

FRNT Connects Lebanon To Franklin With Two Extensions

FNRT press release

At the last meeting of the Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) held on January 19, Alex Bernhard, Vice President and the member in charge of the project to continue the trail from Potter Place to Danbury, reported that the work had been completed in December and that the new trail was now open.

FNRT has been working on finishing the 8.3 miles to Danbury for over five years. By completing the link to Danbury, the trail now goes from West Franklin to Lebanon, a distance of 46 miles, making the Northern Rail Trail the longest in New Hampshire.

The project cost approximately \$348,000, of which the federal government, through the New Hampshire Department of Transportation under the Federal Transportation Enhancement program, provided \$278,000. The Friends raised the remaining \$70,000. While the Town of Andover was very helpful acting as manager and fiscal agent for the project, no Town funds were spent on the project.

The work consisted of grading aside the debris and vegetation that had accumulated during the years since the line was abandoned by the Boston and Maine, then compacting the remaining stones (called "ballast"), then laying four inches of stone dust, compacting the stone dust,

ditching where needed to restore the old (and great) railroad ditching, and putting up railings on eight bridges.

The project took only about four months of construction. However, the Friends had been working for five years to bring matters to a point where this construction could begin. We had to first compete with many other proposed projects from all over the state and then wind our way through the requirements of the Federal Highway Administration, the approval process of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, and the permitting requirements of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. At the same time, we needed to raise the \$70,000 required as a match for the federal funds. Luckily, we had Craig Heim of Wilmot to manage this part of the project.

The eight miles of new trail follow Frazier Brook and Route 4 from Andover to Danbury and are some of the loveliest parts of the Trail. There is a gradual climb of about 1% going north, so starting in Potter Place will provide a slight uphill ride heading north and a slight downhill ride coming back. There is an active beaver pond just south of Danbury with a resident beaver and two stores in Danbury, one of which serves luncheon sandwiches. The Trail is open to snowmobiles and all non-motorized users.

Rail Trail Benefit Scheduled For April At Rockwell's At The Inn

By Lindy Heim

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail

Don't miss the next Friends of the Northern Rail Trail event coming up in April – our annual fundraising dinner, scheduled for one night only, Thursday, April 14, at Rockwell's at the New London Inn. Owner/Chef Jerrod Rockwell will offer the restaurant's regular menu, which is varied and outstanding, in both dining rooms. There is no set time or set menu – you decide when you want to have dinner and with whom. Just make reservations, go, and enjoy yourselves as you do on any evening out. The atmosphere promises to be festive as the dinner crowd tends to be made up of exuberant FNRT supporters!

Community-minded former New London Inn owner Bridget Le Roy founded the program a few years back, and Chef Jerrod has generously continued it, allowing half of the night's profit to benefit the rail trail effort. Please make reservations before they are filled

by calling the New London Inn directly at 526-2791. Dinner may be enjoyed as early as 5 PM in the Tavern (reservations not necessary) or 5:30 PM in the main dining room.

While Northern Rail Trail users have been enjoying the snow-covered trail all winter, everyone is looking forward to biking and hiking.

Besides coming to our dinner April 14, another way you can help the rail trail effort is to become a member. In return for your membership dues you will get updated information on progress and meetings if you wish to be informed of these. Membership categories range from \$15 to \$100 and can be processed securely online on our Web site. And you can lend a hand at any one of the upcoming FNRT events promoted on our Web site and our Facebook page.

Please visit FNRT.org for more information on organizational activities, printable trail maps, membership, and giving opportunities.

Reminiscence

Cioffi's Restaurant

By Walter Walker For the Beacon

My family and I enjoyed many good pizzas at Cioffi's Restaurant in Wilmot. Patrick (or Pat, as he was known) and his charming wife Eleanor ran that eating place and several small cabins up back for many years.

It was located on the east side of Route 4, about 200 feet north of the New Canada Road. The highway used to run by the restaurant, and when the

road was changed and moved to where it is now, tourists would not see the building. That cut into the business, plus neither of the Cioffi's sons was interested in taking over as their parents' health declined.

Cioffi's served lots of fine food beside pizza. I remember some mighty fine soup that Mrs. Cioffi used to make. We soon learned not to go on a Saturday night, as the place would be jammed.

Andover Libraries

By Janet Moore Andover Library Trustees

I stopped by the Bachelder Library on my way home on a Friday afternoon around 4:15. It wasn't really on the way, but I wanted to talk to Mary about books and the new online public access catalog, LibraryWorld. Quiet and warm inside, everyone else in town home preparing supper, the Library sparkled with latent energy: so many characters, so many stories, so many thousands of ideas.

In November, Mary began scanning books into our new cataloging and circulation system, LibraryWorld, which also gives us an online catalog option. It's great! With scanning (she's well into non-fiction now) came weeding, much like cleaning house. And ordering new books. Two intrigued me, but I'll warn you, they're both true and fact-filled, a different approach for some, but ever so rewarding.

The first is *The Tell-Tale Brain* by V.S. Ramachandran. A practicing neurologist and researcher, he shares his patients' case histories to teach us how the brain and the mind function. Ori-

gins of language, feelings and reflections on the arts, the sense of self, what civilization really means; these are topics he seizes on with glee and wonder. With a wealth of medical experience, he delves into who and why we are ... which leads right into Lauren Hillenbrand's *Unbroken*.

The American POWs in World War II suffered terribly, especially those under the control of a certain officer named Watanabe, known as a master torturer. But Louis Zamperini survived. A remarkable individual, part daredevil, from age two on, part serious mischief-maker, star runner, Olympic hero, and all parts irrepressible, Louis entered the war, trained as a bomber pilot, survived almost two months in the shark-filled Pacific on a raft, and was picked up on an island by the Japanese. To say any more would ruin the story completely. I can tell you, though, that these are good "companion" volumes, as one feeds right into the workings of the other.

Stop in and enjoy the selection. Remember: you can "read in" or "take out."

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