

2003 ANNUAL REPORT
Town of
GROTON, VERMONT

**Report of the Town Officers
For the Year Ending
December 31, 2003**

GROTON TOWN REPORT DEDICATION

This town report is dedicated to the Art Department of Blue Mountain Union School. For years the Art Department has honored students for outstanding achievements in the wonderful world of art. Students have provided beautiful art work at the Christmas Concerts and other school activities. Hanging on the walls as you enter Blue Mountain Union School you can enjoy the many creative art works provided by Mr. Elroy Towle's art classes.

Mr. Elroy Towle has taught at Blue Mountain Union School for thirty years and brought a clear creative true meaning of art to all the students. As parents and grandparents we have enjoyed many pieces of art hanging on the refrigerator and walls of our homes that has been inspired through Mr. Towle's art classes. We often take art for granted and would be without color in our lives and designs that open our minds to the feelings of our children and our selves without these efforts. The art inspired at Blue Mountain Union School is an inspiration to all of us.

Students from Blue Mountain Union School have won poster contest for Green Up and Arbor Day. Students have help to make banners to promote the Art Auction at the Cottage Hospital which raised funds to purchase a machine that test the hearing in newborns. The students at Blue Mountain Union School that participate in all the many projects to promote community spirit are honored and recognized in this report. Although we can not list all those students we want you to know this report is for **YOU.**

Art is something you all can take with you through out life and it is never left behind. It may be used for enjoyment or for making a living but will always be your own expression of your true feelings. So as you scratch on that paper at work or write on the restaurant place mat remember it is your true art and for a lot of you inspired by Mr. Elroy Towle of Blue Mountain Union School.

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Acknowledgments:

Centerfold courtesy of BMU School

Town Report compiled by Linda Nunn, Roberta Dana & Dick Kreis

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WARNING: NOTICE OF GROTON, VERMONT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004

The Citizens of the Town of Groton, who are legal voters in Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Groton Community Building in Groton Village on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 10 o'clock in the morning, to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE 1 To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2 To act on the Town Report of the Town Officers as printed for the year ending December 31, 2003.

ARTICLE 3 To see if, as provided in 17 V.S.A. Section 2646 (16), the Town will vote to elect a road commissioner or authorize the Selectmen to appoint a road commissioner.

ARTICLE 4 To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont, and citizens to serve on the other committees as herein specified, and to fix their compensations:

Road Commissioner	One year
Town Clerk	One year
Selectman	Three years
Lister	Three years
Auditor	Three years
Library Trustee	Two years
Library Trustee	Five years
Library Trustee	Five years
Cemetery Commissioner	Three years
Collector of Current Taxes	One year
First Constable	Two years
Second Constable	Two years
Town Grand Juror	One year
Town Agent	One year
Town Agent to Convey Real Estate	One year

ARTICLE 5 To elect by ballot, one School Director to serve on the Board of Unified Union School District #21, for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE 6 Shall the Town of Groton set the due date of Friday, October 8, 2004, by 5:00 pm as the deadline for the payment of taxes?

ARTICLE 7 Shall the Town of Groton appropriate the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Adult Education and Learning Services, Inc.?

ARTICLE 8 Shall the Town of Groton appropriate the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the support of Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, Inc.?

ARTICLE 9 Shall the Town of Groton appropriate the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to Umbrella, Inc to be used in providing services to women, children and men?

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WARNING: NOTICE OF GROTON, VERMONT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004 - cont'd

- ARTICLE 10** Shall the Town of Groton appropriate the sum of four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00) to assist the Northeastern Vermont Area Agency on Aging in providing services to senior citizens in the ensuing year?
- ARTICLE 11** Shall the town of Groton vote to raise, appropriate and expend five hundred and eighty dollars (\$580.00) to assist with the basic operating costs of River's Reach, a regional resource center run under the auspices of the Wells River Action Program (WRAP)?
- ARTICLE 12** Shall the Town of Groton appropriate the sum of nine hundred and twenty dollars (\$920.00) to the Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc., to assist in maintaining 24-hour mental health emergency services that are available to all residents of the Northeast Kingdom, regardless of ability to pay?
- ARTICLE 13** Shall the Town of Groton appropriate the sum of one thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100.00) to Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice to be used in providing health care services?
- ARTICLE 14** Shall the Town of Groton appropriate the sum of two hundred seventeen dollars and twenty cents (\$217.20) for the Rural Community Transportation ("RCT") services.
- ARTICLE 15** What sum of money shall the voters approve to raise by taxation, to be reduced by receipts, state aid and other income, to meet the current expenses and liabilities of the Town General Fund and Highway budget, including any other warned articles so voted at this town meeting, and authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?
- ARTICLE 16** To transact any other business proper to come before this meeting, this does not include the expenditure of town funds or other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

Kevin B. Ricker, Selectman

Berne Bouley, Selectman

Richard Kreis, Selectman

Recorded before posting this 30th day of January 2004, at 8:30 a.m.
Linda Nunn, Town Clerk

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WARNING: 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 Clausing – Newark	Gene A. Perkins – Ryegate
Winston Dowland – Holland	Preston T. Smith – Wheelock
Stephen Brochu – Derby	Murray C. Hodgdon – Guildhall
Edward J. Bates – Waterford	Joel Cope – Bright
Dustin Sanville – Irasburg	Stuart Jackson – Stannard
Walter J. McNeil, Jr. – Danville	Donald Wood – Kirby
Gerald Brenahan – Lunenburg	William Douglas – Barnet
Ralph J. Vincent – Sutton	Fred McKnight – Peacham
Phil Sorrell – Concord	Arthur B. Sanborn - Lyndon
Libre E. Sheperd – Lyndon	

WARNING: REVISED ZONING BYLAWS VOTE MARCH 2, 2004

The legal voters of the Town of Groton, Vermont 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 of Groton adopt the revised Zoning Bylaws?

By order of the Planning Commission:

Martha Crown, Chair
Dave Sanville
Daniel Webster
Wade Johnson
Kenneth Murray

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NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2003 Report for the Town of Groton

The Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District provides many services for the town of Groton. Most people know us as the recycling center on Church Street in Lyndonville, but we are much more than that. Materials such as used motor oil, Fluorescent bulbs, hazardous waste, electronics, scrap metal, and lead-acid batteries are also accepted year round, and hazardous waste is collected during the summer.

The Groton-Ryegate recycling center in East Ryegate was expanded during 2003 using State grant funds acquired by the Waste District. The 2003 recycling rate for the towns of Groton and Ryegate was 27.4%. Every ton of trash costs approximately \$100, while recycling costs \$47.13 per ton in hauling fees. Therefore, as residents recycle more the town can lower its overall waste management cost.

The NEKWMD runs a household hazardous waste collection through the summer months at the Lyndonville recycling center. This is open to residents and conditionally exempt generator businesses from all NEKWMD towns. Five Groton 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 surcharge is dropping from \$21.50 to \$21.00 for 2004- this is the fourth year in a row that the surcharge has dropped. Residents of the Town of Groton paid less than 1.5% of the District budget in 2003, based on hauling fees and surcharge.

We are looking forward to a full slate of events during 2004. The hazardous waste depot in Lyndonville will be open from June 1 to October 1 by appointment. A household hazardous waste collection is scheduled in Peacham on Saturday, July 10 from 8 am to 12 pm- Groton 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- these events have grown in popularity over the last two years, and we now regularly send 2/3 of the clothing collected back into the community for reuse!

Please give us a call at 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602 with any questions, comments, or waste management issues that you have. We can also be reached by e-mail at progmgr@nekwmd.org or on the web at www.nekwmd.org.

Thank you and happy recycling!

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SUMMARY OF MINUTES FOR 2003 TOWN MEETING

ARTICLE 1 Wayne Dyer was elected as Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2 The Town Report for 2002 was accepted with minor corrections.

ARTICLE 3 It was so voted to elect a Road Commissioner.

ARTICLE 4 The following Town Officers were elected:

Treasurer	Roberta Dana	3 years
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Bud Otterman our State Representative was introduced at this time. Bud spoke about Act 60 and what it is going to mean to the Town of Groton.

Brent Smith	Road Commissioner	1 year
Berne Bouley	Selectman	3 years
Lisa Hill	Lister	2 years
Linda Nunn	Lister	3 years
Mary Grant	Auditor	3 years
Barbarann Bean	Library Trustee	5 years
Deborah Jurist	Cemetery Commissioner	3 years
Roberta Dana	Coll. Of Current Taxes	1 year
Milton Lamberton	Town Grand Juror	1 year
None	Town Agent	moved to appoint
None	Agent to Convey Real Estate	moved to appoint

It was so voted that the various Town Officers' compensation be set by the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 5 Brenda Powers was elected to the school board for a three-year term.

ARTICLE 6 The date of October 10th 2003 by 5:00 p.m. was set for the deadline to pay property taxes.

ARTICLE 7 It was so voted to establish a reserve fund called the "Tax mapping and Reappraisal Fund" in the amount of \$25,000.00.

ARTICLE 8 The voters approved allowing the Selectmen to apply any excess money from the Powder Spring Bridge # Project, to the highway budget to reduce the amount to be raised from taxes in the year the account is closed.

ARTICLE 9 Two hundred dollars was voted for Northeast Kingdom Adult Basic Education Services, Inc.

ARTICLE 10 Two hundred dollars was voted for Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, Inc.

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SUMMARY OF MINUTES FOR 2003 TOWN MEETING - cont'd

ARTICLE 11 Three hundred dollars was voted for Umbrella, Inc.

ARTICLE 12 Four hundred and fifty dollars was voted for Northeastern Vermont Area Agency on Aging.

The moderator called a recess at 11:25 a.m. so that people would have the opportunity to purchase refreshments.

ARTICLE 13 Five hundred and eighty dollars was voted for River's Reach by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14 The Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc. was **NOT** appropriated the sum of nine hundred and ten dollars.

ARTICLE 15 Caledonia Home Health was appropriated one thousand one hundred dollars. An amendment to the article will include a note saying we have concerns about the Home Health Aide Services being under funded.

ARTICLE 16 The sum of \$510,339.83 was so voted to cover the current expenses and liabilities of the Town General Fund and Highway budget and other warned articles so voted at Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 17 Closing statements and adjournment took place.

Jeanne Partington, Town Clerk

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TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED

	Year Term Ends
Moderator	
Wayne Dyer	2003
Road Commissioner	
Brent Smith	2003
Town Clerk	
Jeanne Partington (Resigned)	2005
Linda Nunn (appointed until Town Meeting)	2004
Town Treasurer	
Roberta Dana	2006
Selectmen	
Richard Kreis	2004
Kevin B. Ricker	2005
Berne Bouley	2006
Lister	
Victoria Beamis	2004
Lisa Hill	2005
Linda Nunn	2006
Auditors	
Martha Crown	2004
N. Dale Brown	2005
Mary Grant	2006
Union School District #21 Directors	
Thomas Page	2004
Gary Lamberton	2005
Brenda Powers	2006
Library Trustees	
Deborah Orelup	2005
Susan Gordan	2006
Diane Kreis	2006
Patrick Shattuck	2006
Virginia Jennings	2006
Richard Montague	2007
Barbarann Bean	2007
Cemetery Commission	
Berne Bouley	2004
Thomas Gandin	2005
Deborah Jurist	2006
Collector of Current Taxes	
Roberta Dana	2004
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	
Patricia Bouley	2005
First Constable	
Milton Lamberton	2004
Second Constable	
James Downing Jr.	2004
Town Grand Juror	
Milton Lamberton	2004

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TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY SELECTBOARD 2003

Agent to Convey Real Estate	
Richard Kreis	2004
Health Officer	
Beatrice Faus	2005
Deputy Health Officer	
Sharon Proctor	2004
Fire Warden	
James Downing Jr.	2005
Civil Defense Chairman	
No Appointment	
Fence Viewers	
Terry Dana	2004
E.Charles Frost, Jr.	2004
Kenneth Murray	2004
Inspectors Wood, Lumber, Shingles	
Fred Braman	2004
Don Crum	2004
Kenneth Ricker	2004
Town Service Officer	
Jeanne Partington (resigned 2003)	2004
Linda Nunn (appointed until Town Meeting)	2004
Energy Coordinator	
Richard Montague	2004
NVDA Representative	
Dr. Allyn May	2004
NVDA Alternate	
Dave Sanville	2004
Zoning Administrator	
Daniel Robinson	2004
911 Coordinator	
Brent Smith	2004
Board of Adjustment	
Wayne Dyer	2004
E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2004
Mark Gleicher	2004
Selectboard Secretary	
Linda Nunn	2004
Animal Control Officer	
Josephine Guertin	2004
Pound Keeper	
Josephine Guertin	2004
Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste Supervisor	
Meredith Puffer	2004

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TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY SELECTBOARD - cont'd

Planning Commission

Eric Benson (moved)	2004
Martha Crown, chair	2004
Dr. Allyn May	2004
Dave Sanville	2005
Daniel Webster	2005
Wade Johnson	2005
Kenneth Murray	2006

APPOINTED BY TOWN CLERK

Assistant Town Clerk

Linda Nunn (appointed Town Clerk in June 2003)	2004
Roberta Dana	2004
Patricia Bouley	2004

APPOINTED BY TOWN TREASURER

Assistant Treasurers

Shirley Beamis	2004
Patricia Bouley	2004

APPOINTED BY COLLECTOR OF CURRENT TAXES

Assistant Collector of Current Taxes

Shirley Beamis	2004
Patricia Bouley	2004
Jeanne Partington	2004
Linda Nunn	2004

TOWN AGENT

Otterman and Allen	2004
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BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

Selectmen

Kevin B. Ricker
Berne Bouley
Richard Kreis

Justices of the Peace

Signa Braman
Don Crum
Allen Gandin
Linda Nunn
Laura (Bing) Page

Town Clerk

Jeanne Partington (Resigned)

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AUDITORS' REPORT FOR 2003

This Town Report is presented by your elected Auditors to record the Town's General Funds, Receipts and Disbursements. All funds supported by your contributions are audited quarterly. We, the auditors of the Town of Groton, Vermont believe that these accounts and reports, to the best of our knowledge, represent a fair and accurate Report for the Town of Groton for the year 2003.

N. Dale Brown

Mary Grant

Martha Crown

SELECTBOARD REPORT FOR 2003

The Groton Selectboard had a busy year. Besides the week-to-week operation of the town, the board participated in several milestone events.

Upon approval by the voters at last town meeting, the Town contracted with Cartographic Associates, Inc. to carry out the tax mapping project, which is to be completed by December, 2004. This will set the stage for a town-wide reappraisal, which has been mandated by the State of Vermont.

The new bridge on Powder Spring Road was finally completed last Spring. At the last town meeting, voters authorized the Selectboard to spend any balance remaining in the bridge fund for other highway purposes. This will not be done until the State officially closes out the project.

A big project completed in 2003 was the replacement of the siding on the Community Building. This has given the Community Center a fresh appearance. The new siding is heavy-duty vinyl material installed over insulation board. In combination with the new windows installed in 2002, the building is now more energy efficient.

The Selectboard meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month; the Selectboard members sign orders every week.

The Selectboard wishes to express their sincere thanks to the many individuals who gave their time and services with little or no thanks; this helps to make the town a better place to live. The Board would also like to take this opportunity to thank those dedicated employees and elected officials that help make the town run efficiently.

Respectfully,
Groton Selectboard

Kevin B. Ricker, Chairman

Berne Bouley

Richard Kreis

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TREASURER AND COLLECTOR OF CURRENT TAXES REPORT

First and foremost I would like to thank you, the voters, for displaying your faith and confidence in me by my re-election to another three-year term last March at Town Meeting. I will continue to serve you to the best of my ability.

Changes. Every year we experience changes. One of the most important changes affecting our property taxes for 2004 is Act 68, an amendment made to Act 60 by the Vermont legislature in 2003. The most major change made by this act is the division of our grand list into two grand lists; a residential grand list and a non-residential grand list. The properties on the non-residential grand list will be taxed at a fixed rate for school taxes. The residential school tax rate will start at a lower base rate than the non-residential (hopefully will end up lower, but not necessarily) but can increase if necessary. That will be determined by the amount of money that the school district spends over the per student block grant. This change does not affect our town and highway taxes, only the school taxes. Therefore I urge all voters to try to attend the school budget informational meeting on Wednesday, April 7th and to the polls to vote on the school budget on Thursday, April 8th, 2004.

Hopefully many of you have already received a form from the State of Vermont titled "Declaration of Vermont Homestead" form number HS-131. If you are a Vermont resident and you own and occupy a Vermont property as your principal residence as of April 1, 2004 you must file this form with the Vermont Department of Taxes by April 15, 2004. Even if you do not have to file a Vermont Income tax return you must file this form if you meet the above requirements. If you have not received a form please contact the Tax Department at 1-866-828-2865 (toll-free in VT) or stop by the Town Office. The form will also be included in the Vermont Income Tax booklet. The Vermont Department of taxes intends to levy fines to anyone who meets the requirements but neglects to file this form so please make sure to do so. If you do own a homestead and do not file this form you will also be taxed at the non-residential school tax rate instead of the residential school tax rate. This form will have to be filed **every year**.

