

Old Surry Village School Committee Report to the Town for the year 2021

The Old Surry Village School continued in 2021 to make strides in checking off completed projects so that the historic schoolhouse can be utilized and enjoyed by the residents of Surry.

In April work was completed to get water hooked up to the schoolhouse. The water line ditch was dug, water pipes laid and the well pump installed. Later in the spring plumbers came and hooked up the bathroom and kitchen plumbing. We are grateful to Ray McDonald and Son Co. and Carmel Well Drilling Co. for donating all material and labor costs to the Town.



In order to have the kitchen and bathroom available year-round the building has been heated all winter. Window inserts were purchased for the 12 first floor windows, to keep the heat in and the cold out, from Window Dressers, a local nonprofit. To keep the cost of the inserts down, Old School volunteers participated in a Community Workshop to help build the 12 inserts. John Curtis, Richard Saunders and Gete Thomson participated in the work shop in Bar Harbor to construct the inserts. The inserts will



more than pay for themselves this year because of the energy costs saved.

May 20, 2021 was a picture-perfect day to install the replica flagpole to replace the 150year old flagpole that had snapped off during a winter storm. Historically, Surry has been a boat building community. What better way to replace the broken flagpole than to have a “boatbuilding Surry resident” handcraft



the replacement? Scott Edgerly, Surry resident and boat builder, as an artisan was eager to be part of this historic endeavor. He took the broken parts in order to exactly replicate the length, diameter and location of the brackets of the old pole. Scott delivered the 24.4 ft. douglas fir flagpole and supervised installation into the original brackets on the schoolhouse. Steve Wessell (Wesmac) was on hand to help Billy Grant (Bill’s Boat Storage) navigate the pole into place. Local residents came to watch and admire the momentous occasion. Old Glory continues to fly proudly over the Old School!

Last summer high-speed wireless broadband internet service (Wi-Fi) was installed at the Old School. The availability of internet service to groups and individuals is an asset making the schoolhouse a viable venue to hold 21st century events and meetings.

The Old School held numerous fundraising events in 2021. Early June until September three fundraising events were held. The 6th Annual Yard Sale /Bake Sale, a Town wide nonprofit Yard Sale and an Ice Cream Social were held and were very successful. With the exceptional/faithful donors and fundraisers, the Old School nearly doubled the amount of money raised and

appropriated to run the Old School in 2021. As a town, everyone who contributes and volunteer for the Old School should be very proud of this accomplishment.

The Old School also “gives back” to the Town. Throughout 2021 the yearly “For Free” events continued to be held for Surry residents to enjoy. This is traditional in small Towns and the Old Surry Village School volunteers enthusiastically sign up to help out with these events. These events included the Apple Pressing for All and Trunk or Treat for All.....



In October the 3rd Annual Apple Pressing took place behind the schoolhouse. Residents brought their own apples to be squeezed, bottled and taken home to enjoy. The Old School volunteers started early in the day to have a cup of fresh cider for everybody. A rough estimate was that 30 people brought apples to squeeze and nearly 150 people came by to enjoy the venue, the beautiful Fall-day and watch the cider pressing. This event gets more popular every year. As a matter of fact, two of our volunteers chipped in and bought a second cider press to have for the school to use each year.

Also, in October the 4th Annual Trunk or Treat was successfully held at the Old School. Candy, ghouls, sweet and beautiful, Surry kids and their parents came to enjoy the sights and sounds of Halloween at the Old School. The unofficial count showed that approximately 300 people came by to enjoy this safer way to Trick or Treat in Surry. There were 12 decorated trunks entered in the “decorate your trunk and serve candy”. BOOOOOO!!!!



In December the Old School participated in the Rural Hall Fundraiser: the “Festival of Trees.” The Old School tree was decorated with ornaments made by grade school students at our Elementary School.



The Old School Friends and Volunteers are now looking ahead to 2022 with excitement as the Old Surry Village School celebrates the sesquicentennial of the Old School. Yes, we are 150 years old this year. The schoolhouse was dedicated on December 19, 1872. The Old School educated Surry students for 80 years and then was repurposed and became the Surry Volunteer Fire Department for 35 years. A vital part of Surry’s rich history...thanks Surry for your amazing support of this building and your willingness to protect and preserve it for generations to come.

Submitted this February 25, 2022:

Glyneta Bonsey Thomson, John Curtis, Liz Vickery, Sarah Colletti and Rick Zeamer