



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 15 : NUMBER 11 DECEMBER 2005



Cornwall Goes to the Polls

Election Day saw 600 townspeople tugging on the levers of the voting machines, themselves lame ducks soon to be replaced by more modern equipment. A further 73 residents mailed in absentee ballots, of which four were ruled invalid, giving a total of 669, just shy of 65 percent of the town's registered voters.

Nine candidates were among the 36 souls who crowded the lobby of the Town Hall at 8 P.M., eagerly waiting for moderator Charles Yohe to announce the results. In the top races, Democrat Gordon Ridgway won his eighth term as first selectman over petitioning candidate Rebecca Hurlburt, while Republican K. C. Baird was elected to a third term on the Board of Selectmen. He is joined by a newcomer, Democrat Richard Bramley.

For the record, here are the vote tallies (winners in bold):

Board of Selectmen: Gordon Ridgway (D) 418; Richard Bramley (D) 257; K. C. Baird (R) 228; Rebecca Hurlburt (Petitioning) 227; Roger Kane (Petitioning) 132

Town Clerk: Vera Dineen (R, D) 612

Town Treasurer: John Green (R, D) 578

Tax Collector: Helen Migliacci (R, D) 587

Board of Finance: Ralph Gold (R) 412; Anne Ingvartsen (D) 388; J. W. Preston (R) 243

Board of Finance Alternate: John LaPorta (D) 497; Ginger Betti (R) 270

Board of Education: Phil Hart (D) 483; Irene

Hurlburt (D) 417; Barbara Gold (R) 387; Margaret Bardot (R) 224

Board of Assessment Appeals: Charles Gold (R) 304; Emily Whitford (D) 275

Planning and Zoning Commission: Lynn Cheney (D) 400; Chris Hopkins (D) 364; Richard Lynn (R) 257; Heidi Kearns (R) 163

Zoning Board of Appeals: Lynn Fowler (D) 408; Joanne Wojtusiak (R) 269; James Levy (R) 269

Park and Rec.: Skip Kosciusko (D) 496; Michael Coe (D) 431; Tonya Kalmes (R) 381

Ridgway praised his opponent for conducting a positive campaign and bringing up important issues.

While regretting that she was denied a seat on the Board of Selectmen, Becky Hurlburt called this an interesting year in which she learned a great deal about Cornwall and the feelings of our townspeople. —Matt Collins

Postscript: The one tie in all the races listed above was between Joanne Wojtusiak and Jim Levy for a seat on the ZBA. The registrars and their crew assembled November 16 for a recount. They examined all the ballots for the ZBA race and determined that one absentee ballot, previously rejected, could be counted. That ballot added a vote for Joanne, who will join Lynn on the board.

—The December Editors

Can This Be Magic?

The coming winter will be the winter of greater content in Cornwall if the promise of Magic Salt comes true.

The product, created by Taconic Maintenance of Poughkeepsie, is a mixture of magnesium chloride and agricultural by-products. Sprayed on the road salt piled up by the town and mixed with the front loader, Magic Salt allegedly extends the effectiveness of the salt once it's on the ground and is far less corrosive than untreated salt.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Middletown, CT, sees no problem with the new product. In a letter to a local distributor, a DEP engineer wrote: "If [Magic Salt] can reduce the use of sodium chloride and sand, it would be a net benefit to the environment."

Highway Foreman Donnie Reid first began hearing about the new product last year. A chorus of praise seemed to be the chief reaction among the highway departments using the additive. Local users this winter will include North Canaan, Warren, Brookfield, Bridgewater, and Roxbury, all localities with terrain similar to ours.