A report on Groton properties enrolled in the State of Vermont's Current Use program is included again this year. The amount of tax revenue lost by this program was \$52,394.33 for land and \$2,188.31 for farm buildings. The State of Vermont reimbursed the Town \$9,705.00 for this program (a difference of \$44,877.64). The reports on the State owned buildings and land in Groton are also included. In 2003 the State sent us PILOT funds for their buildings in the amount of \$3,753.00 (\$267.00 less than 2002) when in actuality if the buildings were privately owned the town would have collected \$ 46,932.51 in taxes (and that is based on the understated values of these buildings) which is a \$ 43,179.51 difference. Also in 2003 the land owned by the State would have brought in tax revenues of \$105,979.06 for which the State sent the town PILOT funds in the amount of \$ 54,511.86 (the same amount since 1969) for a \$51,467.20 difference. This means that all total, between the Current Use program and the State owned buildings and land, the town received at least \$ 139,524.35 less than we would have if the State would really fully fund their Current Use program and if they paid their fair share amount of taxes on the buildings and land they own in towns. Unfortunately, the gaps in these amounts have to be paid through our property taxes. We did receive \$90,813.00 from the education fund towards Groton's share of the school budget in 2003. If you would like to contact Bud Otterman, our representative or either of our state senators Robert Ide or Julias Caans, you may call them at the state house at 1-800-322-5616 or fax them at 1-802-828-2424. Ask them to urge the House Appropriation Committee to consider increasing the payments to towns to full funding on both the Land Use Program and the PILOT funds.

Our Volunteer Fire Department did receive several grants last year for new fire gear, etc. in the amount of \$29,820.33 with most of it coming from Homeland Security Grants.

Regarding the 2004 Town & Highway budget proposal:

Please try to take some time to look over the budget. This is a line item budget. That means that any budget amount can be discussed and the amount may be raised or lowered by the taxpayers before the final budget amount is approved. So please do not hesitate to ask questions after the budget article on the town warning is brought up for discussion at Town Meeting and before the final amount is voted.

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TREASURER AND COLLECTOR OF CURRENT TAXES REPORT - cont'd

My appreciation goes out to Pat Bouley, Linda Nunn and Shirley Beamis for their help and cooperation during tax collection season last year. Unfortunately our tax rate did increase by \$.27 per hundred over 2002. Part of that was due to raising \$25,000.00 for the taxmapping/reappraisal fund and \$32,500.00 for Community Building Repairs which included the vinyl siding of the building. Also our share of the school budget increased \$102,211.00 in 2003 over 2002.

Please keep the following important facts in mind regarding collection of current taxes:

Postmarks are **NOT** accepted as timely payment. We must receive the payment in the office by the due date and time.

To be fair to all taxpayers we do not make **ANY** exceptions. It doesn't matter if your payment is 10 minutes late or two days late. It is still late and will be considered delinquent. Please understand that we have to draw a line somewhere.

Your check must be valid and payable no later than the due date and time.

If there is anything written in the memo field of your check that is contrary to Town policy the check will be returned to you and if a new check is not received by the due date your taxes will be considered delinquent.

If you do not receive your tax bill by the middle of September, I would suggest that you request a copy by contacting the office at 802-584-3276. Also, hold onto your tax bills. Most of you will need to use them to prepare your Vermont State Income Tax returns and/or other Department of Taxes forms. If you need a copy of your bill please stop in the office and request one.

If the tax collection hours on the information insert that will be included in the envelope with your tax bill are not convenient please remember that we have a drop mailbox in the front lobby of the town office building. We check this box at least once a day and it is also checked for mail again at 5:00 p.m. on the due date of taxes. You may also contact me to make an appointment with you at the office or at my home.

Almost every day is a learning experience in these offices. The State of Vermont is constantly changing laws that have an effect on all of us. The challenges and responsibilities of holding the offices of Treasurer and Collector of Current Taxes are never ending but enjoyable.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. The office phone number is 584-3276 and my home phone number is 584-3756.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Dana, Town Treasurer and Collector of Current Taxes

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2004 TOWN AND HIGHWAY BUDGET

	2003 Actual Spent	2003 Budget	Over/Under Budget	2004 Budget
Town, Highway & Cemetery Expenses				
Town Expenses				
· AC Expense	1,492.45	2,000.00	-507.55	1,700.00
· Admin Expense	52,527.13	48,500.00	4,027.13	48,500.00
· Ambulance Contract	11,738.40	11,740.00	-1.60	12,180.60
· Auditing Expense	0.00	250.00	-250.00	250.00
· Coll of Del Taxes Expenses	1,683.37	1,800.00	-116.63	1,800.00
· Clock Expense	200.00	300.00	-100.00	200.00
· Community Building				
· Comm Bldg Expense	8,202.47	7,000.00	1,202.47	7,400.00
· Comm Bldg Repair	32,128.03	32,500.00	-371.97	6,000.00
Total Community Building	40,330.50	39,500.00	830.50	13,400.00
· Computer Expense	1,496.85	1,500.00	-3.15	1,000.00
· Constable Expense				
· First Constable	1,999.12	2,500.00	-500.88	2,500.00
· Second Constable	1,249.09	1,000.00	249.09	1,000.00
Total Constable Expense	3,248.21	3,500.00	-251.79	3,500.00
· County Tax Expense	7,343.50	7,300.00	43.50	7,800.00
· Dues				
· Dues NVDA	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
· Dues VLCT	837.00	600.00	237.00	900.00
Total Dues	1,137.00	900.00	237.00	1,200.00
· Election Expense	814.44	1,000.00	-185.56	1,000.00
· Emergency Svc Bldg Utilities	4,303.46	3,000.00	1,303.46	3,000.00
· FAST Expense	3,823.25	4,050.00	-226.75	9,800.00
· Field & Park Expense	1,320.66	1,000.00	320.66	1,000.00
· Fire Dept Expense	19,189.89	19,500.00	-310.11	19,500.00
· Fire Truck Loan Payment	33,025.28	33,025.28	0.00	33,025.28
· Forest Fire Expense	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00	1,000.00
· Gilman Housing Expense	621.67	1,200.00	-578.33	600.00
· Insurance Expense	20,068.05	19,000.00	1,068.05	21,000.00
· Interest Expense	647.66	1,000.00	-352.34	800.00
· Library Expense	10,065.75	10,099.00	-33.25	12,595.00
· Lister Expense	10,124.06	13,775.00	-3,650.94	13,775.00
· Miscellaneous Expense	-0.91	100.00	-100.91	0.00
· Office Expense	5,763.90	6,000.00	-236.10	6,000.00
· Planning Expense	528.09	1,000.00	-471.91	1,000.00
· Professional Fees	1,070.14	1,000.00	70.14	1,000.00
· Re-appraisal Funds (was article in 2003)				25,000.00
· Sidewalk Maint Expense	2,165.59	2,000.00	165.59	12,500.00
· Solid Waste				
· Joint Recycling	1,097.24	1,100.00	-2.76	1,100.00
· NEKWMD Management Fee	2,807.21	800.00	2,007.21	3,600.00
Total Solid Waste	3,904.45	1,900.00	2,004.45	4,700.00

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

2004 TOWN AND HIGHWAY BUDGET - cont'd

	2003 Actual Spent	2003 Budget	Over/Under Budget	2004 Budget
· Streetlights				
· Streetlights MH	232.12	250.00	-17.88	250.00
· Streetlights Village	5,685.32	5,825.00	-139.68	5,825.00
Total Streetlights	5,917.44	6,075.00	-157.56	6,075.00
· Swim Program Expense	1,625.00	1,800.00	-175.00	1,800.00
· Town Report Expense	1,793.45	1,800.00	-6.55	1,800.00
· Zoning Expense	246.16	500.00	-253.84	500.00
Total Town Expenses	248,214.89	247,314.28	900.61	269,000.88
Highway Expenses				
· Highway-Chloride	10,855.80	11,000.00	-144.20	11,000.00
· Highway-Equipment Restricted *	27,195.55	27,195.55	0.00	40,000.00
· Paid with 2003 Hwy surplus				-16,055.46
· Hwy - Equip paid by 2002 surplus	12,804.45		12,804.45	0.00
· Paid with 2002 Hwy surplus			-12,804.45	0.00
· Highway-Equipment Restricted Total	40,000.00	27,195.55	0.00	23,944.54
· Highway-Garage	4,566.43	6,000.00	-1,433.57	6,000.00
· Highway-Gravel	5,704.30	18,000.00	-12,295.70	20,000.00
· Highway-Paving	45,069.16	46,000.00	-930.84	46,000.00
· Highway-Projects				
· Hwy - Bridge Restricted	16,042.01		16,042.01	0.00
· Paid from bridge acct not Gen Fund	-16,042.01		-16,042.01	0.00
Total Highway-Projects	0.00		0.00	0.00
· Highway-Summer Roads	54,738.00	56,000.00	-1,262.00	57,000.00
· Highway-Winter Roads	64,010.85	64,000.00	10.85	66,500.00
Total Highway Expenses	224,944.54	228,195.55	-16,055.46	230,444.54
Cemetery Expenses				
· Cemetery Maintenance Expense	6,966.52	7,000.00	-33.48	7,400.00
· Cemetery Reimbursed Expense	72.00		72.00	
Total Cemetery Expenses	7,038.52	7,000.00	38.52	7,400.00
Total Town, Highway & Cemetery Expenses	480,197.95	482,509.83	-2,311.88	506,845.42
Articles				
· Northeast Kingdom ABE Services	200.00	200.00	0.00	_____
· Northeast Kingdom Youth Service	200.00	200.00	0.00	_____
· Umbrella	300.00	300.00	0.00	_____
· Northeastern VT AAA	450.00	450.00	0.00	_____
· River's Reach (WRAP)	580.00	580.00	0.00	_____
· Northeast Kingdom Human Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	_____
· Caledonia Home Health Care & Ho	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	_____
· Rural Community Transportation	n/a	n/a	n/a	_____
· Article - Reappraisal/Tax Mapping Fund	25,000.00	25,000.00	0.00	see line item
Total Articles	27,830.00	27,830.00	0.00	
Total Expenses	508,027.95	510,339.83	-2,311.88	

*The 2004 highway equipment budget is actually \$40,000.00 minus the 2003 highway dept. surplus of \$16,055.46; therefore, only \$23,944.54 would need to be raised by taxes.

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ANTICIPATED GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS – 2004

<u>Budget Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Administration Income	7,000.00
Animal Control Income	2,600.00
Cemetery Income	3,300.00
Comm Building Income	300.00
Current Use Income	9,000.00
Delinquent Taxes	40,924.38
Highway Summer Income	30,000.00
Highway Winter Income	30,000.00
Interest Income from Non-Tax Sources	1,500.00
Interest Income Property Taxes	3,700.00
Office Income	2,500.00
PILOT Income	56,000.00
Swim Program Income	600.00
Taxes 2003	317,271.04
Union Bank stock dividends	1,800.00
Zoning Income	350.00
TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME	506,845.42

GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT – 2003

Ending Balance 12/31/02	4,371.41
Receipts	1,377,321.15
Disbursements (Selectmens orders)	1,391,684.75
Difference between Receipts and Disbursements	(14,363.60)
Non-sufficient funds checks (bad checks)	(6,950.24)
Bank charges	(5.00)
Voided check	1.23
Ending Balance 12/31/03	(16,946.20)

Summary of Selectmen's Orders

Town Orders*	936,038.01
Highway Orders	224,944.54
School Orders	230,702.20
Gross Orders	1,391,684.75

* Includes all transfers to other town bank accounts.

School Expense

Woodsville Guaranty Saving Bank*	861,833.98
Plus School Orders included above	230,702.20
Total School Expense	1,092,536.18

* These payments were made directly to BMU from the account and did not go through the Selectmen's Orders.

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VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS - 2003

(No employee wages included)

All States Asphalt, Inc.	10,855.80	Foggs Hardware	144.98
American Red Cross	1,500.00	Freightliner of New Hampshire, Inc.	482.92
Arnold's Automotive, Inc.	1,406.34	Galls Inc.	84.96
B & B Septic	160.00	Gandin Bros., Inc.	375.00
Barrett's Vinyl Graphics	300.00	Gandin, Thomas G.	700.00
Bartol, Curt R. Ph.D	25.00	Gary's Fuels, Inc.	14,324.16
Beattie, Donald	6,775.20	Gordon Viewpoint, The	247.50
Belyea, Peter	450.00	Green Mountain Monogram	13.00
BGS State Surplus Property	15.00	Green Mountain Power Corp.	8,762.18
Bixby's Power Equipment	233.00	Groton Free Public Library	3,076.00
BJ's Wholesale Club	40.00	Groton Garage	654.94
Bliss, Donald	4,105.00	Groton General Store	137.96
Blue Mountain Union School	230,702.20	Groton United Methodist Church	200.00
Bond Auto Parts, Inc.	389.02	Groton, Town of	708.79
Bouley, Berne	500.00	Guertin, Josephine	241.60
Bouley, Patricia	810.91	Hartford, The	1,562.00
Bound Tree Corp.	25.50	Hatch, Brent R.	8,687.30
Brown's River Bindery, Inc.	915.39	Herb's Trucking	1,905.36
Butson's Supermarket	150.55	Hicks Sales & Service	674.25
Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice	1,100.00	Hill, Lisa	17.92
Caledonian Record, The	328.95	Howard P. Fairfield, Inc.	149.64
Capital Fire Mutual Aid	100.00	Humane Society of the US	30.00
Cargill Inc - Salt Division	3,233.78	Interstate Batteries	60.00
Carroll Tire Company	2,452.92	Jordan Equipment Co.	252.48
Cartographic Associates, Inc.	5,500.00	Joseph J. Marotti Co., Inc.	523.94
CenTec Cast Metal Products	259.40	Journal Opinion, The	277.95
Champlain Door Co Inc	402.72	K & T Environmental	115.00
Clark's Truck Center	541.32	KDD Auto Parts, Inc.	429.41
Community National Bank	75,634.51	Kenco, Inc.	49.48
Community National Bank	33,025.28	Kingdom Connection	150.00
Copiers, Etc.	737.00	Knott, Wayne	538.17
Crown, Martha	53.40	L. Brown & Sons Printing, Inc.	1,133.20
D&P's Pit Stop	60.00	Lamberton, Milton	1,170.00
Dana, Roberta	667.91	Lowell McLeods, Inc	2,075.83
Daniels, Larry G. Jr.	440.00	Maine Lubrication Service	61.64
Darling's Auto Repair, Inc.	1,840.44	McCullough Crushing, Inc.	5,704.30
Darling, Jeremy	249.90	MCI Worldcom	241.42
Denis, Ricker & Brown Inc	16,784.61	Merchants Bank	17.65
DMS Machining & Fabrication	141.29	Merriam Graves Corp.	425.49
Downing, James Jr.	351.00	Munce's Motor Oil	432.92
E. F. Senecal, County Treasurer	7,343.50	NAPA of Bradford	165.09
Ed Eaton	48.00	National Survey, Inc., The	34.00
Exeter Hospital EMS Education	350.00	NEKWMD	1,113.60
Fairpoint New England	2,824.73	NEMRC	1,380.00
Farm Plan	160.97	New England Business Service, Inc.	173.06
Finger Lakes System Cleaning	652.51	North Country Fire School	128.00
Fisher Auto Parts, Inc.	108.96	Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc.	200.00

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VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS – 2003 - cont'd

Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, Inc.	200.00	Umbrella, Inc.	300.00
Northeastern Vt Area Agency on Aging	450.00	UVM Extension	175.00
Northern Vt RC&D Council	50.00	Valley Floors, Inc.	371.01
Nunn, Linda	39.39	VCA	24.00
NVDA	300.00	Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council	50.00
Orr, Mary Ellen	15.00	Vermont Fire Extinguisher	298.90
Otterman & Allen, P.C.	1,070.14	Vermont Institute for Government	175.00
Paige Computer Services	750.00	Vermont State Treasurer	447.00
Partington Jeanne	173.46	Viking Office Products	423.34
Partington Richard	30.00	VLCT	994.00
Perry's Oil Service, Inc.	108.33	VLCT Municipal Assistance Center	485.00
Pete's Rubbish Removal	722.25	VLCT Property & Casualty Intermun	150.00
Petty Cash-Treasurer	55.08	VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust Inc.	648.44
Pike Industries Inc.	45,069.16	VMCTA	160.00
Pioneer Products, Inc.	250.90	VRS Sales Ltd	300.75
Postmaster-Groton, VT	1,601.85	VT Agency of Transportation	17,183.87
Powers Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	902.95	VT Assessors & Listers Association	15.00
Pratt M.D., Patricia	85.09	VT Dept of Health	3.00
Public Safety Center, Inc.	92.24	VT Municipal Truck Equip & Supplies Inc.	714.97
Puffer Excavating	280.00	VT State Firefighters' Association	287.50
Quill Corporation	1,692.36	VT, State of	125.00
Reynolds & Son Inc	29,774.75	W.S. Darley & Co.	71.90
Ricker, Kenneth B.	10,000.00	Washington Electric Co-op, Inc.	1,773.92
Ricker, Kevin	21,500.00	Wellman Sports	192.34
Ricker, Lawrence	6,883.00	Wells River Savings Bank	10,013.15
Rinkers Communications	418.00	Wild Auto Electric Shop	64.15
River's Reach	580.00	Williams, Kenneth C.	3,000.00
Robinson, Daniel	53.38	Winget, James	5,850.00
Ryegate Fire Department	100.00	Woodsville Ambulance Service	11,738.40
Ryegate, Town of	1,097.24	Woodsville True Value Hardware	77.83
Sam's Club	50.00	Work Safe	94.80
Sanders Radio	4,805.50	Yankee Electric Supply Corp.	176.81
Secretary of State	40.00	Subtotal	668,178.75
Shaw's Supermarket	210.00		
Smith, Brent	24.95	Liability Checks	Town's Amount of
Southworth Milton, Inc.	2,690.39	BlueCross Blue Shield	<u>Share Check</u>
St. Michael's College	20.00	Northeast Delta Dental	27,364.63 29,376.81
Stark & Son Machining	64.80	Vt Dept of Taxes	1,291.80 1,707.96
T.S.H.A.F.A Treasurer	350.00	VMERS DB	0.00 3,123.00
Tac-2 Communications	52.75	Merchants	3,368.42 5,156.10
Taylor, Jeffrey L. Esq.	971.63		8,824.23 28,264.13
Tenco of New England	208.20	Subtotal of Liabilities	40,849.08 67,628.00
Transit Milling Co., Inc.	1,000.00		
Trend Innovative Business Solutions	439.79	Net Payroll Total	87,826.01
Tuck Press	101.00	Transfers to School Account	300,000.00
Twin City Equipment, Inc.	32.81	Transfers to Other Town Accounts	268,051.99
Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Association	529.18		
UI Insurance Services, Inc.	1,073.00	Total Disbursements	<u>1,391,684.75</u>

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WAGE REPORT FOR 2003

Employee	Position	Annual Wage	Wage per Hour	Mandatory SS & Medicare	Health & Dental Insurance	Retiremen	TOTAL EMPLOYEE COST
Beamis, Shirley E.	Asst Treasurer	281.92	9.85	21.56			303.48
Bouley, Patricia R.	Asst. Treas & Asst. Clerk	1,496.06	8.88	114.45			1,610.51
Dana, Roberta L.	Treasurer/Cur. Tax Collector	15,455.33	9.85	1,182.37	8,686.64	426.63	25,750.97
Nunn, Linda L.	Clerk,Asst Clerk & Select Sec	9,982.37	8.50-10.00	763.68	1,831.91	384.44	12,962.40
Partington, Jeanne C.	Town Clerk	9,166.42	10.20	701.23	1,681.36	366.71	11,915.72
Ricker, Kevin	Selectmen (Chairman)	700.00	n/a	53.55			753.55
	Admin. Total	37,082.10		2,836.84	12,199.91	1,177.78	53,296.63
Downing, James A. Jr.	Animal Control	83.40	6.95	6.38			89.78
Lamberton, Milton F.	Animal Control	275.00	n/a	21.04			296.04
Nunn, Linda L.	Animal Control	87.08	7.98	6.66			93.74
	Animal Control Total	445.48		34.08			479.56
Hill, Lisa A.	Comm Bldg: Janitor	37.50	6.25	2.88			40.38
Nunn, Linda L.	Comm Bldg: Janitor	371.27	6.95	28.41			399.68
	Comm Bldg: Janitor	408.77		31.29			440.06
Downing, James A. Jr.	Constable: Second	480.70	6.60	36.78			517.48
Lamberton, Milton F.	Constable: First	825.00	n/a	63.11			888.11
	Constable Total	1,305.70		99.89			1,405.59
Bouley, Patricia R.	Del Tax Penalty*	6,873.76	n/a	525.84			7,399.60
Beamis, Victoria I.	Elections: Ballot Clerk	122.13	6.95	9.35			131.48
Hill, Lisa A.	Elections: Ballot Clerk	80.23	6.60	6.14			86.37
Nunn, Linda L.	Elections: Ballot Clerk	148.53	6.95	11.37			159.90
Ricker, Evelyn F.	Elections: Ballot Clerk	57.68	6.95	4.41			62.09
	Elections Total	408.57		31.27			439.84
Darling, Jeremy E.	Fire Dept. Total-Firefighter	250.00	n/a	19.13			269.13
Downing, James A. Jr.	Highway: Temporary Help	346.25	13.85	26.50			372.75
Palmer, Phillip E.	Highway: Equipment Operator	26,253.62	11.70	2,008.62	8,686.64	1,050.14	37,999.02
Smith, Brent D.	Highway: Road Commissioner	28,512.53	12.85	2,181.15	7,769.88	1,140.50	39,604.06
	Highway Total	55,112.40		4,216.27	16,456.52	2,190.64	77,975.83
Desroches, Debra J.	Asst. Librarian	948.75	8.25	72.55			1,021.30
Karen O'Donnell-Leach	Librarian	5,526.00	9.00	422.68			5,948.68
	Library Total	6,474.75		495.23			6,969.98
Beamis, Victoria I.	Lister	2,224.18	6.95	170.15			2,394.33
Hill, Lisa A.	Lister	2,444.59	6.60	187.01			2,631.60
Nunn, Linda L.	Lister	1,920.55	7.70	146.94			2,067.49
	Lister Total	6,589.32		504.10			7,093.42
Robinson, Daniel C.	Zoning Total**	396.00	12.00/permit	30.29			426.29
Total Wages Paid in 2003		115,346.85		8,824.23	28,656.43	3,368.42	156,195.93

* Delinquent Tax Penalty wages are completely paid for from delinquent tax penalties assessed on delinquent tax payers.

** Zoning administrator wages are completely paid for from permit fees.

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GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET - 2003

ASSETS

	General	Grant	
<u>Cash and Bank Accounts</u>			
Reappraisal*			
WGSB CD - Reappraisal	20,433.58		
WGSB CD - Reappraisal	4,702.64		
WGSB CD - Reappraisal	24,174.31		
General Fund Checking	(16,946.20)		
Grant Funds		2,865.13	
Highway Equipment Fund	46,600.99		
Powder Spring Road Bridge (WRSB Money Market)	6,199.69		
Planning II Funds	1,211.50		
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	86,376.51	2,865.13	89,241.64
<u>Other Assets</u>			
Town Property [2003 Town Report]	1,351,434.00		
UnionBank Stock Shares	64,681.62		
Delinquent Taxes as of 12/31/2003	40,924.38		
Grant Fund Accounts Receivable		1,980.00	
TOTAL Other Assets	1,457,040.00	1,980.00	1,459,020.00
TOTAL ASSETS			1,548,261.64

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Fire truck loan	80,756.32		
Payroll federal tax liability	2,964.76		
Payroll Vermont tax liability	972.00		
Payroll liability for Collector of Delinquent Taxes	633.66		
Retirement liability	1,561.38		
Total liabilities			86,888.12

EQUITY

Restricted & Unrestricted Fund Balances	127,300.89	4,845.13	
General Equity	1,329,227.50		
Total Equity	1,456,528.39	4,845.13	1,461,373.52

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

1,548,261.64

* All reappraisal funds came from the State of Vermont and are restricted for future reappraisal.

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COMBINED STATEMENT of ASSETS, LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCES

(Arising from Cash Transactions)
Cash Basis - All Funds
December 31, 2003

	Governmental Fund Type		Fiduciary Fund	Account Group	
	General	Special Revenue [like grants]	Trust Fund [like cemetery]	General Long-Term Debt	Total (Memorandum only)
Assets					
Cash	37,065.98	2,865.13	21,857.65		61,788.76
Certificates of Deposit	49,310.53		74,874.75		124,185.28
Stock	64,681.62				64,681.62
AR: Due from Del. Tax Col.	40,924.38				40,924.38
AR: Long Term Grant Loan		1,980.00			1,980.00
Fixed Assets	1,351,434.00				1,351,434.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,543,416.51	4,845.13	96,732.40	0.00	1,644,994.04
Liabilities and Fund Balances					
Liabilities:					
Fire truck loan	80,756.32				80,756.32
Payroll liabilities	6,131.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,131.80
Total Liabilities	86,888.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	86,888.12
Fund Balances:					
Restricted	103,322.71	2,865.13	96,732.40	0.00	202,920.24
Unrestricted					0.00
Designated	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Undesignated	(16,946.20)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(16,946.20)
Total Fund Balance	86,376.51	2,865.13	96,732.40	0.00	185,974.04
Equity	1,370,151.88	1,980.00	0.00	0.00	1,372,131.88
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	1,543,416.51	4,845.13	96,732.40	0.00	1,644,994.04

VSA 24 Title 1683 and 1523 require this report be placed in the annual report.

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

2003 ACTUAL GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

<u>Budget Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Comments/Notes</u>
Administration Income	9,209.20	Recording fees, vault fees, marriage fees, etc.
Animal Control Income	2,960.00	Dog & cat licenses & fines
Cemetery Income	3,803.42	Lot sales income plus interest from cemetery CDs
Comm Building Income	430.00	Rental use of community building & can redemption
Community Nat'l Bank	75,000.00	Borrowed/repaid from Line of Credit
Current Use Income	9,705.00	From State of Vermont
Delinquent Taxes 2001	981.74	
Delinquent Taxes 2002	38,036.12	
Delinquent Taxes 2003	44,250.90	
Fire Dept Income	938.00	Grant funds
Highway Bridge #6 reimbursement Income	2,734.45	Reimbursement from the State of Vermont
Highway Summer Income	30,853.17	State aid
Highway Winter Income	35,052.44	State aid
Interest Income Delinquent Taxes 2002	3,518.27	
Interest Income Delinquent Taxes 2003	637.97	
Lister Income	779.00	From State of Vermont for maintenance of grand list
Lister Re-Appraisal Income	4,674.00	From State of Vermont to reserve for reappraisal
Miscellaneous Income	7.03	Tax overpayment donation & bank error on check
Office Income	3,234.87	Copies, faxes, motor vehicle renewals, etc.
PILOT Income	58,265.86	From State of Vermont
Reimbursed cemetery expenses	248.00	For stones and settings (paid by buyer of plot)
Cemetery land deposit reimbursement	500.00	Towards purchase of Park Street cemetery land
Swim Program Income	861.00	\$600 from Community Club; balance from participants
Taxes 2003 (Current)	785,631.58	Balance of taxes collected deposited to school acct
Taxes 2004 (collected in 2003)	120.00	
Transfers from other town accounts	220,183.91	
Union Bank stock dividends	2,004.90	
Zoning Income	376.00	Permit fees
Subtotal	1,334,996.83	
 <u>Deposits Credited to Expense Accounts</u>		
Animal Control Income	20.00	Animal fine
CDT expenses	1,260.47	tax sale exp 1409.48
CDT penalty wages reimbursed	6,873.76	Paid by delinquent taxpayers
Highway Winter Sand Expense	4,327.00	Reimbursement from Town of Topsham
Homeland Security Grants for Fire Dept	28,882.33	Monies from 3 grants
Office Expense	538.76	Refund for returned index cards & supplies
Sidewalk maintenance	50.00	Sale of a snowblower
Zoning Income	372.00	Permit fees
TOTAL ACTUAL GEN FUND RECEIPTS	1,377,321.15	

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

PLANNING and GRANT ACCOUNTS

2003 PLANNING ACCOUNT

BALANCE 12/31/02		1,207.00
Deposits: Interest Earned	<u>4.50</u>	
TOTAL 1/1/03 - 12/31/03	4.50	
BALANCE 12/31/03		1,211.50

2003 GRANT ACCOUNT

OPENING BALANCE 12/31/02		2,256.10
DEPOSITS: Interest Income Non-Tax Source		9.03
DEPOSITS: Hatch Manufacturing payments		600.00
ENDING BALANCE 12/31/03		2,865.13

NOTES on Grand Fund Accounts Receivable

Hatch Manufacturing Loan		
Amount Loaned		4,500.00
1993 loan re-payment	100.00	
No 1994 loan re-payment	0.00	
No 1995 loan re-payment	0.00	
1996 loan re-payment	545.00	
1997 loan re-payment	500.00	
No 1998 loan re-payment	0.00	
1999 loan re-payment	125.00	
2000 loan re-payment	175.00	
2001 loan re-payment	400.00	
2002 loan re-payment	75.00	
2003 loan re-payment	600.00	
		2,520.00
Loan Balance as of 12/31/03		1,980.00

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INTEREST FROM NON-TAX SOURCES - 2003

Interest earned in 2003

Reappraisal*:	
WRSB CD - Reappraisal #808435	0.31
Grant Funds	9.03
Highway Equipment Fund	28.77
WRSB Bridge Fund	109.44
Planning II Funds	4.50
Short Term Investment of Tax Money:	
WGSB School Acct	1,094.40
WRSB 90-day CD	683.91
TOTAL	<u>1,930.36</u>

* All the reappraisal money came from the State of Vermont and is restricted for future reappraisal.

Interest Paid in 2003

Interest Paid - For borrowing on Lines of Credit	647.66
Interest Paid - Community Nat'l Bank (for Firetruck)	4,971.71
(this interest included in line item for fire truck loan)	<u> </u>
TOTAL INTEREST PAID	<u>5,619.37</u>

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

TOWN PROPERTY LIST

As of 12/31/2003

Date	Acct	Note	Amount	Total
	Bldg--Boy Scout Camp & Forest			
07/03/96	Bldg--Boy Scout	Camp	5,400.00	
01/25/97	Bldg--Boy Scout	Town Forest per Selectmen	44,600.00	
	TOTAL Bldg--Boy Scout & Forest			50,000.00
	Bldg--Cemetery			
	TOTAL Bldg--Cemetery			2,500.00
	Bldg--Comm Bldg/vault			
	TOTAL Bldg--Comm Bldg			260,000.00
	Bldg--Fire Station			
	TOTAL Bldg--Fire Station			100,500.00
	Bldg--GarageNew			
	TOTAL Bldg--GarageNew			150,000.00
	Bldg--GarageOld			
	TOTAL Bldg--GarageOld			11,000.00
	Bldg--Gazebo	Band stand		8,250.00
	Bldg--New Cemetery			2,500.00
	Bldg--Puffer Field (former bus shelter)			1,000.00
07/03/96	Bldg--Pump House			2,000.00
	Bldg--Warm Hut			2,000.00
	Contents--Community Building			
12/14/98	Contents--CB	CB - chairs, tables, etc. upstairs	1,000.00	
12/14/98	Contents--CB	CB - furnace	8,500.00	
12/14/98	Contents--CB	CB - kitchen contents	5,000.00	
12/13/01	Contents--CB	Listers - digital camera Fuji	75.00	
12/13/01	Contents--CB	Listers - Printer - HP Photosmart 1215	100.00	
12/14/98	Contents--CB	Office - misc office equipment	3,000.00	
09/14/01	Contents--CB	Office - PC - Clerk's Dell	250.00	
12/14/98	Contents--CB	Office - PC - Public HP Pavilion 6330	100.00	
10/17/03	Contents--CB	Office - PC - Treas (new)	650.00	
03/14/01	Contents--CB	Office - Printer - Clerk's HP 895 CSE	50.00	
11/14/03	Contents--CB	Office - Printer - HP Laser Jet	250.00	
12/03/00	Contents--CB	Office - Printer - Treas HP 970 Cxi	75.00	
09/14/01	Contents--CB	Office - Scanner - Clerk's Canon	25.00	
04/14/99	Contents--CB	Office- Sharp copier	800.00	
12/14/98	Contents--CB	Planning - PC - Gateway	50.00	
	TOTAL Contents--CB			19,925.00
12/31/95	Contents--Community Building - Library			64,000.00

