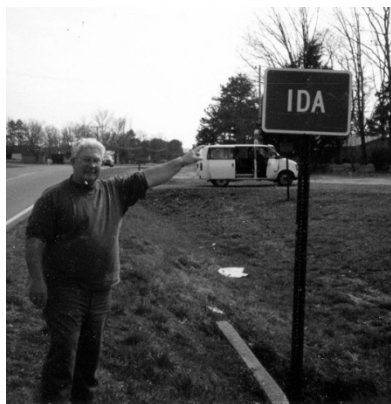


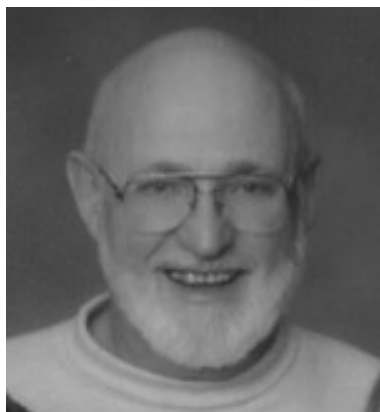
# ***2008 Groton Annual Report***



**Harold Puffer**



**Ida Dennis**



**Don Crum**



**Kenneth Eastman**

**Report of the Town Officers  
For the Year Ending  
December 31, 2008**

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## TOWN REPORT DEDICATION

### **IDA DENNIS**

In 1957, Ida Dennis was elected Groton's Town Clerk  
For 36 years, hardly ever missing a day of work  
Ida was married to Gene and Groton was where their life began to start  
For Linda, Joe, Gary and Kelly were raised in a town where people are close at heart  
I guess it's only fitting that's where Ida would be  
In a town full of people that were like a family  
Weekends or nights, didn't matter, she answered the call  
To serve townsfolk winter, spring, summer and fall  
From that tiny vault she carried those large record books  
Don't you wonder just how many trips to that vault she took?  
Dogs were registered and names kept on file  
For sure there would be a call for a lost dog once in a while  
Marriages, births and deaths occurred and she recorded each one  
I think maybe a poem for those occasions she might have even done  
She had a talent for making words flow  
Whether on paper or talking with people she'd know  
Lots of people were blessed with Ida's caring, compassionate ways  
Answering questions and keeping the town running for another day  
Beyond the call of her duties she'd been known to do that too  
For I'm sure there's lots of things she made happen we never thought to do  
In 1993, Ida retired being Town Clerk but not from caring about Groton  
We remember Ida for her time here as she will never be forgotten

~~Written by Kelly Joslin

### **HAROLD PUFFER**

Harold Bruce Puffer, 71, of Little Italy Road, died, Sept. 23, 2008. He was born in Woodsville, N.H., on July 7, 1937. Harold graduated from Groton High School, Class of 1955. He served with the Vermont National guard for several years and graduated from the Vermont Military Academy in 1970. He started with the Modern Woodmen Agency in 1969 as a sales representative. In 1976 with his two brothers Gordon and Gene they established Puffer Brother's Broadcasting and WYKR Radio in Wells River. He returned to Modern Woodmen in 1979 and became Agency Manager for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont Modern Woodmen of America from 1981 to 2001. Harold was the former Fire Chief of Groton, Groton Civil Defense Coordinator and recently served on the Planning Commission. He was also a former Trustee of Cottage Hospital and Director of Caledonia Home Health. He enjoyed carving, building ponds, and Sunday dinner with the family. His love for the Lord made him the encourager he was. Harold was proud of his Groton roots, where a small town is like a large family. In the passing of Harold, Groton feels the loss of one more respected and helpful citizen.

### **KENNETH EASTMAN**

Kenneth Linwood Eastman, 93, of 238 Scott Highway, Groton, died Nov. 30, 2008, at Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital following a period of declining health. He was born in St. Johnsbury, Dec. 11, 1914. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Ken worked as a stone cutter at the former Davidson Granite Company in South Ryegate, and retired in 1969. He was an original school board member of the Blue Mt. Union School District, served for several years as a Groton Selectman as well as being a tax lister, fence viewer, and former road commissioner. An outdoorsman, he enjoyed golf, town team baseball, hunting and fishing, tying flies, and he carried a Gensing picker's permit. He had also been a member and former deacon of the First Baptist Church in Groton.

### **DON CRUM**

Don LaVerne Crum, 62, died on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at his home, with his family by his side. He was born in Glendale, Ohio, on July 10, 1946. After graduation from high school, Don served in the United States Army from 1966 until 1982 when they moved to Groton. He has been the Director of Food Services at Blue Mountain Union School for the past 20 years. Don was a member of the Groton United Methodist Church, was a former member of the Groton Fire Department, served as a Lister for the Town of Groton, and was a Justice of the Peace. A passionate outdoorsman, he loved hunting and fishing.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Town Clerk Is Responsible for Preparation of Town Meeting Minutes.** Vermont law makes the town clerk responsible for taking minutes at the annual meeting. When the Town Clerk is not seeking re-election, it is still his or her responsibility to make a record of the town meeting. 24 V.S.A. §1152.

**Two Officials Must Approve Town Meeting Minutes.** The record or minutes of the annual town meeting must be approved and attested to by any two of the following: moderator, selectboard or justices of the peace. The clerk must request this approval within seven days after each town meeting and his or her request must be given prompt consideration. 24 V.S.A. §1152

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## **WARNING: NOTICE OF GROTON, VERMONT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009**

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 3, 2009, 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, 2008.

**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 Selectboard 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
Selectperson	Three years
Treasurer	Three years
Lister	Three years
Auditor	Three years
Library Trustee	One year
Library Trustee	Three years
Library Trustee	Three years
Library Trustee	Three years
Cemetery Commissioner	Three years
Collector of Current Taxes	One year
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 16, 2009, by 5:00 PM as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are **not** accepted as a timely payment)

**ARTICLE 7** Shall the Voters allow the Groton Town Treasurer to borrow temporarily from the Town and Highway Reserve funds (excluding Library and Cemetery Reserve Funds) for cash flow purposes within a given year as long as the funds are restored by the end of the year?

**ARTICLE 8** Shall the Town of Groton appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) for Little Rivers Health Care?

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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**ARTICLE 9** Shall the Town of Groton increase the Veterans Property Tax Exemption amount from \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00, as allowed in 32 V.S.A. §3802?

**ARTICLE 10** 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 Selectboard to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

**ARTICLE 11** 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.

This will include an update on the Town Hall and Fire Station renovation project.

Leonard Doscinski, Selectboard Chair; Debra Tinkham, Selectboard; David Spencer, Selectboard

Recorded before posting this 1st day of February 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

Linda L. Nunn, Town Clerk

NOTE: See Groton General Fund budget on page 15.

## WARNING

### NEK WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BUDGET VOTE

**MARCH 3, 2009**

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 3, 2009 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 \$ 610,015.00?

**Signed:**

Jerry Fournier, Lyndon  
Edward W. Clark, Jr., Guildhall  
Paul Barrenger, Troy  
Steve Barrup, Newport Town  
Yves Daigle, Westfield  
Harman Clark, Sheffield  
Winston Dowland, Holland  
William Eddy, Jr., Sutton  
Laurie Eastman, Irasburg  
Brad Houghton, Groton  
Richard N. Blair, Peacham  
Franklin Henry, Norton  
Larry Phipps, Westmore  
Libre Drouin, Lyndon

Frances Batchelder, Derby  
Irene Dagese, Derby  
Joshua Karp, Greensboro  
William Douglas, Barnet  
Michael Wise, Concord  
Stuart Jackson, Stannard  
Joel Cope, Brighton  
Edward Bates, Waterford  
Gene A. Perkins, Ryegate  
James W. Ashley, Danville  
Preston Smith, Wheelock  
Paulette Routhier, Bloomfield  
Jan Clausing, Newark  
David Sanders, Jay

NOTE: See NEKWMD budget on page 18.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District 2008 Report for the Town of Groton

The 2008 recycling rate for the Towns of Groton was 12%.

The revenues for the 2008 NEKWMD budget came from the sale of recyclables (30%), State grants (4%), hauling fees (5%), electronics/tire fees (4%), miscellaneous fees and income (4%), and a surcharge on every ton of trash disposed of from NEKWMD towns (53%). The surcharge rate of \$19.25/ton shall remain the same for 2008. Residents, businesses, and contractors from the Town of Groton paid less than 1% of the District budget in 2008, based on the surcharge on trash.

The NEKWMD runs a household hazardous waste collection through the summer months at the Lyndonville Recycling Center – call ahead to schedule an appointment. This is open to residents and Conditionally Exempt Generator (CEG) businesses from all NEKWMD towns. Groton residents are also welcome to use the recycling, scrap metal and special waste collections at the NEKWMD office in Lyndonville.

We are looking forward to a full slate of events during 2009. The hazardous waste depot in Lyndonville will be open from May 30 through October 1 by appointment, and an HHW event will be held on Saturday, June 27 at the Ryegate Recycling Center. In addition, Groton residents are welcome at any other HHW events sponsored by the NEKWMD. Watch for our annual bicycle reuse event this May 31 – come and pick up a new-to-you bike at no cost! Clothing drop and swaps are scheduled for spring and fall at the Fenton Chester arena in Lyndonville and the IROC Center in Derby. Be sure to check the calendar often at [www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org) for more information.

Please give us a call at 626-3532 or 1-800-734-4602 with any questions, comments, or waste management issues that you have. We can also be reached by e-mail at [outreach@nekwmd.org](mailto:outreach@nekwmd.org) or on the web at [www.nekwmd.org](http://www.nekwmd.org).

Thank you, and remember...

## ***Reduce, Reuse, Recycle***

### NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR REPORT For the Town of Groton

Groton is a member town in the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District. Our town partners with Ryegate in the operation of a recycling center in East Ryegate. The recyclable material is picked up every other week by the district staff and combined with the other towns at the Lyndonville facility.

The East Ryegate Center is open each Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Pete's Rubbish Removal Service also collects bagged trash at the center on Saturday mornings. At the recycling center there is no charge to drop off aluminum cans, metal cans, cardboard paper (newspaper, magazines and other office paper). There is also no charge to drop off fluorescent bulbs, oil & oil filters, wet cell (car) batteries, appliances and scrap metal of any kind.

The Hazardous Waste Day is in the spring. The Bulky Waste days are in the Spring & Fall. This year we held the Bulky Waste Days at the Town Garage in Groton on the same day Ryegate held theirs. I want to extend a big hand of thanks to all of you, who helped to make it a success. This means you, who volunteered and those of you who made it worthwhile to open up. The Bulky Waste Days will continue but we do expect donations to help defray the expense to the Town.

Under the leadership of Gene Perkins. East Ryegate has a super new building for the collection of the recyclables. I know there were others involved but without Gene's determination and hard work did the trick to get the job done. Stop by and check the Center out.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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Information and directions may be found on the Groton, VT. website. The specific days for Bulky Waste & Hazardous Waste collection will be posted at the town office. Anyone interested in volunteering on Saturday, please contact Brad Houghton, Jr.

I want to take this time to thank all the volunteers for their time and energy. I want to welcome Brad Houghton Jr. as your new supervisor for the Town of Groton. Thanks to all of you, who have made our recycling program a success. Next time you go to East Ryegate, BRING A FRIEND!!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kitty Diggins,

## MINUTES FOR 2008 TOWN MEETING

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

ARTICLE 2 The Town Report for 2008 and accepted by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3 It was voted to elect a Road Commissioner.

ARTICLE 4 The following Town Officers were elected:

Brent Smith	Road Commissioner	1 year
Linda Nunn	Town Clerk	3 years
Debra Tinkham	Selectperson	3 years
Cheryl Boucher	Lister	3 years
Debra Johnson	Auditor	3 years
Nancy Aho	Library Trustee	3 years
Deborah Orelup	Library Trustee	3 years
Susan Gordon	Library Trustee	3 years
Mary McLeod	Library Trustee	3 years
Tom Gandin	Cemetery Commissioner	3 years
Roberta Dana	Collector of Current Taxes	1 year
Patricia Bouley	Collector of Delinquent Taxes	3 years
Milton Lamberton	1 <sup>st</sup> Constable	2 years
Jim Downing	2 <sup>nd</sup> Constable	2 years
Milton Lamberton	Grand Juror	1 year
Vacant	Town Agent	moved
Vacant	Agent to Convey Real Estate	moved

It was so voted by voice vote that the Selectboard set the compensation of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 5 Gary Lamberton nominated Rodney Rood to serve on the Board of BMU School District #21 for a three (3) year term. William Kane nominated Henry Eaton to serve also. The results of the paper ballot vote were Rodney Rood 31 votes and Henry Eaton 66 votes. Henry Eaton is elected to serve on the Board of BMU School District #21 for three years.

ARTICLE 6 The date of Friday, October 17, 2008, by 5:00 pm was set for deadline to pay property taxes.

ARTICLE 7 Roberta Dana moved the motion to rescind this article of the 1995 Town Meeting Warning, which read "Shall the Town of Groton charge a



# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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registration fee of one dollar per neutered cat and two dollars per unneutered cat to cover the cost of the Animal Control Survey mandated by the State of Vermont" and was passed by voice vote.

- ARTICLE 8 Richard Kreis moved the Town of Groton establish a Paving Reserve Fund in the amount of \$40,306.00 of unspent 2007 Highway funds. This was passed by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 9 Brent Smith moved the Town of Groton to appropriate the sum of not More than eighty-five hundred dollars (8,500.00) to purchase and equip A vehicle to be used as a police cruiser to be paid over a two (2) year period. This was passed by a ballot vote with a lot of discussion. The vote was 66 yes for a vehicle and 36 no votes for a total of 103 votes.
- ARTICLE 10 Roberta Dana moved that the sum of \$695,967.00 is approved by the voters to be raised 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. Kitty Diggins made a motion to add \$1,145.00 to the Listers budget. This amendment was passed by voice vote. Warren Tripp made the motion to increase the highway winter roads budget by \$15,000.00. This amendment was defeated. The approval to raise the sum of \$697,112.00 was passed by voice vote.
- ARTICLE 11 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. This will include an update on the Town Hall and Fire Station renovation project.

Mary Berlejung gave an update on the Planning Commission on obtaining a planning Grant and the work being done on updating the town plan. Mary Berlejung had a Boy Scout draw the name for the \$50.00 gift certificate from the Upper Valley Grill and General Store. The drawing was for people completing the survey. The winner is Peter Baker, Jr. from Groton.

Warren Trip gave an update on the status of the plans on renovations of the Community Building, Town Offices and Fire Station. Warren explained the public is invited to attend the meetings being held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month somewhere in the Community Building.

Steve Desroches reported on an Article on the Ryegate town warning to build a 24 foot by 60 foot building to be erected at the present location in East Ryegate.

The following announcements were made by Wayne Dyer at the beginning of town meeting: the polls are open for Presidential Primary and Solid Waste voting, the rabies clinic will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Groton Town Garage, the Town Clerk will be in her office to license animals during those hours, the Doyle Polls and various information packets on the table at the back of the room for anyone wanted them and the Boy Scouts of Troop 702 will be selling refreshments in the back of the hall.

A motion was made by Wade Johnson, Sr. to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 P.M. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Linda L. Nunn

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED

Moderator		
	Wayne Dyer	2009
Road Commissioner		
	Brent Smith	2009
Town Clerk		
	Linda Nunn	2011
Town Treasurer		
	Roberta Dana	2009
Selectboard		
	David Spencer	2009
	Leonard Doscinski	2010
	Debra Tinkham	2011
Listers		
	Caroline Diggins	2009
	Lisa Lord	2010
	Cheryl Boucher	2011
Auditors		
	Mary Grant	2009
	Martha Crown	2010
	Debra Johnson	2011
Union School District #21 Directors		
	Brenda Powers	2009
	Tom Page	2010
	Henry Eaton	2011
Library Trustees		
	Diane Kreis	2009
	Nancy Aho	2009
	Virginia Jennings	2009
	Nancy Spencer	2010
	Richard Montague (Res.)	2010
	Judy Chandler	2010
	Deborah Orelup	2011
	Susan Gordon	2011
	Mary McLeod	2011
Cemetery Commission		
	Deborah Jurist	2009
	Aaron Smith	2010
	Tom Gandin	2011
Collector of Current Taxes		
	Roberta Dana	2009
Collector of Delinquent Taxes		
	Patricia Bouley	2011
First Constable		
	Milt Lamberton	2010
Second Constable		
	James Downing, Jr.	2010
Town Grand Juror		
	Milt Lamberton	2009

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY SELECTBOARD

Agency to Convey Real Estate			
Leonard Doscinski	2009		
Health Officer			
Reginald Guertin	2009		
Deputy Health Officer			
Sharon Proctor	2009		
Fire Chief			
Wayne Knott	2009		
Fire Warden			
Wade Johnson, Sr.	2011		
Emergency Management Coordinator			
Brent Smith	2009		
Fence Viewers			
Terry Dana	2009		
E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2009		
Kenneth Murray	2009		
Inspectors Wood, Lumber, Shingles			
Fred Braman	2009		
Don Crum	2009		
Kenneth Ricker	2009		
Town Service Officer			
Linda Nunn	2009		
Energy Coordinator			
Paul Berlejung (resigned)	2009		
Richard Montague	2009		
NVDA Representative			
Mary Berlejung	2009		
NVDA Alternate			
Vacant			
Zoning Administrator			
Cheryl Boucher	2009		
Assistant Zoning Administrator			
William Putnam (resigned)	2009		
911 Coordinator			
Brent Smith	2009		
Board of Adjustment			
Wayne Dyer	2009		
E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2009		
Mark Gleicher	2009		
Selectboard Secretary			
Linda Nunn	2009		
Animal Control Officer			
Josephine Guertin	2009		
Pound Keeper			
Josephine Guertin	2009		
Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste Supervisor			
Caroline Diggins (resigned)	2009		
Bradley Houghton, Jr.	2009		
Planning Commission			
Debra Johnson (res.)	2009	Tom Huyler (res.)	2009
Emily Manchester	200+	Matthew Puffer (res.)	2010
Mary Berlejung	2010	Harry Chandler	2010
Frank Lapham (res.)	2010	Mark Simakaski	2011
Tree Warden			
Harry Chandler	2009		
Town Agent			
Otterman and Allen	2009		
Weigher of Coal			
Richard Peters	2009		

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## APPOINTED BY TOWN CLERK

Assistant Town Clerk	
Roberta Dana	2009
Carolyn Diggins	2009

## APPOINTED BY TOWN TREASURER

Assistant Treasurers	
Shirley Beamis	2009
Patricia Bouley	2009
Linda Nunn	2009

## APPOINTED BY COLLECTOR OF CURRENT TAXES

Assistant Collector of Current Taxes	
Patricia Bouley	2009
Linda Nunn	2009

## TOWN AGENT

Otterman and Allen	2009
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## BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

Selectboard	Justices of the Peace
Debra Tinkham	Linda Nunn
Leonard Doscinski	Charles Bruleigh
David Spencer	Tirone Dyer
	Brent Smith
	Timothy Dailey, Sr.
Town Clerk	
Linda Nunn	2009

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Town Officers Take Office At Town Meeting.** Newly elected town officers take office on town meeting day. Some officials must take an oath before they officially take office. This can be done by the clerk at town meeting, or at any time thereafter. 17 V.S.A. § 2646. An official who is required to take an oath of office (by either swearing or affirming) and who refuses to do so may not take office, thereby creating a vacancy. (See March Opinions for list of officials requiring oath.)

