

Haston Highlights

Miss Rosemary to Retire

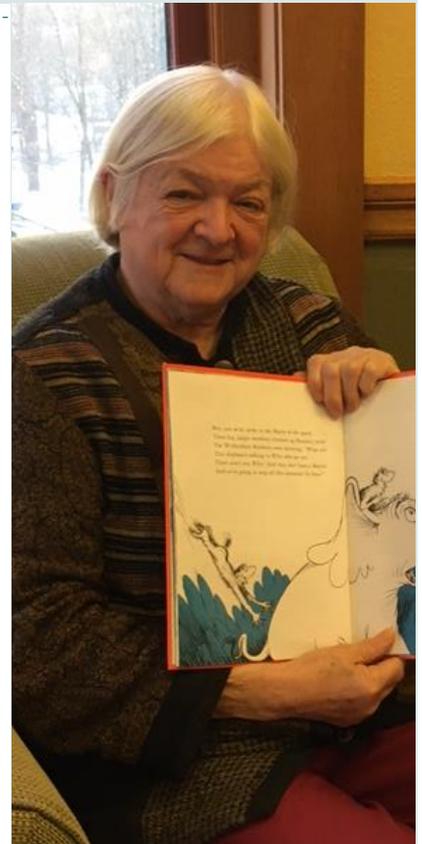
It's the end of an era: thirty-three years of kids running downstairs in the "old" library or upstairs to the new Children's Library to listen to stories, sing songs or make cute crafts. A couple of generations of children have been warmly welcomed to the Haston Library—and to reading—by a very special librarian, Rosemary Mackenzie, who plans to retire on March 31.

As Rosemary tells it, "My family moved to North Brookfield in 1986 after buying a four unit rental building close to the center of town. We were unfamiliar with the town but had heard only good things about it, and we were not disappointed in that regard. School was out for the summer, and I was looking for things to do with my three daughters, nine year old twins and a seven year old. The first thing I thought of doing

was to find the town library and get them their library cards.

"The library wasn't hard to find, being right there on Main Street, and my girls and I were greeted with a smile and a "Welcome to town!" from Jean Miller, the librarian. Going to the library became our favorite thing to do, and after a while Jean asked me if I would like to do some cleri-

[Mackenzie Cont. p. 4]



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LIBRARY (PANDEMIC) HOURS

Monday:	4 PM–7 PM
Tuesday:	10 AM–1 PM
Wednesday:	4 PM–7 PM
Thursday:	10 AM–1 PM
Saturday:	9 AM–12 PM

Haston Highlights

Dawn Thistle, Editor



Ready for Spring? Coming Soon: Haston Seed Exchange

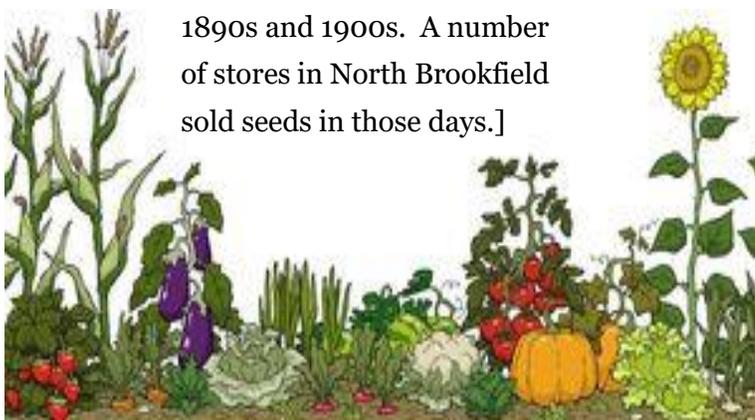
We are all eager to get outside in the sunshine—gardening! At the January 21 meeting of the Friends of the Library, the Friends voted to give the library funds toward the purchase of seeds for a seed exchange. With that “seed” money, we will purchase a variety of vegetable and flower seeds. This may not be the best year to start this, as we have heard that many seed companies are low on supply of some seeds. We welcome donations of seeds, too, if you have purchased more than you can use in your own garden. We’ll even accept seeds left over from 2020 (marked with the year), so that we can have as great a variety as possible. We will re-package the seeds we get into smaller amounts and add the growing information to each packet. Then you can take some to use in your garden.

