

## Candia Heritage Commission Annual Report - 2013

The Candia Heritage Commission, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, provides for the proper recognition, use and protection of Candia's historic and cultural resources.

The Commission developed a renovation plan for the Smyth Memorial Building and submitted it to the town as a warrant article that was defeated. The Commission continues to promote the project and pursue options for the reuse of this historic building. We recommend the appointment of a board of trustees to oversee maintenance and make decisions concerning the future of the building. The Smyth Building was open for visitors on the same Saturdays as the Fitts Museum, at Lights on the Hill and during the Celebrate Candia Day in September. An account has been established for donations to the renovation fund. The Commission welcomes others who wish to participate in the renovation effort.

Three historic markers were installed. An engraved granite stone now marks the location of the Frederick Smyth Schoolhouse at the corner of Podunk and New Boston Roads. A dedication ceremony was held. The State of New Hampshire installed a sign in the Langford/Depot Road triangle describing the uniqueness of East Candia. Dennis Lewis installed a duplicate of the historic High Street sign.

### Other Commission Activities:

Celebrate Candia Historic Bus Tour and East Candia Walking Tour

Clean and wax the Soldiers' Monument

Distributed questionnaires to update the last 50 years of town history.

Accepted gift of a Persian rug for use at the Smyth building.

Organized annual town wide roadside cleanup.

Monitored barn preservation easements.

Participated in Scenic Byways project.

Participated in Moore School agricultural and Candia History days.

The Commission meets the first Tuesday of the month. Anyone interested in the rich historic and cultural heritage of our town is welcomed to attend.

Members: Diane Philbrick, chair, Carleton Robie, selectmen's representative, Betty Sabean, vice chair, Ray Cresswell, Carol Howe, Carmelle Druchiak, Sandra Whitcomb.

### Semiquincentennial Committee Report

The year 2013 marked the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Candia. The Semi Q Committee, under the auspices of the Heritage Commission, met monthly to coordinate three major activities for the celebration.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the opening event held at the Congregational Church. A reenactment of events in New Hampshire leading up to the formation of the town was performed.

Period music was provided by the Parkington Ensemble. The Candia Woman's Club provided refreshments based on recipes from the 1600s.

Celebrate Candia Day was held on September 20<sup>th</sup>. A bus tour of historic places in town was led by the Heritage Commission. The Fitts Museums hosted several activities both

inside and outside the museum, including a muster and musket firing. The Historical Society was open with a streaming video of an 18<sup>th</sup> century classroom from School House #4, now located in Old Sturbridge Village. The Masons provided a supper and the evening was capped off with music at the gazebo and fireworks.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, our reenactment concluded with the appearance of Governor Benning Wentworth and the first town meeting. Music was provided by the Philbrick family and the Meetinghouse Singers. The evening concluded with the firing of a cannon followed by more musket firing.

Funding for these events was raised by the sale of the calendar, the town ornament and by donation. The Fitts Museum Foundation, a private non-profit organization, acted as a pass through for the Semi Q Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Thomas, Coordinator