



## Windsor Locks Preservation Association, Inc.

*We're on the Right Track!*

In 1974, as many of you are aware, the town of Windsor Locks underwent the wrath of the Redevelopment Agency. Residents were promised a better town but what was left, after the wrecking ball, was far from that. Almost the entire old original Main Street was removed. Townspeople quickly realized that what they had been promised was not going to happen. The days of the last demolition, were the days that the face of this small town changed forever.

30 years ago, there was a young man in town who dreamed, much as I do today. He was saddened to see what was happening around him. At 19, Robert Bickford began his crusade to make Windsor Locks a better place. He formed the "Save the Station" committee and quickly began work on saving the next area slated for destruction – the old Windsor Locks Passenger Train Station. Eventually, because of his efforts, the Station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Redevelopment Agency "backed off" plans to destroy the structure.

On the evening of December 1, 2004, I finally had the opportunity to speak with Rob. He told me stories of "hanging around" the train depot, when he was younger and how the old railroad workers took him "under their wings". He spoke of his fascination with trains and the railroad. His memories painted a vivid picture of the past, a past of Windsor Locks I never knew. We talked of our mutual love for being able to ride the trains.

It was during this first conversation, you felt that for a split second, time stood still. The span of 30 years that passed from "Save the Station" to "Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station" committees was now gone. I explained to Rob that had it not been for him, our group would not be here today. The Station would not be here today. We are joined by the one common interest that brings us all here – the old Train Station.

So, please, join with us and "Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station"!

Barbara Schley – President  
 Let's Save the Windsor Locks Train Station Committee  
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### FUND RAISING COMMITTEE CHANGES

Our fund raising committee is "up and coming". Due to necessary changes, the decision was made and BARBARA CARLSON is now the head of the committee. Barbara has a vast amount of experience with fund raising and efforts have already begun with the group's ZapASnack campaign.

The group has been holding regular meetings and attendance has started to grow! The fund raisers are a great group that is compiled of members of the community who are willing to help! They are a very imperative part of our future success.

Upcoming events are a cookbook and tag sale. The group is looking for tag sale items or recipes to be used in the cookbook. Other things in the works are a possible basketball game, picnic, and concert events. Always available are note cards for \$5.00 and matted prints of the Train Station for \$25.00 or un-matted prints for \$20.00.

We encourage everyone, members and non members alike, to participate! For more information or to lend your much needed support, please contact Barbara Carlson at (860) 654-1955.

#### TRAIN STATION COMMITTEE MEETS

The Train Station committee was busy at work through the holidays. The committee held its second meeting on December 29, 2004. The group members were all present and joined by selectwoman Denise Balboni. Rick Lawrence of the Lawrence Associates was there to present the structural engineering report.

On December 15, the station underwent extensive measurements and inspection and was found to be sound and in savable condition. Mr. Lawrence was also able to provide the group with some extensive interior photographs of the building.

Also, in attendance was Tom Elmore, the Historic Landscape Architect. Mr. Elmore presented the master plan of the site work. The group was very pleased and although some points were discussed, no changes were made to the plan. This plan will be made public for the first time at the town meeting on January 24, 2005.

Upcoming studies still to be done, are a necessary survey, which is to be donated to the group by CME Associates in Woodstock, CT. The survey will hopefully give us a better idea of property lines and right of ways, which will eventually be used by Mr. Elmore to complete the master plan prior to its presentation to Amtrak.

The Train Station Committee meets on as "as needed" basis and the next meeting has not been scheduled at this time.

As the December newsletter went to print, the gifts kept "rolling" in. There are several businesses and people that I didn't want to miss. The Windsor Locks Preservation Association is forever grateful for all your many gifts and kind words of encouragement! THANK YOU, all, for letting us know that "We're on the Right Track!"

#### BUSINESSES/PEOPLE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE / SERVICES

Colonial Printers	Windsor Locks	printing services
Yankee Signs	Windsor Locks	signs and banners
Mike Barile	Windsor Locks	real estate advice
Gwen Bishop	Windsor Locks	legal service
Matt Udal	Farmington	American Express

Rick Lawrence	Manchester	Structural engineering
Tom Elmore	Springfield	Landscape site architect
Denise Balboni & Staff	1st Nat'l Bank Suffield	Banking
Alice Williams	Suffield	Art work
Joe Gronda	Windsor Locks	Miscellaneous assistance
David Fuerst	Windsor Locks	Engineering/Environmental
Jen DiPoppo	Judy Jenkins	Barbara Tarbell
AnnMarie Claffey		
Memorial Hall	Ed Sabotka & Board of Trustees	

#### ADDITIONAL AUCTION DONORS

Swede's Jewelers	Family Therapeutic Massage
Mark Twain House	Shirley Carlson

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Party was held on December 6, 2004 at Memorial Hall. Although the weather was cold and quite slippery road conditions occurred, nothing can stop the call of the Train Station! With only an hour to spare, Mickey Danyluk and myself decided that the party would not be cancelled. By 5:30 the first guests began to arrive and very shortly afterwards, filled the Hall with over 150 adults and children!

Food was provided by Geissler's, Stop & Shop in Enfield and Windsor, Big Y in East Windsor and Maneeleys Caterers in South Windsor. Many desserts were provided by our generous group members!

We had some games for the children and member Shirley Carlson provided 2 beautiful stuffed animals that were given out in a name pull contest. A great time was had by all!

The party raised \$536.00 from the silent auction and \$993.00 from the door and donations for prints of the Alice Williams sketch. THANK YOU ALL!