



TOWN OF BELMONT

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Annual Report 2011
Celebrating Autumn

Belmont, New Hampshire Annual Town Report 2011

CELEBRATING AUTUMN

The four seasons help define our New Hampshire town. Fall marks the transition from summer to winter, with a brilliant foliage fanfare over our region's lakes, mountains, and winding roads. The autumn months herald the start of school, fall festivals, farmer's markets, homecoming, Halloween, and Thanksgiving's harvest bounty. New England's fall flavors are distinct, local, and fresh. For many, a perfect afternoon combines a trip to the apple orchard, an outdoor sporting event, a walk down a dappled, sunlit lane... capped off with homemade pie and hand-pressed cider!

Local autumn sights feature the contemplative beauty of Canterbury Shaker Village, the Belknap mountain range aglow with color, and the simple, everyday beauty of our stone walls, barns, and back roads framed with stunning foliage for those few fleeting weeks.

It's button-up-the-house and move-things-to-the-shed-season, while hats, gloves, and blaze orange vests are retrieved, yards are raked, and wood is stacked. Frosty mornings turn to glorious, warm autumn days, then back to crisp, chilly evenings. This season's gift is golden, and shines brightest through the colorful canopy of a blue-sky day, sparkling on Lake Winnisquam, Silver Lake, and the meandering Tioga River. Hardy mums and pumpkins offer the last splash of color to the season. We treasure those bright, warm October afternoons, as Old Man Winter lurks just around the corner.



White Tail Outpost on Shaker Road is one of only a handful of locations in the state where elk are raised — with care, by Bo Gilbert.



The third generation at Weeks Farm continues to take pride in its annual pumpkin crop.



The 1792 Province Road Meeting House was the first regional place of worship and awaits restoration by the Belmont Historical Society.



Apple picking at Smith Orchard offers numerous varieties including Macintosh, Red Delicious, Cortland, and Ginger Gold.

*Town of Belmont
New Hampshire*



Best Town by a Dam Site

**ANNUAL REPORT
2011**

The Belmont Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator's Office would like to thank all of the contributors to this year's Annual Report. A special thank you is extended to Shayne Duggan once again for her hard work on the layout and design of the cover.

DEDICATION

Volunteerism at its Best in the Best Town by a Dam Site



In 2008, the imaginations of volunteers Linda Frawley, Shayne Duggan and Wallace Rhodes designed our "Seasons" theme for our Annual Town Report. We would like to thank them for their efforts which have been recognized by the Local Government Centers Annual Report Award each year culminating with 1st Place for our 2010 Report.

Penstock Park is a shining tribute to our community; the team of volunteers, Ken Knowlton, Woody & Chris Fogg, Ginger Wells-Kay, Bob Stevens, and numerous others deserve our appreciation for their efforts.

Photo courtesy of Rick Ball



Mr. and Mrs. Claus at Deck the Village 2011

Photo courtesy of Janet Breton



Belmont's 2011 Good Citizens – Dan Powell, Courtney Clary, Tyler Dami, Olivia Doucette, and Ariel Wright

Photo courtesy of Janet Breton

*Glossy Buckthorn Eradication – Tioga River Wildlife
Conservation Area 2011
Student Conservation Association
Photo courtesy of Rick Ball*



*Make A Difference Day
Girl Scouts & Daisy Scouts & others including Belknap
County Youth Services, Ginger Wells-Kay, & Timothy
Hayes Landscaping volunteered to brighten Belmont
planting some 4000+ daffodils at the Province Road
Meeting House, Belmont Library, Sargent Park, Belmont
Mill, Penstock Park, and the Corner Meeting House. Effort
coordinated by the Heritage Commission with financial
sponsors including Sargent Fund, Belmont Beautification
Funds, Garden Artisans, Commander & Mrs. Robert
Stevens and others.
Photo courtesy of Linda Frawley*



*Belmont Old Home Day – 2011
Chicken Barbecue and Belmont Library Book Sale
Photos courtesy of Linda Frawley*



Mill workers of the 1880s assemble in front of the main building.



From 1921-1955, the Mill operated as the Belmont Hosiery Company.

Belmont Mill

2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the devastating Mill fire on August 14, 1992. Since 1833 the buildings, economy, activities and future of the Mill have had an extraordinary impact on our community.

Since its rededication in 1998, the Belmont Mill has been honored with over a dozen regional and statewide awards. Most recently, in 2011, the *New Hampshire Preservation Alliance* cited the Belmont Mill as one of New Hampshire's most significant and challenging preservation projects of the last quarter century. That accolade was followed in June by the *Victorian Society in America, New England Chapter*, recognizing the Heritage Commission for stewardship and innovative efforts telling the "Belmont Mill Story" through conferences, events, media and ongoing education.

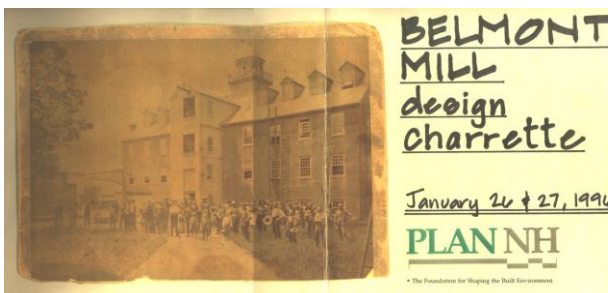
The Mill story turns a new page with visible Village improvements and revitalization efforts moving forward with the interest and help of local citizens, friends and partners from Belmont and the region. Gratitude is due Belmont residents for preserving this strong emblem of pride in community heritage for those that follow.



One of the earliest Belmont Mill photos from the 1880s.



From 1992 - 1996, the community debated demolition vs. renovation of



Despite the aftermath of neglect and the horrific 1992 fire; following the first PlanNH charrette, citizens supported Mill renovation, aided by Community Development Block Grant Funds, and \$215,000 for a local taxpayer-funded bond.



Twenty years after the fire, and 14 years after saving the main building, the Belmont Mill continues to serve the community. Exterior lighting was upgraded to energy efficient LED in 2011 through a federal grant.