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

TOWN PROPERTY LIST - cont'd

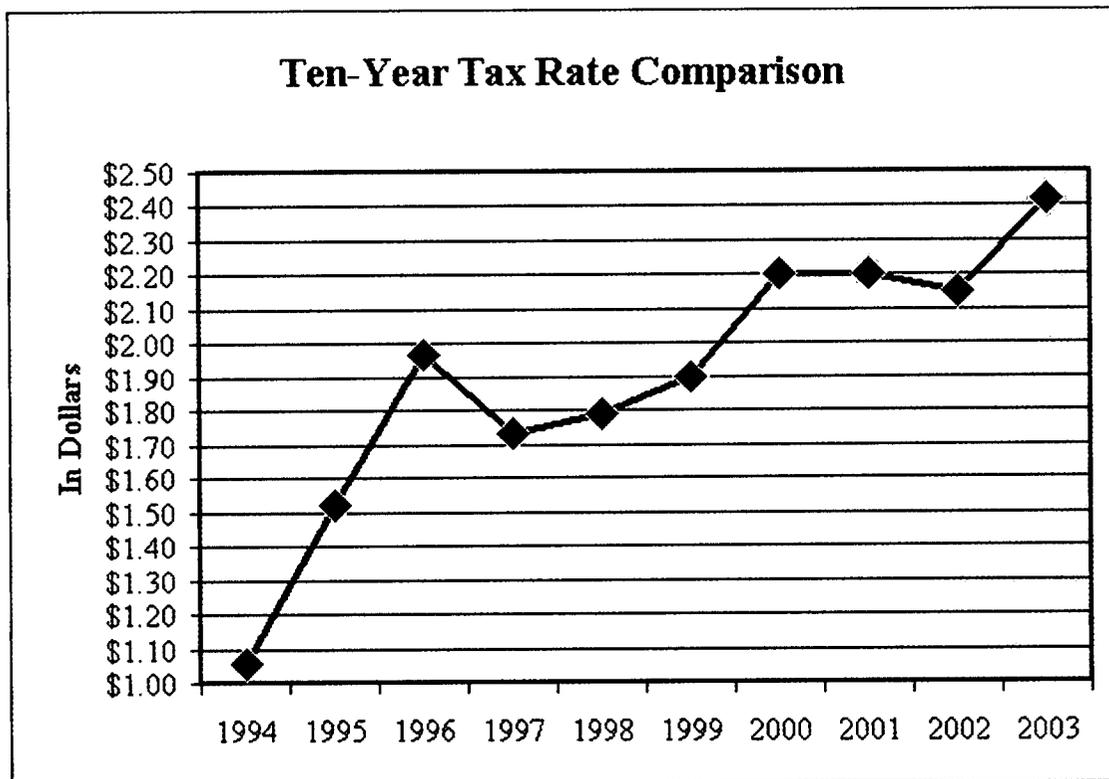
12/31/03	Union Bank stock/2445.43 shares (26.45/share) - formerly CSBT Stock/250 shares		
	TOTAL Union Bank Shares' Market Value		64,681.62
06/01/95	Equip--Cemetery		9,200.00
12/31/02	Equip--Constable		2,500.00
	Equip--FAST		
06/01/90	Equip--FAST	Vehicles	10,000.00
06/01/90	Equip--FAST	Equipment	9,000.00
07/01/02	Equip--FAST	Defibrillator	6,000.00
	TOTAL Equip--FAST		25,000.00
	Equip--Fire Department		
11/03/90	Equip--FD	Equipment	50,000.00
	Equip--FD	1956 Chevy Pump Truck	10,000.00
	Equip--FD	1976 Tanker	3,500.00
12/31/03	Equip--FD	1991 Ford Pumper/Tanker (refurbished)	85,000.00
12/31/02	Equip--FD	2001 Freightliner Fire Truck	149,000.00
	TOTAL Equip--FD		297,500.00
	Equip--Hwy		
5/9/2003	Equip--Hwy	Chainsaw	200.00
01/15/69	Equip--Hwy	Loader	5,000.00
01/15/72	Equip--Hwy	10-I beams	2,200.00
01/15/87	Equip--Hwy	Backhoe	14,000.00
01/15/90	Equip--Hwy	Brush mower	500.00
01/15/90	Equip--Hwy	Culvert thawer	500.00
01/15/90	Equip--Hwy	Grader	47,000.00
01/15/94	Equip--Hwy	Storage trailer	1,000.00
01/15/95	Equip--Hwy	2 Sanders	300.00
12/31/01	Equip--Hwy	Small equipment & tools	27,318.00
01/15/95	Equip--Hwy	Snow plow	2,500.00
01/15/95	Equip--Hwy	Stone rake	1,000.00
01/01/99	Equip--Hwy	TRK4: '87 Truck, Plow, Sander, Wing	2,500.00
08/22/01	Equip--Hwy	TRK5: '01 Truck, Plow, Sander, Wing	49,600.00
11/01/02	Equip--Hwy	TRK6: '97 Ford 1-ton, plow, sander	18,000.00
06/15/99	Equip--Hwy	Lowboy trailer	500.00
	TOTAL Equip--Hwy		172,118.00
12/14/97	Equip--Radios		1,500.00
11/03/90	Equip--Recreation		500.00
01/25/97	Land--Cemetery, Road & 0.8 Acres		800.00
01/25/97	Land--Dam & Right Of Way		1,000.00
12/14/97	Land--Flood Land	Near Senior Center	1,000.00
01/25/97	Land--Frost Field		8,000.00
01/25/97	Land--GravelPit	Old pit	15,000.00
09/01/99	Land--GravelPit	New pit - 100 acres	64,000.00
01/25/97	Land--Lakeside (0.11 Acres)		1,000.00
01/25/97	Land--Landfill	Old dump	9,000.00
01/25/97	Land--Park		51,350.00
01/25/97	Land--Puffer Field		12,291.00
07/03/03	Land--Park Street Cemetery (6 acres)		6,000.00
	OVERALL TOTAL		1,416,115.62

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TEN-YEAR GRAND LIST & TAX RATE COMPARISON

Year	Grand List	School	Hwy	Town/ Gen Fund	Total	Taxes on \$100,000 Home
1994	56,629,977.00	\$0.76	\$0.11	\$0.19	\$1.06	\$1,060.00
1995	57,368,226.00	\$1.24	\$0.15	\$0.13	\$1.52	\$1,521.30
1996	54,443,698.00	\$1.56	\$0.16	\$0.25	\$1.97	\$1,970.00
1997	54,803,563.00	\$1.32	\$0.13	\$0.28	\$1.73	\$1,730.00
1998	55,568,664.00	\$1.26	\$0.30	\$0.23	\$1.79	\$1,790.00
1999	56,000,972.00	\$1.30	\$0.23	\$0.37	\$1.90	\$1,900.00
2000	56,736,566.00	\$1.78	\$0.13	\$0.29	\$2.20	\$2,200.00
2001	57,236,778.00	\$1.72	\$0.22	\$0.26	\$2.20	\$2,200.00
2002	58,215,266.00	\$1.70	\$0.24	\$0.21	\$2.15	\$2,150.00
2003	58,828,499.00	\$1.86	\$0.22	\$0.34	\$2.42	\$2,420.00

Tax rate is applied to each \$100 of assessed value.



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2003 CURRENT TAX RECONCILIATION

	Town	Highway	Local Share (School)	Statewide School	Total
Percentage of Tax Rate	14.0%	9.0%	31.0%	46.0%	100%
2003 Tax Rate	0.34	0.22	0.76	1.10	\$2.42
2003 Taxes Assessed & Billed	199,391.88	128,180.50	441,510.59	655,144.75	1,424,227.72
Overpayment credit from 2002	0.42	0.27	0.93	1.38	3.00
Total tax to be collected	199,391.46	128,180.23	441,509.66	655,143.37	1,424,224.72
Taxes Collected					
2003 Current Taxes					
Collected through 10/10/03	187,527.61	120,553.46	415,239.71	616,162.14	1,339,482.92
2002 Overpayments not to be refunded	0.19	0.12	0.41	0.61	1.33
Total taxes collected	187,527.80	120,553.58	415,240.12	616,162.75	1,339,484.25
2003 Delinquent Taxes					
2003 Delinquent Tax Warrant I *	11,292.48	7,259.46	25,004.78	37,103.87	80,660.59
2003 Delinquent Tax Warrant II *	571.55	367.43	1,265.59	1,877.97	4,082.54
Total of 2003 Delinquent Taxes	11,864.03	7,626.89	26,270.37	38,981.84	84,743.13
2003 Delinquent Taxes Paid to Treasurer through 12/31/03	6,195.13	3,982.58	13,717.78	20,355.41	44,250.90
2003 Delinquent Taxes Left to Be Collected	5,668.90	3,644.31	12,552.59	18,626.43	40,492.23

* Warrant given to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

ANALYSIS of 2003 GRAND LIST

as of 12/12/2003

Category	Number of Parcels	Education Listed Value Excl. CUSE*	Municipal Listed Value Excl. CUSE*
Residential I	183	14,932,000	14,932,000
Residential II	108	11,593,878	11,593,878
Mobile Homes-U	16	283,500	283,500
Mobile Homes-L	42	1,916,136	1,916,136
Vacation I	149	14,711,300	14,711,300
Vacation II	64	4,953,078	4,953,078
Commercial	22	1,773,200	1,773,200
Commercial Apts	2	625,500	625,500
Industrial	1	179,000	179,000
Utilities-E	3	1,950,554	1,950,554
Utilities-O	1	5,500	5,500
Farm	7	1,206,615	1,206,615
Other	4	48,800	48,800
Woodland	38	1,021,727	1,021,727
Miscellaneous	120	2,760,723	2,760,723
Total	760	57,961,511	57,961,511
Total Listed Value of Real Estate for Taxation		57,961,511.00	57,961,511.00
<u>Personal Property</u>			
		Cable	31,077
		Machinery & Equip	N/A
		Inventory	N/A
Total Listed Value of Personal Property		31,077	
Total Listed Value of Taxable Property		57,992,588	57,961,511
Total Grand List (One percent of total listed value of real and personal property)		579,925.88	579,615.11

NOTE: From the Certified Final Computation Sheet prepared by the State of Vermont - Division of Property Valuation and Review dated 12/12/03.

*CUSE denotes Current Use Program

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

GROTON PROPERTIES ENROLLED IN VERMONT CURRENT USE PROGRAM - 2003

Owner of Property	Actual Assessed Property Value	Assessed Amount Exempted by Land Use	Owner's Taxable Value	Amount of Tax Exempted
Anagnostakis, Christopher & Sandra	\$42,800.00	\$24,860	\$17,940.00	\$601.61
Bailey, Frank & Gable, Wanda	663,300	165,187	498,113	3,997.53
Blandford, Mary	41,800	20,967	20,833	507.4
Brandt, Wilmer	119,600	89,383	30,217	2,163.07
Brueckner, William C.	148,800	98,257	50,543	2,377.82
Chandler, Harry & Judith	171,300	82,327	88,973	1,992.31
Clough, Rick	87,900	23,457	64,443	567.66
Crum, Don & Kathleen	56,200	37,317	18,883	903.07
Doscinski, Leonard & Patricia	161,200	43,655	117,545	1,056.45
Ducharme, Dennis G.	43,200	35,258	7,942	853.24
Eaton, Henry	251,000	28,428	222,572	687.96
Edwards, Leslie & Lyle	60,300	41,960	18,340	1,015.43
Eifes, Kenneth	278,600	156,591	122,009	3,789.50
Engle, James	410,800	152,428	258,372	3,688.76
Engle, James B.	76,800	60,936	15,864	1,474.65
Foster, Michael, David & Susan	55,800	39,317	16,483	951.47
Foster, Michael, David & Susan	162,600	88,267	74,333	2,136.06
Genereaux, Stephen	77,200	73,913	3,287	1,788.69
Green Acre Woodlands, Inc.	53,600	42,377	11,223	1,025.52
Green Acre Woodlands, Inc.	70,400	42,989	27,411	1,040.33
Green Acre Woodlands, Inc.	23,300	17,388	5,912	420.79
Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd.	78,500	64,661	13,839	1,564.80
Morse, Norman	179,100	59,273	119,827	1,434.41
Niemaszuk, Walter	161,000	113,162	47,838	2,738.52
Safranek, Joseph	141,300	14,595	126,705	353.2
Smith, Andrew & Elizabeth	176,800	28,312	148,488	685.15
Thomas, Bryce	133,800	70,297	63,503	1,701.19
Thomas, Bryce	37,500	28,867	8,633	698.58
Thomas, Paul A.	122,600	47,229	75,371	1,142.94
Thomas, Paul A.	98,500	47,421	51,079	1,147.59
Uttero, Peter J.	177,000	91,984	85,016	2,226.01
Vermont Land Trust & the Nature Cons.	215,600	142,850	72,750	3,456.97
Villeneuve, Ronald	72,800	58,736	14,064	1,421.41
Villeneuve, Ronald	26,800	22,483	4,317	544.09
Wosko, Walter	88,800	9,923	78,877	240.14

TOTALS	\$4,766,600.00	\$2,165,055.00	\$2,601,545.00	\$52,394.33
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Amount of taxes exempted through Land Use Program	\$52,394.33
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Amount of reimbursement the State of Vermont reimbursed the town for this program	<u>9,705.00</u>
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Amount underfunded by the State and absorbed by other taxpayers	\$42,689.33	(approx 7 cents on the tax rate)
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Value of Farm buildings tax exempted	\$90,426.00
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Additional amount of taxes lost On Farm Buildings	\$ 2,188.31
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Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

STATE OWNED BUILDINGS IN GROTON

Building No.	Building Description	Building Location	Market Value in 2000	New Market Value in 2001	Change in Appraisal
20057	Spruce Lookout Cabin	Groton State Forest	1,000.00	1,000.00	
20058	Spruce Lookout Tower	Groton State Forest	53,000.00	53,000.00	
24110	Pine MT WMA Barn		11,000.00	11,000.00	
24117	Boulder Beach Contact Station	Groton State Forest	2,400.00	2,400.00	
24118	Boulder Beach Storage Shed	Groton State Forest	5,280.00	5,280.00	
24119	Seyon Remote Cabin	Groton State Forest	22,800.00	22,800.00	
24120	Seyon Fish Hatchery	Groton State Forest	53,100.00	53,100.00	
24121	Seyon Woodshed	Groton State Forest	6,270.00	6,270.00	
24122	Seyon Boathouse	Groton State Forest	13,700.00	13,700.00	
24123	New Discovery Pumphouse	Groton State Forest	3,500.00	3,500.00	
24124	New Discovery Contact Station	Groton State Forest	60,000.00	60,000.00	
24125	Ricker's Lakeside Cabin	Groton State Forest	20,900.00	20,900.00	
24126	New Discovery Storage Building	Groton State Forest	5,610.00	5,610.00	
24127	Owl's Head Toilet Building	Groton State Forest	40,500.00	40,500.00	
24128	Owl's Head Octagon Building	Groton State Forest	18,000.00	18,000.00	
24405	Shelter Osmore	Groton State Forest	57,332.00	48,000.00	-9,332.00
24406	Shelter - Owls Head	Groton State Forest	67,180.00	67,180.00	
24407	Ranger's Res.-Stillwater	Groton State Forest	53,210.00	53,210.00	
24408	Park Shelter Stillwater	Groton State Forest	15,000.00	15,000.00	
24409	Toilet #1 Stillwater	Groton State Forest	79,800.00	37,000.00	-42,800.00
24410	Toilet #2 Stillwater	Groton State Forest	95,400.00	69,000.00	-26,400.00
24411	Shelter & Toilet #2-Rickers	Groton State Forest	76,100.00	24,000.00	-52,100.00
24412	Ranger's House – Rickers	Groton State Forest	43,600.00	43,600.00	
24413	Garage Storage – Rickers	Groton State Forest	170,000.00	21,000.00	-149,000.00
24414	Toilet Building #1 – Rickers	Groton State Forest	73,400.00	73,400.00	
24415	Toilet #3 – Rickers	Groton State Forest	91,700.00	37,000.00	-54,700.00
24416	Boulder Beach Restroom/Concession	Groton State Forest	97,016.00	100,420.00	3,404.00
24417	Picnic Shelter - Boulder Beach	Groton State Forest	43,200.00	43,200.00	
24418	Ranger's House - Big Deer	Groton State Forest	95,900.00	61,000.00	-34,900.00
24419	Toilet Building #5 - Big Deer	Groton State Forest	79,800.00	37,000.00	-42,800.00
24420	Toilet Building - Boulder Beach	Groton State Forest	34,300.00	34,300.00	
24421	Helper's Quarters E. Big Deer	Groton State Forest	53,000.00	53,000.00	
24422	Helper's Quarters W. Big Deer	Groton State Forest	53,000.00	53,000.00	
24423	Nature Center - Boulder Beach Rd.	Groton State Forest	35,091.00	36,320.00	1,229.00
24424	Toilet Building #3 Stillwater	Groton State Forest	73,400.00	73,400.00	
24425	Contact Station – Stillwater	Groton State Forest	23,000.00	23,000.00	
24430	Contact Station – Rickers	Groton State Forest	8,210.00	8,210.00	
24431	Blacksmith Shed	Groton State Forest	37,400.00	37,400.00	
24432	Storage Shed – Ricker	Groton State Forest	3,600.00	3,600.00	
24433	Storage Shed – Stillwater	Groton State Forest	20,000.00	20,000.00	
24434	Woodshed - Ricker Pond	Groton State Forest	11,600.00	11,600.00	
24435	Woodshed – Stillwater	Groton State Forest	13,700.00	13,700.00	
24436	Garage - Big Deer	Groton State Forest	32,600.00	32,600.00	
24437	Maintenance/Storage Barn	Groton State Forest	75,000.00	51,000.00	-24,000.00
24438	Lumber Storage Shed	Groton State Forest	94,000.00	34,000.00	-60,000.00
24501	Residence - Seyon Ranch	Groton State Forest	244,000.00	252,560.00	8,560.00
24502	Garage - Seyon Ranch	Groton State Forest	59,100.00	59,100.00	
24503	Barn - Seyon Ranch	Groton State Forest	49,500.00	49,500.00	
24504	Barn & Sleeping Rooms – Seyon	Groton State Forest	118,500.00	18,000.00	-100,500.00
24505	Old Wheel House – Seyon	Groton State Forest	119,000.00	28,000.00	-91,000.00
TOTAL MARKET VALUE FROM STATE OF VERMONT			2,613,699.00	1,939,360.00	-674,339.00

REMEMBER: STATE APPRAISES THEIR OWN PROPERTIES!!!

