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Lumsden Dairy Farm Will Continue Under New Ownership

by Jane Pichel Cook

GREENSBORO – Since 1969, Larry Lumsden's typical day on the Lumsden Dairy Farm began at 4 a.m. and ended 12, 14 or 16 hours later.

In the summer, he might flash a light along the pasture fence to herd cows into the barn for milking. Sometimes, a light isn't needed, the sky is light enough to see the stragglers.

In winter, a warm barn is a refuge from the thirty-below-zero dawn. Or, he could be struggling to stand upright on a hizzard.

"Get up at 4 o'clock, drink my coffee, and headed for the barn." After 40 years of working this schedule, Lumsden is retiring. "The first thing I'm going to do is throw away the alarm clock," he said.

Larry and Sherrel Lumsden, his wife, have owned and worked the Lumsden Dairy Farm as a team since 1969. The farm was sold to Andrew Whitney, who will continue to operate it as a dairy farm. The land is being conserved with Vermont Land Trust. Lumsden will be working with Whitney and helping him out.

Larry Lumsden grew up on the Barr Hill Farm. His father, Lee Lumsden, started dairying there with registered Holsteins in 1945. The year Larry Lumsden was born, his father was dairying in 1938 in another part of Greensboro and Hardwick. He started with 15 or 20 Holsteins and grew the herd to about 60.

His father had bought the Baker Farm on Barr Hill because electricity was being brought up the road. Cows had been milked by hand; then, a milking machine powered by gas was used. Milking machines powered by electricity meant more animals could be milked at once.

Around 1950, the laws changed



Moche, a prize-winning Holstein heifer, was selected about having her picture taken at Larry and Sherrel Lumsden's retirement party last week. Moche is a very accomplished Freising heifer and show animal. The Lumsden Farm has been in operation since 1945 and will continue under new ownership.

and animals had to be kept on consent and a new section of the barn was built. A bulk tank was put in place so that milk could be piped directly from the milking machines into the tank. When the new foundation was put in, Lumsden, an 11-year-old, was small enough to get between the cement forms being laid out.

"I had to make sure to come

home right after school," he said.

"The cement was mixed by hand and wheelbarrowed to the forms. They used about 1,700 bags. I was small enough to get between the forms and twist the wire holding them. That was my job."

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As a high schooler and into the 1960s, he showed cows. The tradition continued with his daughters and, today, his grandchildren show cows, as well as his wife.

In his early 20s, Lumsden worked as a carpenter for about a year.

"After pounding nails, and it was cold in the winter, I wanted to be warm," he chuckled. "By fall, I was back to milking cows."

The next spring, 1969, he had his registered Holstein heifers from Mark's Happy Acres in New Hampshire.

"We started out \$50,000 in debt with a 100-acre farm, equipment, and a herd."

Difficult challenges came in 1979. Their old coldest house, one of the largest and oldest in Greensboro, burned. Milk prices weren't good; the weather was hard. They built the small house they now live in.

"We had just finished paying for the farm, \$50,000 in 10 years."

Lumsden's operation, now about 90 cows, has always been a tie-stall barn, and he would have it no other way. He believes a tie-stall is better, because each cow is known individually, seen every day. If a cow isn't eating or something isn't right, it's obvious. More accidents happen in a free-stall barn, animals slip and fall, animals are mixed together, so it is not easy to know if an animal is not well. If an animal doesn't eat, it isn't obvious since they eat together as a herd. A cow's productive life in a free-stall barn is shorter than cows in a tie-stall barn.

By 7:30 a.m. on a typical day, the cows have been graided, hayed, and milked. **SEE UMSDEN, 4**

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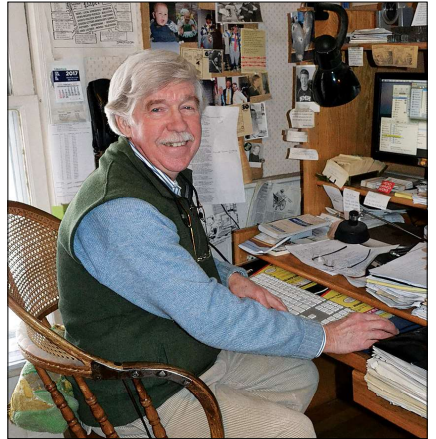
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Ross Connelly sits at his desk at the Hardwick Gazette in his final room as editor, a position that he held for 31 years.

Former Editor Connelly Wins International Journalism Award

by Ray Small

PORTLAND, Ore. – Ross Connelly, the former co-publisher and editor of the Hardwick Gazette, was honored by the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE) with its lifetime award Eugene Cervi Award at a ceremony in Portland, Oregon.

A description of the Cervi Award was read at the presentation ceremony. "The Eugene Cervi Award was established by the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors in 1976 to honor the memory of Eugene Cervi of the Rocky Mountain Journal in Denver by recognizing a newspaper editor who has consistently acted in the conviction that 'good journalism begets good government.'"

