



The new kitchen at the Highland Lake Grange Hall puts it high on the list of local venues for public and private functions of all kinds

Staff photos: Charlie Darling

Highland Lake Grange Hall Has A New Kitchen

By Donald Gould

Highland Lake Grange Hall Restoration Committee

Rising above the mud and rotted sills, the eastern portion of the Highland Grange Hall, which was added by the Highland Cooperative Union in 1893, has been completely renovated to modern standards now with replacement of the kitchen.

This community meeting hall is central to a group of three buildings in East Andover that are on the Federal Register of Historic Buildings and Places. These are the Andover Congregational Church (1796), the Highland Lake Institute/Cooperative Union/Grange Hall (1850) and the East Andover School (1903).

2006

At the turn of the 21st century, the Grange Hall was little used and in serious disrepair, with rotting sills and dangerous electrical service. Then, in 2006 the insurance carrier threatened to cancel all insurance unless improvements were made. Fuses were replaced with circuit breakers at the electrical service entry and then, with a vision based on past memorable activities within the hall, the Highland Lake Grange Hall Restoration Committee was formed and fund raising began.

2007

On September 2, 2007, the Andover Congregational Church held a special meeting to approve withdrawal of \$25,000 from the investment fund to match and be used in conjunction with funds totaling \$25,300 previously donated by community members. The approval was unanimous, and there

was a lot of excitement.

Construction began almost immediately by Fifield Building Restoration and Relocation to construct a concrete



(L-r) David Jewett, Don Gould, Lloyd Perreault, and Irene Jewett have been instrumental in the restoration of the Highland Lake Grange Hall.

Staff photo: Charlie Darling

cellar under the Highland Cooperative Union section of the hall for a solid foundation. Surrounding landscape

See Kitchen on page 28



At the Immaculate Conception Church's annual Spaghetti Supper in February, Mary Hattan (above) serves Don Gallo of New London, while in the kitchen (inset) Roger Champagne prepares another bowl of pasta to feed the hungry crowd. Roger and Mary, each formerly of Andover, helped start the supper 34 years ago

Staff photos: Bob Bussey

Immaculate Conception Spring Rummage Sale

By Loretta Bates

Immaculate Conception Church

Immaculate Conception Church in Potter Place has two outstanding rummage sales each year, and each year people come from as far away as Manchester, Springfield, Concord, and many more surrounding towns. Our first sale of the year will be on Saturday, April 17, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

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