Amount of taxes the Town would receive if these properties were privately owned (Based on 2003 tax rate of \$2.42 per hundred but also understated due to State appraisal values)	\$46,932.51
Amount of PILOT money received from the State of Vermont	3,753.00
Amount under funded by the State of Vermont	\$43,179.51

In The Name Of Art

Mr. Elroy Towle BMU Art Teacher 30 years

The true work of art continues to unfold and create within the personality of the spectator. It is a continuous coming into being. – *Mervyn Levy*

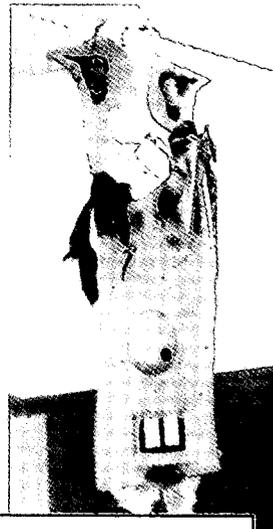


Art teaches nothing, except the significance of life. – *Henry Miller*

When you walk into Blue Mountain Union School you can't help but notice the wonderful artwork. Student art is everywhere. It's on bulletin boards, framed in the library, brightening up the cafeteria, and hanging from ceiling beams. Student creativity and the art teacher's love of his job clearly shows.

Mr. Elroy Towle has taught at Blue Mountain Union School since 1974. He now has grandchildren of students he had during his first years at BMU. Being responsible for the art education of an entire PreK-12 school is an awesome task. Mr. Towle says, "It's a lot of responsibility, but art is a very important part of life. It shows up in the color of the car we drive, the style of our home, our choice in music and clothes. Guiding students in understanding the vast world of the arts is very important. It also brings me joy daily to watch children's art develop and mature. Art is food for the soul and can be an important therapeutic process."

Kate Conquest, who intends to be an author and illustrator, is excited that Mr. Towle will be teaching her third grade class about colors. "I need to know this so I do a good job illustrating my books."



Samantha Funk, a junior headed for a career infused with artist creativity, shared her feelings about Mr. Towle. "Mr. Towle is caring and passionate about his students and his work."

Art is the signature of civilizations. – *Beverly Sills*

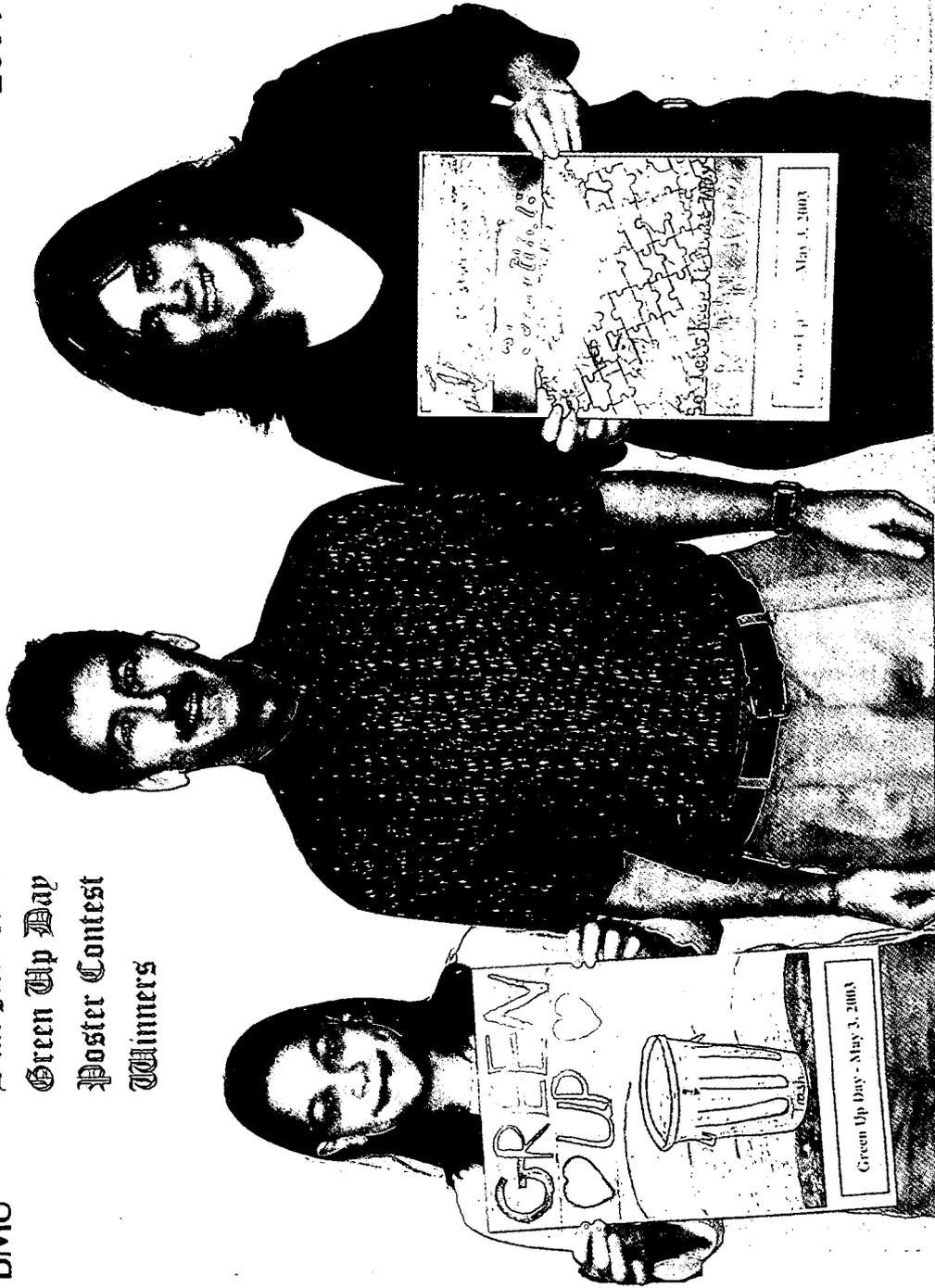
Art is both creation and recreation. – *Lin Yutang*



2004

Blue Mt. Union
Green Up Day
Poster Contest
Winners

BMU



Amenda Muntagh

Mr. Howle

Tiffany St. Martin

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

LIST OF STATE OWNED PROPERTY IN GROTON – 2002

(values as of 4/01/2002)

Agency	Location of Property	Acres	2000 Appraised Value	2002 Appraised Value
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lake Groton Cottage Lots	2.07	\$13,450.00	\$5,500.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Stillwater Campground	42.00	931,900.00	197,500.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Big Deer Campground	25.00	182,500.00	79,000.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Boulder Beach	25.00	773,400.00	77,600.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Kettle Pond Campground & frontage	20.00	139,300.00	63,200.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Natural Woodland Areas	149.00	43,200.00	35,000.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Forest Land	11,705.00	1,522,700.00	3,357,200.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Dam Ponds site	13.00	96,100.00	40,300.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	TNC/Moffatt Acquisition	329.00	43,200.00	56,400.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lyon Acq - Seyon Block	21.00	24,000.00	4,900.00
Fish & Wildlife	Pine Mountain WMA	372.00	94,000.00	99,400.00
Fish & Wildlife	Levi Pond WMA	259.20	57,300.00	59,500.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Page Acquisition	25.70	6,500.00	7,500.00
Fish & Wildlife	St. Hilaire Parcel	100.00	22,100.00	23,400.00
Environ Conservation	Groton Lake Damsite	3.00	60,000.00	8,800.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Seyon Pond	26.00	302,600.00	80,700.00
Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Campsite & frontage	39.00	610,000.00	183,400.00
Totals		13,155.97	\$4,922,250.00	\$4,379,300.00

Amount of taxes the town would have collected if land was privately owned **\$105,979.06**
 (based on the 2003 tax rate of \$2.42 and if not in current use. This figure is also based on the fact that the State sets their own appraisal values which are not true market values)

Amount of PILOT funds we receive from the State of Vermont **54,511.86**
Amount underfunded by the State of Vermont **\$51,467.20**
 (approx. 8 cents on the tax rate)

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

GROTON HIGHWAY REPORT – 2003

Late last spring the paving and other work was completed on the bridge on Powder Spring Road. The total cost was around \$800,000 of which Vermont A.O.T paid 90%.

Buzzy Road was finished with a topcoat of gravel and stone mix. In 2004 the upper end of Goodfellow Road will see more topcoat mix as the summer ends.

Paving for 2004 will be on the next section of Minard Hill Road. Shoulder work and more ditching will also be going on.

There was work done on Seyon Pond Road. The stream bank was cutting away at the roadbed. We installed large blasted granite (rip rap) to stabilize 120 linear feet of stream bank. This project was a Better Back Roads program run by Northern Vermont Resource Conservation & Development Council. The program is based on cost-effective techniques to save our roads and protect the environment at the same time.

We did a lot of work on the Grader this year. Outside parts and labor cost \$5437.57 and in house labor was \$6943.86. Work included new air compesor, some new airlines, new shims, in circle, bushings and pin in mow board, replace exhaust gasket, new tires on rear tandems, sandblasted, etch lock primer, and painted. Now that the Grader is under cover the new paint should last a good many years.

We need to look at the replacement of our Truck # 4. It is a 1987 International. The truck was used when we purchased it. Our plan was to run it 4 years before replacing. In 2002 we replaced the 1988 one ton. We no longer could get it state inspected. This set our equipment fund back so we opted to run Truck # 4 one more year. By the end of 2004 we will have had this truck 6 years. This year it cost a little over \$10,000 for repairs and maintenance.

In the plans for 2003 is to work on Backhoe. Replace pins and bushing, sand blast and paint. The repairs are much needed. This will improve not only the workings of the machine but also the looks.

In 2002 the Select Board implemented the process to file for access onto Town of Groton roads. Please pickup and fill out an application before starting any work. Over weight permits are also available. Both are without a fee.

Phillip and I try our best to control cost while maintaining a level of service that keeps up with needed maintance of roads. Thanks to each of you whom gave us input this past year. If you have any ideas or concerns please let us know.

Town garage phone	584-3209
Brent Smith home	584-3765
Pager	479-6615 (not a toll call in Groton)

Or stop by the garage.

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

HIGHWAY ACTIVITY REPORT

For the year 2003

ACTIVITY	LABOR	EQUIPMENT	MATERIALS	TOTAL
Class 2	7,566.96	7,174.50	52,616.83	67,358.29
Class 3	40,766.74	40,222.50	27,824.43	108,813.67
Class 4	1,596.51	1,320.00	966.60	3,883.11
Administrative	6,867.01	80.00	-	6,947.01
Brush Dump	537.35	491.00	-	1,028.35
Community Building	1,013.36	442.00	21.00	1,476.36
Fire Dept.	-	-	-	-
Garage	3,839.55	551.00	-	4,390.55
Maintenance	14,892.25	98.00	-	14,990.25
Projects	-	-	-	-
Park & Fields	-	-	-	-
Seyon Pond Billable	849.35	715.50	471.02	2,035.87
Training	1,161.29	-	-	1,161.29
Repair	4,551.04	147.00	-	4,698.04
Side Walks	<u>128.58</u>	<u>98.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>226.58</u>
Grand Totals	83,769.99	51,339.50	81,899.88	217,009.37

*This report was generated by the Road Commissioner and not the Treasurer.

ZONING ADMINISTRATION REPORT - 2003

There were a total of 35 applications submitted to the Zoning Department during the past year. Estimated construction value of the applications totaled \$1,495,801. This is a significant difference to last years report, with 19 fewer applications, there was an estimated construction cost increase of almost \$600,000.

All 35 applications were approved and building permits issued. One application (03-02) was forwarded to the Board of Adjustment for Conditional Use approval.

A small number of zoning related complaints were reported to this office during the past year. In the best interest of all concerned, future complaints must be made in writing. This will help us track and resolve these issues as quickly as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel C. Robinson
Zoning Administrator

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

LISTERS REPORT 2003

The Listers have been learning a lot about ACT 68 at their workshops in Fairlee. The legislature presently in session is still making changes to ACT 68 as we speak. So we will have much more to learn at the spring workshops when the Listers meet again.

We were very busy looking at new properties and their improvements last year.

We've made a few improvements of our own. We replaced the carpet in our office. The old carpet was very worn and wrinkled to the point of people tripping over it. We also purchased a fireproof file cabinet to hold all of the listers property files. These files were not protected against fire before the purchase of this cabinet.

Cartographics Associates, Inc. has started the Tax Mapping. We are hoping to have it finished before the end of 2004.

Bid proposals have been mailed out to prospective reappraisal firms for the Town-wide Reappraisal. The bids should be in during the month of March.

If you have any concerns about your property assessment or other issues please contact us at 584-3276 or 584-3131.

Linda Nunn, Chairperson

Victoria Beamis

Lisa Hill

PLANNING COMMISSION

The members of the Groton Planning Commission have completed the revisions of the Zoning Regulations By-laws. We are presenting the by-laws to the town's people for a vote on Town Meeting day.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martha Crown

Planning Commission Members
Martha Crown – Chair
Eric Benson – Moved
Dave Sanville
Daniel Webster
Wade Johnson
Kenneth Murray

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES

Report for 2003

By this time you should have received Form HS-131 Declaration of VT Homestead. This form must be filed with the VT Department of Taxes on or before April 15th, 2004. This declaration identifies your property as a homestead. If you have misplaced or lost your form, please go to the Town Office where there are forms waiting for you. **It is very important that you file this form with the Vt. Department of Taxes.** Your failure to file will cause you much grief and the end result is that you will be penalized into paying interest and penalties. The failure to file will as well cause the Listers and Roberta lots of paperwork. It is our understanding from a Seminar that we went to, that this error or omission of not filing would then be turned over to my office for collection. By complying with the state's request you will not only be helping yourself, but will be helping the town.

Thank you for filling out the Homestead Declaration.

This past year has been a very busy year. The town finally received tax, interest and penalty payments on delinquent tax accounts that were in Bankruptcy since 2001-2003.

Five properties were advertised for Tax Sale. However, only two properties were sold for Delinquent Taxes. One of these properties has already been redeemed the other has until August 30th, 2004.

Every year it seems as Collector, there are more challenges and responsibilities in holding this office. However, I enjoy this office very much and appreciate the friendships that have been made over the years. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this capacity.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by phone (584-3792) or just drop by my home.

