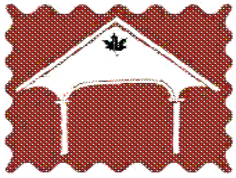




May 2008

Lyndon



Area

CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

# Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce

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## Congratulations, Madame President!

April 26th was a *big* day for Chamber President Donna Wheeler. First, she was honored with a Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Community Service. The awards are part of the Vermont Commission on National and Community Service. They are given to honor "individuals, groups and businesses that best exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and community service in Vermont." Anyone who knows Donna knows that she wears so many hats in the community that she should have a special closet built on her house just to hold them all! Congratulations, Donna, we appreciate all your hard work in "improving Vermonter's lives through Voluntary Service." Shown with Donna is Bruce James, another former Chamber President, who was also honored for his community efforts.

Later the same day, Donna's youngest daughter Ashley just happened to win the Miss Vermont title. We wish Ashley the best of luck as she represents Vermont in the Miss America pageant. We know she will do the Northeast Kingdom and the rest of Vermont proud!



## AGENDA

- Minutes
- Treasurer's Report and Budget
- Catamount Health, Welcome Peter Sterling
- Randall Bridge
- Cultural Heritage Day Plans
- Stars and Stripes Update
- New Business
- Adjourn

*Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce will meet Tuesday, May 20th at 8 am at the Cobleigh Public Library. See you there!*

## Lyndon Chamber and Randall Bridge

It may come as a surprise to some folks to find that the Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce actually OWNS the Randall Bridge just off Rt. 114 north of Lyndon. Apparently, a three way agreement was made in 1965 between the Town, the Chamber and the Burringtons. Until 2004, it was assumed that the town owned the bridge, until an original copy of the agreement surfaced and was given to our own intrepid historian, Dick Boera by George Hopkins.

Dick sent the following information (from Spain, where he was awaiting transport home!)

“As you know the Lyndon Historical Society raised funds (over \$80,000) about seven years ago to help underwrite the restoration or repair of four Lyndon landmarks...the Town House, Shores Museum, the District 6 one-room schoolhouse, and the Randall Bridge. The first three projects have been completed and now attention has turned to the bridge work. We contributed an \$1,800 (10%) match toward the \$18,000 initial work to shore up the abutment. Then Art Sanborn obtained a grant for federal and state funding for a major abutment restoration that was completed two years ago...a great job that most folks in town are totally unaware of. Art secured another grant for the preparation of a study that would detail and prepare specifications for a complete restoration of the bridge structure itself. The successful (and only) bidder was the firm of Dubois and King, an outfit well-experienced in this specialty work. Their bid was \$39,000. The grant that Art secured is for \$20,000, the Historical Society has committed \$5,000 and the town will provide another \$3,000. Dan Hill and I had a meeting with the president of Dubois and King to inspect the bridge once more and see if the company might “sharpen its pencil” and bring the cost down on the bid somewhat. We are also hoping that the town might be able to come up with some additional financing and the Chamber-as its owners-might see its way clear to contribute a small sum also to help “bridge” the gap. None of the above addresses the actual cost of the restoration itself...replacement of some beams and flooring as well as the roof, parking area, signage, a kiosk (expected by the VT. Dept. of Transportation) to pinpoint the location of other covered bridges in Lyndon as well as give their history, and another to provide information about other sites of interest in the area. When I raised the question of financing this phase of the work, Art surprised me with the opinion that funding would be less of a problem than the work to date. I would still expect the Society and the Chamber might have to provide some modest level of matching money.”

In addition, Dick requested permission from the chamber to proceed with work on the Bridge, without necessarily committing any funds. He also suggested that ownership of the Bridge could be transferred to the Historical Society. This matter will be discussed at the Chamber meeting on May 20th at 8 am.

## Confused about Catamount Health Insurance?

The Chamber has a lot of questions about the difference between Green Mt. Health and Catamount Health (actually Green Mt. Health is the umbrella organization that *includes*: Dr. Dinosaur, Catamount Health and VHAP). In the interest of clearing up confusion, we have invited Peter Sterling to come to the May meeting and explain the program to us. ***Please plan to attend the meeting and have your questions answered!***

## Chamber Calendar and Newsletter Deadlines

- ***May Meeting:*** Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at the Cobleigh Public Library at 8 am. Peter Sterling, Catamount Health, will attend.
- **Newsletter Submission Deadline for June: Tuesday, June 3, 2008**
- **June Meeting:** Tuesday, June 17 at 8 am at the Cobleigh Public Library

## Online National Geo Map

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of David Kestenbaum with UVM Extension, the Northeast Kingdom has yet another fantastic opportunity to partner with National Geographic in the creation of an online interactive map which will showcase the region to travelers.