**Union School Officers (Clerk, Treasure, Auditors, Etc.) Take Office On July 1st Except For Moderator.** According to law, "union district officers elected at an annual meeting shall enter upon their duties on July 1 following their election and shall serve a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified, except that if the voters at an annual meeting so vote, moderators elected at an annual meeting shall assume office upon election and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified." The law also provides that school directors elected at an annual meeting shall assume office upon election and shall serve a term of three years or until their successors are elected and qualified. 16 V.S.A. § 706k.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## AUDITORS

The auditors have reviewed the financial statements for the Town of Groton as of the year ending December 31, 2008 and have issued our report. We have conducted our audit in accordance with the Secretary of State's auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered its internal control in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion and not to provide assurance on internal control.

Our consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters in internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are considered to be material weaknesses under standards established by the Secretary of State. We noted some matters involving internal controls and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. We have discussed the recommendation with the staff during the course of this year's auditing and some recommendations have been implemented.

The procedure and policy manual is complete to the best of our ability with some departments still pending. The inventory and capital plans for each department has not been completed or submitted by some departments. This is not a function of the auditors but a tool for financial planning.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the elected officials, appointed officials and volunteers for their assistance and cooperativeness throughout our audit.

Martha Crown, Chair  
Debbie Johnson  
Mary Grant  
Auditors

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Employees May Get Town Meeting Off.** Town Meeting Day is designated as a state holiday. This means that state employees have the day off. In addition, for the first time in 2009 employees have the right to take unpaid leave to attend town meeting. This is subject to the essential operation of the business or state or local government and requires the employee to provide seven days notice. 21 V.S.A. § 472b.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## SELECTBOARD REPORT 2008

The following gives an overview of the board's activity this past year:

- Several needed administrative actions were addressed: a Spending/Purchase Order Policy; a Vehicle Damage Reimbursement Policy; and a Dog/Animal Ordinance.
- Based on action at the Town Meeting, a used police cruiser was purchased.
- A Budget Committee was formed again this year and, with the Treasurer and Selectboard, they have instituted a new budget process which allows better tracking of expenses and a smoother budget process.
- The condition of the Community Building continues to be a concern, and repairs were made to the gym ceiling and access ramp. An air purifier has been added to one of the offices. The Building Committee has been active, although progress has been slow for reasons beyond their control. We expect more visible progress will be made this year.
- Due to the heavy rains, maintenance was required on the railroad bed which is town property. The Cross Vermont Trail organization, which utilizes the railroad bed, provided funds and volunteers to do the work.
- Due to state actions and continuing difficulties with our last property appraisal, we put out bids for a reappraisal and awarded a contract. The reappraisal effort will span two years under the supervision of our listers. Inspection of properties has begun and will be complete by the end of 2009.
- A well-attended town picnic was held at Veterans Park. This was in conjunction with a "Music in the Park" concert and the reopening of the playground with new equipment by the Recreation Committee.
- Town employees and volunteers are finding that computer technology is an ever-increasing part of their work. The town has been upgrading their computer configurations primarily through grant funding. This year a single source of computer support was chosen and the town computers were tied together in a network system for more efficient sharing of data.
- As reported last year, the town discovered that both an underground heating oil tank at the fire station and an underground fuel oil tank at the town garage were leaking. The monitoring of contamination at these sites by an environmental consultant for the state extended into this year. We had budgeted for this activity. Both site investigations have now been declared closed and we were fortunate to have taken early action which avoided additional costs. We have finished paying the cost for the monitoring and reporting.
- The Ryegate/Groton FAST squad has been the focus of considerable attention by the Selectboards of both towns. The Squad's license renewal was in question last year because of issues in the areas of administration, recruiting/membership, supervision and accountability. The Squad has been working to address these problems. As with the fire department, the FAST Squad faces a major challenge in maintaining their membership because of the demands of extensive training and nature of our mobile population.
- As reported in previous years, the state has enacted legislation which states that town must identify any undocumented roads on their town highway maps by July of 2009 or give up all claims to the associated right-of-ways – this is referred to as the Ancient Roads activity. Because of amount of effort required and the lack of volunteers, there is a probability that we will not take any action and will forfeit any claim to these rights of way. If you are interested in working on this activity, please contact a Selectboard member.

The Selectboard wishes to thank the elected and appointed officials along with the many volunteers for their service and support of the town throughout the year. We are a better place because of their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leonard Doscinski (chairperson), Debra Tinkham, Dave Spencer

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2009 GENERAL FUND Town, Cemetery & Highway Budget

	2007 Budget	2007 Actual Spent	2008 Adopted Budget	2008 Actual Spent	2009 Proposed Budget
<b>Town Expenses</b>					
· Animal Control Expense	2,000.00	1,591.45	2,000.00	1,736.30	1,800.00
· Administration Expenses					
Admin - Treas, Tax Collector & Assts	43,000.00	39,008.51	43,500.00	39,890.33	45,306.00
Admin - Clerk & Assts	36,600.00	34,772.35	40,000.00	37,125.30	39,731.00
Admin-Selectboard	5,800.00	5,239.43	6,900.00	5,858.93	5,502.00
<b>Total Administration Expense</b>	<b>85,400.00</b>	<b>79,020.29</b>	<b>90,400.00</b>	<b>82,874.56</b>	<b>90,539.00</b>
· Auditing Expense	1,500.00	1,262.71	1,889.00	689.01	900.00
· Audit, Professional					5,000.00
· Coll of Del Taxes Expenses	4,060.00	1,745.76	2,100.00	2,519.61	2,360.00
· Clock Expense	300.00	0.00	300.00	244.92	270.00
· Community Building					
Comm Bldg Expense	12,000.00	12,036.62	13,000.00	14,316.89	13,000.00
Comm Bldg Repair	3,000.00	1,565.68	3,000.00	1,146.77	2,500.00
Comm Bldg Improvement Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Total Community Building Expenses</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>23,602.30</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>25,463.66</b>	<b>25,500.00</b>
· Computer Expense	1,500.00	533.47	1,500.00	1,744.51	2,000.00
· Constables Expense					
First Constable	2,600.00	3,006.06	3,000.00	2,453.45	2,500.00
Second Constable	3,000.00	4,097.37	6,500.00	3,595.29	4,000.00
Cruiser - fuel & maint	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,687.26	1,500.00
Cruiser			4,250.00	4,250.00	0.00
<b>Total Constables Expense</b>	<b>5,600.00</b>	<b>7,103.43</b>	<b>13,750.00</b>	<b>14,986.00</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>
· County Tax Expense	10,692.00	10,691.97	10,978.00	10,977.67	12,129.00
· Dues					
Dues NVDA	368.00	368.00	368.00	367.00	367.00
Dues VLCT	1,269.00	1,269.00	1,313.00	1,313.00	1,381.00
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>1,637.00</b>	<b>1,637.00</b>	<b>1,681.00</b>	<b>1,680.00</b>	<b>1,748.00</b>
· Election Expense	1,200.00	550.79	2,500.00	1,268.64	1,200.00
· Emergency Services					
Ambulance Contract	13,238.00	13,089.60	13,934.00	13,089.60	13,200.00
Emergency Servs Bldg Expenses	5,800.00	6,183.26	7,000.00	7,069.14	6,700.00
Emergency Servs Bldg Improvement Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Emergency Servs Vehicles Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
FAST Expense (1)	10,000.00	10,416.80	15,000.00	12,193.63	12,470.00
Fire Dept Expense	22,000.00	19,414.12	25,650.00	19,849.09	20,000.00
Forest Fire Expense	1,500.00	1,439.13	1,500.00	95.76	1,500.00
<b>Total Emergency Services Expense</b>	<b>72,538.00</b>	<b>70,542.91</b>	<b>83,084.00</b>	<b>72,297.22</b>	<b>73,870.00</b>
· Field & Park Expense	3,700.00	2,720.87	2,500.00	1,770.94	1,800.00
· Gilman Housing Expense	500.00	401.19	0.00	0.00	0.00
· Health Inspector Expense	500.00	0.00	200.00	84.40	200.00
· Insurance Expense	23,500.00	23,953.87	26,000.00	25,622.76	27,500.00
· Interest Expense	2,000.00	1,274.37	2,500.00	596.32	1,000.00
· Library Expense	21,270.00	20,431.03	22,968.00	22,544.91	22,968.00
· Lister Expense	19,570.00	19,635.26	27,970.00	23,812.45	25,170.00

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2009 GENERAL FUND Town, Cemetery & Highway Budget cont.

	2007 Budget	2007 Actual Spent	2008 Adopted Budget	2008 Actual Spent	2009 Proposed Budget
· Miscellaneous Expense (BMU add'l amt paid)	0.00	961.00	0.00	445.00	0.00
· Office Expense	5,500.00	4,082.62	5,500.00	4,833.23	5,500.00
· Planning Expense	1,500.00	683.75	2,000.00	234.62	1,000.00
· Professional Fees	4,500.00	1,462.50	4,500.00	1,293.50	2,000.00
· Reappraisal Expense & Reserve	27,300.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	15,000.00
· Recreation Expense	1,500.00	1,042.70	1,500.00	1,478.47	1,350.00
· Recreation Reserve Fund Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
· Sidewalk Maint Expense	5,300.00	3,011.85	2,500.00	3,336.99	3,000.00
· Solid Waste					
Recycling Bldg rent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Joint Recycling & Stump dump expense	3,600.00	3,523.08	4,000.00	2,662.94	3,000.00
<b>Total Solid Waste</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>	<b>3,523.08</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>2,662.94</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>
· Streetlights	6,250.00	5,725.89	6,250.00	5,832.00	6,000.00
· Swim Program Expense	1,800.00	1,650.00	1,800.00	1,650.00	1,800.00
· Town Report Expense	3,130.00	3,146.86	2,960.00	3,736.32	3,571.00
· Tree Warden Expense	500.00	40.00	500.00	0.00	200.00
· Zoning Expense	850.00	1,087.06	2,252.00	1,913.38	2,252.00
Cemetery Maint expense	9,750.00	7768.84	9,900.00	8,275.00	11,600.00
<b>Appropriations to Agencies</b>					
· Northeast Kingdom ABE Services	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
· Northeast Kingdom Youth Service	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
· Umbrella	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
· Northeastern VT AAA	650.00	650.00	650.00	650.00	650.00
· River's Reach (WRAP)	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
· Northeast Kingdom Human Services	920.00	920.00	920.00	920.00	920.00
· Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00
· Rural Community Transportation	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00
<b>Total Appropriations to Agencies</b>	<b>5,370.00</b>	<b>5,370.00</b>	<b>5,370.00</b>	<b>5,370.00</b>	<b>5,370.00</b>
<b>Total Town &amp; Cemetery Expenses</b>	<b>359,817.00</b>	<b>331,754.82</b>	<b>392,852.00</b>	<b>357,475.33</b>	<b>367,597.00</b>



# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2009 GENERAL FUND Town, Cemetery & Highway Budget cont.

	2007 Budget	2007 Actual Spent	2008 Adopted Budget	2008 Actual Spent	2009 Proposed Budget
<b>Highway Expenses</b>					
· Highway-Chloride	11,750.00	13,280.00	12,000.00	10,525.26	11,000.00
· Highway-Equipment Restricted	43,709.00	43,709.00	45,020.00	45,020.00	46,371.00
· Highway-Garage	6,000.00	5,040.03	6,240.00	7,132.77	7,000.00
· Highway-Gravel	10,000.00	7,086.06	20,000.00	19,787.25	8,000.00
· Highway-Paving	50,600.00	1,345.16	50,600.00	50,600.00	46,500.00
· Highway-Drainage upgrades	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,441.50	1,500.00
· Highway-Projects (2)	14,500.00	13,288.32	4,000.00	4,704.73	2,000.00
· Highway-Bridge Project	0.00	0.00	6,100.00	6,095.44	0.00
· Highway-Summer Roads	66,560.00	65,722.99	69,100.00	73,740.84	
Wages					51,100.00
OT Wages					500.00
Fuel					6,000.00
PPE					1,200.00
Roadside mowing					
Repairs & maintenance					10,000.00
Contracted work					4,500.00
Subtotal Highway-Summer Roads					<b>73,300.00</b>
· Highway-Winter Roads	85,300.00	100,141.13	89,700.00	104,039.24	
Wages					51,100.00
OT Wages					4,500.00
Fuel					15,000.00
PPE					1,200.00
Sand					12,000.00
Salt					8,000.00
Repairs & maintenance					15,000.00
Contracted work					1,000.00
Subtotal Highway-Winter Roads					<b>107,800.00</b>
<b>Total Highway Expenses</b>	<b>289,919.00</b>	<b>249,612.69</b>	<b>304,260.00</b>	<b>323,087.03</b>	<b>303,471.00</b>
<b>Total Town, Cemetery &amp; Highway Expenses</b>	<b>649,736.00</b>	<b>581,367.51</b>	<b>697,112.00</b>	<b>680,562.36</b>	<b>671,068.00</b>

(1) Ryegate contributes \$5500.00

(2) Welton Rd bridge repairs

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Non-voters May Only Speak At Town Meeting With Permission of the Assembly.** Only legal voters can speak at town meeting unless there has been a motion to suspend the rules and permit non-voters to address the group and the motion has passed by 2/3 of the voters. It is a good practice when making such a motion to include some parameters in the motion, such as non-voters may speak to an issue only once, for a time not to exceed five minutes, etc.

## Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

2009 NEK Waste Management District Budget				
BUDGET ITEM	2007 BUDGET	2008 BUDGET	2008 ACTUAL AS OF 12/31/08	2009 Proposed Budget
<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>				
Advertising	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$768.38	\$750.00
Audit -- Financial	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$2,800.00
Audit -- Waste Haulers	\$3,500.00	\$4,800.00	\$3,288.11	\$4,800.00
Bank Charges	\$650.00	\$700.00	\$904.45	\$800.00
Books & Subscriptions	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$125.00	\$200.00
Cleaning	\$200.00	\$1,440.00	\$1,320.00	\$1,560.00
Copier	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,751.02	\$1,800.00
Dues/Permits/Fees/Penalties	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,263.00	\$1,200.00
Heating Fuel	\$3,000.00	\$2,750.00	\$2,320.00	\$2,500.00
Insurance:				
Liability & Casualty & Emp. Prac.	\$5,750.00	\$5,750.00	\$7,001.00	\$7,000.00
Public Officials	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
Legal Fees	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$507.50	\$500.00
Postage	\$2,100.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,400.01	\$2,500.00
Supplies:				
Office	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$3,112.07	\$2,500.00
Telephone - Office	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,603.32	\$4,000.00
Water/Sewer	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,155.70	\$1,400.00
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$32,150.00</b>	<b>\$33,890.00</b>	<b>\$33,819.56</b>	<b>\$36,010.00</b>
<b>BUILDING EXPENSES</b>				
Improvements	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,677.62	\$2,000.00
Electricity	\$7,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$8,401.88	\$7,200.00
Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,091.98	\$3,000.00
Misc. Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,712.91	\$1,000.00
Trash Removal	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,219.02	\$1,750.00
<b>TOTAL BUILDING</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,600.00</b>	<b>\$15,103.41</b>	<b>\$14,950.00</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT EXPENSES</b>				
Purchases	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,124.29	\$1,500.00
Baler Repairs	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,243.75	\$2,000.00
Baler Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$5,236.07	\$4,000.00
Forklift Fuel	\$2,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$4,940.22	\$4,640.00
Forklift Repairs	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$8,578.46	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous Equipment Repairs	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,239.43	\$1,000.00
Skidsteer Fuel	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$1,256.55	\$1,100.00
Skidsteer Repairs	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$3,541.90	\$1,500.00
Trucks				
Dodge--Gas	\$1,000.00	\$800.00	\$801.22	\$0.00
Dodge--Repairs	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$498.59	\$0.00
Trucks--Diesel	\$8,500.00	\$9,000.00	\$21,341.83	\$20,000.00
Trucks--Repairs	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$6,642.08	\$3,000.00
INTL.--CDL & Drug Testing	\$200.00	\$65.00	\$195.00	\$130.00
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>\$34,450.00</b>	<b>\$31,865.00</b>	<b>\$63,639.39</b>	<b>\$41,870.00</b>
Gross Wages	\$226,060.00	\$261,625.00	\$267,423.71	\$242,940.00
Overtime Wages--Warehouse	\$4,400.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,754.51	\$3,500.00
Fica (Employer Match)	\$14,290.00	\$16,530.00	\$16,279.37	\$16,700.00
Medi (Employer Match)	\$3,345.00	\$3,870.00	\$3,807.31	\$3,905.00
State Unemployment Insurance	\$600.00	\$650.00	\$695.25	\$704.00
VMERS (Retirement)	\$12,150.00	\$11,860.00	\$12,249.65	\$12,275.00
Workman's Compensation Insurance	\$11,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$8,142.00	\$10,000.00