Thank you again.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Bouley, Collector of Delinquent Taxes

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

TOWN OF GROTON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION POLICY & TAX SALE PROCEEDINGS TAX YEAR 2003

1. **All taxes became delinquent after 5 p.m. on October 10, 2003.** All Delinquent Taxes must be remitted to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.
2. As soon as the Tax Collection Warrant has been received, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes will send a notice to each delinquent taxpayer, and **on the first of each month** thereafter until June 2004 of the succeeding year. (Unless the bill has been paid in full previously.)
3. **Final Notice will be sent out on June 1st 2004.**
4. **Payment in full is required on all accounts by June 30th, 2004.** After June 30th, 2004 all unpaid taxes will be processed for Tax Sale and or other means of Collection. [Exception will be those that are under a period of Redemption, Bankruptcy, and Litigation or etc which have a stay on them.] **AFTER THIS DATE ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE EITHER IN CASH OR CERTIFIED FUNDS.**
5. **Interest is charged at the rate of 1% per month (or a fraction of a month) for the first three months, and 1 1/2% per month (or a fraction thereof) thereafter on all delinquent taxes.** Interest will be recalculated on the 1st of each month.
6. **Partial payments** will be applied **first to the interest portion of the amount due**, and the remainder will be divided proportionately between the amount of the tax, and the 8% penalty. **The Town of Groton will not accept partial payments of delinquent taxes that are made in contravention of this policy.** The Collector of Delinquent Taxes **will return** any payments made that are not consistent with this policy to the delinquent taxpayer.
7. Payments with statements or directives issued on them or by communication included with payments that are not consistent with the Groton Town Policy will be returned to the taxpayer as well.
8. **PAYMENT IS CREDITED WHEN RECEIVED IN HAND.** Postmarks have been discontinued.
9. **Overpayments** of \$1.00 or less will not be refunded unless specifically requested by the Taxpayer.
10. **There will be a \$25.00 charge for any returned check;** non-sufficient funds or closed accounts; or returned instrument of non-payment in lieu of delinquent taxes.
11. **NO POST DATED CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
12. **To insure quality service telephone calls may be recorded for accuracy, clarity and content.**
13. **Mortgage holders or lien holders may be notified of the Delinquent Taxes prior to Tax Sale.**
14. **Tax Sales** shall be conducted according to the requirements for notice set forth in 32 V.S.A. 5252 and pursuant to the provisions of 32V.S.A.5251 thru 5263 inclusive.
15. [Re: 32 V.S.A.5258] Costs of preparing and conducting the sale, including legal fees up to a maximum of 15% of the amount of delinquent tax, will be charged to the delinquent taxpayer.
16. The Journal Opinion or the Caledonian Record, newspapers of general circulation in the Town of Groton shall be used for publication of all notices required under V.S.A.5252.
17. **Delinquent taxpayers may by written request petition the Board of Civil Authority, Listers, and Town Treasurer pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. Sections 1533 et seq to Abate Delinquent Taxes.**
18. Based upon a recent revision by the VT Legislature 32 V.S.A. 5254 now provides as follows: 32 V.S.A. Section 5254: Sale of Realty
19. When the tax with costs is not paid before the day of sale the real property on which the taxes are due shall be sold to pay such taxes.
20. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the owner of the property being sold for taxes may request in writing, not less than twenty-four hours prior to the tax sale, that a portion of the property be sold. Such request must clearly identify the portion of the property to be sold, and must be accompanied by a certification from the district environmental commission and the town zoning administrative officer that the portion identified may be subdivided and meets minimum lot size requirements. In the event that the portion identified by the taxpayer cannot be sold for the taxes and costs, then the entire property may be sold to pay such tax and costs.
21. All delinquent taxes not paid by 12/31/03 will be published in the annual Town Report.
22. **To insure proper credit all payments should be sent to the address below. All checks should be made payable to the TOWN OF GROTON, CDT.** If you believe that there is an error, or if you have questions, please contact me as soon as possible.

Patricia Bouley, Collector of Delinquent Taxes
32 Railroad Street, Groton, VT 05046
Tel or Fax—802-584-3792

TOWN OF GROTON SELECTBOARD

Kevin B. Ricker, Selectman

Berne Bouley, Selectman

Richard Kreis, Selectman

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

DELINQUENT TAX LISTS

2002 Warrant 1

Shepard, Michael & Janette

\$ 432.15

2003 Warrant 1

Bedard, Michael J & Bradley J	\$ 361.19
Boyce, David & Boyce, Douglas P.	\$ 3,470.28
Cilley, Ernest Deceased	\$ 1,880.34
Conti, Richard	\$ 1,374.56
Currier, James R	\$ 917.18
Darling, Henry & Sarah	\$ 571.12
Darling, John H & Donna J	\$ 2,170.74
Fiorentino, John E	\$ 1,752.08
Fox, Paul	\$ 1,122.88
Gibney, Sr., Philip R & Kristine	\$ 1,897.28
Goudey, Mark	\$ 762.30
Grant, Jeffrey & Patricia A	\$ 834.90
Hatch, Roger & Patricia	\$ 483.30
Herbert, William & Anna	\$ 646.14
Hill, Laua	\$ 200.86
Holmes, Donna Mardin	\$ 1,263.24
Houghton, Bradley E Sr. & Jeanette	\$ 1,435.06
Houston, Gail	\$ 82.28
Houston, Gail	\$ 885.72
Jungblut, Brett & Robert (Walter J Russell Trustee)	\$ 696.74
Kennedy, Michael A	\$ 820.38
Kincaid, Helen Priscilla	\$ 1,085.20
Lakin, Charles & Blenda	\$ 1,357.62
LaVallee, Richard & Marion	\$ 1,577.84
Lepenven, Larry J & Kristen	\$ 87.85
Oliver, Pauline	\$ 2,013.44
Oliver, Troy a & Julie L	\$ 1,333.42
Patneau, Joseph S & Steven A	\$ 358.16
Pitts, David & Katherine	\$ 484.00
Pollock, Donna	\$ 297.66
Shepard, Michael & Janette	\$ 486.42
Slater, Clarence A & Pauline M	\$ 546.92
Tucker, Robert & Lisa L Tia	\$ 2,105.40
Wilson, Mark	\$ 322.93
Wimble, Nicole Hatch	\$ 64.74
Wood, Rose-Marie	\$ 659.52

Total of Warrant 1

\$ 36,409.69

2003 Warrant 2

Ricker, Kevin & Marie

\$ 4,082.54

Summary:

2002 Warrant 1	\$ 432.15
2003 Warrant 1	\$ 36,409.69
2003 Warrant 2	\$ 4,082.54
Grand Total	\$ 40,924.38

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT TAXES SUMMARY 2003

YEAR & WARRANT	TAXES OWED	BALANCE TO BE COLLECTED
2001 Warrant 1	\$981.74	\$-
2002 Warrant 1	\$35,396.01	\$432.15
2003 Warrant 1	\$80,660.59	\$36,409.69
2003 Warrant 2	\$4,082.54	\$4,082.54
Totals	\$121,120.88	\$40,924.38

Tax of \$3,072.26 & Interest of \$83.18 was collected in the month of December 2002 and was paid to the Treasurer in January 2003. This is shown in this year's report under Paid to Treasurer

PAID TO TREASURER

*Tax & Interest Collected in 12/2002 and turned in to the Treasurer 1/2003.

SUMMARY

Warrant	Tax Paid	Interest Paid
<u>2001 Warrant 1</u>	\$981.74	_____
(Collected 12/02 To Treas 1/03)	\$3,072.26 *	\$83.18 *
Collected in 2003	\$34,963.86	\$3,435.09
<u>2003 Warrant 1</u>	\$44,250.90	\$637.97
Totals	\$83,268.76	\$4,156.24

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS REPORT FOR 2003

We are very proud to announce that after years of diligent work on the part of Berne Bouley, Groton has acquired a piece of land which surveys out to approximately 6.6 acres for a new cemetery. It is bound on the north side by the Wells River and on the south side by the Railroad bed. The eastern boundary is Tim Dailey's property. The entrance and the exit to the cemetery will be from the Railroad bed.

In the year 2004 we hope to grade some of the larger humps and remove some trees along the river and the railroad bed. It is hoped that the area may be ready to be hayed by the end of the summer. We plan to lay out roads and gravesites in the summer with Dale Brown's help.

Rather than refer to this as the New New Cemetery we would like to suggest that we call it the Park Street Cemetery.

Submitted by the Cemetery Commissioners:
 Berne Bouley
 Deborah Jurist
 Tom Gandin

CEMETERY FUND ACTIVITY

<u>Income</u>		
Interest		
Savings accounts	288.69	
Certificates of deposit	3,383.42	
Lot Sales	420.00	
Total Income/Revenue		4,092.11
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Maintenance	6,966.52	
Reimbursed expenses	72.00	
Total expenses		<u>7,038.52</u>
 <u>Difference</u>		 -2,946.41
 <u>Purchased land for Park Street Cemetery</u>		 5,788.00
(total cost inc legal fees)		

CEMETERY ACCOUNT BALANCES

AS OF 12/31/03

Bank Account	Balance
HB Carter Trust-01-0093598-1 Carter	6,075.96
WGSB CD New Cem-707154 New Cem CD	40,624.22
WGSB CD Old Cem-707175 Old Cem CD	34,250.53
WGSB H. Hosmer-26147 Hosmer	2,960.44
WRSB Cem. Land-53179-9 Future Purchase	1,413.14
WRSB Int & Lot-19373-9 Interest-Lot	3,851.17
WRSB MJR Hall-52870-9 MJR Hall	6,133.14
WRSB Combined Accounts	1,423.80
TOTAL	96,732.40

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

GROTON CEMETERY REGULATIONS

TRAFFIC REGULATION:

In order to protect the roadways and monuments, the Groton cemeteries will be closed to vehicular traffic from Nov. 1 to May 1, unless otherwise noted or by special permission of the Cemetery Commissioners.

FLOWERS AND FLAGS:

All flowers, natural and artificial, must be removed from the cemeteries by October 1. The flags will remain on the graves until Veterans Day in November. Flowers, plants, and flags will be removed by the maintenance workers.

FOOTINGS:

In order to facilitate mowing, all the monuments will be set on a cement foundation with footings which extend four inches outward from the monument.

PLANTINGS:

Plantings must be set according to the requirements of the Commissioners. Plants should be of the low maintenance type that will not grow to a size which will impinge on the lots surrounding the planting. They must be clearly marked in order to protect them from mowers. They must be planted between the monuments and not in front or behind the headstones. It is extremely difficult to be aware of all the plantings in a cemetery as large as the Groton cemetery. Be advised that the Town cannot be held responsible for plantings set in front or behind monuments as these areas are routinely mowed. However spaces between the monuments are often trimmed and these spaces can be observed more readily.

BURIALS:

The cemetery will be closed for burials from the first snowfall until the ground is fully thawed in spring, unless specifically authorized by the Cemetery Commission. Burial vaults will be of concrete.

CEMETERY RATES

Groton Residents and Property Owners

Size of Lot	# of Lots	Perpetual Care	Fees	Total	Non-Property Owners Non Resident
12'x8	2	\$120.00	\$89.00	\$209.00	\$809.00
12x12	3	180.00	89.00	269.00	1169.00
12x16	4	240.00	89.00	329.00	1529.00
12x20	5	300.00	89.00	389.00	1889.00
12x24	6	360.00	89.00	449.00	2249.00
12x28	7	420.00	89.00	509.00	2609.00
12x32	8	480.00	89.00	569.00	2969.00
12x36	9	540.00	89.00	629.00	3329.00
12x40	10	600.00	89.00	689.00	3689.00
12x44	11	660.00	89.00	749.00	4049.00
24x24	12	720.00	89.00	809.00	4409.00

FEE DESCRIPTION:

\$14.00 for recording of deed
\$75.00 for corner posts and installation

Any lot purchased requires a 50% deposit at the time of purchase, the balance must be paid for within a six month period or remaining plots will be forfeited.

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

CEMETERY RATES - Cont'd

CREMATION LOTS

Rules for the special area set aside for cremation burials in the Groton New Extension of the Village Cemetery, are as follows:

1. Lots shall be of the following sizes and cost for Groton Residents:

Size of Lot	# of Plots	Perpetual Care	Fee	Total	Non-Resident Non-Property Owner
8'x12'	8 canisters	\$150.00	\$89.00	\$ 239.00	\$ 429.00
4'x6'	4 canisters	75.00	89.00	164.00	259.00
2'x3'	2 canisters	37.50	89.00	126.50	174.00

2. Residents/Non-Residents cost includes perpetual care, corner post and recording fee.
3. Each lot shall be marked with a stone marker no larger than 2'x1', which shall be set on a foundation to prevent the marker from sinking and shifting. There shall also be an area around the marker, which is left open approximately one foot, to allow for the care of the grounds without damage to the stone.
4. Burial hole must be at least 3 feet deep.
5. Digging of the burial hole shall be arranged for at the time of purchase.
6. Contact the Town Clerks Office with inquiries

FEE DESCRIPTION:

\$14.00	for recording of deed
\$75.00	for corner posts and installation

Any lot purchased requires a 50% deposit at the time of purchase. The balance must be paid within a six month period or remaining plots will be forfeited.

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CONSTABLE & ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT - 2003

Dogs & cats complaints	25	Vehicle serial number verification	30
911 numbers assigned	6	Stump dump complaints	2
Snowmobile complaints	4	Traffic accidents or complaints	3
Illegally parked vehicles	6	Vandalism complaints	2
Medical emergency response	2	House, camp or garage break-ins	1
Illegal trash being dumped	3	Assistance in directing traffic	5
Snow plowing complaints	2	Fish & game complaints	1
Cemetery Complaints	2	4-wheeler complaints	15
Bad check complaints	4	Abandoned vehicles	5
Speeding complaints	6	Trespassing	4
Mailbox Complaints	1	Bank Robbery	1
State Police assistance	6	House or vehicle fire	3
Snowmobile Accidents	2	Miscellaneous complaints	5

The Constable's job is increasing each year – Never a dull moment!

Having our 1st bank robbery in Groton was one of our many highlights. I sincerely hope it was our first and last one.

The Correction Department in Windsor, Vermont had a public hearing at the Groton Community Building. I asked Lt. Goodell, Vermont State Police Commander of the Bradford Barracks, if he could send a couple of State Troopers to the hearing to help keep peace and quiet. Lt. Goodell sent at least five (5) Troopers plus himself for which I was very grateful.

The Caledonia Sheriff's Department, Michael Bergeron, loaned the town a portable radar trailer that records your speed when you approach it. I believe it was very effective and people did slow down when they saw it. We had a weeks use of it and could have it longer if we wanted.

Josephine Guertin from Danville is working with me in picking up animals and the transporting them to her kennel in Danville if necessary. This year a total of 259 dogs and 175 cats were licensed by the town clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Milton F. Lamberton
1st Constable

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

Library Report 2003

The Groton Free Public Library continues to be a busy place under the guidance of librarian Karen O'Donnell-Leach and Trustees Virginia Jennings (chair), Barbarann Bean (secretary), Emilie Knisley (treasurer), Diane Kreis, Richard Montague, Deborah Orelup, Patrick Shattuck. Nancy Spencer has graciously agreed to chair our new Friends of the Library Committee.

The library has once again met the Standards for Vermont Public Libraries, which allows us to use the Vermont Centralized Card/MARC service. This is a very important service because it allows us to borrow materials from many sources. Meeting the Standards also allows us to apply for grants offered through the Vermont Department of Libraries.

Book discussions continued throughout the year. Books we discussed this year include "The Ghost Stories of Edith Wharton", "Atonement" by Ian McEwan, and "The Girl with the Pearl Earring" by Tracy Chevalier.

We had a full schedule of summer programs including "Bat House Construction" with Barr Genzlinger of the Chiroptera Cabin Compnay, "Blooming Old Boots" with Debi and Leah Desroches, and "Kite Making" with Trustee Richard Montague. The Library and Mountain Meadow 4H collaborated on a program entitled "Sailing and Other Boating" with Wayne Knott. Old friend Thelma White discussed bluebirds and nature preserves at an additional program. We thank the Groton Community Club for assisting us in the financing of these wonderful programs.

We ended our summer schedule with a barbeque at the Memorial Park. Trustee Patrick Shattuck provided guests with a delicious barbeque, and stories were told or read by Ruth Putnam, Virginia Jennings, Cosmo Brown, and Nic Phillips.

Also this summer, on August 5th, we welcomed Littleton author Floyd Ramsey who presented a fascinating slide show and discussion on his book "Shrouded Memories". Mr. Ramsy also signed books for guests.

Karen and the Trustees joined together for an all-day workshop at Seyon Ranch. We put our heads together and accomplished much library business.

This year's library book sale was held on Fall Foliage Day at the former Groton General Store. Many town residents and other guests enjoyed viewing the sale books (as well as the parade) from this historic building. Our warmest thanks go out to Richard and Wanda Peters.

On December 7th, the Library hosted a well-attended program by balladeer Burt Porter at the Groton Historical Society's Peter Paul House. Thanks go to Richard Brooks and Wayne Knott for their help on that snowy day.

Marion Page continues her dedicated work as Volunteer Librarian on Saturday afternoons, and Trustee Barbarann Bean is a dedicated volunteer on Tuesday evenings. Nancy Spencer spends hours helping Karen to get our new books on the shelf. A great big thank you to all our volunteers. Please feel free to volunteer yourself! We'd love to have you.

Library hours are Tuesday 1PM-8PM, Thursday 11AM-6PM, and Saturdays 2PM-4PM.

Don't forget the Library offers public computers, interlibrary loans for those hard-to-find books, and an excellent collection of printed materials for both children and adults.

