

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

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HARWINTON FAIR THEN AND NOW



From its beginning in the mid-1800s, the annual fair has been considered one of Harwinton's major events. Many consider it the town's most significant event of the year.

Originally called Cattle Show Day, it was a "get together" designed by local farmers to buy, sell or trade oxen and steers. Today, a festival of exhibits, displays and contests runs from morning till night for most of three days and draws crowds numbering in the thousands.

In his book "History of Harwinton" Town Historian Raymond Bentley writes "*At first it was just a Cattle Show Day but later the farmers and their wives displayed farm produce and household products. There were no cash prizes. The pleasure of showing something better than their neighbors could produce and the honor of having their names announced as having the best on display was all they asked.*"

The 2022 Fair
Friday, Saturday, Sunday Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and Oct 2.
For more information visit www.harwintonfair.com

Barn Scavenger Hunt and 1840 First District School Open House October 23

Repairs to the windows, rafters, roof and exterior of the 1840 First District Schoolhouse, located on the grounds of the Consolidated School on Route 118, have been completed. The school building will officially reopen to the public on **Sunday, October 23, 2022, from 3-5 p.m. (Rain date Oct. 30th)**. During the same two hours a special Scavenger Hunt will take place at the Barn Museum located just behind the schoolhouse.

The Scavenger Hunt will feature a search for specific items from early Harwinton that are on display in the barn. Many of the treasures are featured in The Barn Corner, a publication by David Ryan that introduces the stories and importance of the many artifacts on display in the barn.

Much of the restoration work on the schoolhouse involved replacing the roof and securing the roof rafters, replacing decaying siding, painting and window repair. The biggest difference in the look of the schoolhouse is a new cedar shingled roof and freshly painted siding. Work on the restoration was completed by Mitchell Restoration and was funded by the town's ARPA funds. The windows were repaired by local resident Larry Connors. Some wood siding was donated by Charles Kirchofer.

*The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) is the sixth federal COVID-19 relief bill passed in the last year.

Annual Appeal in Progress

A mailing seeking support for the 2022-23 annual appeal for the Historical Society is underway. Donations to the appeal will support the ongoing efforts of the Historical Society to preserve the history of Harwinton.

Coming Soon – A New Web Site

The Historical Society is putting the finishing touches on a new web site, which will be launched soon. Stay tuned for more information on how to access the new on-line location.

Anyone who would like to assist with any of the Historical Society's projects (such as programs, buildings, accessions), please email harwhistsoc@gmail.com or contact any officer or member of the Board of Directors.

Help Us Keep In Touch With You

Please keep your contact information up to date by sending changes in your address, telephone or cell phone number and email to harwhistsoc@gmail.com



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Vice President: Nancy Lyons
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Term Ends 2023

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TOWN HISTORIAN

Susan McClen

AUDITOR

Marilyn Mitchell

LEGAL COUNSEL

Patrick Wall

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Harwinton Historical Society

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Historian and author John Cilio (above) is pictured presenting a program on Connecticut Landmarks at the Harwinton Town Hall. The Sept. 25th program was arranged by the Historical Society's Program Committee and was free to the public.

Not A Member?

Would you like to join the Harwinton Historical Society?
Dues are \$15 per year. Make checks payable to the Harwinton Historical Society and mail to Treasurer, PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791.

Harwinton Trivia

What locally well-known square dance caller lived on South Road?

Answer: Elof Johnson



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

The Barn Museum Scavenger Hunt 1840 First District School Open

Sponsored by: Harwinton Historical Society

Sunday, October 23, 2022 3-5 p.m.

(Rain date 10/30)

Located on grounds of Harwinton Consolidated School- Route 118



Explore a large collection of fascinating farm implements, carpentry tools, household items and other "Harwinton items of the past" in The Barn Museum

The Barn Corner, an HHS publication, introduces artifacts on display in the HHS Barn Museum (how they work, their purpose, and why they were important) will be available for reference*. Author David Ryan explains the workings of the items and their importance as he intertwines interesting stories of men, women, and children utilizing their "new possessions" to meet the challenges of living without running water, electricity, or central heat.

*(*Also available for purchase for \$15.)*



Experience school as it was in 1840! View the 2022 restoration of the exterior of our one-room schoolhouse and enter the classroom!

Come and enjoy the fun of "seeing Harwinton history", gathering with friends, and refreshments!

*** The program is free and open to the public.***