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

BUDGET ITEM	2007 BUDGET	2008 BUDGET	2008 ACTUAL AS OF 11/30/08	2009 Proposed Budget
Health Insurance/Flex Spending	\$92,000.00	\$116,305.00	\$97,617.05	\$121,810.00
Mileage - Employee	\$5,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$8,196.55	\$6,000.00
Mileage- Supervisor's	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,773.54	\$4,000.00
Personnel Equipment	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$802.49	\$1,000.00
Training	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$531.00	\$500.00
Travel	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$7.79	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$370,245.00</b>	<b>\$438,540.00</b>	<b>\$424,280.22</b>	<b>\$423,434.00</b>
<b>PROGRAMS EXPENSES</b>				
Advertising	\$6,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$5,582.76	\$4,737.00
Permits & Fees	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$306.50	\$300.00
Composting	\$16,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$13,322.97	\$5,500.00
Composter/Bin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,608.24	\$5,000.00
Education Outreach	\$22,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$27,844.14	\$14,464.00
Electronics Recycling	\$12,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,758.35	\$15,000.00
Hazmat Disposal	\$20,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$35,433.76	\$25,000.00
Hazmat Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,053.59	\$3,750.00
Special Collections	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,358.43	\$5,000.00
Tire Disposal	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$11,403.60	\$12,000.00
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$97,000.00</b>	<b>\$100,120.00</b>	<b>\$129,672.34</b>	<b>\$90,751.00</b>
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$549,845.00</b>	<b>\$620,015.00</b>	<b>\$666,514.92</b>	<b>\$607,015.00</b>
<b>DEBT REDUCTION PAYMENTS</b>				
Interest	\$0.00		\$1,792.99	
Principal	\$0.00			
<b>TOTAL DEBT REDUCTION</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$1,792.99</b>	
<b>CAPITAL FUND</b>				
Capital Improvement Fund	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUND</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL NEK EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$559,845.00</b>	<b>\$630,015.00</b>	<b>\$678,307.91</b>	<b>\$610,015.00</b>
<b>NEKWMD REVENUES</b>	<b>2007 BUDGET</b>	<b>2008 BUDGET</b>	<b>2008 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2009 PROPOSED</b>
Grants--St of VT	\$40,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$28,165.94	\$67,100.00
Hauling--Recycling Pick-ups	\$29,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$34,725.18	\$31,915.00
Hazardous Waste (CEG Fees)	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,761.13	\$2,000.00
Interest Income	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$797.04	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,942.11	\$1,000.00
Program Sales--Composter/Bins	\$2,800.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,656.20	\$5,000.00
Programs- Oil Filter Program	\$900.00	\$750.00	\$625.00	\$500.00
Sale of Recyclables	\$117,000.00	\$137,115.00	\$166,462.74	\$100,000.00
Compost Income	\$0.00	\$5,250.00	\$6,939.55	\$1,000.00
Electronics Income	\$5,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,082.56	\$12,000.00
Scrap Metal Income	\$10,500.00	\$17,000.00	\$36,060.55	\$11,000.00
Battery Income	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,968.35	\$2,500.00
CFC Appliance Income	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tire Income	\$7,000.00	\$10,500.00	\$12,630.07	\$12,000.00
Surcharge--Waste Haulers	\$340,145.00	\$359,400.00	\$360,084.62	\$363,000.00
<b>TOTAL NEK REVENUES</b>	<b>\$559,845.00</b>	<b>\$630,015.00</b>	<b>\$673,901.04</b>	<b>\$610,015.00</b>

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2009 Anticipated General Fund Receipts

<b>Budget Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Administration Income	6,000.00
Animal Control Income	2,200.00
Cemetery Interest	2,500.00
Civil & Highway Fines	2,000.00
Comm Building Income	1,200.00
*Current Use Income	15,800.00
Delinquent Taxes	61,699.21
FAST Squad Income	5,500.00
*Highway Summer Income	26,000.00
*Highway Winter Income	26,000.00
Interest Income Delinquent Taxes	3,900.00
Interest Income from invested property taxes	900.00
Lister Income	750.00
Office Income	2,000.00
PILOT Income	61,000.00
Swim Program Income	1,000.00
Taxes 2009	449,368.79
Union Bank stock dividends	2,250.00
Zoning Income	1,000.00
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME</b>	<b>671,068.00</b>

\*It is possible that the State could decrease or cut these funds

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Moderator Should Review Rules At The Start of Town Meeting.** At the beginning of town meeting, it is a best practice for the moderator to review the basics of Robert's Rules and the procedures that will be used in the meeting. This helps voters to be able to participate fully in the meeting. It is especially important for the moderator to remind the voters that any person present can rise to challenge the ruling of the moderator on any procedural issue, and have the procedural issue decided by the voters present.

**Moderators Should Not Comment On Legality Of Article.** It is best practice for moderators at the annual meeting to refrain from speaking to the legality of an article or to give an opinion about the legal effect of taking action on or passing over an article. Even a well-intentioned comment about the legality or impact of an article could be misunderstood as showing partiality for or against an article. If there is truly no one else in the room that can answer a question, and the moderator feels compelled to enter the discussion, the moderator should call for a moderator pro tem to take over, and step down while he or she participates in the debate.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## 2008 General Fund Checking Account

Ending Balance 12/31/07		29,897.20
Receipts	726,567.44	
Transfers into General fund from other Town accounts	238,610.46	
Disbursements (Selectboard's orders)	<u>981,203.17</u>	
Difference between Receipts and Disbursements		<u>(16,025.27)</u>
Ending Balance 12/31/08		<u>13,871.93</u>

## Summary of Selectboard's Orders

Town Orders & transfers	357,030.33	
Highway Orders	323,087.03	
Gross Orders		<u>680,117.36</u>

## School Expense

*Additional amt paid to Blue Mtn for 2007	445.00	
*2008 Education Taxes paid to Blue Mtn Union	1,234,583.75	
Total School Expenses paid in 2008		<u>1,235,028.75</u>

\*The school payment was made directly to BMU from the Merchants Bank Property Tax account and is not included in the Selectboard's orders.

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Upon The Request Of Seven Voters, Paper Ballots Are Used For Non-Election Articles.** If at least seven voters support a request that paper ballots be used for voting during a special or annual meeting, then paper ballots must be distributed and used. 17 V.S.A. §2658. This request must be made separately for each article. Generally one person makes the motion to call for paper ballots and the moderator looks to see whether there are six people who would "second" the motion.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2008 Wage Report

Employee	Position	Annual Wage	Wage per Hour	Mandatory SS & Medicare	Health & Dental Insurance	Retirement	TOTAL EMPLOYEE COST
Beamis, Shirley	Asst Treas	54.63	11.50	4.18			58.81
Bouley, Patricia	Asst Clerk,Treas,Tax	370.89	11.50	28.38			399.27
Dana, Roberta	Treas,Curr Tax,Asst Clerk	26,593.57	14.36	1,908.82	11,970.12	1,063.74	41,536.25
Diggins, Caroline	Asst Clerk	150.00	10.00	11.49			161.49
Doscinski, Leonard	Selectboard Chairman	1,200.00	n/a	91.80			1,291.80
Grant, Laurine	Asst Clerk	76.44	8.50	5.85			82.29
Nunn, Linda	Clerk, Select Sec, Asst Tax	30,107.19	14.36	2,232.40	5,743.08	1,204.26	39,286.93
Perry-Boucher, Cheryl	Asst Treas	214.50	8.25	16.42			230.92
Spencer, David	Selectperson	1,000.00	n/a	76.50			1,076.50
Tinkham, Debra	Selectperson	1,000.00	n/a	76.50			1,076.50
	<b>Admin. Total</b>	<b>60,767.22</b>		<b>4,452.34</b>	<b>17,713.20</b>	<b>2,268.00</b>	<b>85,200.76</b>
Crown, Martha	Auditor	579.25	10.00	44.32			623.57
Johnson, Debra	Auditor	521.25	10.00	39.88			561.13
	<b>Auditing</b>	<b>1,100.50</b>		<b>84.20</b>			<b>1,184.70</b>
Bliss, Donald	<b>Community Bldg Mowing</b>	<b>154.00</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>11.76</b>			<b>165.76</b>
Downing, James Jr.	Constable: Second	2,549.53	12.88-15.88	195.06			2,744.59
Lamberton, Milton	Constable: First**	1,649.28	annual stipend	126.17			1,775.45
	<b>Constable Total</b>	<b>4,198.81</b>		<b>321.23</b>			<b>4,520.04</b>
Bouley, Patricia	<b>Del Tax Penalty*</b>	<b>6,861.89</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>524.95</b>			<b>7,386.84</b>
Beamis, Victoria	Elections: Ballot Clerk	63.75	8.50	4.87			68.62
Crown, Martha	Elections: Ballot Clerk	62.80	8.50	4.81			67.61
Diggins, Caroline	Elections: Ballot Clerk	277.19	8.50	21.21			298.40
Grant, Laurine	Elections: Ballot Clerk	129.95	8.50	9.93			139.88
Lord, Lisa	Elections: Ballot Clerk	92.08	8.50	7.03			99.11
Perry-Boucher, Cheryl	Elections: Ballot Clerk	200.36	8.50	15.32			215.68
	<b>Elections Total</b>	<b>826.13</b>		<b>63.17</b>			<b>889.30</b>
Knott, Wayne	<b>Fire Chief***</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>annual stipend</b>	<b>38.25</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>538.25</b>
Bliss, Donald	<b>Field &amp; Park Mowing</b>	<b>929.50</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>71.16</b>			<b>1,000.66</b>
Bliss, Donald	Hwy: Temporary Help	291.50	11.00	22.31			313.81
Bruleigh, Charles	Hwy: Temporary Help	199.20	16.60	15.24			214.44
Downing, James	Hwy: Temporary Help	481.40	16.60	36.83			518.23
Palmer, Phillip	Hwy: Equipment Operator	36,212.52	14.79	2,644.66	11,970.12	1,448.41	52,275.71
Smith, Brent	Hwy: Road Commissioner	38,441.45	16.07	2,822.09	11,970.12	1,537.59	54,771.25
	<b>Highway Total</b>	<b>75,626.07</b>		<b>5,541.13</b>	<b>23,940.24</b>	<b>2,986.00</b>	<b>108,093.44</b>
LaVaude, Gail	Asst Librarian	60.00	10.00	4.59			64.59
Shane, Majorie	Librarian	9,703.50	12.00	742.10			10,445.60
	<b>Library Total</b>	<b>9,763.50</b>		<b>746.69</b>			<b>10,510.19</b>
Diggins, Caroline	Lister	8,524.92	10.00	652.25			9,177.17
Lord, Lisa	Lister	3,671.20	8.32	280.88			3,952.08
Perry-Boucher, Cheryl	Lister	4,155.84	8.32	318.06			4,473.90
	<b>Lister Total</b>	<b>16,351.96</b>		<b>1,251.19</b>			<b>17,603.15</b>
Bliss, Donald	<b>Sidewalk Maint</b>	<b>2,473.30</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>189.22</b>			<b>2,662.52</b>
Perry-Boucher, Cheryl	<b>Zoning Total</b>	<b>1,060.25</b>	<b>see **** below</b>	<b>81.13</b>			<b>1,141.38</b>
<b>Total Wages &amp; Benefits paid in 2008</b>		<b>180,613.13</b>		<b>13,376.42</b>	<b>41,653.44</b>	<b>5,254.00</b>	<b>240,896.99</b>

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

\*\*1st Constable is also paid a \$1,200 per year mileage stipend

\*\*\*Fire Chief is also paid a \$500 per year mileage stipend plus add'l mileage reimbursement

\*\*\*\*Zoning administrator wages are paid for from permit fees + \$40/mo salary

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## 2008 Interest from Non-Tax Sources

### Interest earned in 2008

MB Community Bldg Improvement Reserve Fund	428.78
MB Emergency Services Bldg Improvement Reserve Fund	447.12
MB Emergency Services Vehicles Reserve Fund	943.02
MB Highway Equipment Reserve Fund	1,357.37
MB Recreation Reserve Fund	33.44
MB Restoration Reserve Fund	107.29
MB Grant Funds	44.24
MB Food Shelf Acct	41.73
MB Reappraisal Reserve Fund	710.16
MB Planning II Funds	11.48
Short Term Investment of Tax Money:	
MB Property Tax Account	2,327.18
<b>Total Interest earned</b>	<b>6,451.81</b>

### Interest Paid in 2008

Interest Paid - For borrowing on Lines of Credit	596.32
<b>Total Interest Paid</b>	<b>596.32</b>

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Only Legal Voters Can Be Elected To Town Office.** To be eligible for election as a school board member, a person must be a legal voter in the school district. 16 V.S.A. § 558. Likewise, a town shall choose from among its legally qualified voters for selectboard, town clerk, town treasurer, and a number of other town offices. 17 V.S.A. § 2646. So long as the person is on the checklist by the day of election he or she is eligible for election. The town clerk must add the names of all eligible persons who have properly completed and submitted applications to the checklist before noon on the second Monday before the election.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Account Balances as of 12/31/08

Merchants Bank Library Fund	8,391.30
Modern Woodmen of America Savings Acct.	50,555.54
Sun America Securities (stock value on 12/31/08)	10,978.34
<b>Total Library funds</b>	<b>69,925.18</b>

<u>Actual 2008 Income</u>	<u>ACTUAL 2008 Income</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2009 Income</u>
Allocation from Town General Fund (see below)	22,544.91	22,968.00
Donations	6,765.00	
Interest Income	1,898.41	2,000.00
Dividend Income	704.39	
Grant Income (used to defray expenses from Gen Fund)	1,407.00	
Program Income (donation from Community Club)	500.00	500.00
<b>Total Income and Town Allocation</b>	<b>33,819.71</b>	<b>25,468.00</b>

<u>Library Budget vs. Actual 2008</u>	<u>2008 Actual Spent</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>Over/Under Budget</u>	<u>PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET</u>
<b>Expenses paid from Town General Fund only</b>				
Advertising	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Books & periodicals	4,918.50	5,200.00	-281.50	5,000.00
Building operations	4,275.00	3,700.00	575.00	3,700.00
Cleaning	622.72	456.00	166.72	864.00
Computer	317.84	300.00	17.84	300.00
Postage & delivery	223.28	500.00	-276.72	384.00
Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00	see below
Staff training/professional	60.00	0.00	60.00	0.00
Supplies	666.35	700.00	-33.65	800.00
Telephone/Internet	638.54	1,000.00	-361.46	700.00
Travel	124.08	250.00	-125.92	250.00
Volunteer recognition	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Wages and payroll taxes	10,498.60	10,662.00	-163.40	10,970.00
<b>Total Expenses Paid from Town General Fund</b>	<b>22,544.91</b>	<b>22,968.00</b>	<b>-423.09</b>	<b>22,968.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES PAID OUT OF LIBRARY FUND</b>				
Sign	695.00	0.00	695.00	0.00
Programs (paid with Community Club Donation)	430.87	500.00	-69.13	500.00
Building Operations	1,425.00	2,000.00	-575.00	2,000.00
<b>Total expenses paid from Library Funds</b>	<b>2,550.87</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>50.87</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>
<b>Total 2008 Library Expenditures</b>	<b>25,095.78</b>	<b>25,468.00</b>	<b>-372.22</b>	<b>25,468.00</b>

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**

<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Some Local Officials Do Not Have To be Residents.** In most cases, in order to be elected or appointed to serve in local office you must be a voter in that municipality. However, the law does not require assistant treasurers or assistant clerks to be residents of the communities where they serve. In addition, the town clerk or treasurer can serve as clerk or treasurer of a village or fire district even if they are not a resident of that municipality. A town tax collector can serve as an incorporated school district collector even if not a resident of the district. There is also no residency requirement for appointment to town planning and zoning boards. However, for the planning commission, at least a majority of the members must be residents of the town.



# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## 2008 TOWN FUNDS BALANCE SHEET

### ASSETS

	General	Restricted	Grant	
<u>Cash and Bank Accounts</u>				
MB General Fund Checking	13,871.93			
MB Reappraisal Reserve Fund Acct		57,132.01		
MB Restoration Reserve Fund Acct		5,587.51		
MB Grant Funds			4,999.54	
MB Planning II Funds			6,659.82	
MB Food Shelf Acct		7,031.20		
MB Recreation Reserve Fund Acct		3,370.54		
MB Community Bldg Improvement Fund		14,027.59		
MB Emergency Servs Bldg Improvement Fund		21,962.84		
MB Emergency Servs Vehicle Reserve Fund		40,304.00		
MB Hwy Equipment Reserve Fund		52,650.80		
MB Hwy Paving Reserve Fund		89,556.60		
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	13,871.93	291,623.09	11,659.36	317,154.38
<u>Other Assets</u>				
Town Property [2008 Town Report]	2,354,656.50			
Delinquent Taxes as of 12/31/2008	61,699.20			
Union Bank stock shares	40,831.50			
TOTAL Other Assets	2,457,187.20		0.00	2,457,187.20
 TOTAL ASSETS				 <b>2,774,341.58</b>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### LIABILITIES

WGSB Line of Credit	0.00			
Penalty wages due to Coll of Delinquent Taxes	767.08			
Payroll Federal tax liability	5,530.20			
Payroll Vermont tax liability	1,439.00			
Retirement liability	2,320.80			
<b>Total liabilities</b>				10,057.08

#### EQUITY

Restricted & Unrestricted Fund Balances	13,871.93	291,623.09	11,659.36	
General Equity	2,447,130.12			
Total Equity	2,461,002.05	291,623.09	11,659.36	2,764,284.50

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY **2,774,341.58**

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## Combined Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances

(Arising from Cash Transactions)

Cash Basis - All Funds

December 31, 2008

	Governmental Fund Type		Fiduciary Fund	Account Group	
	General	Special Revenue [like grants]	Trust Fund [like cemetery]	General Long-Term Debt	Total (Memorandum only)
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash	305,495.02	11,659.36	16,801.54		333,955.92
Certificates of Deposit			78,254.13		78,254.13
Stock	40,831.50				40,831.50
AR: Due from Del. Tax Col.	61,699.20				61,699.20
AR: Homeland Security Grant		0.00			0.00
Fixed Assets	2,354,656.50				2,354,656.50
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,762,682.22</b>	<b>11,659.36</b>	<b>95,055.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,869,397.25</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>					
Liabilities:					
Payroll liabilities	10,057.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,057.08
Total Liabilities	10,057.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,057.08
Fund Balances:					
Restricted	291,623.09	11,659.36	95,055.67	0.00	398,338.12
Unrestricted					0.00
Designated	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Undesignated	13,871.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,871.93
Total Fund Balance	305,495.02	11,659.36	95,055.67	0.00	412,210.05
Equity	2,447,130.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,447,130.12
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>2,762,682.22</b>	<b>11,659.36</b>	<b>95,055.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,869,397.25</b>

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

Visit <http://grotonvt.com> on the Internet. This web site presents information about the Town of Groton. You can learn about the Town offices, local organizations, and events. There are many great pictures to view. This year this Town Report will be available on the web site.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2008 Actual General Fund Receipts