Barbarann Bean, Secretary

Karen O'Donnell-Leach, Librarian

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT – 2003 – cont'd

LIBRARY TREASURER'S REPORT - DECEMBER 31, 2003

	2003 ACTUAL	2003 BUDGET	2004 BUDGET
CHECKING BALANCE (1/01/03)	\$ 5,568.99		
RECEIPTS:			
Town of Groton	\$ 10,099.00	\$ 10,099.00	\$ 11,141.00
Investment Dividend	\$ 1,279.10	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00
Community Club Donation*	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 650.00
Booksales	\$ 99.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 293.70		
Interest Income	\$ 28.98	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00
Transfer from Savings		\$ 852.00	\$ 772.00
Total Receipts	\$ 11,999.78	\$ 12,876.00	\$ 13,918.00
EXPENDITURES:			
Librarian**	\$ 7,023.00	\$ 6,046.00	\$ 6,678.00
Books/Periodicals	\$ 4,047.68	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,200.00
Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 450.00
Volunteer Recognition		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Postage & Delivery	\$ 236.98	\$ 415.00	\$ 415.00
Professional Fees		\$ 100.00	
Program Expenses	\$ 343.73	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Supplies	\$ 258.77	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Telephone/Internet	\$ 1,257.62	\$ 1,290.00	\$ 1,600.00
Staff Training/Professional	-	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Trash Removal*	\$ 4.00		
Travel		\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Freeman Foundation Expense	\$ 480.37		
Gates Foundation Expense	\$ 1,100.00		
Combination Expenses***	\$ 474.93		
Total Expenditures	\$15,223.08	\$12,876.00	\$ 13,918.00
CHECKING BALANCE (12/31/03)	\$ 2,566.36		
SAVINGS BALANCE (1/1/03)	\$ 3,386.53		
RECEIPTS:			
Interest Earned	\$ 25.30		
SAVINGS BALANCE (12/31/03)	\$ 3,411.83		
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT VALUE (1/1/03)	\$26,227.57		
RECEIPTS:			
Dividends	\$ 1,279.10		
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT VALUE (12/31/03)	\$31,107.54		
Building Fund Balance (1/1/03)	\$ 922.36		
Building Fund Balance (12/31/03)	\$ 1,676.09		

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

GROTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Your fire department responded to thirty-four emergency calls this past year, compared to fifty-five in 2002, fifty-two in 2001 and thirty-one in 2000. The Fire Fighters logged approximately four hundred and thirty-one hours working these calls. This is compared to nine hundred and fifty hours in 2002 and six hundred and fifty hours in 2001. In part, a very wet year helped to keep down the number of brush fires.

The Department applied for two grants this year, which resulted in our receiving \$3,242.39 from the “Jefford’s Fire Safety Equipment Grant Program” and \$28,714 from the “Vermont State Homeland Security Grant Program”. These grants allowed us to replace nine self-contained breathing apparatuses (S.C.B.A.s) with six new, state of the art, S.C.B.A.’s. The old devices were over fifteen years old, were becoming difficult to maintain due to availability of spare parts and not safe to use. The new devices meet National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A). standards are much easier to use, cause less stress on the firefighter and provide a greater degree of safety to the fire fighter exposed to toxic smoke of burning structures and vehicles.

Grant money was also used to purchase a multi-gas detector, which will enable us to detect the presence of toxic gases, identify them and evaluate the risk they pose to firefighters and the community. Here we are speaking of gases produced by burning chemicals and materials often found in the household, industrial structures, farms or being carried by vehicles passing through our area.

Grant money was also used to purchase four new radios, which will allow us to net with the Vermont State Police and other state level emergency services.

In addition in the past year we used “Jefford’s Grant” money awarded in 2002 to purchase four sets of “turn out” gear—(helmets, jackets, boots, trousers) and forest fire protective clothing. The new turn out gear replaces gear that had passed through at least two other departments, was of undetermined age and did not meet present standards for protection of the fire fighter.

It should be noted that use of the “grant” is restricted to the purchase of certain items. Also that without this money it would be very difficult for us to obtain needed equipment and meet the degree of safety, effectiveness and efficiency which is the standard.

Although 2003 was a fairly quiet year for the department, 2004 has started off rather busy with chimney fires and motor vehicle accidents. We are also hosting an academic exercise conducted by students of the Architecture Department of Norwich University. Professor Arnold Aho of Groton has tasked his sophomore class to design a new firehouse for Groton and then design modifications to the existing station. They conducted a similar project on our town hall a number of years ago, which produced some very interesting and innovative ideas. The students are currently researching N.F.P.A. standards for fire stations and applicable building codes. We expect that they will provide some ideas that sometime in the future will guide us in improving our facility and avoid costly mistakes.

We would like to thank all the citizens of Groton for your support and especially the following:

- Craig & Cindy Darling of Darling Automotive for their support of vehicle extrication drills.
- Bill Kane of Upper Valley Grill, for those pizzas and coffee that kept us going during some of those cold night-time fires.
- Nathan and Mary Puffer of Groton Timber Works for allowing us to use their facility in a structure fire drill.
- Senator James Jeffords for making grant money available for the purchase of fire fighting protective equipment.

2003 Calls:

Medical assist	11	Chimney	4	Brush fire	2	Other	5
Structure	3	Service	4	Motor vehicle	5		

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

GROTON -RYEGATE F.A.S.T. SQUAD REPORT

Your F.A.S.T. SQUAD answered seventy-one calls for medical assistance this past year. They included responses to motor vehicle accidents, ATV and snow mobile accidents, medical emergencies at homes and Clarks' Landing, medical coverage for fire calls and training activities. Slightly less than fifty percent of these were to Groton and slightly more 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 are;

Johns, B	Paramedic
Johns, A	Paramedic
Bouffard	Paramedic
Santorello, J	Paramedic
Walker, J	ParaMedic
Doscinski, L	EMT-Basic

Associate members:

Enger, S	Attending EMT Basic class
Austin-Shortt, J	Waiting for next class
Johns, J	Paramedic
Frey, J	Paramedic
Frey, ME	EMT Basic waiting test results

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 VISABLE 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

In one incident three emergency vehicles, lights flashing, were stopped at a cross road trying to determine which of six or seven homes had called for assistance. After knocking on several doors and driving into farmyards the household needing assistance was located less than one hundred yards from the crossroad. Inside, in addition to the patient, there were three or four able-bodied people watching television. One could have gone out to flag us down. In another case the delay of a few minutes could prove fatal.

CALL 911 FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES. 911----911—911

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VERMONT STATE POLICE Bradford Report

2003 was a year marked by tragedy for members of the Bradford State Police Barracks. On June 15th, Sgt. Michael Johnson was killed in the line of duty. Sgt. Johnson was attempting to assist fellow troopers that were pursuing a subject that was suspected of having illegal drugs in his vehicle. Sgt. Johnson was struck and killed by the fleeing suspect's vehicle.

We wish to thank all of you for your thoughts, prayers, and continued support following this tragedy.

Those who were fortunate to have known him will always remember Sgt. Michael Johnson. He was a family man, a leader in our barracks, and a vital member of the Bradford community. He is and always will be sorely missed.

I have chosen to use this space to remember Mike Johnson, a man who epitomized community service, and embodied what it means to be a Vermont State Trooper.

I invite you to review statistics regarding VT State Police enforcement in your town during 2003 on our website: vtsp.org/Bradford.htm/ (2003 VT Crime Report).

Respectfully,

LT Walter Goodell
Station Commander
Troop B-Bradford

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BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL # 21 REPORT

Dear Groton Community Members:

Good news! On January 28, 2004, the School Board's Budget Committee (Catherine Bergh, Berne Bouley, Tom Bryer, Ellen Canlon, Chip Conquest, Olin Gay, Gary Lambertson, Gail Lavaude, Jamie O'Connor, Deane Page, Tom Page, Ron Phillips, Brenda Powers, Tom O'Reilly, Bob Rowden, Dr. Harry Rowe, Andy Smith, Claudette Sortino, Bruce Stevens and Linda Stokes) unanimously approved an expenditure budget of \$4,799,902.00 for 2004/2005.

How does this impact your school tax rate in Groton? This year (2003/2004) the school tax rate is \$1.86 and next year (2004/2005) the projected school tax rate will be \$1.59. In addition, your total property tax bill will reflect the town's tax and the revised Grand List.

Why did Groton's school tax rate decrease? Act 68, the new funding formula for public education, helped by increasing the per student reimbursement from \$5810.00 to \$6800.00. In addition, the budget committee supported reductions in the following areas:

- one full time Pre K – 3 teacher*,
- one full time 9 – 12 History/Social Studies teacher to half time,
- one elementary computer lab paraprofessional,
- one full time elementary guidance counselor to half time,** and
- one half-time superintendent to one-third time superintendent.

* An additional remediation support teacher will be included in our request for federal funds.

** The elementary guidance counselor is also certified as a special educator and will assume those duties for one half of her time. The special education portion of this position is partially funded by the State of Vermont.

Overall, these reductions reflect savings of \$120,620.00 and were instituted to compensate for a nearly depleted surplus or fund balance from previous years.

The increases in the 2004/2005 budget are reflected in the negotiations contingency fund, inflationary increases, and additional money projected for out-of-district placement for some of our special education students. We are budgeting for eight students at a total cost of \$200,000.00. We are not requesting any additional money for staff or programs.

As a taxpayer of Groton, you need to be assured that BMU continues to move forward and that taxpayer funds are being used prudently for the education of the young people of your community. It is important to remember that BMU must strive always to improve, never to backslide. I hope you will read the Annual BMU School Report when it is published. It contains important student data that helps us address the New England Association of Schools & Colleges accreditation initiatives and No Child Left Behind mandates.

We are committed to academic excellence for all of our students. We have much to do and continue to need you as partners in the process. There is a special "small town" community spirit in the Blue Mountain School District that is infectious and inspiring. It is a privilege to work at BMU, and my five years as superintendent have convinced me that the personal attention offered in a small school system makes a significant contribution to a child's education. Combined with a forward-looking and rigorous curriculum, talented teachers and administrators, dedicated and committed staff and school board, this personal touch makes a difference for most students. It continues to be an exciting and rewarding time to be an administrator at BMU.

Noel W. Ford, Superintendent

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL # 21 REPORT – cont'd

If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade,
plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.
--Chinese proverb

Groton's town motto, "Where a small town is like a large family", is very much the feeling of Blue Mountain Union School. With less than five hundred students in PreK-12, I have found the school culture to be one of caring, connecting, and individualizing.

To test this I talked with three seniors from Groton: Olin Gay, son of Janet and Olin Gay, Nicole Crum, daughter of Don and Kathy Crum, and Jacob Clough, son of Rick and Kelly Clough. *Jacob's has the honor of being from both Ryegate and Groton, since their property lies in both towns.* Although not born in Groton, Nikki and Jake were here by preschool and Olin by first grade. Although having lived in Groton most of their lives, you might be surprised about their future plans.

Nikki enjoys small town life. She told me, "I intend to build a house across the street from my parents and live right here in Groton." Following college she feels she will be able to experience the world through her vacations, but she will want to return to Groton because she "loves all that is available right here." Jake has a similar vision. He enjoys small town life and all the activities that it provides – snowmobiling, swimming in local waters, and four wheeling. He wants to do some traveling in the United States but knows the "pull to come home will be great." Olin, however, intends to wander far. He is looking forward to "experiencing everything." He admits he "may not like it," but he wants to experience it.

All three had some valuable points to share about the importance of Blue Mountain Union School. Olin felt that he had been given many opportunities to learn. He enjoys knowing the teachers. "Although BMU doesn't have the variety of courses that a larger high school has, it does provide us with the opportunity to make connections that we would not be able to do in other schools, for example working with Superintendent Ford. We gain more than we lose." Nikki is very aware of the impact the older students have on the younger ones. "The ability to inspire a younger student is also a huge responsibility. Your reputation is probably more important in a small school than in a large one." Jake felt that an important advantage is the lack of major transitions. "Not having to get adjusted to other schools and new students every few years makes it easier. We know everyone."

It seems that my perceptions were true. Blue Mountain Union School offers most students a safe and full educational experience. Each year the staff works to improve what we do to help children achieve. This year the major improvement efforts are:

1. *Continue to refine and revise our curricula to meet No Child Left Behind Act requirements, the Vermont Frameworks, and the reality of what our students need to know and be able to do.* As a part of this goal, we have strengthened the Senior and Eighth Grade Exit Projects, written new course outlines, implemented a new, elementary science curriculum, developed Socratic Seminars for grades 10-12, and built a scope and sequence for report and research writing in grades 5-12.
2. *Improve our school climate in regard to bullying, bus behavior, and students' willingness to take academics seriously.* We have worked with the bus company on bus behavior, instituted academic "gates" which students must pass in order to go to the next grade, focused on teaching students to avoid plagiarism, and continued to expect appropriate classroom and hallway behavior.
3. *Use research-based instructional practice to improve student achievement.* We have integrated study skills into all courses, expanded students' ability to assess their own learning, and strengthened the use of technology and research skills.
4. *Improve communication with parents, students, and community.* EdLine, a web-based information center, has been brought on line. Parents and students can get email updates, check calendars, read Board policies, and more. Each grade 5-12 teacher sends parents grade updates and some are posting assignments. Parent Link has remained active and involved.
5. *Continue to find ways to efficiently run the school while focusing on the needs of students.* We have been working to refine athletic rules, enrichment programs, schedules, grading practices, and portfolio systems.

In today's tough economic times, it is easy for taxpayers to fret about the value gained through their tax dollars. After listening to Nikki, Jake, and Olin and reflecting back on our improvement plan, I believe that we should all be proud of what our tax dollars accomplish. Together we are planning for a lifetime by providing a quality education at BMU.

Carol A. Curtis, Principal

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GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Groton Historical Society meetings are open to everyone. They are held the second Tuesday of each month at 10 AM in the Peter Paul Historical House, except for December, January and February. If you wish to become a member of the society the dues are \$5.00 a year. Current officers are President, Richard Brooks; Treasurer, Joan Haskell and Secretary, Diane Kreis.

During the months of July and August we hold open houses every Sunday from 2-4 PM. On Fall Foliage Day we are open a full day and have record crowds. This year the quilt display was also held here.

Our annual organ concert was again a highlight of the year. Bruce Stevens does a wonderful job of playing the old pump organ while we sing along. Afterwards refreshments are served.

We have several projects underway including researching all of Groton cemeteries and painting the outside of the Historical House. Willard Benzie has also been busy compiling the census for Groton. He has accomplished this as far back as 1870 at last report. Please come and join us.

NORTHEASTERN VERMONT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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. In 2003, for example, NVDA staff provided Groton with traffic counts and assisted with the revision and adoption of your town's zoning bylaw. Services to other member communities included conducting transportation studies; 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.

On the economic development front, the Charles E. Carter Business Resource Center in NVDA's St. Johnsbury-Lyndon Industrial Park was near completion at the end of the past year. The Business Resource Center provides warehousing and manufacturing space, as well as a technical & industrial training facility.

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. To cite a few examples: We assisted Easton Hockey /EHM Production in Newport with a tax credit application, which will result in 60 jobs within a few years; we helped WT Solutions in St. Johnsbury to purchase industrial sewing equipment and to find a facility, thereby creating 50+ jobs; and we helped Chebe, a bread manufacturer in Orleans, to locate a production facility. NVDA also continues to work with Ethan Allen on the company's long-term needs.

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 in 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 — one of which was Groton. Projects included marketing plans, patent applications, Act 250 application assistance and an architectural design.

We look forward to continue serving you in 2004, and we appreciate your much needed support.

Sincerely,
Steve Patterson, Executive Director

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WENDELL LORD VFW POST 5125 REPORT GROTON/RYEGATE

"Honor the dead, by helping the living"

The Wendell Lord VFW Post of Groton and Ryegate has done a lot of community service this past year. The post has done about 700 hours of community service in the town.

The veterans of foreign wars motto is "**Honor the Dead, by Helping the Living.**"

The members perform service on the fire department, as church members, helping with senior meals. The members help With the maintenance of the cemeteries to help keep and show respect to fellow veterans.

The following members are officers in the Groton Ryegate Wendall Lord Post 5125.

There are two members that are State Officers, Richard Partington – Chaplain and Leonard Doscinski – Service Officer. The Service Officer telephone number is (802) 296-5168, Pat Newbury, Leonard's assistant can also help you.

Richard Partington, Post Commander
Charles Bennet Jr., Sr. Vice Commander
Allsworth Frost, Jr. Vice Commander
Kenneth Darling, Quartermaster
Fred Braman, Surgeon
Deane Page, Chaplain

Leonard Doscinski, Judge Advocate
Robert Eastman, Trustee
Karl Kepler, Trustee
Ross McLeod, Trustee

If any one wants to get information on benefits or has any Veterans questions, call 802-296-5168 or the total free number at the VA 1-800-687-8387. Contact Richard Partington for more information on joining the VFW Post at (802) 584-3074.

UMBRELLA, INC.

Umbrella, Inc. is a private, non-profit progressive resource organization that serves the residents of Caledonia and southern Essex counties. 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 is in St. Johnsbury, and the organization maintains a satellite office in Guildhall to work with victims of domestic and sexual violence. In fiscal year 2003, Umbrella served at least 5 Groton residents with domestic/sexual violence support services (unduplicated counts). Another 17 families received childcare referrals or assistance in applying for a subsidy, and 3 child care provider took advantage of our professional development programs.

The following services are open to residents of your town:

- 24-hour crisis hotline
- a safe-house network
- assistance in housing issues for adult victims of abuse and their children
- 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

Umbrella responds effectively and immediately to families in crisis, children traumatized by violence, parents searching for child care, and women in transition who need a place to go for support and help. We need financial support from your town to continue to meet the rising need for Umbrella services in your community.