Following suggestions made by the manufacturer and other users of the new salt, Reid and the crew have reorganized the salt shed next to the Town Garage. Eight-foot

(continued on page 2)

DECEMBER 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session, 7:30 P.M. UCC Meeting House Tuesdays: Teen/Adult Volleyball, 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Play Group, 10 A.M. Playscape/UCC; Stretch Class, 5 P.M. Town Hall; Tai Chi for Beginners, 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room				1	2	3 Cornwall Association 9 A.M. UCC Day Classroom Annual Christmas Fair 10 A.M.-3 P.M. UCC † Holiday Art Show Reception 5-7 P.M. Outsiders Gallery †
4	5 CCS Book Fair 8:30 A.M.-5 P.M. † Park & Rec. 7 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	6 CCS Book Fair 8:30 A.M.-5 P.M. † Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Offices	7 PEARL HARBOR DAY CCS Book Fair 8:30 A.M.-5 P.M. †	8 CCS Book Fair 8:30 A.M.-5 P.M. †	9 CCS Book Fair 8:30 A.M.-5 P.M. †	10 PTA Scholastic Book Fair 9 A.M.-Noon CCS † Annual Carol Sing & Tree Lighting 6:30 P.M. Town Hall †
11	12 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House ABC Holiday Party 5:30-7:30 P.M. Cornwall Inn	13 CCS Grades 5-8 Winter Concert 7 P.M. CCS Gym † Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	14	15 <i>Deadline: January Chronicle Copy</i> Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	16	17 Annual Christmas Pageant 7:30 P.M. UCC †
18 Annual Bird Count †	19 CCS Grades K-4 Winter Concert 1:30 P.M. CCS Gym Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS	20 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	21 WINTER BEGINS 	22	23 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Holiday Recess Begins	24 Annual Candlelight Services 5 & 8 P.M. North Cornwall Meeting House †
25 CHRISTMAS	26 HANUKKAH & KWANZAA Annual Candlelight Reading by Tom Walker 4 P.M. North Cornwall Meeting House † ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	27	28 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-6:15 P.M. UCC Parish House † Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	29	30 David Rovics Concert 7:30 P.M. Town Hall †	31

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

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barriers will protect the contents of the shed, which will now have a gate. Reid said that a pile of sand and salt will be left outside for townspeople to load up their buckets. (The rule is two buckets per storm per customer.)

Reid said he had wondered about all the hoopla, so last March he set up an experiment. He placed road salt delivered to the shed every winter in a coffee can. He filled a second can with road salt treated with Magic Salt.

"No contest," he told the *Chronicle*. "The can with the salt was corroded so much that the bottom fell out when I picked it up a few weeks ago." The can with Magic Salt in it? "A little rusted here and there, but it's pretty much intact."

QED. Let's see what a Cornwall winter can do to Magic Salt's reputation.

—Lisa Lansing Simont

Easements Are the Future

Cornwall's future as a rural landscape may very well lie in the willingness of landowners to commit to conservation easements in a planned and careful way. Peter Cooper, general counsel to the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, explained the ways and means of this kind of planning to the annual meeting of the Cornwall Conservation Trust on November 13.

Cooper defined easements as enforceable legal documents pertaining to individual lands used by property owners for protection against development. Easements may provide tax advantages for both current property owners and their heirs. Conservation "purposes" for land, such as restrictions on residential development, preservation of land features, promotion of agricultural activity, and scenic enjoyment of lands, can be included in easement language.

Landowners may retain rights such as the ability to log forests, cut trails, or construct outbuildings. All rights and restrictions must be articulated in the easement document so that a defensible assessment of the land value can be developed for tax purposes. Cooper noted that the Internal Revenue Service supports the legal intent of easements and their efforts to protect local open space.

Cooper stressed that easements may be complicated documents to draft. And while there is no template or single model that can be followed in drafting easements, it's wise to consider the number of landowners involved, the features of the land in question, and the specific types of protection.

All this, of course, takes time, and Cooper noted the

importance of families discussing their wishes for their land now as opposed to waiting, when tax considerations and other issues may force hasty decisions.

At the end of the day, Cooper said, effective easement drafting and execution is all about landowners, land trusts, and other entities working together to be sure everybody is clear on what is being accomplished, what is being given up, and what is being retained. The benefits of easements to communities like Cornwall have been significant, and they should continue to be considered by those citizens who may be in a position to help preserve the open spaces we cherish so much.