Budget Account	Amount	Comments/Notes
Administration Income	6,826.84	Recording fees & vault use fees
Animal Control Income	2,586.00	Dog licenses & fines
Civil & Highway fines	3,213.56	Town share of traffic tickets dispensed in Groton
Cemetery Interest	3,029.40	From cemetery CD's & dividends
Cemetery Reimbursed Income	316.00	
Community Building Income	1,656.00	Rental use of community building
Current Use Income	15,811.00	From State of Vermont
Delinquent Taxes 2006	13.96	
Delinquent Taxes 2007	40,089.18	
Delinquent Taxes 2008	39,109.17	
Dividend Income	2,738.40	Union Bank Stocks
FAST Squad Income	5,510.00	From Town of Ryegate & donations
Grant Income - Dry hydrants	1,250.00	
Grant Income - Highway Culvert grant	6,977.15	Redbrook Rd
Grant Income - FEMA	42,509.96	FEMA hwy funds for 2007 but all received in 2008
Grant Income - FEMA	4,965.78	FEMA hwy funds for 2008 but all received in 2008
Grant Income - Library	1,482.00	
Grant Income - Planning	10,045.00	
Highway Summer Income	32,712.40	Hwy Aid, overweight permit & culvert reimbursement
Highway Winter Income	35,424.01	Hwy aid & plowing Seyon Rd reimbursement
Highway Income-Sand	6,166.00	From Town of Topsham
Interest Income Delinquent Taxes 2006	154.41	
Interest Income Delinquent Taxes 2007	3,825.59	
Interest Income Delinquent Taxes 2008	747.37	
Lister Income	796.00	From State for grand list maint
Lister Education Income	440.96	From State of Vermont for Listers' classes
Office Income	2,995.66	Copies, faxes, motor vehicle renewals, etc.
Office Income for restoration only	2,058.00	recording fee per page to be used for restoration of land records only
PILOT & Leaseland Income	61,006.86	From State of Vermont
Reappraisal Income	6,766.00	From State of Vermont and reserved for reappraisal only
Solid Waste Income	433.00	bulky day receipts
Swim Program Income	1,137.00	\$600 from Community Club; balance from participants
Taxes - Current 2008	259,447.34	Most of taxes collected deposited to MB Property Tax Acct
Taxes-Education Tax Payments from State	9,128.24	
Taxes - Current 2008 to be refunded	197.00	homestead property tax pmt to be refunded to property owner
Taxes - Current 2009	250.00	Pre-payments received in 2008 for 2009 property taxes
Transfers from other town accounts	174,823.03	Municipal taxes
Transfers from other town accounts	63,787.43	
Woodsville Bank Line of Credit	105,000.00	Borrowed from line of credit-paid off in 2008
Zoning Income	1,529.00	Permit fees
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>956,954.70</b>	
<b>Deposits Credited to Expense Accounts</b>		
CDT expenses reimbursed	624.23	Tax sale expenses paid by delinquent taxpayers
CDT penalty wages reimbursed	7,598.97	Paid by delinquent taxpayers
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8,223.20</b>	
<b>TOTAL ACTUAL GEN FUND RECEIPTS</b>	<b>965,177.90</b>	

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2008 General Fund Vendor Disbursements

Vendors		Vendors	
AHMSI	408.88	Emerson, Beatrice	134.33
Airgas East	151.37	EMS Conference	950.00
All States Asphalt, Inc.	10,525.26	Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.	119.90
Alley's Market	63.25	F. R. Lafayette, Inc.	700.00
American Red Cross	1,500.00	F.W. Dunn Co	300.00
Andersen Sign Co.	164.00	Fairpoint Communications-646	2,709.07
APAS, LLC	12,375.00	FairPoint Communications-656	1,461.54
Apex Software	245.00	Farm Plan	317.77
AT&T	41.56	Ferguson Waterworks #590	5,686.55
Austin-Shortt, Beth	980.04	First American R/E Tax Service	990.60
Austin-Shortt, Jonathan	1,670.80	Foggs Hardware	249.70
B & B Septic	400.00	Gale	178.90
Barco Products Co	190.20	Galls Inc.	6,662.16
Berlejung, Mary	644.68	Gandin Bros., Inc.	450.00
BGS ST Surplus Prprty (43664)	110.00	Gandin, Thomas G.	500.00
BJ's Wholesale Club	45.00	GCR Truck Tire Centers Inc	615.90
Black River Design Architects PLC	9,421.73	Gordon Viewpoint, The	321.83
Bliss, Donald	18.00	Gossco Inc	1,109.68
Boulder Beach State Park	150.00	Green Mountain Paving & Sealcoating Co	900.00
Bouley, Patricia	1,269.99	Green Mountain Power Corp.	9,688.07
Bridge Weekly Sho-Case, The	93.28	Groton Commercial LLC	4,275.00
Brodart Co	20.90	Groton Free Public Library	100.00
Brown's River Bindery, Inc.	60.58	Groton Garage	2,897.61
Business Card Services	3,736.23	Groton Highway Equipment Fund	28,000.00
C. Ford Professional Lettering	212.62	Groton Historical Society	100.00
Caledonia Home Health Care & Hospice	1,350.00	Groton Timberworks, Inc.	474.09
Caledonian Record, The	495.00	Groton Tire & Auto	1,003.13
Cargill Incorporated	6,413.69	Groton United Methodist Church	200.00
Carus Publishing	24.95	Groton, Town of	211,498.67
Champlain Oil Co Inc.	504.13	Guertin, Josephine	542.66
Chandler, Harry	160.92	Happy Hour Restaurant	150.00
Clark's Truck Center, Inc.	2,013.24	Hart, Steven	1,124.47
CompuSys 2000, Inc.	277.50	Hicks Sales & Service	2,304.66
Cooking Light	16.00	Hirsch's	110.94
Co-operative Insurance	68.00	Hoffman's Rural Firefighting Consulting	256.95
Copiers, Etc.	635.00	Howard P. Fairfield, Inc.	176.97
Cottage Hospital	50.00	IDS	107.01
Country Living	24.00	Industrial Protection Services, LLC	776.00
Crown, Martha	45.97	Interstate Battery System of New-Mont	200.00
Dad's 4 By Tool & Supply	36.53	Jaywil Software Development, Inc.	60.00
Dana, Roberta	134.60	Johnson, Matt	504.00
Darling's Auto Repair, Inc.	2,659.88	Johnson, Wade	29.76
Demco, Inc.	192.73	Jolley, Daniel	120.00
Denis, Ricker & Brown Inc	461.41	Joseph J. Marotti Co., Inc.	883.81
Diggins, Caroline	309.14	Journal Opinion, Inc.	241.50
Donath, David & Cathleen	38.90	K & T Environmental Equip, Inc	688.00
Doscinski, Leonard	359.17	Kids Discover	33.90
Downing, James Jr.	386.85	Knott, Dorothy	24.43
		Knott, Wayne	1,208.76

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

Vendors		Vendors	
L. Brown & Sons Printing, Inc.	2,873.60	Prevention Magazine	18.97
Lamberton, Milton	1,200.00	Property Valuation & Review Division	517.28
LaVaude, Gail	75.00	Puffer Excavating	2,242.50
Law Enforcement Systems, Inc.	55.00	Quill Corporation	2,137.86
LHS Associates, Inc.	300.00	R.C. Hazelton Co, Inc	296.00
Lord, Lisa	55.00	Reliable Office Supplies	535.81
Lowell McLeods, Inc	5,772.84	Rest & Relax	1,327.00
Lyford, Melvin	197.00	Reynolds & Son Inc	2,762.74
Lyndon State College	1,413.00	Ricker, Lawrence	8,205.00
Margaret R. Villeneuve, County Treasurer	10,977.67	Rinkers Communications	2,659.25
McCullough Crushing, Inc.	26,561.50	River's Reach	1,200.00
McDevitt Trucks, Inc.	1,209.48	Ross Business Center	362.82
MCI	375.19	Ross Environmental Associates, Inc	3,902.73
Merchants Bank	39,274.15	Rural Community Transportation	550.00
Merriam Graves Corp.	94.25	Ryegate, Town of	1,856.94
MicroMarketing LLC	637.40	Shane, Majorie	213.64
NAPA of Bradford	1,329.09	Shaw's Supermarket	120.00
NEKWMD	108.00	Simakaski, Mark	461.74
NEMRC	3,279.50	Smith, Aaron	15.48
NESEC	700.00	Smith, Brent	34.00
New England Auto Glass	125.00	Smith, Sidney	9,827.50
Newman Lumber Co., Inc.	1,755.00	Southworth Milton, Inc.	520.75
Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.	920.00	Spencer, David	162.18
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc	200.00	Spencer, Nancy	193.51
Northeast Kingdom Youth Services	200.00	Staples	226.77
Northeastern Vt Area Agency on Aging	650.00	Taylor, Jeffrey	36.47
Northland Specialties, Inc.	1,916.45	Taylor, Jeffrey L. Esq.	435.08
Nortrax	183.76	Tenco New England, Inc	1,478.27
Nunn, Linda	339.67	Thornton's Computer Services	1,310.00
NVDA	2,945.00	TMDE Calibration Labs, Inc.	75.00
Oakes Bros.	171.48	Tripp, Warren	46.10
Olsen, Laura	239.94	Tucker, Tiffany	406.08
Orange County Sheriff's Department	6,000.00	Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Association	582.31
Orelup, Deborah	60.00	UI Insurance Services, Inc.	1,123.00
Otterman & Allen, P.C.	1,293.50	Umbrella, Inc.	300.00
P11 Rescue Lighting	62.97	Unifirst Corporation	918.37
Page, Curtis & Karen	71.29	Upper Valley Grill & General Store	940.60
Page, Frank	2,250.00	VACA	84.40
Palmer Brothers, Inc.	605.45	Vaughan, Tristan	410.76
Penworthy Company, The	569.83	VCA	24.00
Perry-Boucher, Cheryl	812.76	Vermont Agency of Transportation	9,160.28
Perry's Oil Service, Inc.	520.04	Vermont Cemetery Association	25.00
Pete's Rubbish Removal, Inc	434.50	Vermont Dept of Health	13.00
Petty Cash-Treasurer	309.78	Vermont Dept of Motor Vehicles	38.00
Pike Industries Inc.	449.40	Vermont Fire Academy	207.88
Pollock, Mark	300.00	Vermont Fire Extinguisher	252.35
Portland Glass	327.23	Vermont Institute for Government	385.00
Postmaster-Groton, VT	1,950.21	Vermont Magazine	19.95
Power Plan	488.59	Vermont State Treasurer	939.00
Powers Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	1,836.23	Vermont Technical Solutions	1,275.00

## Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

Vendors	Vendors
VLCT	1,868.00
VLCT PACIF	23,044.35
VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust Inc	994.00
VMCTA	40.00
VMHA	30.00
VRS Sales Ltd	1,111.50
Walter E. Jock Oil Co Inc	39,323.35
Washington Electric Co-op, Inc.	1,704.36
Williams, Kenneth C.	4,200.00
Winget, James	7,750.00
Woodsville Ambulance Service	13,089.60
Woodsville Bookstore	3,269.71
Woodsville Eye Care Center	98.00
Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank	105,596.32
Yankee Electric Supply/NESCO	184.37
<b>Vendor Subtotal</b>	<b>740,909.98</b>

Liability Checks	Check Total	Employee Share	Town Share
AFLAC	1,457.40	1,457.40	
Northeast Delta Dental	1,080.36	384.84	695.52
Vermont Dept of Taxes	5,085.00	5,085.00	
VLCT Health Trust	44,669.28	4,020.64	40,648.64
Merchants Bank	44,841.85	31,465.43	13,376.42
VMERS DB	8,252.27	3,173.98	5,078.29
<b>Liability Check Subtotal</b>	<b>105,386.16</b>	<b>45,587.29</b>	<b>59,798.87</b>

Net Payroll 134,907.03

**Grand Total General Fund 981,203.17**

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## 2008 PLANNING ACCOUNT

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BALANCE 12/31/07		1,242.44
Interest earned 1/1/08-12/31/08	11.48	
Town plan grant money to be spent in 2009 (deposited into planning account in Dec 2008)	5,405.90	
ENDING BALANCE 12/31/0		6,659.82

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## 2008 GRANT ACCOUNT

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BALANCE 12/31/07		4,955.30
Interest earned 1/1/08-12/31/08	44.24	
ENDING BALANCE 12/31/08		4,999.54

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## GROTON RECREATION FUND

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<b>Merchants Bank Money Market account</b>		
<b>Ending balance of account on 12/31/07</b>		<b>2,928.34</b>
Donations & receipts from events		723.20
Grant rec'd for Music in the Park		1,000.00
Appropriation from Town General Fund		500.00
Interest received on checking account		33.44
		<u><u>5,184.98</u></u>
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Music in the Park musicians		1,280.00
Playground stone, ice cream, etc.		393.76
Race supplies		60.00
Bank charges		24.00
Halloween party supplies		56.68
		<u><u>1,814.44</u></u>
<b>Ending balance of account on 12/31/08</b>		<b>3,370.54</b>

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## GROTON FOOD SHELF - 2008

### Merchants Bank Money Market account

Ending balance of account on 12/31/07	3,322.85	(does include value of
Donations received (cash & checks)	4,937.64	food/toys/clothes donated
Interest received on checking account	41.73	
	<u>8,302.22</u>	
Disbursements for food/Operation Santa	1,271.02	
Ending balance of account on 12/31/08	7,031.20	

First and foremost, we would like to say "Thank You" to all the organizations and individual people who have so generously contributed to the food shelf and the "Operation Santa". We are very fortunate to have such wonderful, caring people in our community and also the surrounding towns.

This past year we supplied food and other necessities to over 200 men, women and children. We also distributed 23 Thanksgiving meal baskets and 25 Christmas meal baskets with all the fixings right through dessert for complete holiday meals. We also helped "Santa" by distributing toys to 31 Groton children.

If you or someone you know is in need they may call us at the Town Office.

The phone number is 584-3276. If it is possible, a phone call in advance helps to give us some time to get the items ready.

It also means less time waiting for your items and also helps us to schedule the time to prepare.

With sincere gratitude,

Linda Nunn and Roberta Dana

### From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site

<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Majority Vote Is Required To Elect Officials At Floor Meeting.** Vermont law requires local officials to receive a majority of all votes cast in order to be elected during an open town meeting. 17 V.S.A. §2660. Candidates who receive a plurality of votes will be elected in towns that use the Australian ballot to vote for officers. In a floor vote, if no candidate receives the majority in the first paper ballot, then another vote must be taken. If no person has obtained a majority by the end of the third vote, then the moderator shall announce that the person who received the least votes in the last vote shall no longer be a candidate, and continue voting in like fashion until a candidate receives a majority.



# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## List of Town Property as of 12/31/08

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	Land 17.35 ac	32,500.00	
	TOTAL Bldg--Boy Scout & Forest			37,900.00
	Bldg--Comm Bldg/vault			
	TOTAL Bldg--Comm Bldg			702,208.00
	Bldg--Fire Station			
	TOTAL Bldg--Fire Station			164,574.00
	Bldg--GarageNew			
	TOTAL Bldg--GarageNew			216,972.00
	Bldg--GarageOld			
	TOTAL Bldg--GarageOld			25,300.00
	Bldg--Gazebo	Band stand		8,200.00
	Bldg--New Cemetery			2,500.00
	Bldg--Puffer Field (former bus shelter)			1,000.00
07/03/96	Bldg--Pump House			200.00
	Bldg--Warm Hut (Park) (needs to be torn down)			0.00
	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	
05/19/05	Contents--CB	Listers - digital camera Fuji	50.00	
07/13/04	Contents--CB	Listers - Printer - HP Color Laser 2550L	200.00	
09/15/04	Contents--CB	Listers - Computer & monitor	100.00	
04/28/08	Contents--CB	Listers - Computer & monitor	1,200.00	
12/14/98	Contents--CB	Office - misc office equipment	3,000.00	
04/28/08	Contents--CB	Office - PC - Clerk's Dell & Monitor	1,200.00	
10/17/03	Contents--CB	Office - PC - Treas	100.00	
06/28/06	Contents--CB	Office - PC - Treasurer's Dell & Monitor	500.00	
		Office - Printer - Treasurer'sHP Laser		
11/14/03	Contents--CB	Jet 1300	50.00	
		Office - Printer - Clerk's HP Laser Jet		
09/08/06	Contents--CB	1320	100.00	
07/23/04	Contents--CB	Office - Sharp copier	500.00	
		Office - Computer/monitor/printer-		
12/21/07	Contents--CB	Auditors/Plan	1,200.00	
	TOTAL Contents--CB			22,700.00
12/31/95	Contents--Community Building - Library			100,000.00
	Union Bank stock/2445 shares (16.70/share) - formerly CSBT Stock/250 shares			
	TOTAL Union Bank Shares' Market Value			40,831.50
06/01/95	Equip--Cemetery			250.00
12/31/02	Equip--Constable			2,500.00
	Equip--FAST			
06/01/90	Equip--FAST	Equipment	9,000.00	
07/01/02	Equip--FAST	Defibrillator	1,000.00	
	TOTAL Equip--FAST			10,000.00

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## List of Town Property as of 12/31/08 Cont.

