: To elect by ballot two school Directors to serve on the Board of Union School District No. 21, each for a term of three years.

ARTICLE 7: To elect all other necessary Town Officers and fix their compensation.

ARTICLE 8: Shall the Town vote to authorize and instruct its Selectmen to borrow money, if necessary, to defray the current expenses of the Town or in anticipation of taxes?

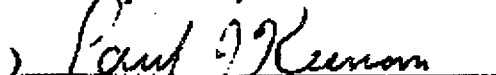
ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town vote to raise money by taxation to meet the 2004 General Fund and Road Budget, including a sum of money (not less than \$50.00 per mile) for the maintenance of its highways and for the payment of installments due and to become due on equipment purchased by the Selectmen and to authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town participate in a FAST Squad with the Town of Groton and if so what amount should be appropriated thereto?

ARTICLE 11: To see if the town will vote to purchase a new Tanker for the Fire Department for a sum not to exceed \$140,000.00 through a lease purchase finance plan.

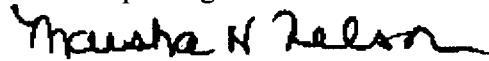
ARTICLE 12: To transact any other nonbinding business that may properly come before this meeting.

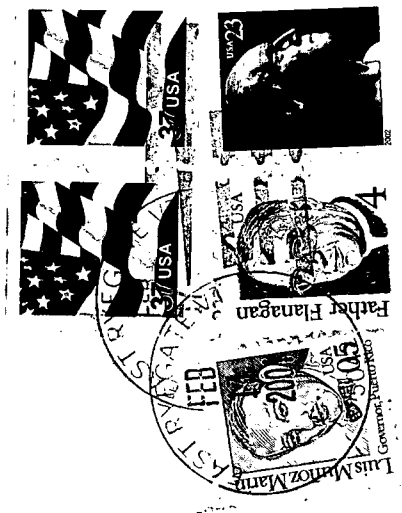

Albert Sponheimer


Paul Keenan


Andrew Smith

Recorded before posting

Attest: 
Town Clerk



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