—Dan Hubbard

Another Wandering Moose

Sometime after 9 o'clock on the morning of October 4, Paul Prindle, en route to a house inspection, spotted a moose crossing Town Street from east to west. It loped across the large meadow on the corner of Town Street and Cogswell Road and disappeared.

About half an hour later, James Woodruff and Richard Decherd were riding their bikes up Wright Hill Road when they, too, spotted a moose. They stopped at the Thibaults' house and phoned Art Gingert to report the sighting.

Art grabbed his binoculars and arrived within minutes, only to hear from Fred Thibault that the moose had crossed the road and headed for the Scotts's woods.

Art guessed that the moose would continue to move downhill, following the small valley that runs along Mill Brook. He drove to the Child Center, parked, and walked into the woods along the brook. After about ten minutes he spotted a large, dark object. His binoculars revealed a juvenile male with a stout, double-pronged antler on each side of his head. Not wanting to disturb him further, Art retreated the way he had come.

For most of the year, the moose is a solitary, docile creature that lives in forests and eats a variety of shrubs and trees. In spring and summer, moose forage for aquatic plants in wetlands.

Several years ago Jean Bouteiller came upon the carcass of a young bull moose that appeared to have died of malnutrition. The wildlife biologist who came from the Department of Environmental Protection to examine the carcass suggested that the animal may have died from the meningeal worm, a parasite of the white-tailed deer that attacks the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord of moose. It is not fatal for the deer but deadly for moose. The parasite passes from deer through its feces, which are then eaten by snails. Moose eat the snails when

browsing on vegetation.

Other recent sightings in Cornwall have confirmed that moose, once native here, are resettling within our borders. It won't be too long before "Moose Crossing" signs appear on Cornwall roads.

—Carla Bigelow

Welcome

Gabriella Grace to Gus and Mollie Sogliuzzi
Matthew Gardner O'Connell to Emily Buchanan and Brendan O'Connell
Ella DeVere Coffin and John Lazaro Coffin to Tobie Cornejo and Samuel Coffin

Good-Bye to Friends

Charlotte Elizabeth Bruehl
Loyal Donald Clark
Hildreth Daniel
William Brewster Hubbard

Congratulations

Janna Kenniston to Jeremy Rice
Wendy vanden Heuvel to Bradley Coley III

Land Transfers

Laurel Rose Galloway to Laurie J. Racine, property at 37 South Road for \$685,000.
Robert and Suzanne P. Lavoie to Janette Diller, 2.374 acres on Kent Road for \$135,000.
John J. O'Donnell to John D. and Anne G. Coffin, 18.860 acres on Town Street for \$358,340.

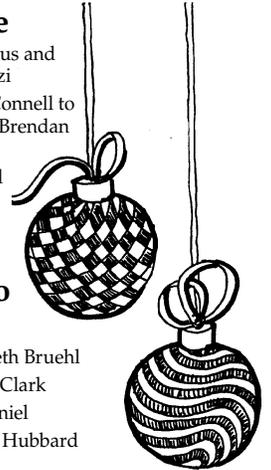
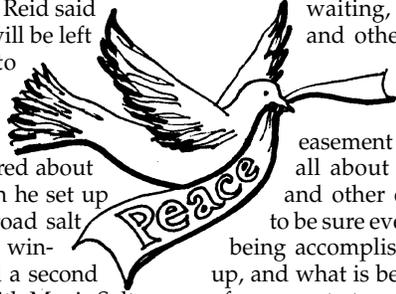
Flu Shots and Fluoride

We live in an era when health care is delivered, if it is delivered at all, by unfamiliar hands, when epidemics fly around the world on airplanes, when the world of family doctors and community medicine is all but forgotten.