If you have favorite varieties of flowers or vegetables that you want to recommend, please let us know. We want to encourage everyone in town to plant a garden, or at least to grow a few flowers in a pot. We should have our seeds available sometime in March, so stay tuned!

We also plan to schedule a gardening program or two to keep us motivated. And we hope that you will all take pictures of your garden and its progress over the course of the summer. Let’s share our successes and challenges and give our green thumbs a workout!

[Take a look, elsewhere in this issue, at some of the seed advertisements from the North Brookfield Journal in the

1890s and 1900s. A number of stores in North Brookfield sold seeds in those days.]



EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS — FINAL UPDATE

We now have beautiful new windows to replace the tower window and the half-round window in the façade of the original building. Our repair project is now complete. Thank you, North Brookfield, for helping us to maintain this important building!

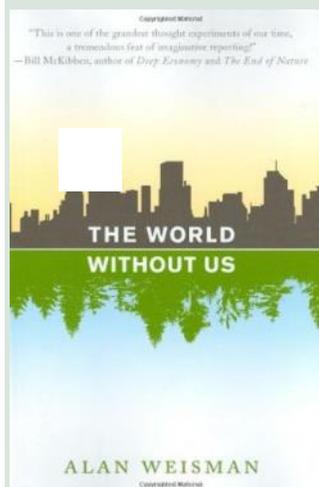
And thank you, Raymond James Restoration, for doing a great job.



BOOK GROUP NEWS

The Haston Library Book Group’s March selection is *The World Without Us* by Alan Weisman.

“In *The World Without Us*, Alan Weisman offers an utterly original approach to questions of humanity’s impact on the planet: he asks us to envision our Earth, without us. In this far-reaching narrative, Weisman explains how our massive infrastructure would collapse and finally vanish without human presence ... Weisman’s narrative ... looks deeply at our effects on the planet in a way that no other book has.”—*Goodreads*



Copies will be available at the library by Mar. 1, so stop by and grab yours! We will be discussing the book on March 30 at 7:00 via ZOOM. Call the library (508-867-0208) for more information and the ZOOM link.

[Mackenzie, cont. from p. 1]

cal jobs around the library. [In1988] she offered me the position of Children’s Librarian, and the rest is history!”

During her tenure, Rosemary organized story times, coordinated summer reading programs, engaged special performers, participated in school reading days and generally was a steady, constant presence in many children’s lives. Her favorite thing about being Children’s Librarian is, of course, the kids. “I especially love seeing kids I had at Storytime coming in with their own children.” Ann Kidd, former Library Director, worked with Rosemary for over 20 years. She says, “Rosemary was such a wonderful Children’s Librarian. People flocked to her Storytimes.” She described the excitement of the 1st grade classes that used to walk down to the library. Rosemary would read to them, give them a tour, teach them how to use the library, and give them their own, new library cards.

Rosemary offers some advice for the next Children’s Librarian: “Get to know the collection. It’s good to know what’s on the shelves so that you always have something in mind to recommend when a child needs a book or something is happening in the family. Like, ‘We just got a new puppy. Do you have any books about that?’” Rosemary was always able to find just the right title.

She has always loved to travel, and one of her dreams for her retirement is to take her grandsons to Europe. Another retirement goal is just to spend more time with people in town. And, of course, we hope that she will continue to come to the library to read to kids!

Join us on Saturday, March 27 at 11:00, in a Thank You, Rosemary, Parade of cars. We’ll drive past the library, honking and waving signs of farewell and thanks for a job amazingly well done! Call the library at 508-867-0208 for more details.

New Magazine Subscriptions

During the long pandemic summer, we took some time to review our magazine subscriptions. It seemed that some subscriptions had ended, and we were also getting requests for new titles. We went ahead and ordered some, which are now starting to come in:



Backpacker



Conde Nast

Traveler



Cosmopolitan

Forbes



Interweave Knits



Love of Quilting



Popular

Mechanics



Wired



Stop in and check them out!