"The award is presented not for single brave accomplishment, however deserving, but for a career of outstanding public service through community journalism and for adhering to the highest standard of the craft with the deep reverence for English language that was the hallmark of Eugene Cervi's writing. The award also recognizes consistently aggressive reporting of governmental activities at the grassroots level and interpretation of local affairs."

Connelly had served as the editor of a Cape Cod weekly when he and his late wife, Susan, responded to a classified ad in Editor & Publisher magazine from the owners of a weekly newspaper, knowing little more about the paper than that it was located in northern New England. That paper turned out to be the Hardwick Gazette and Ross Connelly was its owner and editor for the next 31 years.

In his acceptance speech, Connelly noted that "community editor is a position to show, explain and connect the dots so

their reader see similarities in their lives with the lives of others in other communities. That helps make readers citizens. That's a huge responsibility for any journalist and that's a terrific privilege. I feel fortunate The Hardwick Gazette offered me the paper than that it was located in northern New England. That paper turned out to be the Hardwick Gazette and Ross Connelly was its owner and editor for the next 31 years.

Connelly said the paper and retired in February, 2017. Asked about receiving the award, he said simply, "It's an honor."

Editor's Note: The staff of the Gazette warmly congratulates Ross on winning the Eugene Cervi Award!

Ross Connelly a Worthy Recipient of the Cervi Award

by Mike Donoghue, Special to the Hardwick Gazette

MONTEPELIER – The Eugene Cervi Award is the best honor for Ross Connelly's career. The award is named for a man that acted with the belief that 'good journalism begets good government.' That fits Ross perfectly.

Ross sometimes had to insist on hard-earned journalism to make sure things were done right and in the open. Ross and the Gazette staff through the years had to dig deep, overcome hurdles thrown in their way by government leaders who disliked having the public look over their shoulders to ensure they were performing in the best interests of taxpayers.

Ross and the Gazette have taken hard stands and sometimes unpopular stands, but readers knew he did not play favorites. He was called upon by the Vermont legislature many times to offer his thoughts on Open Meetings, Public Records, Good Government and other important issues.

For more than 36 years Ross did it all: writing news, sports, features, editorials, while also directing one of the top weekly news businesses. They are sprinkled throughout the state of Vermont and beyond in daily and non-daily journalism.

New England has always been well served by print newspapers. It is interesting that after the 40 years of the Cervi Award, six New England editors have won the honor. Ross joins some excellent company, including Jack Aueland, now-retired editor of the Fishery Reporter.

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Journalist Mike Donoghue, who serves as the Executive Director of the Vermont Press Association, was among those to nominate Connelly for the award. Donoghue was a staff writer at the Burlington Free Press for 47 years.

Hardwick former FY2019 Tax Rate is 'Just Bad'

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK – A combination of expected increases, a less-than-expected grand list, and a big surprise has led to an increase in the FY 2019 tax rate for Hardwick that is "just bad," said town clerk and treasurer Albert Miller at the August 8 select board meeting.

"We took a huge hit on the Current Use landless payment," said Miller. She said the budgeted amount was at \$144,000 and

the actual amount was \$88,000, owing to the state not being clear that last year's amount contained a "windfall."

According to the Department of Taxes website, the purpose of the Current Use law was to allow the valuation and taxation of farm and forest land based on its remaining in agricultural or forest use instead of its value in the market place. The primary objectives of the program were to keep Vermont's agricultural and forest

SEE TAX, 4



Waldo (Krisna Mallon) greets Christie Emma, 3, of Greensboro, as she shows us an 11 Pound Waldo from after finding Waldo in the Little How Pine Brook stream in Hardwick, organized by the Galois Bookshop, culminated the Iron-Brook Find Waldo scavenger hunt, which includes 21 businesses in Hardwick and Greensboro.

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No Strike: Consolidated, Unions Reach Agreement

by Doug McClure

PORTLAND, Me. – After four months of negotiations, negotiators for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and Communications Workers of America (CWA) reached an agreement with Consolidated Communications, narrowly beating a deadline when the union contracts would have expired.

Workers were prepared to walk out, if necessary, with personal items in the workplace packed up and ready to go.

In a statement, the unions said "After four months of often contentious bargaining, we have reached agreements that respond to our members' and our customers' needs as well as the profound changes impacting the telecommunications industry."

According to the statement, among the items agreed to are health care, retirement benefits and restoring 128 days of seniority to the members who held the line during our historic strike of

2014-2015.

According to a CWA negotiator, the union wanted employees to pay 25% of health insurance premiums. Consolidated agreed to 16.25% with a 1% increase each year of the three-year contract. Consolidated agreed to freeze pensions as of 11/2019 and contribute to salary automatically to a 401k to top off a 100% match for 5%.

Some members of the CWA were not happy and expressed the sentiment "This was the CWAL line during our historic strike of

2014-2015."

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