The research and development of the National Geographic map comes at the same time that NEKTTA is soliciting content for the interactive map to be housed on their website [travelthekingdom.com](http://travelthekingdom.com). Given the parallel time frame for the projects, NEKTTA has agreed to complete the research and obtain the content needed for both maps. They are seeking video submissions from area businesses that may wish to participate. Additionally, NEKTTA will be contacting area businesses in an attempt to obtain footage throughout the coming year.

If you would like more information or to learn more about the requirements for the video submissions, please call Gloria Bruce at the NEKTTA office: 626-8511.

## Tour de Kingdom Road Race

Kingdom Trails is sponsoring a "Tour De Kingdom" Road Cycle Event on Saturday, June 14th.

This recreational cycling event will include 5 routes, ranging from 15 to 100 miles. The loops will take in the lake region of the Northeast Kingdom. There will be technical support, rest areas, snacks and drinks.

The race is for all ages, all skills and includes individuals, groups and families. Registration is \$25.00

For complete race information, please visit the [www.tourdekingdom.org](http://www.tourdekingdom.org) or call 802-334-8511.



## 3rd Annual Northeast Kingdom Cultural Heritage Festival

This year's Cultural Heritage Festival will take place on Saturday, June 21st. Three individual rail excursions will be included as part of the celebration. The three rail trips will host a total of approximately 600 people and take them on a scenic journey through part of the Northeast Kingdom. The Northeast Kingdom Cultural Heritage Festival Planning Committee would like to provide a gift bag for each of the travelers on this journey to enjoy. It would be a great way to showcase items from the area. These items can include documents highlighting the history of the town, area/regional/event information or donated gifts and/or products for the visitor to take home and enjoy.

In addition, the committee is soliciting RFPs for the creation of boxed meals to be provide to passengers on the Fiddles and Vittles Rail Excursions. Excursions of approximately 200 riders each will depart The Lyndon Freighthouse at 10 am, 12:30 pm and 3 pm. If you have any interest in catering for any or all of these excursions, please contact Jenny Harris at 626-6458 or email: [jenniferharris@lyndonstate.edu](mailto:jenniferharris@lyndonstate.edu)

## Welcome New and Renewing LACC Members!

A hearty LACC welcome to the following new and returning members: The Lyndon Chamber looks forward to serving your business needs!

Corner Collectables on Memorial Drive in Lyndon 802-626-9070

Laferriere Construction Inc. 802-684-3606

Kurt J. Holmes Trucking 802-249-1586

Stephen P. Donna Hair Salon 802-748-5805



# Lyndon



# Area

CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

PO Box 886  
Lyndonville, VT 05851  
802-626-9696  
www.lyndonvermont.com



## Place Your **FREE** Ad Here!

Contact us with your ad requests by calling  
626-9696 or emailing [info@lyndonvermont.com](mailto:info@lyndonvermont.com)

Kick off Summer with "**Vermont Days**"  
Enjoy a free weekend in VT State Parks and  
State Owned Historic Sites-June 14th and 15th  
Free Fishing June 14th-No License Needed!  
Find special event locations and times in your  
area at:

[www.vermontdays.vermont.gov](http://www.vermontdays.vermont.gov)



**Teachers and Tots Store on Broad St.  
is now online!!**

Check them out at  
[www.teachersandtots.com](http://www.teachersandtots.com)

*All Around Tan at 50 Depot Street in  
Lyndonville is under New Ownership!*  
Stop in or call Michelle at 626-5443 for  
business hours, tanning, gym and body  
wraps specials.

Michelle Tanner purchased All Around  
Tan/Body Shop from Carol  
Fisher, who ran it for 32  
years. Best of luck to Carol  
with her future endeavors!



The Darling Inn Senior Meal Site is sponsoring the  
**7th Annual Steve Morse Walk-A-Thon** Saturday,  
May 17th at 9:30 am, starting at the Darling Inn on  
Depot Street in Lyndonville. If you would like to  
participate, stop and pick up a sponsor sheet M-F  
from 8 am to 1 pm. All proceeds will go to the Dar-  
ling Inn Senior Meal Site. For more info:626-8700