Date	Acct	Note	Amount	Total
	Equip--Fire Department			
11/03/90	Equip--FD	Equipment	150,000.00	
	Equip--FD	1956 Chevy Pump Truck	10,000.00	
12/31/03	Equip--FD	(refurbished)	65,000.00	
12/31/02	Equip--FD	2001 Freightliner Fire Truck	101,000.00	
12/07/07	Equip--FD	2003 Chev Ambulance	8,500.00	
	TOTAL Equip--FD			334,500.00
	Equip--Hwy			
01/15/72	Equip--Hwy	10-I beams	2,200.00	
01/15/90	Equip--Hwy	Brush mower	125.00	
01/15/90	Equip--Hwy	Culvert thawer	200.00	
01/15/90	Equip--Hwy	Grader '83 130 Caterpillar	37,000.00	
01/15/94	Equip--Hwy	Storage trailer	900.00	
12/31/01	Equip--Hwy	Small equipment & tools	38,621.00	
01/15/95	Equip--Hwy	2 sanders	100.00	
01/15/95	Equip--Hwy	Stone rake	1,000.00	
08/22/01	Equip--Hwy	TRK5: '01 Truck, Plow, Sander, Wing	26,600.00	
08/24/04	Equip--Hwy	TRK7: '05 Int'l Truck, plow, sander, wing	49,675.00	
06/15/99	Equip--Hwy	Lowboy trailer	500.00	
11/03/06	Equip--Hwy	Loader - '02 924G Caterpillar	58,000.00	
05/04/07	Equip--Hwy	TRK8 '02 Chev 1-ton with plow	20,300.00	
04/21/08	Equip--Hwy	Backhoe 2004 Cat 420	59,000.00	
04/30/08	Equip--Hwy	Dell PC & monitor (was clerk's)	300.00	
	TOTAL Equip--Hwy			<b>294,521.00</b>
12/14/97	Equip--Radios			1,500.00
11/03/90	Equip--Recreation			500.00
	Land--Depot Flat (old RR Station & Storage bldgs)		1.72 acres	13,800.00
	Land--Parking Lakeside Dr		0.11 acres	0.00
01/25/97	Land--Village Cemeteries		16.43 acres	31,600.00
	Land--Scott Hwy (town garage prop)		3.31 acres	31,300.00
01/25/97	Land--Puffer Ball Field		3.8 acres	25,600.00
	Land--William Scott Cemetery		0.48 acres	12,400.00
	Land--Old Cemetery-Great Rd		0.11 acres	11,200.00
	Land--Old Cemetery-Glover Rd		0.37 acres	12,400.00
	Land--Gravel Pit - Welton Rd		67 acres	64,000.00
01/25/97	Land--Dam ROW-Mill St		0.04 acres	2,100.00
	Land--RR bed - State Forest Hwy		25.4 acres	16,600.00
	Land--Stump Dump - Little Italy Rd		8.5 acres	22,100.00
02/14/97	Land--Old pit/dump (RR bed Little Italy Rd to Ryegate line)		9.4 acres	6,800.00
01/25/97	Land--Old Dump - Goodfellow Rd		6.6 acres	19,600.00
	Land--Community Bldg land		0.47 acres	24,800.00
	Land--Firehouse bldg land		0.59 acres	25,600.00
01/25/97	Land--Veterans Memorial Park		0.73 acres	20,200.00
	Land--RR bed - Powder Spring Rd (near Welch Block)		1.2 acres	1,200.00
01/25/97	Land--Frost Ball Field		1.7 acres	21,700.00
07/03/03	Land--Cemetery- Park St		6 acres	25,500.00
	<b>TOTAL VALUE OF ALL TOWN PROPERTY</b>			<b>2,354,656.50</b>

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## Ten-Year Grand List & Tax Rate Comparison

Year	Grand List	School	Hwy	Town/ Gen Fund	Total	Taxes on \$100,000 Home
1998	55,568,664.00	\$1.2600	\$0.3043	\$0.2327	\$1.7900	\$1,790.00
1999	56,000,972.00	\$1.3000	\$0.2300	\$0.3700	\$1.9000	\$1,900.00
2000	56,736,566.00	\$1.7800	\$0.1300	\$0.2900	\$2.2000	\$2,200.00
2001	57,236,778.00	\$1.7200	\$0.2200	\$0.2600	\$2.2000	\$2,200.00
2002	58,215,266.00	\$1.7000	\$0.2400	\$0.2100	\$2.1500	\$2,150.00
2003	58,828,499.00	\$1.8600	\$0.2200	\$0.3400	\$2.4200	\$2,420.00
2004*	59,325,956.00	\$1.5950	\$0.2119	\$0.3786	\$2.1855	\$2,185.50
2004**	59,325,956.00	\$1.6728	\$0.2119	\$0.3786	\$2.2633	\$2,263.30
2005*	99,722,883.00	\$1.0398	\$0.1508	\$0.2146	\$1.4052	\$1,405.20
2005**	99,722,883.00	\$1.0748	\$0.1508	\$0.2146	\$1.4402	\$1,440.20
2006*	100,542,437.00	\$1.1175	\$0.1740	\$0.2391	\$1.5306	\$1,530.60
2006**	100,542,437.00	\$1.1478	\$0.1740	\$0.2391	\$1.5609	\$1,560.90
2007*	101,869,345.00	\$1.1341	\$0.1807	\$0.2400	\$1.5548	\$1,554.80
2007**	101,869,345.00	\$1.2285	\$0.1807	\$0.2400	\$1.6492	\$1,649.20
2008*	103,063,945.00	1.2486	\$0.1967	\$0.2783	\$1.7236	\$1,723.60
2008**	103,063,945.00	1.3751	\$0.1967	\$0.2783	\$1.8501	\$1,850.10

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

\*Tax rate for homestead property

\*\*Tax rate for non-residential property

### Analysis of 2008 Grand List

(reported by the state of Vermont on 12/11/08)

Category	Property Count	ED Form 411 Listed Value	CUSE Value	Education Listed Value Excl. CUSE	Municipal Listed Value Excl. CUSE	Education Equalized Value	Municipal Equalized Value
Residential I	214	34,647,800	0	34,647,800	34,627,800	35,441,694	35,421,236
Residential II	142	27,383,000	281,200	27,101,800	27,091,800	30,267,512	30,256,448
Mobile Homes-U	12	202,900	0	202,900	192,900	215,439	204,821
Mobile Homes-L	44	3,642,000	0	3,642,000	3,642,000	3,867,063	3,867,063
Vacation I	114	17,528,900	0	17,528,900	17,528,900	18,612,126	18,612,126
Vacation II	46	4,695,325	350,400	4,344,925	4,344,925	4,967,724	4,967,724
Commercial	19	2,724,600	0	2,724,600	2,724,600	2,851,790	2,851,790
Commercial Apts	5	1,010,313	0	1,010,313	1,084,020	1,057,476	1,134,624
Industrial	1	238,100	0	238,100	238,100	249,215	249,215
Utilities-E	3	2,860,700	0	2,860,700	2,860,700	2,893,103	2,893,103
Utilities-O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farm	8	2,106,800	14,800	2,092,000	2,082,000	2,204,623	2,194,157
Other	3	194,300	0	194,300	194,300	206,307	206,307
Woodland	42	1,773,100	373,100	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,842,605	1,842,605
Miscellaneous	105	4,044,700	48,900	3,995,800	3,995,800	4,231,776	4,231,776
<b>Totals</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>103,052,538</b>	<b>1,068,400</b>	<b>101,984,138</b>	<b>102,007,845</b>	<b>108,908,453</b>	<b>108,932,993</b>
Personal Property:		Cable		23,200	0	23,200	0
		Machinery & Equip		exempt	0	exempt	0
		Inventory		exempt	0	exempt	0
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL PROPERTY</b>				<b>23,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,200</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (REAL and PERSONAL PROPERTY)</b>				<b>102,007,338</b>	<b>102,007,845</b>	<b>108,931,653</b>	<b>108,932,993</b>

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2008 Current Tax Reconciliation

	Town	Highway	State Education Tax	Total
Percentage of Tax Rate	15.5%	11.0%	73.5%	100%
2008 Tax Rate	0.2783	0.1967	1.24.86-1.37.81	1.7236-1.8501
2008 Taxes Assessed & Billed	286,828.69	202,726.86	1,358,183.06	1,847,738.61
Penalties assessed Late Homesteads				158.90
Minus State Education Pmts sent to BMU			(140,440.06)	(140,440.06)
<b>Total tax to be collected</b>	<b>286,828.69</b>	<b>202,726.86</b>	<b>1,498,623.12</b>	<b>1,707,457.45</b>

## Taxes Collected

2008 Current Taxes collected through 10/17/08 (inc. state pmts)	251,057.41	177,444.18	1,188,799.93	1,617,301.52
Small overpmts not to be refunded				(5.35)
<b>Total taxes collected</b>	<b>251,057.41</b>	<b>177,444.18</b>	<b>1,188,799.93</b>	<b>1,617,296.17</b>
Total taxes credited	251,057.41	177,444.18	1,188,799.93	1,617,296.17
2008 Delinquent Tax Warrant I	15,387.57	10,875.74	72,862.78	99,126.08
2008 Delinquent Tax Warrant II	45.49	32.15	85.80	163.44
<b>Total of 2008 Delinquent Taxes</b>	<b>15,433.05</b>	<b>10,907.89</b>	<b>72,948.58</b>	<b>99,289.52</b>
2008 Delinquent Taxes Paid to Treasurer through 12/31/08	6,071.02	4,290.91	28,747.25	39,109.17
2008 Delinquent Taxes Left to Be Collected	9,362.04	6,616.98	44,201.32	60,180.35

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Petitions to Place Items On Ballot Must Be Submitted Early.** Vermont law requires the selectboard to place petitioned articles on the ballot when the petition, containing signatures of 5% of the voters and has been received by the Selectboard or the Schoolboard at least 40 days prior to Town Meeting. 17 V.S.A. §2642(a).

**Selectboard May Reject Petitions If Outside Authority of the Voter.** The selectboard does not have to place every petitioned article on the warning – only those that involve issues that Vermont law permits the voters or electorate to decide. Proposed articles that involve action that is specifically delegated to the selectboard, schoolboard or other local board or elected official may be rejected. It is in the board's discretion to put "advisory" articles on the warning, or to reject such articles. It is wise to consider whether the board will follow the "advice" of the voters on an advisory article, before adding it to the warning. It can be very frustrating to voters to vote on an issue at town meeting and then find that the board is not going to follow the advice of the vote.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## TOWN OF GROTON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION POLICY & TAX SALE PROCEEDINGS FOR TAX SALE YEAR 2008

- All taxes became delinquent after 5 p.m. on Friday, October 16, 2008. As soon as possible after the Tax Collection Warrant has been received, and each month thereafter, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes will send a notice to each delinquent taxpayer.
- Interest is assessed at 1% per month (or a fraction of a month) for the first three months and at 1.5% per month (or a fraction of a month) thereafter on any unpaid principal tax amount. **A one time 8% Penalty is assessed on the unpaid delinquent principal tax amount at the time the account goes delinquent.** 32 VSA § 4873, 5142 (After the initial October notice, the November and following monthly statements with interest up dates will be sent out on or about the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month thereafter unless previously paid.)
- **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.** 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. The Town of Groton **will not accept 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.
- **PAYMENT IS CREDITED WHEN RECEIVED IN HAND. (POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS TIMELY PAYMENT!)**
- Over-payments of \$5.00 or less **will not** be refunded unless specifically requested by the taxpayer.
- **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.
- Post-dated checks are not acceptable.
- To insure quality service telephone calls may be recorded for accuracy, clarity and content.
- Parties of interest such as mortgage holders, lien holders and etc, will be given information on Delinquent Tax Accounts upon request.
- **Final Notices will be sent out on May 1, 2008.**
- **Payment in full is required on all accounts by May 31, 2008.**
- **On June 1, 2008 all unpaid delinquent tax accounts will be processed for Tax Sale and or other means of Collection.** (Exceptions are those that are under a Period of Redemption, Bankruptcy, Litigation or etc.)
- **Once the account has been submitted to the Attorney in preparation for Tax Sale, payment must be by cash, money order, bank, treasurers or certified checks. Personal checks will not be accepted.** Call before sending final payment to insure the correct amount.
- All delinquent taxes that are not paid by 12-31-08 will be published in the Annual Town Report.
- Tax Sales shall be conducted according to the requirements for notice set forth in 32 VSA § 5252 and pursuant to the provisions of 32 VSA §5251 through 5263 inclusive.
- (Re: 32 VSA §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.
- The Journal Opinion, Caledonian Record, or newspapers of general circulation in the Town of Groton shall be used for publication of all notices required under VSA § 5252.
- Delinquent taxpayers **may by written request petition** the Board of Civil Authority, Listers, and Town Treasurer pursuant to the provisions of 24 VSA Sections 1533 et seq. To Abate Delinquent Taxes. **Written request should be addressed to Groton Board of Abatement C/O Groton Town Office 1476 Scott Hwy. Groton VT 05046.** (Please turn to other side where copy of Statute T. 24 § 1535 is copied for your review.)
- Based upon a recent revision by the VT Legislature 32 VSA § 5254 now provides as follows: 32 VSA Section 5254: Sale of Realty. 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. 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 Office 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.
- **TO INSURE PROPER CREDIT**

All checks should be made payable to: **Town of Groton, CDT**

Mailed to: **Patricia Bouley**

**158 Railroad Street  
Groton VT 05046**

NOTE: **OFFICE HOURS AT MY HOME: Monday 8-12 a.m.**

**Friday 1-5 p.m.**

**If the above hours are not convenient please call for an appointment.**

**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 Telephone 802-584-3792*

Leonard Doscinski, Selectman

Debra Tinkham, Selectman

David Spencer, Selectman

Revised 2008

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2008 Collector of Delinquent Tax Report

Calendar year of 2008 has been a very busy one as well as many adjustments for me. The Tax Office is now at the Town Office and no longer in my home do to the fact that I am taking care of my mother who lives in East Corinth. I will be commuting for Office Hours which have been set up on Tuesdays from 1:30 pm-5:00 pm and on Fridays from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. I will make every effort to be there unless I have an unforeseen event happen. Payments may be either mailed to me at 1476 Scott Highway or left during other days in the drop box or with the Town Clerk. Your payment needs to be placed in an envelope addressed to Patricia Bouley Collector of Delinquent Taxes with your name, address and date that it was left. When I come in on the scheduled office hours I will send a receipt for the payment on the date that it was left at the Town Office. I wish to thank the Groton taxpayers for their support, Linda Nunn and Roberta Dana for all the help and assistance that they have given to me during this time of transition.

There has been in 2008 a sharp increase in delinquent taxes this year due to the economic hard times. A tax sale was held on one property in 2008. However, we did not have a tax sale because no one showed up for the property that was placed up for sale. Two other properties with taxes due were either in litigation or bankruptcy.

I sincerely wish to thank each of you for allowing me to serve you as the Collector of Delinquent Taxes since 1992. During these many years I have come to know many of you that otherwise I would never have come to know. It truly has been an honor and privilege and I so appreciate the opportunity that has been given to me to serve the town in this capacity. Thank you.

Patricia Bouley  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

## 2008 Collector of Delinquent Taxes Summary

Year & Warrant	Taxes Owed	12/31/2008 Balance To Be Collected
2006 Warrant 1	\$ 813.23	\$ 813.23
2006 Warrant 3	\$ 13.96	\$ -
Imposed State of VT Penalty/Tax		
2007 Warrant 1	\$ 40,794.81	\$ 705.62
2008 Warrant 1	\$ 99,126.08	\$60,102.55
2008 Warrant 2	\$ 163.44	\$ 77.80
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$140,911.52</b>	<b>\$61,699.20</b>

### PAID TO TREASURER

Year & Warrant	Tax Paid	Bad Check Charge	Interest Paid
2006 Warrant 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00
2006 Warrant 3	\$ 13.96	\$ -	\$ 4.41
2007 Warrant 1	\$ 40,089.19	\$ -	\$ 3,825.59
2008 Warrant 1	\$ 39,023.53	\$ 25.00	\$ 745.65
2008 Warrant 2	\$ 85.64	\$ -	\$ 1.72
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 79,212.32</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,727.37</b>

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## 2008 DELINQUENT TAX LISTS

### 2006 WARRANT 1

Goslant, Elmer L Jr. Estate	\$ 738.31
Luce, Russell	\$ 74.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 813.23</b>

### 2007 Warrant 1

Luce, Russell	\$ 79.16
Powell, Herman & Barbra	\$ 626.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 705.62</b>

### 2008 Warrant 1

Barbour, Jeffrey S	\$ 1,678.05
Berry, Stephen G & Brenda F	\$ 1,060.02
Boisvert, Harold & Ellie	\$ 1,911.16
Boyce, David Bernard	\$ 4,153.88
Boyce, Douglas P	\$ 2,002.77
Braig, Peter	\$ 1,752.99
Brinkman, Stan	\$ 980.55
Carey, Jannel Annette	\$ 1,119.32
Correira, David J	\$ 382.98
Correira, David J & Lisa M	\$ 405.69
Currier, Robert E	\$ 2,236.78
Darling, Henry & Sarah	\$ 985.76
Darling, John H & Donna J	\$ 2,600.00
Darling, Shawn R	\$ 2.54
Fiorentino, John E	\$ 2,147.97
Fulford, Heidi A	\$ 1,271.02
Gafney, Kelly & Wood, Cassie Lee	\$ 1,625.29
Gibney Sr., Phillip R & Kristine	\$ 2,120.03
Goodrich, Robert F	\$ 2,553.14
Goslant, Elmer L Jr Estate C/O Smith, Rachel Goslant	\$ 875.10
Goudey, Mark	\$ 576.10
Gourdeau, Raymond E	\$ 5,302.39
Hatch, Roger & Patricia	\$ 146.21
Herbert, Lara	\$ 980.55
Hill, Laura	\$ 91.36
Keating, Gerard III	\$ 1,708.09
Kennedy, Michael A	\$ 825.71
Lakin, Charles & Blenda	\$ 1,299.59
Lakin Sr., James E & Rebecca E	\$ 2,399.25
Lee, Philip D & Gifford A & Guptil, Pamela L	\$ 3,176.63
Luce, Russell	\$ 88.80
Lury, Charles M Jr	\$ 584.92
Marinace, Robert Jr.	\$ 630.89

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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McKay, Sr., Kenneth P & Karen M	\$ 1,188.34
O'Donnell-Leach, David A & Karen F	\$ 2,397.73
O'Grady, Scott	\$ 1,566.34
Powell, Herman & Barbra	\$ 501.44
Robinson, Daniel C & Donna M	\$ 2,405.33
Routhier, Dennis & Denise M	\$ 576.94
Shute, Kevin C & Hannah E	\$ 444.02
Slater, Clarence A & Pauline M	\$ 653.09
Toomey, Kenneth J	\$ 693.79

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 60,102.55</b>
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<b>2008 Warrant 2</b>
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Berry, Stephen G & Brenda F	\$ 77.80
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 77.80</b>
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<b>2006 Warrant 1</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>813.23</b>
<b>2007 Warrant 1</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>705.62</b>
<b>2008 Warrant 1</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>60,102.55</b>
<b>2008 Warrant 2</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>77.80</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>61,699.20</b>
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**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Only Legal Voters Can Be Elected To Town Office.** To be eligible for election as a school board member, a person must be a legal voter in the school district. 16 V.S.A. § 558. Likewise, a town shall choose from among its legally qualified voters for selectboard, town clerk, town treasurer, and a number of other town offices. 17 V.S.A. § 2646. So long as the person is on the checklist by the day of election he or she is eligible for election. The town clerk must add the names of all eligible persons who have properly completed and submitted applications to the checklist before noon on the second Monday before the election.



# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## 2008 Cemetery Fund Activity

### Income

Interest		
Savings & Trust accounts	90.71	
Certificates of deposit	3,111.69	
Lot Sales	1,128.00	
Total Income/Revenue		4,330.40

### Expenses paid from General Fund

Stone cleaning-Thomas Gandin	500.00	
Dues-Vermont Cemetery Association	25.00	
Mowing	7,750.00	
		8,275.00
<b>Difference</b>		<b>-3,944.60</b>

## 2008 Cemetery Account Balances

as of 12/31/2008

<u>Bank Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
HB Carter Trust-01-0093598-1 Carter	6,159.97
WGSB H. Hosmer-26147 Hosmer	3,258.38
WRSB Int & Lot-19373-9 Interest-Lot	2,365.30
WRSB MJR Hall-52870-9 MJR Hall	5,017.89
WRSB CD New Cemetery	78,254.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95,055.67</b>

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Certain Officers Are Elected By Paper Ballot.** In towns that have not adopted the Australian ballot system of voting for local offices, Vermont law requires the use of paper ballots during the town meeting for election of officers to the selectboard, listers, auditor, road commissioner, and water commissioners. 17 V.S.A. §2646.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## 2008 GROTON PROPERTIES ENROLLED IN VERMONT CURRENT USE PROGRAM

Owner of Property	Total Acres Owned	Acres Enrolled in Current Use Program	Actual Assessed Property Value	Assessed Amount Exempted by Land Use	Owner's Taxable Value	Amount of Tax Exempted
Anagnostakis, Christopher & Sandra	106.00	101.00	\$64,500.00	\$39,650.00	\$24,850.00	\$733.56
Blandford-Berlejung, Mary	74.00	59.00	149,900.00	17,700.00	132,200.00	\$327.47
Brueckner, William C. & Dawn	370.00	362.00	182,800.00	86,200.00	96,600.00	\$1,594.79
Chandler, Harry & Judith (homestead)	269.08	267.08	294,100.00	132,000.00	162,100.00	\$2,275.15
Clough, Rick & Kelly (homestead portion)	49.00	45.70	134,000.00	32,100.00	101,900.00	\$553.28
Clough, Rick & Kelly (non-res portion)	n/a	n/a	31,900.00	31,900.00	0.00	\$590.18
Crum, Don & Kathleen	81.00	76.00	60,300.00	29,850.00	30,450.00	\$552.25
Doscinski, Leonard & Patricia (homestead)	104.70	102.70	318,200.00	91,900.00	226,300.00	\$1,583.99
Ducharme, Dennis & Helen	69.69	69.69	47,300.00	37,900.00	9,400.00	\$701.19
Eaton, Maureen & Henry (homestead)	57.50	55.50	409,600.00	49,400.00	360,200.00	\$851.46
Edwards, Leslie & Lyle	110.00	107.00	65,800.00	49,900.00	15,900.00	\$923.20
Engle, James & Priscilla	798.00	796.00	723,100.00	288,700.00	434,400.00	\$5,341.24
Engle, James B.	147.00	147.00	80,600.00	60,800.00	19,800.00	\$1,124.86
Foster, Michael, David & Susan	503.00	501.00	165,000.00	61,620.00	103,380.00	\$1,140.03
Foster, Michael, David & Susan	154.00	154.00	57,200.00	36,300.00	20,900.00	\$671.59
Green Acre Woodlands, Inc.	49.00	49.00	28,400.00	21,800.00	6,600.00	\$403.32
Green Acre Woodlands, Inc.	237.00	237.00	79,100.00	47,200.00	31,900.00	\$873.25
Martell, Robert E & Lori A	339.12	336.02	514,900.00	118,800.00	396,100.00	\$2,197.92
Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd.	128.00	128.00	73,100.00	55,900.00	17,200.00	\$1,034.21
Morse, Norman (homestead)	144.00	142.00	306,800.00	75,400.00	231,400.00	\$1,299.59
Oliver, Troy & Julie	50.00	48.00	57,600.00	6,200.00	51,400.00	\$114.71
Park Forestry NY LLC	935.60	935.60	376,000.00	250,200.00	125,800.00	\$4,628.95
Pigeon Pond LLC (Bailey & Gable)	1,050.00	1,044.00	1,973,700.00	1,327,800.00	645,900.00	\$24,565.63
Puffer, Matthew & Tracy	222.00	222.00	130,400.00	100,500.00	29,900.00	\$1,859.35
Safranek, Joseph	38.00	36.00	251,300.00	57,000.00	194,300.00	\$1,054.56
Smith, Andrew (homestead)	108.00	94.55	262,500.00	64,300.00	198,200.00	\$1,108.27
Thomas, F. Bryce 1997 Trust	163.00	160.50	198,300.00	90,850.00	107,450.00	\$1,680.82
Thomas, Bryce	90.00	90.00	53,900.00	41,800.00	12,100.00	\$773.34
Thomas, Paul A.	126.00	109.50	176,300.00	78,375.00	97,925.00	\$1,450.02
Thomas, Paul A	194.00	190.00	186,800.00	64,800.00	122,000.00	\$1,198.86
Uttero, Peter J.	363.00	340.00	307,800.00	134,170.00	173,630.00	\$2,482.28
Villeneuve, Ronald	39.00	39.00	28,600.00	23,400.00	5,200.00	\$432.92
Villeneuve, Ronald	219.00	219.00	160,300.00	132,300.00	28,000.00	\$2,447.68
Wosko, Walter	39.00	32.00	176,200.00	17,160.00	159,040.00	\$317.48
Zimmerman Groton Forestry LLC	760.00	760.00	266,000.00	189,300.00	76,700.00	\$3,502.24
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8,186.69</b>	<b>8,055.84</b>	<b>\$8,392,300.00</b>	<b>\$3,943,175.00</b>	<b>\$4,449,125.00</b>	<b>\$72,389.63</b>

Amount of taxes exempted through Land Use Program **\$72,389.63**

Amount the State of Vermont reimbursed the town for this program **15,811.00**

Amount underfunded by the State and absorbed by other taxpayers **\$56,578.63**  
(approx 5.5 cents on the tax rate)

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Town Officers Take Office At Town Meeting.** Newly elected town officers take office on town meeting day. Some officials must take an oath before they officially take office. This can be done by the clerk at town meeting, or at any time thereafter. 17 V.S.A. § 2646. An official who is required to take an oath of office (by either swearing or affirming) and who refuses to do so may not take office, thereby creating a vacancy. (See March Opinions for list of officials requiring oath.)

**Union School Officers (Clerk, Treasure, Auditors, Etc.) Take Office On July 1st Except For Moderator.** According to law, "union district officers elected at an annual meeting shall enter upon their duties on July 1 following their election and shall serve a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified, except that if the voters at an annual meeting so vote, moderators elected at an annual meeting shall assume office upon election and shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified." The law also provides that school directors elected at an annual meeting shall assume office upon election and shall serve a term of three years or until their successors are elected and qualified. 16 V.S.A. § 706k.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

## VALUES OF STATE OWNED BUILDINGS IN GROTON AS OF APRIL 1, 2007

(Values set by the State of Vermont)

Building No.	Building Description	Building Location	State Value as of 4/1/06	State Value as of 4/1/07	Change in Appraisal
24110	Pine MT WMA Barn	Powder Spring Rd	8,198.00	8,071.00	-127.00
24407	Ranger's Res.-Stillwater	126 Boulder Beach Rd	47,206.00	47,174.00	-32.00
24408	Park Shelter - Stillwater	126 Boulder Beach Rd	32,040.00	31,934.00	-106.00
24409	Toilet #1 Stillwater	126 Boulder Beach Rd	61,162.00	61,467.00	305.00
24410	Toilet #2 Stillwater	126 Boulder Beach Rd	98,423.00	99,352.00	929.00
24411	Shelter & Toilet #2 - Rickers	526 State Forest Rd	46,311.00	46,220.00	-91.00
24412	Ranger's House - Rickers	526 State Forest Rd	59,327.00	59,249.00	-78.00
24413	Garage Storage - Rickers	526 State Forest Rd	30,630.00	30,353.00	-277.00
24414	Toilet Building #1 - Rickers	526 State Forest Rd	54,839.00	55,038.00	199.00
24415	Toilet #3 - Rickers	526 State Forest Rd	60,398.00	60,646.00	248.00
24416	Toilet #2 - Boulder Beach Rec Area	440 Boulder Beach Rd	113,730.00	114,804.00	1,074.00
24417	Picnic Shelter - Boulder Beach	440 Boulder Beach Rd	35,253.00	35,586.00	333.00
24418	Ranger's House - Big Deer	303 Boulder Beach Rd	102,769.00	103,143.00	374.00
24419	Toilet Building #5 - Big Deer	303 Boulder Beach Rd	61,177.00	61,428.00	251.00
24420	Toilet#1- Boulder Beach Rec Area	440 Boulder Beach Rd	29,189.00	29,322.00	133.00
24421	Helper's Quarters - E. Big Deer	303 Boulder Beach Rd	69,501.00	69,849.00	348.00
24422	Helper's Quarters - W. Big Deer	303 Boulder Beach Rd	69,501.00	69,849.00	348.00
24423	Nature Center - Boulder Beach	329 Boulder Beach Rd	83,697.00	84,116.00	419.00
24424	Toilet Building #3 - Stillwater	126 Boulder Beach Rd	49,127.00	49,352.00	225.00
24425	Contact Station - Stillwater	126 Boulder Beach Rd	36,137.00	36,301.00	164.00
24430	Contact Station - Rickers	126 Boulder Beach Rd	8,826.00	9,141.00	315.00
24432	Storage Shed - Ricker	126 Boulder Beach Rd	3,870.00	4,008.00	138.00
24433	Storage Shed - Stillwater	126 Boulder Beach Rd	13,813.00	13,795.00	-18.00
24434	Woodshed - Ricker Pond	526 State Forest Rd	15,605.00	15,747.00	142.00
24435	Woodshed - Stillwater	126 Boulder Beach Rd	18,634.00	18,804.00	170.00
24436	Garage - Big Deer	303 Boulder Beach Rd	18,800.00	18,868.00	68.00
24439	Concession Bldg - Boulder Beach	126 Boulder Beach Rd	37,027.00	37,365.00	338.00
24440	Merrill/Otis Camp	Merrill/Otis Camp	18,424.00	18,754.00	330.00
24441	Boulder Beach Contact Station	329 Boulder Beach Rd	2,580.00	2,673.00	93.00
24442	Boulder Beach Storage Shed	329 Boulder Beach Rd	5,677.00	5,879.00	202.00
24445	Ricker's Lakeside Cabin	526 State Forest Rd	33,088.00	33,023.00	-65.00
24498	Seyon Remote Cabin	400 Seyon Park Rd	24,533.00	24,311.00	-222.00
24499	Seyon Fish Hatchery	400 Seyon Park Rd	57,687.00	57,494.00	-193.00
24500	Seyon Woodshed	400 Seyon Park Rd	6,740.00	6,981.00	241.00
24501	Seyon Ranch - Residence	400 Seyon Park Rd	792,690.00	799,664.00	6,974.00
24502	Seyon Ranch - Garage	400 Seyon Park Rd	39,969.00	39,807.00	-162.00
24503	Seyon Ranch - Barn	400 Seyon Park Rd	19,155.00	18,982.00	-173.00
24504	Barn & Sleeping Rooms - Seyon	400 Seyon Park Rd	65,375.00	64,588.00	-787.00
24505	Old Wheel House - Seyon	400 Seyon Park Rd	33,175.00	32,775.00	-400.00
24506	Ricker Pond Cabin 1	526 State Forest Rd	16,000.00	16,511.00	511.00
24507	Ricker Pond Cabin 2	526 State Forest Rd	16,000.00	16,511.00	511.00
24508	Ricker Pond Cabin 3	526 State Forest Rd	16,000.00	16,511.00	511.00
24509	Ricker Pond Cabin 4	526 State Forest Rd	16,000.00	16,511.00	511.00
24510	Ricker Pond Cabin 5	526 State Forest Rd	16,000.00	16,511.00	511.00
<b>TOTAL MARKET VALUE FROM STATE OF VERMONT</b>			<b>2,444,283.00</b>	<b>2,458,468.00</b>	<b>14,185.00</b>

**REMEMBER: STATE APPRAISES THEIR OWN PROPERTIES!!!**

**Amount of taxes the Town would receive if these properties were privately owned** **\$45,484.12**

(Based on 2008 non residential tax rate of \$1.8501 per \$100 of value)

**Amount of PILOT money received from the State of Vermont** **6,494.00**

**Amount underfunded by the State of Vermont** **\$38,990.12**  
**(Approx 3.78 cents on the tax rate)**

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

**2008 LIST OF STATE OWNED LAND IN GROTON**  
(values as of 4/1/2008)

Property Ref ID	Agency	Location of Property	Acres	2007 Appraised Value	2008 Appraised Value	Increase/Decrease in Value 2007 to 2008
3267 FP 3	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lake Groton Cottage Lots	2.07	4,700.00	1,500.00	-3,200.00
3267 FP 4	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Stillwater Campground	42.00	706,400.00	116,900.00	-589,500.00
3267 FP 5	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Big Deer Campground	25.00	49,900.00	15,700.00	-34,200.00
3267 FP 6	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Boulder Beach	25.00	323,900.00	101,100.00	-222,800.00
3267 FP 7	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Kettle Pond Campground & frontage	20.00	79,400.00	62,200.00	-17,200.00
3267 FP 8	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Natural Woodland Areas	149.00	39,800.00	58,800.00	19,000.00
3267 FP 9	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Forest Land *	11,702.03	3,735,400.00	7,893,700.00	4,158,300.00
3267 FP 10	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Damsite	13.00	41,000.00	7,800.00	-33,200.00
3267 FP 11	Forests, Parks & Recreation	TNC/Moffatt Acquisition	329.00	189,500.00	219,400.00	29,900.00
3267 FP 12	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lyon Acq - Seyon Block	42.00	10,700.00	16,600.00	5,900.00
3267 FP 1	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Seyon Pond	26.00	126,200.00	98,900.00	-27,300.00
3267 FP 2	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Campsite & frontage	39.00	164,800.00	139,300.00	-25,500.00
3267 FP 13	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Page Acquisition	25.70	7,700.00	13,900.00	6,200.00
3267 FW 1	Fish & Wildlife	Pine Mountain WMA	372.00	208,400.00	322,400.00	114,000.00
3267 FW 2	Fish & Wildlife	Levi Pond WMA **	259.20	83,600.00	88,200.00	4,600.00
3267 FW 3	Environmental Conservation	St. Hilaire Parcel ***	100.00	28,600.00	43,300.00	14,700.00
3267 EC 1	Environmental Conservation	Groton Lake Damsite	3.00	20,000.00	43,000.00	23,000.00
<b>Totals</b>			<b>13,174.00</b>	<b>5,820,000.00</b>	<b>\$9,242,700.00</b>	<b>3,422,700.00</b>

\*PILOT paid at use value only \$1,404,244

\*\*PILOT paid at use value only \$31,104

\*\*\*PILOT paid at use value only \$12,000

**Amount of taxes the town would have collected if land was privately owned** **\$170,999.19**

(based on the 2008 tax rate of \$1.8501 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 received from the State of Vermont** **54,511.86**

**Amount underfunded by the State of Vermont** **\$116,487.33**

(approx 11.3 cents on the tax rate)

(1 cent raised \$10,307.62)

**From Frequently Asked Questions on the VT Secretary of States's web site**  
<http://www.sec.state.vt.us/townmeeting/faq.html>

**Voters May Limit Debate By 2/3 Vote.** In order to limit debate on a motion a vote of two-thirds is required. A motion to limit debate takes precedence over all debatable motions and can be applied to any or all pending debatable motions. Of course, it is out of order when another voter has the floor. The motion itself must be seconded and is not debatable. Simply moving the previous question can also close debate. This also requires a two-thirds vote.

**Votes requiring two-thirds instead of a majority at Town Meeting.** It's a fairly short list: Tax stabilization agreements relating to commercial or industrial property (24 V.S.A. §2741(b)); Rural town approval of a zoning bylaw or amendment if 5% of the voters have filed a written protest or petition asking for 2/3 vote at least 15 days prior to the vote (24 V.S.A. §4404 (e)); and when Robert's rules requires 2/3 for procedural motions such as motions to suspend the rules, to rearrange articles, to cease or limit debate; to adopt special rules of order; to allow a nonresident to speak after a voter has objected, to close nominations; and to postpone to a time certain (17 V.S.A. §2658).

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## GROTON HIGHWAY REPORT

The hard winter and high fuel prices took its toll on the budget this year. We in Groton are not alone. All towns and cities are dealing with the same issues we are. Our costs have gone up just as they have at your home. We have been working with the Selectboard to come up with a workable budget that doesn't raise taxes. This is hard to do as you well know. We have been able to secure some grants that may help offset other costs.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) money helped to replace loss materials and upgrade culvert and ditches on Westville road this summer. Culvert on the Red Brook Road was replaced last year and grant funds came in this year. FEMA grant funds for last years' flood also came in 2008. This can help offset what we are over this year.

Ditch work was done at various problem areas around town this year. The new backhoe makes this work possible without having to hire outside equipment. This coming we also plan to continue this type of work.

Work at the gravel bank that completed last year enabled us to crush with a larger crusher this year. We were able to crush a two-year supply as planned.

The old in-ground motor fuel tanks were removed at the Highway garage in 2007. Site evaluations were completed this year. Next year the plan is to permanently install the new double wall fuel tank on a slab with a cover over it to protect it from the weather.

There is no equipment replacement scheduled for next year. As planned our 1987 backhoe was replaced with a 2004 model this year.

The highway department assisted with equipment and material in the installation of a dry hydrant behind Clarks Landing.

Safety and ongoing training are part of life in this day and age. We attended a class sponsored by Vermont Local Roads on low cost safety improvements on moderate volume local roads. This allowed us to apply for, and receive a grant to have a team look at our problem areas, and with local input made recommendations. Vermont AOT furnished signs and posts at no cost to the town. The town was responsible for installation. The new signs are in place at three locations, one on Powder Spring road and two on Minard Hill road. The intent is to help the motorist that may not be familiar with these roads warning them of the curves and hill.

Bridge # 18 on the Welton road is having some erosion taking place. Next year we will try to secure a grant to fix the issue. We have met with the state stream alteration officer and have a workable plan. If State funds are available this project can be done next summer.

Painting the inside of the highway garage is under way and should be completed in 2009.

I have also been attending the county Road Foreman trainings though out the year.

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 costs while maintaining a level of service that keeps up with needed maintenance of roads. Thanks to each of you who gave 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.