Thank you for your support of Umbrella, Inc.

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NORTHEAST KINGDOM YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Northeast Kingdom Youth Services has offered vital supportive services for youth and families since 1975. Our staff is available to Groton residents 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

In 2003: Youth Services served over 3,422 people in Caledonia and Essex counties.

We served 36 in Groton during 2003.

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 homes. Families learn problem-solving skills and develop plans designed to keep future conflicts from reaching a crisis. The primary goal of the Parent Education Program is to improve family parenting, home management, and problem-solving skills in order to prevent children from being placed in custody. When one youth is diverted from entering state custody, the state of Vermont saves more than \$25,000. Staff is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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. The completion success rate of our clients is among the highest in the state: 91% overall: 94% for ages 10-17 and 87% for those 18+. Diversion clients worked 1,452 hours of community service at senior housing sites, libraries, churches, etc. and donated \$325 to area charitable organizations. Offenders paid \$2,020 in restitution to crime victims, for a 100% victim compensation rate. 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. Youth Services also strives to foster positive connections between these youth and their families.

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 use of a computer for homework and resume writing. They can talk to caring, non-judgmental adults, access resources to help stabilize their lives and learn critical life skills necessary to become productive citizens.

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.

YOUTH SERVICES WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!

NEKYS works with Youth and Families to develop positive life skills through prevention programs and support services.

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NORTHEAST KINGDOM LEARNING SERVICES, INC,

We are the **Northeast Kingdom Adult Education and Literacy Program** (formerly Adult Basic Education). We provide on-demand home and learning center educational services to Groton residents as well as to almost anyone in Caledonia, Essex or Orleans counties over the age of sixteen who wants to improve basic education skills. The program has full service learning centers in Newport and St. Johnsbury, part-time centers in North Troy, Island Pond, Hardwick and Lyndonville and home tutors who travel everywhere in the three counties. As always, demand for adult basic education services remains very high. In 2003, we provided over 19,000 hours of direct instruction to 948 students. We are currently serving 213 adults who are working on a GED or high school diploma. Some of our other students are studying for the Commercial Driver's License or working to improve job readiness or job skills. Our Drop-Out Recovery program which allows adults to earn a competency based high school diploma at no additional cost to the high school continues to grow in popularity. We now have 7 people in the program and last year 3 earned their diploma. We also have seen an increase in G.E.D. testing.

Your support of the Northeast Kingdom Adult Education and Literacy program will be helpful to us during the coming year. Our town monies are vital. Town funds are used for many program purposes. They have helped us pay the rent for our learning centers and offer our students higher quality and more comprehensive instructional resources. Over the years, town funds have helped us purchase workbooks, instructional supplies, reference materials and instructional software. We hope you will continue your support of the Northeast Kingdom Adult Education and Literacy program.

We respectfully request an appropriation of \$200.00 for the coming year. Thank you for your consideration.

NORTHEAST KINGDOM HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

The Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc., is a private not-for-profit organization serving Essex, Caledonia and Orleans Counties. It is organized and directed by local citizens who believe that human services should be cost effective and responsive to the needs of our local communities.

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. Services are also offered to individuals with alcohol and drug problems by the Tri-County Substance Abuse Program, a division of NKHS.

NKHS provides emergency and out-patient services to individuals with various, less severe social, emotional and psychological problems. To the extent that 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 by writing to NKHS, PO Box 724, Newport, VT 05855.

Your appropriation is especially important to the delivery of our programs and services because it demonstrates community support and financial assistance. We greatly appreciate your interest and support. Thank you for your support.

FY 2003 SUMMARY OF SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON

2000 Census* Count for your town: 876 Persons served: 21

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

CALEDONIA HOME HEALTHCARE & HOSPICE REPORT

Fiscal Year 2003 was our second full year under the Medicare's Prospective Payment System. We were able to successfully provide our clients with qualified home care services and adjust to a new payment system. We were able to end the year in a financially sound position secondary to the financial support we received from towns, donated memorial contributions and providing fundraising events.

Our mission continues to be to provide necessary services to individuals and their families regardless of an individual's ability to pay. We are very committed to this philosophy. We feel strongly that each resident of our service area is entitled to home care services if they meet the criteria for such services. To assure that this can continue to happen, your support to us is crucial. Town monies are used to counter losses we experience when we provide free care. It is also used to support program growth and the development of necessary services to assure an individual's ability to remain independent.

Last year we made over 60,000 visits to your neighbors and relatives. In addition to our home care and hospice programs, we offered a variety of screenings and community clinics for flu shots, blood pressure evaluations, foot care and health education. In collaboration with NVRH we conducted a Cancer Support Group. Our Private Duty program grew and our Healthy Baby program experienced growth.

Caledonia Home Health Care (CHHC), as all of the non-profit home health agencies in Vermont, is certified by Medicare and Medicaid to provide home care and hospice services to Caledonia County, seven towns in Essex County and one town in Orleans County. The State of Vermont is dedicated to the non-profit concept of providing home care services in Vermont. As part of this support, it is expected that we will provide services regardless of an individual's ability to pay.

This guideline creates universal access to home health care for all Vermonters. However, it places the responsibility on the home care agency to raise the necessary funds to supply the needed services. The agencies do not receive any direct subsidies or grants from either the state or federal government. Our certification as licensed home health agencies allows us to bill clients, Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance companies for services rendered. In some instances the reimbursement amount is less than the actual cost of providing the service. Therefore, the financial support of the communities served by CHHC is essential in maintaining these services.

Vermont's tradition of "caring for its own" is strikingly evident in the generous response we have received from our annual appropriation request, throughout our history. We have always strived to keep this request as reasonable and equitable as possible while seeking to cover a portion of the shortfall encountered in serving all in need. This year is no different. Individual town requests are based on a combination of factors including population, history of CHHC use, the number of visits in the past year, and the free care provided in each community. We have appreciated your support in the past and hope it will continue. Our annual report, including an audited financial statement, is available at our office for public inspection.

All of us at Caledonia Home Health Care and Hospice remain committed to helping you, your family and your neighbors to lead healthy and independent lives. All town appropriation money will go directly to preserve the health care you and your neighbors deserve. Thank you for your continued support.

Town of Groton - Visit Statistics For Fiscal Year 2003

	<u>2003</u>	
<u>2003</u>		
Nursing Visits	414	Social Services 16
Home Health Aide	550	Homemaking 660
Therapy Visits (Physical, Occupational, Speech)	497	Hospice 13
		Total 2150

Other Services Provided: Bereavement Program, Maternal Child Health, Adult Health Screening & Education, Flu Clinic, Long Term Care, Support Groups, Private Duty

Annual Report Town of Groton Vermont – 2003

COMMUNITY CLUB REPORT

The Groton Community Club had another successful year due to all the help we had on the Chicken Pie Supper. Membership is open to all Groton residents. We only meet twice a year, the first Tuesday of May and the fourth Tuesday in October at 7:30 PM at the Community Center.

The proceeds from the Chicken Pie Supper go towards senior scholarships to all Groton students who go on for additional training after high school. So far this year 9 seniors claimed their scholarships. We help sponsor the summer reading program and the summer swim program. This year we also provided and planted flowers to help beautify the Village.

Officers are: Deane Page, President, Milton Lamberton, Vice President, Joan Haskell, Treasurer and Diane Kreis, Secretary.

Checkbook balance as of Jan. 1, 2003		\$ 412.50
Transferred from savings	\$4200.00	
Donations	177.00	
Supper Tickets	<u>6460.00</u>	
		\$10837.00

Expenses

Transferred to savings	\$ 3000.00	
9 Scholarships @ \$300.	2700.00	
Swim Program	600.00	
Library	700.00	
Perry's Oil	107.08	
Postal Expense	70.40	
J.M.Landscaping	180.93	
McLure's Band	300.00	
Parade Prizes	242.00	
Calkins	225.00	
(Service)	35.00	
Tickets Refunded	64.00	
Fall Festival (2004)	80.00	
Chicken Pie Supper	<u>2513.95</u>	
Total Expenses		(\$10818.36)
Balance in Checkbook 12/31/03		\$ 431.14
Balance in Savings 12/31/03		\$3614.08

FALL FOLIAGE CHICKEN PIE SUPER OCTOBER 4, 2003

Supper tickets sold	\$ 6460.00	
Less tickets returned	<u>- 64.00</u>	
		\$ 6396.00

Expenses:

BMU Hot Lunch	130.85	
McCaughey's Meats	1208.97	
Four Corners Farm	255.50	
Supplies	161.40	
Upper Valley Grill	662.23	
Pete's Rubbish (Garbage removal)		95.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>		(\$2513.95)
Profit:		\$ 3882.05

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RIVERS REACH REPORT – 2003

We are pleased to report another successful year of operation made possible by the generous support of local communities and individual donors. Throughout the year, we have provided area representation in the Agency of Human Services reorganization discussions, and are supporting the agency's efforts to become more accessible at the community level. We have also offered our services to Little Rivers Health Care, Inc. in an effort to help them fulfill the outreach requirements of their grant application for designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center.

As one of six Patch sites in the state of 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 access to services in the following manner:

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

During the 2003 calendar year, River's Reach experienced 831 total contacts. Of that number, 135 contacts were generated by Groton residents requesting resources related to the following:

Housing/Shelter	23	Transportation	3
Food/Clothing	11	General Information	5
Income Support	8	Other service categories	11
Employment/Training	7	Patch Programs*	57
Education/Schooling	6	(*Used computers, tax preparation,	
Children/Youth	4	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

Director: Connie Philleo

Coordinator: Diane Goins

Advisory Board: Albert Stevens, Richard Hausman, Richard Roderick
Mary Grant, Gerry Brooks, Gertrude Hodge, Claude Phipps

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2003 VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

DATE	SEX	NAME OF CHILD	PARENTS	PLACE OF BIRTH
Aug. 20, 03	F	Hope Perkins	Amanda Marie Driscoll Anthony D. Perkins	Burlington, VT.
Sept. 21, 03	F	Betty Bunnell	Sara G. Coughlin Christopher J. Bunnell	Berlin, VT.
Oct. 24, 03	M	Michael Jolley	Miriam J. Sheilds Gene L. Jolley	St.Johnsbury, VT.
Nov. 22, 03	F	Lorr Rosten	Christina L. Frechette Paul W. Rosten	St.Johnsbury, VT.

DEATHS

DATE	AGE	NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF DEATH
Mar 31, 03	72	Robert E Needham	Groton	Hartford, NH.
May 5, 03	94	Harold S. Eastman Sr.	Groton	Woodsville, NH.
Aug. 1, 03	65	Robert G. Wilson, Jr.	Groton	Groton, Vt.
Aug. 22, 03	68	Frances H. Edwards	Groton	Woodsville, NH.
Aug. 25, 03	81	Beverly J. Rossi	Groton	Berlin, Vt.
Nov. 1, 03	69	Robert E. Essendorf	Groton	Groton, Vt.
Nov. 7, 03	83	Elizabeth Smith	Groton	St.Johnsbury, Vt.
Nov. 30, 03	97	Norma A. Hosmer	Groton	No. Haverhill, NH.
*April 16, 02	61	Jean A. Hornberger	Groton	Lebanon, NH.

* Death Certificate received in 2003

MARRIAGES

DATE	NAME OF PARTIES	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
June 7, 03	Jonathan E. Beardsley Corah B. Edwards	Groton, Vt. Groton, Vt.	Groton, Vt.
June 14, 03	Trevor L. Allen Pamela A. Sullivan	Groton, Vt. Groton, Vt.	Groton, Vt.
June 14, 03	Lionel M. Cloutier Melissa D. Wells	Groton, Vt. Groton, Vt.	Waterford, Vt.

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2003 VITAL STATISTICS – cont'd

MARRIAGES

DATE	NAME OF PARTIES	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
July 5, 03	Jeremy E. Darling Debra L. Sargent	Groton, Vt. Groton, Vt.	Groton, VT.
Aug. 9, 03	Andrew P. Lewis Camille L. DeMarco	Hyde Park, Mass. Hyde Park, Mass.	Groton, VT.
Aug. 21, 03	Anthony Thomas Janice M. Bliss	Groton, Vt. Groton, Vt.	Groton, VT.
Aug. 24, 03	Nathan L. Keenan Gloria G. Taylor	Woodsville, NH. Bradford, Vt.	Groton, Vt.
Aug. 30, 03	Raymond H. Lambert Jessica H. Webber	Barre, Vt. Barre, Vt.	Groton, VT.
Aug. 30, 03	Terence L. White Molly A. Russin	Wells River, Vt. Wells River, Vt.	Ryegate, VT.
Sept. 27, 03	Martin W. Sanborn Janeen W. Fennimore	Groton, Vt. Groton, Vt.	Groton, VT.
Oct. 25, 03	Roland P. Haskins Mary A. LeClair	Groton, Vt. Groton, Vt.	Groton, VT.
Dec. 11, 03	Gregg A. Williams Kimberly M. Robichaud	Groton, Vt. Littleton, NH.	Groton, VT.

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

NOTARY PUBLICS

Roberta Dana	584-3756
Patricia Bouley	584-3792
Linda Nunn	584-3881
Terry Restelli	584-3100
James Dresser	584-3529

MEETING OF TOWN OFFICIALS

The Board of Selectmen meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office (Treasurer's Office) for their regular business. They sign orders every Thursday and hold special meetings at this time if needed.

The following meet on posted notice: The Board of Adjustment, The Board of Civil Authority, Auditors and Listers.

AVAILABLE AT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Motor vehicle, motorboat & snowmobile registration **renewals** may now be done at the Town Office.

Application for voter registration.

Applications for building permits and copies of zoning ordinances.

Dog and Cat licenses.

Green Mountain Passports for free admissions to State sponsored events for residents 62 years old or older.

There is a \$2.00 charge for each passport.

Motor vehicle registration forms.

Safety Zone signs.

Vermont State Income Tax forms.

IMPORTANT DATES

TOWN MEETING: Tuesday March 2, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Building. Solid Waste vote and Revised Zoning Bylaws vote will be by Australian Ballot from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

USD #21 SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING AND SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE: Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 7, 2004 at Blue Mountain School, Wells River, VT. School budget Australian Ballot vote will take place the next day, Thursday, April 8, 2004 in each of the Towns of Wells River, Ryegate and Groton.

GROTON FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL: Saturday, October 2nd, 2004

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PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
F.A.S.T. SQUAD	584-3202 or 911
FIRE DEPARTMENT	584-3202 or 911
CONSTABLE/ANIMAL CONTROL	584-3818
VERMONT STATE POLICE	222-4680 or 1-802-748-3111
GROTON TOWN OFFICE	584-3276 Fax/Voice
GROTON TOWN GARAGE	584-3209
GROTON FIRE WARDEN	584-3211
GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	584-3385
STATE REP: HARVEY "BUD" OTTERMAN	439-5924
STATE SENATOR : ROBERT IDE	1-800-322-5616
STATE SENATOR : JULIUS CANNIS	1-800-322-5616
BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL	757-2711 or 757-2712
GOVERNOR'S ACTION LINE	1-800-649-6825
SERGEANT AT ARMS	1-800-322-5616
VERMONT SOCIAL WELFARE	1-800-287-0589
U.S. SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY	1-800-642-3193
U.S.SENATOR JAMES JEFFORDS	1-800-835-5500
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD SANDERS	1-800-339-9834
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	1-800-322-9401
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	1-800-424-1040
VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION	1-800-827-1000

TOWN CLERK OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm & 1:00 pm to 5:00pm.

Wednesday & Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS:

Tuesday 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm; Thursday 11:00 am - 6:00 pm; Saturday 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Storyhour every Tuesday 2:00 pm

RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

“RCT” will provide transportation for Senior Citizens to area meal sites, as well as Medicaid recipients to any medical appointment. “RCT” requires 2 working days notice for any transportation. For any information call Rural Community Transportation at 748-8170

ATTENTION ANIMAL OWNERS!

Animal fees for 2004

DOGS

Not Neutered----- \$ 10.00

Neutered-----\$ 6.00

CATS

Not Neutered-----\$ 3.00

Neutered-----\$ 2.00

RABIES CLINIC

Date: March 17, 2004

Time:6:00-7:30 pm

Place: Groton Town Garage

The Town Clerk will be in her office at the Groton Community Building for licensing of your animals.

April 1, 2004 all dogs must be licensed! **\$25 fine per dog if late.**

May 1, 2004 all cats must be licensed! **\$10 fine per cat if late.**

Rabies Clinic being done by River Valley Veterinary Hospital

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Town of Groton
314 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GROTON, VT
PERMIT NO. 1

VERMONT DEPT OF LIBRARIES
109 STATE ST
MONTPELIER, VT 05609-0601

GROTON TOWN MEETING
10 a.m. on TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004 at the Groton Community Building