The public health needs of the Town of Cornwall are in the care of the Torrington Area Health District (TAHD). The agency covers 18 towns within 582 square miles inhabited by 123,385 people. Hardly the old family doctor, but TAHD works hard to teach good health practices (sometimes using a satellite dish distance-learning system). Flu shots, water-quality tests at the lake, and the ministrations of the Tick Lady all come from this source. TAHD also monitors septic-system design and checks off every zoning application to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The final pages of the Cornwall Report this year included a look back to the time, 50 years ago, when our town was part of the Cornwall-Goshen Public Health Nursing Association. Ellen Bockrath, RN, plied CCS with 170 visits, 140 eye exams, 52 dental fluoride applications, and, startling to modern eyes, 118 polio shots and boosters. The Salk vaccine was only a few years old in 1955, and the schools were the places to get to the kids.

Four well-child conferences were held at which 77 children were examined by Dr. Bradford Walker, who included public-



health duties in his own practice based in Cornwall Village. Dr. Walker, in my experience, was a powerful enough presence to instill healthy behavior in any child. One look from beneath the bushy eyebrows and you never went barefoot (lockjaw) or swam (typhus) in the mucky farm brook below the Calhoun barn again. Well, hardly ever.

Those of us who survived our childhoods in his care have cause to be grateful. And glad for TAHD now that senior stretch class is more likely than a swim in that brook.

—Lisa Lansing Simont

Soccer Fields 86 Kids

Cornwall's Park and Rec. fall soccer program was highlighted by tournament appearances by the girls and boys U-12 (age 12 and under) teams.

Park and Rec. Director Bethany Thompson reported that a total of 86 children participated in the program, sporting their yellow and blue Cornwall uniforms in Saturday games against the likes of Canaan, Kent, Sharon, and Goshen.

Against these teams from larger towns the Cornwall players more than held their own. The U-8 program fielded two co-ed teams with 30 players participating. Coaches Bridget Lynch and Ron Laigle managed to keep a lid on the large squad while focusing on fundamental skills and providing equal playing time for all.

The U-10 girls, coached by Jim Vanicky and Bethany Thompson, posted a 3-1-2 record and won both games in a season-ending "jamboree" in Sharon.

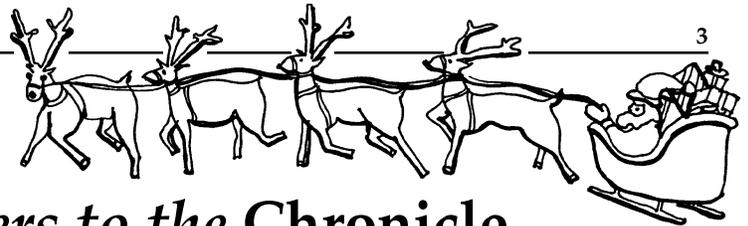
The U-10 boys were coached by Ron Laigle and Gordon Ridgway and fielded 12 players for a winning record that included several close victories.

The U-12 girls, coached by Ridgway and Dan Hubbard, posted the best regular-season record in their league and won their first-round playoff game to advance to the finals against Canaan. The game was a thriller, with two overtime periods necessary before it was finally decided in Canaan's favor by virtue of a "shootout" in which each team was given five chances to send the ball into the opposing net. Canaan's final attempt resulted in the only goal of the shootout, sending the Cornwall team home discouraged but pleased with their overall 5-2-1 record.

The U-12 boys, coached by Bill Gold and Jim Terrall, fielded 17 players for a successful regular season and advanced to the league finals. In one of those "only in Cornwall" coincidences, this team also lost their championship match in double overtime with a shootout, bowing to the team from Milton.

Despite the heartbreaking losses by the older teams, it was a season marked by fun, good sportsmanship, and success against teams from surrounding towns with larger rosters. Congratulations and thanks to Bethany Thompson, the coaches who volunteered their time for practices and games, and to the players themselves.

—Dan Hubbard



Letters to the Chronicle

FOR SHAME!

I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of the honest people in town for buying local goods. My egg stand has been doing very well, and I'm excited since all the money goes to my education.

Recently, though, my dad told me that someone had stolen the money out of the money can! I couldn't believe it! Then I heard of another incident of farm stand pilfering. Stunned, I wondered who would do such a thing. Perhaps whoever it was needed the money. That would make me feel better about what happened.