Brent Smith  
Road Commissioner

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## LISTERS REPORT

2008 has been a busy and productive year for this office. We sent out letters for proposals to reappraise the town of Groton to 10 different State recommended companies. We heard from 4 of the 10. We checked on their background and submitted our recommendation to the Selectboard. The Selectboard voted to retain APAS, owned by Ed Clodfelter to do the reappraisal for the Town of Groton. This reappraisal will end in the spring of 2010. The data will go into the Grand List at that time. Fortunately, the Town people have budgeted monies, \$25,000.00 in 2007 and \$25,000.00 in 2008 to cover this expense. The base cost for this reappraisal is \$63,000.00. We will be budgeting an additional \$15,000.00 to cover all expenses. The reappraisal began in July of 2008. We have been working closely with appraisers to make sure that in the future we will continue on with same program as they have been using.

We are working on bringing up to date the properties belonging to the Town of Groton and the State of Vermont. We hope to have this completed at the time that the reappraisal is completed. Therefore we would have a complete picture of Town and a fresh start to all our records.

Our office is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.

Don't hesitate to call 584-3155 or come in to see us if you have any questions.

We will do our best to answer any question or we will find the answer for you.

Groton Board of Listers:  
Kitty Diggins, Lisa Lord, Cheryl Boucher

## GROTON PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Work continues to progress on the revision of the Groton Town Plan, which was first adopted in 1995 and is now expired. A grant of \$14,350 from the state Department of Housing and Community Affairs is helping to cover expenses such as maps and critiquing by the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA), surveys, printing, and public meetings.

The greatest possible public input is being sought for the new town plan. The first public meeting was a Visioning Event in April, which was attended by 40 town residents. A survey was mailed to over 700 residents and landowners with a return of 33%.

Planning Commission members attended workshops on various aspects of town planning, an all-day conference on sewage treatment for small communities, and an update by the Natural Resources Conservation Council on soil mapping systems.

Drafts for the essential town plan elements—land use, utilities and facilities, preservation, transportation, housing, education, and energy—are being submitted to NVDA for review, and public hearings will be scheduled in the next few months.

A survey on wastewater treatment was mailed to all residents and landowners, and the results are now being tallied.

The Planning Commission meets the first and third Monday in each month until the plan is completed. All are invited to attend and/or to e-mail us at [grotonplanning@fairpoint.net](mailto:grotonplanning@fairpoint.net). Please consider becoming a member of the Planning Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Berlejung, co-chair  
Mark Simakaski, co-chair

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I respectfully submit my first report to members of the community. Rather than providing a lot of statistics and data that typically inundate these types of reports, I thought that for my inaugural message as superintendent, I should share with you some of my thinking about education.

In the years following World War II, W. Edwards Deming, an American statistician with a new management theory, took his ideas to Japan. The Japanese, devastated by the effects of the war, were looking to restructure their economy, and Deming's principles became the blueprint they needed.

After reading Deming's work for the first time, I quickly came to the conclusion that his approach for improving the quality of products and services in industry appeared to be conceptually adaptable to the management of education. Total quality management has received renewed attention in our own country. With its focus on customer satisfaction, employee empowerment and product quality it has stirred interest among American managers and educators. It's about vision, shared decision making and a commitment to quality.

The success of any organization depends on its ability to establish a central mission and to clearly articulate that mission to all stakeholders. If we can determine where the strengths of our school system lie and what accomplishments or values are important to people, we begin on an upbeat note that will infuse our entire school improvement process.

The continued success of public education in the Blue Mountain Union will depend to a large extent on how well we can develop strong partnerships with all members of the educational community. Our children should expect nothing short of excellence from all of us. I am committing the public school system to do its part, and I look forward to working with parents, community leaders and our elected officials in making our public education the best it can be.

Richard M. Pike  
Superintendent of Schools

## BMU PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2008

If there is a new focus in the educational world, it is preparing students for a very challenging and competitive future. Often this is referred to as [21st Century Skills](#). Too often, we find ourselves merely fine tuning the education system that has been in place for over sixty years. This is especially true when one examines the structure of high schools. Students earn a set number of credits, regardless of their incoming skill levels. The courses are divided into predetermined subject areas; students have little contact with the world outside of the classroom and even less impact on the actual course content. Given the global economy and the ability for jobs to quickly shift to other countries, the United States must redesign its educational system to meet these changing times.

What is the Blue Mountain Union School doing to begin this process of change? One of the key areas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills is *Computer and Technology Literacy*. As a result of the generosity of the tax payers, BMU has become known throughout Vermont for its use of technology. Our students, from early grades through graduation, use computer-based technology to improve their learning. They are now moving into advanced spreadsheet functions, video and graphic editing, web-based shared document and product management, and more.

Another focus area that is critical to success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is *Media and Information Literacy*. More and more, people are relying on the Internet as their information source. Being able to judge the accuracy and bias of Internet sites is crucial to informed decision making. BMU students learn that skill; they also are assisted in analyzing the power and messages given in print, TV, and motion pictures. Finally, we work to educate them about the advantages and pitfalls of blogging, using social networking sites, and emailing/instant messaging.

BMU will be working to change its educational system to meet future needs. These changes will come through the efforts of the School Board, the staff and students, and parents and community members.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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There is a coordinated effort underway to bring people together to talk about what we want for our children. These dreams will eventually become a new vision and mission that will help us plan for changes that meet the future needs of the Blue Mountain students. One of the areas that the staff is already focusing on is how to increase our ability to expand [Life and Career Skills](#). Being in a rural area, it is more difficult to provide our students with a variety of experiences in this area, but it is a critical focus of the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**. At this time, we are working to help students develop:

- Flexibility
- Adaptability
- Initiative
- Self-Direction
- Productivity
- Accountability
- Leadership
- Responsibility

It is our feeling that with these skills, students will be able to succeed regardless of their career choice. We are aware that it takes all of us together - the family, the school, and the community to make this a reality.

## CEMETERY REPORT 2008

We concentrated on maintenance in the cemeteries this year. The Groton/Peacham cemetery on the Great Road was worked on. Tom Gandin straightened stones and brush was removed. Brush was cut in the old cemetery also.

Thanks to Jim Winget the cemeteries looked great all season.

Combining the cremations and traditional burials there were roughly 12 burials in the cemeteries this year. This represents an increase. We had expected the need for the Park St Cemetery to be in 5 to 10 years. However, if this pattern continues, the town will need this space sooner. We plan to focus on the development of the Park St Cemetery in the coming year.

Linda Nunn helped to design and implement an upgrade in our method of keeping a very detailed record of the location of each plot sold in any given lot.

Prices for lots were not changed this year however, we did find it necessary to charge a fee for setting cornerstones.

Deborah Jurist  
Tom Gandin  
Aaron Smith

## 2009 GROTON CEMETERY RULES

**TRAFFIC REGULATION** In order to protect the roadways and monuments, all Groton Cemeteries will be closed to vehicular traffic from Nov. 1 to May 1, unless otherwise authorized by the Cemetery Commissioners.

**FLOWERS AND FLAGS** All flowers, natural and artificial, must be removed from the cemeteries by Oct. 1. The flags will remain on the graves until Veteran's Day in November. Any flowers, plants and flags left in the cemetery may 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.



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**PLANTINGS** Plantings should be of the low maintenance type that will not grow to a size which will impinge on the surrounding lots. They must be clearly marked in order to protect them. They must be planted between the monuments and not in front or behind the headstones. Please understand that it is extremely difficult to be aware of all the plantings in cemeteries as large as the ones Groton has. The town cannot be held responsible for plantings set in front or behind monuments as these areas are maintained with a lawn mower. However, the spaces between the monuments are maintained with string trimmers. It is much easier to spot and avoid a planting in these areas than in front and behind the headstones.

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

## **PURCHASING LOTS IN A GROTON CEMETERY**

Lots are for sale containing as few as 1 burial plot and up to 12 plots. Lots sold at resident prices will have the resident's name only listed as owner on the deed. Non residents cannot be listed as co owners on lots purchased at residential prices. The initial of the owner's last name will be engraved on the cornerstones. There is a price list available through the town clerk. Cremation urns can be buried in any plot.

## **SPECIFYING THE INDIVIDUALS TO BE BURIED IN A LOT**

At the time of purchase the deed holder can fill out a form which will specify the individuals who can be buried on a specific lot. This document can be notarized and filed with the deed for the current recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to specify who may be buried on their lot, this form can also be filled out, notarized and filed with the deed for the recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to sell a lot or portion of a lot, they must first sell it back to the town at the same price that it was originally purchased for. Then the town will sell the lot to the new owner based on current pricing. Cornerstones for this new lot may not be required if the Commissioners approve.

Please be aware that the only way to securely guarantee who shall be buried on any given lot is for that person to own it. In cases where there might be a family dispute we suggest that the parties take all steps possible to make clear who shall be allowed to use a lot.

## **CREMATION BURIALS**

The interment of cremation urns will no longer be restricted to special cremation plots. Urns can be buried on gravesites already inhabited or on sites which have been purchased but not used. In order to do this the Sexton must be informed and arrangements made so that the exact location of the urn can be arranged and the plot can be officially prepared. The only added cost will be for digging the interment hole.

All Groton Cemetery guidelines for placement of markers and cornerstones will apply to plots being used for cremation internments

If you are interested in purchasing a lot in the Groton cemetery, please contact the Town Clerk or Tom Gandin at Gandin Brothers in South Ryegate

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## CEMETERY LOT PRICES 3/1/2009

SIZE	# of traditional burial sites	# of cremation sites	LOT PRICE	PERPETUAL CARE	FEES	SETTING OF CORNER STONES	TOTAL FOR RESIDENTS	TOTAL FOR NON RESIDENT
12'X4'	1	4	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$466.00	\$1,864.00
12x8	2	6	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$516.00	\$2,064.00
12x12	3	8	\$225.00	\$300.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$691.00	\$2,764.00
12x16	4	10	\$300.00	\$400.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$866.00	\$3,464.00
12x20	5	12	\$375.00	\$500.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$1,041.00	\$4,164.00
12x24	6	14	\$450.00	\$600.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$1,216.00	\$4,864.00
12x28	7	16	\$525.00	\$700.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$1,391.00	\$5,564.00
12x32	8	18	\$600.00	\$800.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$1,566.00	\$6,264.00
12x36	9	20	\$675.00	\$900.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$1,741.00	\$6,964.00
12x40	10	22	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$1,916.00	\$7,664.00
12x44	11	24	\$825.00	\$1,100.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$2,091.00	\$8,364.00
24x24	12	26	\$900.00	\$1,200.00	\$116.00	\$50.00	\$2,266.00	\$9,064.00

FEE EXPLANATION: RECORDING COST \$16.00 CORNER POST: \$100.00

Any lot purchased requires a 50% deposit at the time of purchase. Balance must be paid for within 6 months or the remaining lots will be forfeited.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> CONSTABLE & ANIMAL CONTROL REPORT

No bank robberies and in another year we might not have a bank to rob. Halloween night for the past four or five years has been wonderful with no broken pumpkins, as far as this constable is concerned. Again, I want to thank all the kids who live in town for a job well done. It sure makes the constable's job much easier.

Although there were 88 incidents reported to me this past year, it was still less than previous years.

Josephine Guertin is still doing a great job picking up dogs and transporting them to her kennel in Danville. She does all the work, and all I do is offer my assistance.

The Caledonia Sheriff, Mike Bergeon, made the radar cart available for me to use again this year. I didn't have to go get it, they delivered it to me and when I was done with it, two weeks later, I called them and they picked it up. I used the Radar Cart all over town. One particular day on a weekend, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable and I used both the new police cruiser and the radar cart together. I gave the selectmen a weekly report of my activity around town with the radar cart. It really works well and slows people down when they see it, especially on Route 302 in the village.

All constables by July 2010 will be required to be certified. So both the 2<sup>nd</sup> constable and I have been going to the police academy quite frequently for training. It looks like this training will continue for sometime.

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The following incidents were reported to me:

Vehicle serial numbers	30
Dog & Cat complaints	15
Speeding complaints	5
ATV complaints	5
State Police assistance	3
Vandalism	2
Fish & Game complaints	2
Stump dump complaints	1
Bad checks	2
Traffic accidents	3
Traffic control	2
Illegal parking	1
Medical emergency	3
Snowmobile complaints	5
Snowplowing complaints	3
Serving papers	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>84</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Milton F. Lamberton  
1<sup>st</sup> Constable

## 2<sup>ND</sup> CONSTABLE REPORT

During 2008, I provided the following law enforcement services as Groton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable:

	<u>Hours</u>
Patrol	105.0
Court	14.5
Training	46.5
Animal Complaints	15.0
Donated	20.0
Miscellaneous	9.5
Complaints (ATV/Snowmachine)	10.0
Traffic & Crowd Control	<u>16.5</u>
TOTAL	237.0

During patrol work, I issued 38 speeding tickets, 76 written warnings and 163 verbal warnings. I also did 35 VIN checks. I also served papers for various people 5 times.

I wish to thank the town for continued encouragement and support, and welcome any comments and/or suggestions to improve my services to the public.

Respectfully submitted,  
James A. Downing  
2<sup>nd</sup> Constable

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## GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2008 began very nicely. The library received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to update our public access computers. We were able to purchase a new one, bringing the number of computers available to four. In 2009, we will again be working with the Gates foundation to update the resources available to our patrons.

Our Summer Theme – “Catch the Reading Bug” – focused on bugs and insects. We offered a series of programs: 3 by Gail LaVaude – Insect Habitat, Build a Bug!, and Ant Farms; author Kathy Stoughton, and Summer Encore – a theater group from Rutland High School who performed at the library. The theme for the 2009 program is creativity. The slogan - “Be Creative @ Your Library.”

Joshua Smith spent an afternoon at the library in April, describing his experiences working in the Peace Corps and with Action Against Hunger. His relief work during times of natural disasters serves as an inspiration to us all. It highlights how small the world is. He did note that he could get cell phone service in the mountains in Pakistan but not in Groton!

The book discussion group continues to meet regularly. During 2008 we read short stories by Chekhov; Soul of Kindness - Elizabeth Taylor; Daughter of Time – Josephine Tey; My Sister’s Keeper – Jodi Picoult; Mansfield Park – Jane Austen; All the Pretty Horses – Cormac McCarthy; Infidel – Hirsi; The Trial – Kafka; and Othello – Shakespeare. As you can see, it’s quite a variety. We always welcome new people. Just call the library for a list of upcoming books.

Wednesday afternoons from 1 – 3 pm, the knitting/craft/needlework group meets at the library. It is always an interesting meeting. The group worked on prayer shawls and mittens and individual projects over the course of the year. Learners as well as experienced needle workers are welcome.

We lost a great patron this year – Ida Dennis. She was an avid reader and a great supporter of the library. Thanks to the generosity of her family, the library received many donations in her memory. We will be purchasing large print books with the money and creating special book plates honoring her.

The Friends of Groton Library continue to manage book sales during the year. Presently we have an ongoing sale of books in the upstairs community room during library hours. We appreciate the support of the community in attending sales and in donating books to the cause. The funds raised are used for purchases outside the general operating expenses, such as the library’s banner, items for the porch, holiday outdoor tree lights, and a sidewalk sign. We also contributed a sum for a matching grant from the Libri Foundation, which enabled the librarian to purchase a number of children’s books.

All our volunteers are Friends! Covering books, manning the desk when needed, working on fundraisers, maintaining the facility, are some of the services performed by our volunteers. We welcome everyone to stop in and become part of our wonderful community library.

Upcoming in 2009 – the children’s books from the Libri Foundation; updating the older computers, book discussions, craft meetings, and programs for both adults and children. We offer the latest in popular books, audio books (soon to be downloadable), magazines and the local newspapers. Thank you for all of your support. Please come visit your public library.

Marjorie Shane, Librarian

Trustees: Nancy Spencer (Chair), Nancy Aho, Judith Chandler, Susan Gordon, Virginia Jennings, Diane Kreis, Mary McLeod, Deb Orelup and Dane Wright.

Library Hours: Monday 2:30-7:00; Wednesday 10:00-4:00; Friday 2:30-7:00 and Saturday 10:00-Noon  
Address: 1304 Scott Highway Telephone: 584-3358 E-mail: [groton\\_free@vals.state.vt.us](mailto:groton_free@vals.state.vt.us)

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

**Projects:** Groton being a rural and somewhat “dry” town, water is hard to find in some areas of the town for fire fighting. A major rural hydrant installation was completed in Groton village last fall. Testing and maintenance continue on the other already installed throughout the town.

**Training:** Flashover recognition training at Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Association spring Fire School at Blue Mountain Union School. Two firefighters and Engine One attended.

Fire Corps. Seminar in Burlington, VT; Chief and one firefighter attended.

International Chief and Volunteer Chiefs Assoc. Seminar in St. Johnsbury, VT; Chief attended.

Wood Heat Seminar hosted by Vermont Department of Public Safety in St. Johnsbury, VT; Chief attended.

Vermont Fire Academy Firefighter 1 in Bradford, VT; one firefighter attending this 190 to 200 hour course which started in October and will end in May. There are six members currently that are in Firefighter 1.

Joint training is being done with Ryegate and Area Depts. Basic – Basic Fundamentals of firefighting being taught by many Firefighter 1 certified firefighters and experienced firefighters. This is a program which is a shortened, more detailed, and concise program with more emphasis on the challenges faced by the fire service of rural Vermont.

Major Rural Water Supply Programs were sponsored by Twin State Mutual Aid Members, Haverhill Corner, NH and Littleton, NH. The Haverhill Corner program focused on basic tanker and portable tank operations and a presentation of the turbo draft educator system. The Littleton program was a rural water operation and had hands-on training with tankers and multiple portable tanks.

**Prevention:** The annual prevention program took place again at Blue Mountain Union School during fire prevention week in October. This was a joint venture between Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River Fire Departments.

Tragically we said Goodbye to long time member Don Crum and former Chief Harold Puffer. They will be missed and we will continue to do the work these men started.

