

# Andover Historical Society

By Joanna Sumner  
Andover Historical Society

You'll see some changes this year at our Old Time Fair in Potter Place on Sunday, August 2. We are excited to have a new musical group, White Mountain Bluegrass, playing this summer. Come listen to some of the best straight-up, old-time, singin' 'n' pickin' to be heard today.

Put our Old Time Fair date, August 2, on your calendar and plan to stop by. There are always games for the children, the flea market, the auction, the baked goods table, and much, much more.

## BBQ Grill Raffle

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Village Green on the Fourth of July and again at the Old Time Fair on Sunday, August 2. The winners will be drawn at the Fair.

For our first prize we are raffling a Uniflame Outdoor LP Gas Barbecue Grill and a \$25 gift certificate donated by Wal-Mart. The second prize is a lovely framed print donated by Grevior Furniture of Franklin, and a floral ar-

rangement for your home.

We want to thank both Wal-Mart and Grevior Furniture for their donations and for supporting the efforts of the Andover Historical Society.

We currently maintain the Tucker Mountain Schoolhouse, the Potter Place train depot, the freight shed, and Emon's Store. A new sight is the "new" freight car that was delivered June 12 and placed next to the old freight shed in Potter Place. It needs cleaning and painting but will soon be a great addition to the Historical Society. Donations are needed to help with the painting and repair efforts.

We collect and store local memorabilia and keep the museum open to the public. Please come and help support our mission.

The theme this summer at the museum is the old Winter Hill Ice Company on Highland Lake in East Andover which used to cut ice from the lake in the winter and store it to be shipped to Boston in the summer.



It took two years and almost \$10,000, but Potter Place now boasts an authentic B&M railcar of its own. The project also gained the Historical Society a large amount of much-needed storage. Staff photos: Heather Makechnie

## Freight Car Rolls Into Potter Place

By Heather Makechnie  
Beacon staff

Capitol Plumbing and Heating Supply had a peculiar sign. The company logo was actually painted on the side of an old Boston & Maine railcar. Its doors sealed shut, it sat outside the company's facility on Storrs Street in Concord, where it was visible from the highway.

After the company was acquired by Granite Group Plumbing, the car became something of a liability. The yard had become overgrown with weeds and was inhabited by homeless in what was called a "hobo jungle." With the name change of the company, the car no longer served its purpose as a sign.

Tom Miller, a plumber with Clayton A. Miller Plumbing of Elkins, alerted Pat Cutter, President of the Andover Historical Society, to the availability of the car.

Peter Dearness, the owner of the New England Southern Railroad, also operates the Concord Rail Yard. Since one of his engines was going to Tilton to pick up some cars owned by the Tilton Caboose Club for a function at the Marriott Courtyard in Concord, he offered to tow the old freight car to a siding at Exit 18 in Canterbury. This was accomplished during a driving blizzard on New Years Eve, December 31, 2007, and there it sat for another year and a half.

"It took that long to get a permit from the State of New Hampshire to allow the car to sit on the rails adjacent to the Potter Place Station," explains Pat. "The old Potter Place Station and freight shed buildings are owned by the Andover Historical Society," she clarified, "but the State still owns the railbed as well as the right-of-way to all the tracks in New Hampshire, and retains the right to re-activate the railbed at any time."

### Planning The Big Move

It takes some very special consideration before one moves a railcar on the highway. To begin with, the railcar wheels (or "trucks") are not built to roll on anything but rail, so they need to be removed. Usually the railcar is then

hoisted onto a flatbed. Sometimes the car will be tipped on its side during the move on the flatbed.

However, in this particular case, the railcar is unusually tall, standing at 14' 3". Most telephone wires and bridges in New Hampshire are only 14' on a good day. If the car had been tipped on its side it still would have taken up more than its share of the road.

"In the past," explains Tom, "there used to be a lot of people who would fool around with this stuff, but it's got so, with insurance and such, that it's too risky.... People can't afford the equipment."

### The Big Move

Enter Phil's Towing & Recovery Service out of Peabody, Massachusetts. Phil's is, among other things, a heavy-



duty recovery specialist for the State Police, when logging trucks, motor homes, or buses go belly-up. They also come highly recommended for moving railcars.

For \$8,250 paid from Andover Historical Society funds, the family-owned company worked from 8 AM to nearly 6:30 PM on June 12, to move the railcar. "But it began much earlier than that," says Alan Lynch, son of owner Brian Lynch. "My uncle Paul Lynch, a hockey player in Cincinnati, was flown in as safety officer. First we had to take a day to scout the entire route and evaluate the car itself. Today,

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Andover Old Time Fair flea market  
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fair another great success while  
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town's unique history.

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**Old Time Fair**  
**August 2, 2009 at Potter Place**