—Reilly Hedden

SENIORS MISSING SOMETHING GOOD

Once again our very capable Social Services Director, Jill Gibbons, planned a program for October 20 on transportation opportunities "particularly for the elderly and homebound" and listed it in the Chronicle.

One would think that such a topic would have wide appeal. This time three of us showed up, four if you count FISH director Joan Edler and six if you count Jill and Gordon Ridgway.

We were outnumbered, however, by those who came to present the program. People from Geer Dial-a-Ride in Canaan, Northwest Transit District, Visiting Nurse and Home Care NW, and Hospice from Litchfield, as well as Joan Edler of FISH, told us about their services, available if the need should arise.

Jill deserves thanks for persevering with these programs that very few seem to appreciate.

—Ann Peterson

LOOKING AHEAD

Now that the Election Day dust has settled, we can tip our hats to all who ran for office and start to look ahead. Thanks to all the candidates who stepped forward to offer choices and to the voters who came out in large numbers.

There are many challenges and opportunities for citizens to stay involved. The Town Plan is about to be revised, which will serve as a blueprint for Cornwall's next decade. New programs for youth and seniors are underway. The volunteer organizations that define our town are alive and well and always welcome new members. Please feel free to contact me and other town officials with your ideas and concerns.

Thanks again for your continuing support, without which many town efforts would not be successful.

—Gordon M. Ridgway

DOWN-HOME DINNER

There was good food, good people, and good results from the October 17 fundraising event for Hurricane Katrina relief held at the Wandering Moose Café in West Cornwall by Amy Cady, Bee Simont, Jane Giddens-Jones, and Norma Lake. Three seatings of hungry people from Cornwall and the northwest corner dined on southern food with a New Orleans emphasis. The admission was a \$50 check made out to the Salvation Army Hurricane Relief Fund (\$4,180), the ASPCA Disaster Relief Fund (\$2,025), or the Southern Arts Federation Emergency Relief Fund (\$2,740). The amount in parentheses is how much was sent to these organizations. Many people who couldn't come sent us money and donated funds toward the purchase of food. Sharon and Russ Sawicki, owners of the Moose, led the list of volunteers along with their wait staff.

—Norma Lake



Events & Announcements

Cornwall Seniors are invited to take part in the many scheduled activities of the Litchfield Senior Center, including bus trips to New York City. A monthly calendar of the center's activities is posted at the Cornwall Free Library. To get on the mailing list of the Litchfield Senior Center, call 567-8302.

CCS Music will be in full flower for the season at concerts open to the public. On Tuesday, December 13, at 7 P.M., Alicia Simonetti-Schpur will lead grades 5 through 8 in several band and choral groupings for seasonal and jazz music at CCS. Snow date is December 20.

The UCC Christmas Fair, to be held Saturday, December 3, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the United Church of Christ, will feature several new faces among the local artists, an apple pie baking contest, and a raffle for gift baskets, along with old favorites: evergreen wreaths and decorations, a children's crafts and shopping table, a soup-and-sandwich lunch and holiday foods in the Day Room, along with a table staffed by representatives from worthy community organizations. To reserve wreaths call Joan Edler at 672-6789.

Library Benefit Concert: David Rovics will play and sing at a concert at the Town Hall to benefit the Cornwall Free Library on Friday, December 30, at 7:30 P.M. Admission will be \$10 at the door. All are welcome!

CCS Book Fair: The PTA Scholastic Book Fair will run from December 5 through 9 (Monday through Friday) from 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. at CCS. Mrs. S. Claus will read Saturday, 9 A.M. to noon, for kids who may give her wish lists for Mr. Claus. Refreshments will be served.

Art in Cornwall: The Outsiders Gallery will host a reception on Saturday, December 3, from 5 to 7 P.M., for a Holiday Show featuring creative works by over 30 local artists.

The Cornwall Free Library will continue to show Ellen Moon's landscapes through December 10. Starting December 13, Erica Prud'homme will have a show of watercolors, which will remain on display through mid-January.

The National Iron Bank will display photographs by Harry Colley through December.

