

News from the Stow Historical Society

*A newsletter for all friends of Stow history.
Please feel free to pass it along to others who might be interested!*

January 2012

STOW TIME CAPSULE
Sealed by the Stow Historical Society
On Its 50th Anniversary in 2011
To Be Opened on its 100th Anniversary
in 2061
Stow, Massachusetts

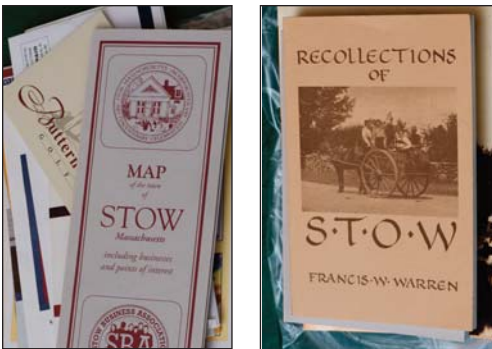
Time Capsule Launched:

Meet Back Here in 2061

Six months of planning, one hour of sealing the deal. The Stow Time Capsule was closed up and sited in its resting place in the Stow Historical Society Museum in Randall Library for the next half century on Saturday, December 17th, 2011.

To mark its 50th anniversary in 2011, the Historical Society decided to send a time capsule full of books, newspapers, maps, brochures and artifacts forward to the Society of 2061, designed to give a glimpse of life in Stow in our time. Artifacts were as diverse as Stow restaurant menus (Air Field Cafe, Red Ginger, Stow Pizza), essays by third-graders at Pompositticut School and Stow golf course scorecards. "Letters to the Future" by the Historical Society and Selectmen Chairman Jim Salvie were included.

Also enclosed in the 12"x12"x9" stainless steel box: some 80 photographs and a selection of DVD's of Historical Society and



Time capsule contents included documents and artifacts ranging from newspapers to a skein of alpaca yarn from Springbrook Farm.



Sealing event photos by Dwight Sipler



town programs, recorded on special gold-lined discs expected to preserve the data on them over their half-century wait. Whether the folks of 2061 will have equipment capable of playing them is another matter.

To facilitate preservation, the documents were, as much as possible, printed on acid-free paper and placed in polyethylene bags designed not to release degrading gases. The time capsule was sealed with silicon gel, with moisture- and oxygen-absorbing packets placed inside.

“This was an intriguing and challenging project involving the assistance of many Stowites,” notes SHS president Ralph Fuller. “It makes you realize that the lives we’re living and the things around us today are part of history as well as things in the past. Many thanks to all who took part!”



Photos were included not for their artistic value but their ability to show Stow as it was in 2011 – from apple picking at Carver Hill and ice cream picking at Honey Pot Hill to golfing and touring the Collings Foundation. Also pictured were things likely to have changed by 2061, like the fire station, Randall Library and Great Road’s intersection with Red Acre Road and Pompositticut Street.



The time capsule committee included, from left, Karen Gray, Ralph Fuller, Linda Stokes, Barbara Sipler, Nancy Arsenault and Dorothy Sonnichsen (not pictured). Lew Halprin processed the recordings of meetings and programs (and videotaped many of them, including the sealing). Dan Hnatio donated the gold discs and recorded the files onto them. Most photos were shot by Ralph Fuller but shots were also provided by Dwight Sipler, David and Karen Gray, Dick Luxner and Don Strauss.

The Time Capsule’s home for the next 50 years is the Historical Society’s artifacts collection in Randall Library.

