

## **Belmont Heritage Commission - First "Community Heritage Excellence" Awards**

**Presented October 17, 2011 – New Hampshire History Week with Board of Selectmen**

### **Holly Smith - Youth Leadership**

*Holly is a Belmont High School sophomore, and just named October 12, 2011 as one of the state's "Young Preservationists" making a difference and inspiring preservation in their communities.*

*She accepted the award from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance on the occasion of their 25th anniversary year at the University of New Hampshire, for "Aiding the celebration and preservation of Belmont Village"*

*Miss Smith's detailed artwork of the historic Bandstand was showcased during its 2009 Centennial and prominently displayed at the Belmont Middle School, Lakes Region Community College - Food for Thought Café and the weekly Winnisquam Echo newspaper.*

*Last December, at the invitation of local arts council C.A.R.E. (Community Arts Resources for Education) – she created a whimsical Village map for the community Christmas festival; "Deck the Village." Her fanciful perspective, from skate boarding elves to seasonal regalia on all Town offices, will again help children find their way to Santa's Workshop and Sweet Shop on December 4, 2011.*

*A longtime Girl Scout, she has received a Bronze Award, the highest achievement possible for a Junior Girl Scout. For nearly two years she has also participated as a Police Explorer, with the local Police Department.*

### **The Ferguson Family - Renovation Excellence - Private Residence**

*Robert and Susan Ferguson have owned the historic #17 Fuller Street residence in the Village since 1991. The house was constructed by Jonathan Fuller in 1841 and occupied by his descendents into the early 1900's.*

*Located across from the Corner Meeting House, it has been beautifully restored and landscaped to include an abundance of perennials and other plantings, by the Ferguson family.*

*Bob's experience and expertise as a member of the BPS/Bonnette, Page and Stone General Contractors and Construction Managers team, is evident throughout the careful renovation of this historic home.*

*All Fergusons, including Grady, their yellow Labrador (who informally patrols nearby Sargent Park) are actively involved in Village life. Bob participated in the 2010 PlanNH Charrette and served on the 2010 Village Revitalization Committee.*

## **Garden Artisans - Business Leadership - Municipal Beautification**

*Ginger Wells-Kay founded her Belmont-based garden design business in 2000.*

*She and her crews consistently give back to the New Hampshire community through conservation, education, and donated time and expertise.*

*The generosity of Garden Artisans is seasonally displayed in Laconia at the Rotary Riverside Park in Laconia and New Beginnings Domestic Violence Shelter, and Gilmanton at the historic Smith Meeting House, among other locations.*

*For her hometown, over recent years, Ginger has donated plantings for the Belmont Mill, and daffodils and time on **Make A Difference Day** efforts begun in 2008 at the Province Road Meeting House, Sargent Park, the Library and other locations.*

*Combining the highest principles of organic land care and the fine arts are both signature and commitment of Garden Artisans municipal projects.*

*The colorful bird, butterfly and people-friendly garden design for Penstock Park,, personally designed by Ginger, is another testament to that philosophy. Additionally, her local business contributed the majority of plants, growing materials and significant labor to this new and welcoming Village entryway.*

*A former Conservation Commission member, she also developed an annual scholarship program for Belmont High School seniors interested in environmental and conservation studies, later named to memorialize our friend Jeff Marden.*

## **Ken Knowlton – Volunteer Leadership - Penstock Park**

*Ken has been a constant voice through with many local initiatives including both 1996 and 2010 PlanNH Charrettes, the 2002 Master Plan update, Budget Committee, and one of the Town Hall Study Committees.*

*An active steward of the land, his involvement with the Conservation Commission began in 1999. He currently serves as chairman of the conservation commission for the 12th year.*

*Ken is also a student of local history and a descendent of some of the people who helped shape Belmont. Of special note is an early 1920's postcard of his Great Great Grandmother, Lora Bryant, pictured with her sister folding and boxing the famous GraceMae stockings at the Belmont Mill.*

*Their memory is honored by his achievement of coordinating the transformation of a small, neglected piece of land at the main village entryway, into a beautiful new park highlighting an original element of the mill complex.*

*Penstock Park illuminates the feature that once brought water from the Tioga River to the mill, generating hydroelectric power for the mill and village.*

*His enthusiasm and interest – aided by all-aged community volunteers, from Main Street residents to Belmont High School students - vividly demonstrates the difference collaboration, leadership and sweat equity can make in Belmont.*

### **Lakes Region Community College: Food for Thought Cafe – Community Partners & Special Events**

The Lakes Region Community College is a founding resident tenant of the iconic 1833 Belmont Mill at the edge of the Village Town Green.

The professional staff and students of the Culinary Arts Program settled there after the 1998 rededication, and provide a unique destination and outstanding hospitality for Belmont visitors and events.

Their talents memorably and tastefully helped celebrate the 2009 Historic Bandstand Centennial year, and generously contribute to many community and regional events and festivals.

The *Food for Thought Café* and *Student Hospitality Club* have graciously hosted meetings of the New Hampshire Fire Chiefs Association and statewide historic preservation leaders and statewide, among others.

The café prominently features historic Mill and Village photographs, bringing awareness of our community heritage to all who dine there.

Additionally, the Mill-based café is the production site for a feature cooking presentation cablecast on Lakes Region Public Access Television, LRPA-TV .

***Citation copy by Linda Frawley – with appreciation for certificate design and production by Shayne Duggan, and historical research from Wallace Rhodes***

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