Carol Singing and goodies to follow will be on offer at the Town Hall on Saturday, December 10, at 6:30 P.M. This annual Park and Rec. event features the tree-lighting on the front lawn and music by the Hot Chocolate Society. Refreshments follow in the Town Hall. Everyone welcome; bring your best singing voice.

The Winter Birds Will Be Counted on Sunday, December 18. Carla Bigelow and Celia Senzer will be out at about 7:15 A.M. and would welcome company at any time during the day for "a pleasant walk, a pleasant talk," and some heavy-duty counting (we hope). Call 672-6898 in advance, or (860) 671-0428 on the day for information as to meeting places. The area covered is from the Sharon side of the Housatonic to Cream Hill Road, Town Street, and north just beyond Music Mountain Road. Anyone who would be willing to do a feeder bird count should call Celia at 672-6898.

Last Chance

More than 200 readers generously responded to the *Chronicle's* recent fundraising appeal. If you've been meaning to add your name to that list, there is still time to send in your tax-deductible donation before the year ends.

The Community Christmas Pageant will take place at UCC on Saturday, December 17, at 7:30 P.M. Participants will rehearse at 5:30 P.M. The pageant, a long-standing Cornwall tradition featuring carols, readings by bearded town fathers, shepherds of all sorts, and angels galore, will be followed by refreshments at the Parish House. Snow date: Sunday, December 18. All are welcome. Call Charlotte Frost, 672-6323.

Christmas Eve with the UCC will include two candlelight services on Saturday, December 24, at 5 and 8 P.M. at the North Cornwall Meeting House.

Tom Walker's Boxing Day Reading this year will be at the North Cornwall Meeting House on Monday, December 26, at 4 P.M., the dusky part of the day when the candles will be lit and the sky sometimes offers a glorious sunset. Tom will read from C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Free-will offerings are welcome for the benefit of the Cornwall Free Library.

New Year's Breakfast: This annual delight will take place on Sunday, January 1, between 8:30 A.M. and 1 P.M. in the UCC Parish House. The menu features buttermilk pancakes, local maple syrup, sausage, cereal, milk, juice, and coffee. Donations will once again benefit the La Casa Project, which builds homes for the very poor in northern Mexico. Thirty La Casa volunteers from Cornwall constructed two homes in one week this past June.

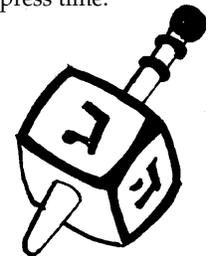
A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, December 28, from 1:30 to 6:15 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Walk-ins are welcome; however, to avoid a possible wait, please call to schedule a time. Allow one hour in all. Donors must be minimum 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. A good turnout is needed (about 50) to ensure that a drive will continue to be held in Cornwall. To register to donate blood or request further information, call Jerry and Pat Blakey at 672-6516 or the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE LIFE.

The Wayde Wolfe Fund gained \$4,500 through the combined efforts of Cornwall businesses and those who attended a potluck supper sponsored by the Cornwall Agriculture Commission at the UCC Parish House on November 12. Those who would like to contribute may do so at the National Iron Bank. Wayde hurt himself badly in a fall from the roof of a house on which he was working.

Cabin Fever Cure: The Cornwall Town Players are beginning preparation for an exciting open-air production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Workshops will be offered in January and February on "Speaking Shakespeare" and other matters pertinent to the play. All are welcome to become a Cornwall Town Player, as there is something for everyone to do in the production. Call Fred Thaler at 672-0052.

Winter Parking: The Board of Selectmen reminds all residents that cars and trucks should not be parked on town roads during snow storms. Their presence gets in the way of snow plows, and maneuvering one of the nine-foot plows past parked cars is a hazard all around. Please be thoughtful and park safely during the bad weather.

Election Soup Sippers contributed \$275 to benefit the Cornwall Food Pantry. People (65) sampled soups (8), sometimes more than once. Whether or not this repast influenced the outcome of the election could not be determined by press time.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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