And don’t forget about the huge variety of magazine titles available online via Overdrive: <https://cwmars.overdrive.com/cwmars-haston/content>

Haston Library Wins State Grant

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) recently informed us that our proposal for “Preserving Our Memories: Virtual Programming for Distance Learning” has been accepted. The Virtual Programming for Distance Learning grant program is funded through CARES Act funding to the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and is administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Our project, “Preserving Our Memories,” will feature the following virtual programs:

- ◆ Art Journaling workshops for kids
- ◆ Digital Scrapbooking for adults
- ◆ Memoir Writing for adults
- ◆ History, Day by Day—a presentation by Amy Hietala, Librarian at the Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, about the diaries, journals and other manuscripts in the OSV collections

Our grant will also enable us to purchase equipment to create a video of interviews with North Brookfield residents, exploring their COVID-19 pandemic experiences.

All the programs will take place through ZOOM. We will keep you posted on the dates and details for all the workshops as they are scheduled. If you already know you’re interested, please give us a call and we’ll start lists.

We hope that you will participate!



DON'T FORGET:

Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and other Beneficials

With Naturalist and Landscaper, John Root

Thursday, MARCH 11

7:00 p.m. on ZOOM

Learn how to welcome songbirds, hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and other beneficial organisms to your yards and neighborhood.

Stay tuned for ZOOM link!



This program is supported in part by a grant from the North Brookfield Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



North Brookfield Journal

A few gardening and seed advertisements, 1898-1908

New England's Greatest Seed House.

Have You Received the Great Red Book?
 If not send to-day. 100 pages, over 600 illustrations; most complete book for the farm, garden or orchard published. FREE; send postal. We sell everything found in an up-to-date Agricultural Tool and Seed House. Read our special offer below; we want to get you for a customer.

COUPON.

SPECIAL OFFER.

50 Cents Worth of Sweet Peas, for 25c.

Send this Coupon and 25c, and we will send you the book and ten choice named varieties of Sweet Peas, our selection worth at catalogue rate 50c.

SPECIAL OFFER, No. 2.

DWARF ... NASTURTIUMS.

25c worth Free. Send this coupon and 25c, and we will send you ten full size packages of latest named varieties of Dwarf Nasturtiums, worth 50c.

Another offer yet, and the best one. Send both Coupons and 50 cents, and you will get both collections and one ounce of our very best mixed Sweet Peas, of 60 of the choicest varieties. Can you miss this Grand offer? Send at once.

ROSS BROTHERS,

92 Front St. Worcester, Mass. Opposite the Soldiers' Monument

GARDENING HEALTHFUL.

The Queen, an English periodical, remarks that "there is scarcely any pursuit more calculated to produce good feeling among every class than that of horticulture. Especially is this unity and sympathetic feeling partaken of by ladies who engage in it, as a pleasurable pastime." Every word of it is true, which makes a man proud to be even on speaking terms with a garden. Anything that will make the women dwell together in peace and amity is worthy of all praise. One reason for the good feeling is that gardening is healthful, and health and good nature go together. Another reason is that it is constructive, and that which is constructive is unifying.

King & Tucker

Are prepared to furnish anything in

- Garden Seeds,
- Grass Seed,
- Seed Potatoes,

GEORGE P. BUCK.

**Flower Seeds,
Vegetable Seeds,
Nursery Stock,
Plants,
Bulbs.**

I carry the largest stock of Seeds, Bulbs, and Plants to be found in the Brookfields.

I have made arrangements with Mr. A. W. Poland for suitable space in his store and shall be pleased to have the Public call and I will try and supply their wants.

Your attention is especially called to my line of Aster and Sweet Pea Seeds, Gladiolus and Tuberosa Bulbs Aster, Verbena, Pansy and Carnation Plants.

Remember that I take orders and supply every thing in the Seed and Plant line.

GEO. P. BUCK,

North Brookfield, 39 Mass.

KING & T

Flour and General
 Merchandise Dealer

Town House Block,
 North Brookfield.

To find other interesting items from our past history, go to <https://haston.advantage-preservation.com/>