### Incidents Requiring Groton Volunteer Fire Department Response

Mutual Aid	6
Smoke Investigation	2
Chimney Fire	5
Motor Vehicle Collisions	8
Alarm Activations	5
Rescues	1
DHART Landing Zones	1
Electrical	1
Assist Town Highway	2
Brush/Wildland Fires	2
Storm	2
EMS Assist	4
Structure Fire	1

**For a grand total of 39 incidents requiring the Groton Volunteer Fire Department to respond and lend a hand to the people of Groton.**

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In the scheme of things, the Groton Volunteer Fire Department is not the busiest in the area, but we still need people to join our ranks and fill the boots of a volunteer firefighter. If running into burning buildings and being on the front line is not your cup of tea but you would still like to lend a hand that is fine too. There is a position to be filled on the Groton Volunteer Fire Department. Whether it is helping with training or washing a fire truck, there are front line and support positions which need dedicated people to fill. If you think you would like to help and join this worldwide brother/sisterhood, then call the fire chief at 584-3243 or stop by the station next to the town hall on the first Tuesday and we will get you an application or answer any questions you have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fire Chief Wayne C. Knott  
Groton Volunteer Fire Department

## GROTON - RYEGATE F.A.S.T. SQUAD 2008

This year has been a busy one for the FAST. We have responded to more than 120 medical emergencies in the communities of Groton and Ryegate as well as numerous stand-bys at fire scenes. We continue to provide an all truly volunteer agency with no compensation at a Paramedic level. This provides the community members with the highest level of care available in the state. We currently have 11 members: 2 First Responders, 4 EMT-Basics, 0 EMT-Intermediates, 4 EMT-Paramedics. We have one first responder the moved up to gain EMT-Basic certification and one EMT-Basic that is in training to become an EMT-Intermediate. Woodsville Ambulance continues to provide our communities with outstanding transport services to area Hospitals. We are looking for people that are willing to volunteer their time, if you are interested please contact a FAST member for more information.

Respectfully,  
Jon R. Bouffard, NREMT-P, CCEMT-P, FP-C

## GROTON FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

Another year has gone by and not too much excitement this year due in part with a lot of rain that we received this summer. There didn't seem to be many permits given out this year.

The requirements to obtain a burn permit are as follows: you need to obtain a burn permit by calling the forest fire warden with 12-24 hours of burning grass or brush. The only time that you are not required to get a burn permit is when there is significant amount of snow in the area in which you are burning. This also depends on the time of the year such as early fall and late spring when we may have early snow storms. It is always best to contact me with any questions or doubts in burning. When there is a ban on burning it will be announced on WYKR and on the Groton website.

I must also remind people that in order to burn woodpiles such as debris from buildings, other than brush, you must obtain a different permit from the Environmental Air Pollution Office. Their address and phone number is as follows: Air Pollution Control Division, Department of Environmental Conservation, Building 3 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0402, Telephone # (802) 241-3840.

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If you want a permit during the week, you need to contact me the night before so you can get your permit. This has been one of the problems that I have had this year because I do work during the day from Monday thru Friday. You can contact me during the week after 5 PM at 584-3628. The Assistant Fire Warden is Nathan Donley and his phone number is 584-4393.

Due to the large area of Groton, which is covered by forest, it is difficult to survey the area from time to time and because of that, there have been a lot of illegal burns which go unnoticed which could be a potential hazard to others and their homes if the fire warden is not aware of them. If caught without a permit, you could be issued a fine plus cost of equipment and personnel that come to the scene.

There is also a growing issue on trash burning. There is a state law now, which has been in effect since 2005 making it illegal in the State of Vermont to burn trash. If you are caught, you could receive a fine up to \$500. This could be issued by a designated person whom the selectboard could choose since its not in my jurisdiction to issue fines against trash burning. So if you have any questions, pertaining to this subject, call your selectboard members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wade Johnson, Sr., Forest Fire Warden  
Nathan Donley, Assistant Forest Fire Warden

### GROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2008

The Groton Historical Society meetings are open to everyone and are held at 10 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, April or May thru October. All meetings are held at the Peter Paul Historical House. If you wish to become a member of the society, the dues are \$10 per person or \$15 a couple. The recent dues increase was necessary to help with the expense of mailing the quarterly newsletter. Current officers are Richard Brooks, president; Deane Page, vice president; Joan Haskell, treasurer; and Diane Kreis, secretary.

There will no longer be open house during the months of July and August on Sunday afternoons. Instead we will continue to be open by appointment from May thru October. We are open all day on the first Saturday of October for Fall Foliage Day. Appointments to visit the house may be made by calling Richard Brooks.

Come join us at our meetings. We continue to try to maintain the historical house, genealogical records and any new projects that we take on. This coming year we will be concentrating on recording the Groton houses of over 100 years old.

Diane Kreis, Secretary

### GROTON COMMUNITY CLUB 2008

The Groton Community Club is open to all Groton residents and there are no dues. We meet twice a year on the first Tuesday of May and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of October at 7 p.m. in the library meeting room. Officers are Deane Page, president; Milt Lamberton, vice president; Joan Haskell, treasurer; and Diane Kreis, secretary.

Our main project is Fall Foliage Day. The proceeds from our famous Chicken Pie Supper go towards senior scholarships to all Groton students who go on for additional training after high school. We help the

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town in sponsoring the summer swim program and assist financially with the library summer reading program. We also purchase and plant the flowers in the barrels around the village. To continue to make this work we need everyone's help, so please volunteer if you can. It takes a lot of workers to keep our excellent reputation for the best chicken pie supper anywhere. This year we had write ups in the New York Times and the Washington Post about our supper. Groton residents can be really proud of what our village has been able to accomplish.

Diane Kreis, Secretary

## COMMUNITY CLUB REPORT

Checkbook balance as of Jan 1, 2008	\$ 653.45
Transferred from Money Market	+ 2,600.00
Transferred to Money Market	- 3,000.00
Income:	
Supper tickets	7,140.00
Sweatshirts Sale	130.00
Donation for table rental	<u>85.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 7,355.00
Expenses:	
Postmaster	108.58
Flowers for town	195.00
Groton town library	500.00
Swim program	600.00
Scholarships	1,400.00
Supper expenses	2,504.97
McLures Band	300.00
Parade prizes	220.00
Calkins	315.00
NEK Fall Foliage festival 2009	55.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$6,198.55</u>
Balance in Checkbook as of 12/31/08	\$ 1,409.90
Balance in Money Market as of 12/31/08	\$4,927.68
	Chicken Pie Supper – October 4, 2008
Tickets Sold	\$7,140.00
Expenses:	
Macauleys	1,115.30
Four Corners	125.50
Upper Valley Grill	901.21
Supplies	70.32
Bisquick – Rolls	132.64
Pete's Rubbish	<u>160.00</u>
Total	<u>-2,504.97</u>
Profit on Supper	\$4,635.03



# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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## BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT 2008

During 2008 the Building Committee has been attempting to move ahead with plans for the two projects it was charged to develop, the Groton Community Building Addition/Renovation and the Fire Station. However due to the interrelationships between these two projects, the resolution of conflicting program requirements, and the need to identify building site(s), progress has slow and at times difficult.

In April the Fire Department Sub-committee and the Building Committee concurred on recommending that the property adjacent to the Town Garage , owned by Matt Puffer, be investigated as a potential site for the new fire station. Subsequently, a topographic plan was drawn, and, once the ground had thawed, soil tests, septic system requirements, and wetland boundaries were determined. During this same period, the Fire Department Sub-committee developed a detailed building program of approximately 7080 square feet.

Using this information the architectural firm, Black River Design, developed schematic designs for the fire station on the Puffer Lot, which were presented to the Building Committee in June. This new building would need to be constructed before the Community Building Addition ("Option C") could be built on the site of the existing fire station.

During this same period, however, the Building Committee was approached by representatives of the Cilley Property, which is adjacent to the existing Community Building, and informed of their intentions to sell the property once the estate is fully settled. The family has offered the Town first option to purchase. The Building Committee immediately recognized the need for more detailed information regarding the property and its suitability for the Town. In June the Committee voted to put both projects on hold until this information was received. Unfortunately, due to the legal process and difficulties in communications, the Committee is still awaiting this information and the opportunity to survey and appraise the property.

The Committee recognizes that this Cilley Property has some attractive advantages as a project site. It would keep the town's functions on one campus in the center of the Village. It appears that the proposed Community Building addition plans could be flipped onto the Cilley Property. This would permit disengagement of the two projects, the Community Building and the Fire Station, from each other. In other words the Community Building Addition could proceed, while the Fire Station remains as is, or the new Fire Station could be built on the existing station site (or another), while the Community Building project follows an independent project funding and construction schedule. By October both the Building Committee and the Fire Department had unanimously agreed that purchase of the Cilley Property should be pursued as the first priority. These recommendations were subsequently presented to the Selectboard for their action on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Building Committee Members:

Warren Tripp, Chair	Arnold Aho, Secretary
Kent Haskell	Deane Page
Tracy Puffer	Aaron Smith
Dave Spencer (non-voting)	

## RECREATION COMMITTEE

This year the recreation committee continued to work on a number of projects that we had already started. We finished installing the new playground equipment. There is now a new spring toy, and set of monkey bars and a new slide for the children to play on. The new equipment also has a new border and surface. Darlings Auto repainted the old swing set so we were able to keep that piece of equipment and save a lot of time and money by not replacing it. I was able to get a tree service working in the area to help me take down one of the poplar trees that had died. Matt Foster Tree Service donated their time to help get the tree down. I am grateful for their help since the tree was large and would have been difficult to take down by myself.

# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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Music in the park continued this summer. The music was timed to coincide with the Methodist Church summer suppers. On one occasion we had the town picnic at the park. There was a band playing, ice cream, and Buddy, the clown entertained the children.

The annual 5K and 10K was held this fall in the state park. There were about 25 people that participated on a rainy day. The race is starting to be something people look forward to with many people returning to run every year. Small prizes are given to the winners from local businesses.

Santa Claus was at the Groton General Store site on one of the days when the farmers market was being held. He entertained about 15 children that showed up to sit on Santa's lap.

We always appreciate comments from the community. If anyone has ideas for events, we would be happy to hear them. There is usually space available if anyone would like to participate on the committee. Thank you for your continued support.

Steve Hart

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

There were 36 residential permits; 6 amended; 6 modified and one conditional/commercial permit that were issued in 2008. There were 8 issues of concerns, one request for a variance (which was granted) and two hearings. There were a few septic systems improperly installed that had to be removed in 2008.

There were no seminars attended this year, but I hope there are some new seminars in the coming year. I enjoy this position and I hope to continue to serve the Town of Groton. Please feel free to call (802)584-3015 or e-mail me at [grotonzoning@fairpoint.net](mailto:grotonzoning@fairpoint.net) with any questions or concerns.

Cheryl Boucher  
Zoning Administrator

## GROTON TREE WARDEN REPORT 2008

Groton like many Vermont communities was characterized by mature roadside trees which graced our roadsides. Most of the large old trees in the village have disappeared. Some of those still standing are not as attractive and others with large old decaying branches have become hazardous. The few trees planted in recent years are at the stage of needing pruning to remain beautiful which is also being monitored.

Select Board members and other members of our community have discussed the possibility of planting new trees in Groton village before we lose our rural character of our town. Several have requested that the new Groton roadside trees be of local species mostly the same as we now have in the older trees. It is important that we look as individualistic as the characters that live in the community. With some volunteer assistance this can be accomplished with minimal expense within the next few years.

The Tree Warden is continuing to work with the Road Commissioner concerning management of trees in the Groton roads right-of-way. This is to ascertain that shade trees are not unnecessarily harvested or damaged and hazard trees are removed. Monitoring for hazard trees and tree health will be an ongoing effort. If any Groton property owner has a concern about a tree or trees on their property, please let me know.

The Tree Wardens position in Groton is a volunteer position as is the majority of Tree Wardens in Vermont and also comparable to other Tree Wardens; it is a work that I very much enjoy. It has been a pleasure serving the Town of Groton in the position of Tree Warden.

Harry Chandler  
Tree Warden

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## 2008 VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

DATE	SEX	NAME OF CHILD	PARENTS	PLACE OF BIRTH
July 16, 2008	M	Brody James Allen	Heather L. Slater Stephen Dean Allen	St. Johnsbury, VT
August 4, 2008	M	Tucker Ray Welch	Amber Leigh Manning Randy Ray Welch	Morristown, VT
August 6, 2008	M	Jackson Robert Crum	Kathleen Joan Donovan Erich Douglas Crum	Berlin, VT
August 8, 2008	F	Rachel Mae Jolley	Miriam J. Jolley Gene Lewis Jolley	St. Johnsbury, VT
August 24, 2008	M	August Wolfgang Simakaski	Nichole Christy Wolfgang Mark Richard Simakaski	Berlin, VT

### DEATHS

DATE	AGE	NAME	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF DEATH
Jan. 11	97 yrs	Madeline Olliver Eastman	North Haverhill, NH	Haverhill, NH
Jan. 26	54 yrs	Charles F. King	Groton	Groton, VT
Feb. 2	87 yrs	Janice Arlene Brown	Groton	Woodsville, NH
March 23	93 yrs	Mary Victoria Hatch	Groton	Woodsville, NH
March 28	61 yrs	Pamela Jean Peterson	Ryegate	Woodsville, NH
April 18	92 yrs	Walter George Main	Groton	Groton, VT
July 7	62 yrs	Jeanette Terry Houghton	Groton	Groton, VT
August 22	89 yrs	Ida Angelia Dennis	Groton	Lebanon, NH
Sept. 21	62 yrs	Don LaVerne Crum	Groton	Groton, VT
Sept. 19	64 yrs	Arthur J. Johnson, Jr	Groton	Shaftsbury, VT
Sept. 23	71 yrs	Harold Bruce Puffer	Florida	Lebanon, NH
Nov. 30	93 yrs	Kenneth Linwood Eastman	Groton	St. Johnsbury, VT
Dec. 8	86 yrs	Norman William Murray	Groton	Haverhill, NH
Dec. 23	65 yrs	Richard Wayne Bowley, Sr	Groton	Groton, VT

### MARRIAGES

DATE	NAME OF PARTIES	RESIDENCE	PLACE OF MARRIAGE
April 12, 2008	Alan Andrew Thompson Priscilla Leigh Kincaid	Conway, NH Groton, VT	Groton, VT
July 19, 2008	John E. Lynch Debra Lou Booth	Groton, VT Groton, VT	Groton, VT
August 2, 2008	Brandon Michael Wood Kristie Lynn Ricker	Woodsville, NH Woodsville, NH	Groton, VT
August 5, 2008	Joseph Floyd Crim Susanne Jessica Marshall	Austin, AR Austin, AR	Groton, VT
August 30, 2008	Aaron Jackson Smith Alissa Ann Norton	Groton, VT Groton, VT	Groton, VT
December 6, 2008	Nicholas John Bogie Carrie Lynn Daniels	So. Ryegate, VT Groton, VT	Groton, VT

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## PUBLIC INFORMATION

### NOTARY PUBLICS

Roberta Dana.....584-3756  
Patricia Bouley.....584-3276  
Linda Nunn.....584-3881  
Gene Jolley.....584-4695

### MEETING OF TOWN OFFICIALS

The Selectboard meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office for their regular business. They sign orders every Thursday and hold special meetings at this time if needed. (In the winter, the selectmen meet at 5:30 p.m.)

The following meet on posted notice: The Board of Adjustment, The Board of Civil Authority, Auditors, Listers and the Planning Commission. (The Planning Commission is meeting every 1st and 3rd Monday night at 7:00 PM until the Town Plan is completed.)

### AVAILABLE AT TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Application for voter registration.  
Applications for building permits and copies of zoning ordinances.  
Dog license.  
Green Mountain Passports for free admissions to State sponsored events for residents 62 years old or older with a \$2.00 charge.  
Motor vehicle registration forms.  
Safety zone signs.  
Vermont State Income Tax forms.  
**The Clerk does motor vehicle, motor boat & snowmobile registration renewals.**

### MISCELLANEOUS

**TOWN MEETING:** Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 10 a.m. in the Community Building. Solid Waste vote will be by Australian ballot from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

**USD #21 SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING:** Monday, March 2, 2009 at Blue Mountain Union School, Wells River, VT at 7:00 pm in the library. Australian ballot vote will take place the next day, March 3 at Town Meeting from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm in each of the Towns of Wells River, Ryegate and Groton.

**GROTON FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL:** Saturday, October 3, 2009

### PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
F.A.S.T. SQUAD	584-3202 OR 911
FIRE DEPARTMENT	584-3202 OR 911
CONSTABLES	584-3818 OR 584-3211
VERMONT STATE POLICE	222-4680 OR 1-802-748-3111
GROTON TOWN CLERK	584-3276 VOICE/FAX
GROTON TREASURER/TAXCOLLECTOR	584-3131
GROTON LISTERS	584-3155
GROTON TOWN GARAGE	584-3209
GROTON FIRE WARDEN	584-3628
GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	584-3358
STATE REP. CHIP CONQUEST	757-3803
STATE SENATOR: MATTHEW CHOATE	1-800-322-5616
STATE SENATOR: JANE KITCHEL	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

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U.S. SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY	1-800-642-3193
U.S. SENATOR BERNARD SANDERS	1-800-339-9834
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PETER WELCH	1-888-605-7270
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 5:00 pm.  
Wednesday & Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

## GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

Monday & Friday 2:30 pm – 7:00 pm; Wednesday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Telephone: 584-3358

## 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**.

## E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Town Treasurer	grotontreas@fairpoint.net	Town Clerk	grotonclerk@fairpoint.net
Groton Highway Department	grotonhwy@fairpoint.net	Listers	grotonlister@fairpoint.net
Groton Free Public Library	groton_free@vals.state.vt.us	Zoning	grotonzoning@fairpoint.net
Groton Planning Commission	grotonplanning@fairpoint.net		

## WEB SITE

Remember to visit <http://grotonvt.com/> for town government, community organization, and local information.

## ATTENTION ANIMAL OWNERS!

In accordance with VSA 20(§3581) all Dogs shall be licensed by April 1 of each year. Any dogs not licensed after this date shall be impounded and may be destroyed. (20 VSA§3590)

### 2009 Dog License Fees

Not Neutered----\$ 13.00

Neutered-----\$ 9.00

A Mandatory increase of \$1.00 per animal for the new Vermont State Spaying and neutering program.

## **RABIES CLINIC**

Date: March 4, 2009

Time: 6:30-7:30 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, 2009 all dogs must be licensed!  
**\$10.00 fine per dog plus \$19.50 not neutered dog or \$13.50 neutered dog if late.**

Rabies Clinic being done by Oxbow Veterinary Clinic

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A place to write notes:

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# Annual Report Town of Groton, Vermont - 2008

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Town of Groton  
1476 Scott Highway  
Groton, VT 05046

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

## GROTON TOWN MEETING

10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at the Groton Community Building

School Budget voting will be on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**At the Groton Community Building.**

School budget informational meeting will be held Monday March 2, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at BMU library.