Vol. 76, No. 6

The newsletter of Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., East Montpelier, Vermont.

September 2015

WEC Picks Up Where It Left Off

Roads in this

part of Tunbridge

include "Hill" in

their names for

good reason.

Tunbridge Rebuild Had Been Sidelined by December Storm

hings didn't go according to plan last year in a remote section of Washington Electric's service territory, in the rugged hills of Tunbridge, up east of the village. The Co-op was this close (hold your fingers an inch or two apart) to finishing a line-reconstruction project that replaced and upgraded some of the

oldest power poles and conductor (wire) on the Co-op's system when the snowstorm of December 9 struck Vermont. It caused some of the most widespread and extensive utility damage in the state's history. For

the Co-op, this three-day, two-storm event was the biggest blow ever, causing outages - some long, some short - to more than half of WEC's membership.

Tunbridge was hit hard. Outages for many people there lasted for days because the power lines in lots of places ran through deep woods; it seemed that as soon as a WEC crew repaired an area, other trees, laden with ice and snow, broke and took down lines that caused outages to people who had just had their power restored. The restoration process lasted about nine days - nine rugged days for WEC's entire staff: the linemen and operations assistants in the field; the tree-clearing contractors, and dispatchers working around the clock at the office; member service

representatives helping callers get through the ordeal, and the rest of the office and warehouse employees who contributed in myriad ways. Of course they were also nine wearying days for many Washington Electric Co-op members who had to live with intermittent power, or for long periods with no power at all.

But another victim of the storm was that nearly complete, 40-pole line-reconstruction project in Tunbridge, which serves a comparatively small number of farms, residences, and camps

in the area between Hoyt Hill Road and Potash Hill Road. (Roads in this part of Tunbridge include "Hill" in their names for good reason.)

"We were getting close," says WEC Operations Director Dan Weston. "We had probably set 30-some poles, so we didn't have a lot more to do, and then it was going to be a good winter project, running the wire in."

It had been very hard work - what Weston calls "raw lineman work." When WEC and other rural electric co-ops were founded in the late 1930s and the 1940s, one way they controlled costs was by building their infrastructures - the poles and wires - directly across farm fields, a shorter distance than it would have been to build along roadsides.

continued on page 6



Three "members" of Ted Hoyt's dairy herd enjoying a nice cow day in Tunbridge. The line-reconstruction project (see the poles behind them) got its start at Ted's farm last year. After it was halted by the December 2014 storm Construction Foreman Kevin Lanphear and his crew finished it up in August.

A Primer On Your WEC Advantage

So what are these things called capital credits?

t an electric cooperative, you are more than just a customer. You are a member. In fact, you are part-owner of your local co-op. As part of that relationship, you will periodically receive money back in the form of capital credit refunds.

Because WEC is a cooperative, owned by its members, and operates as a not-for-profit, any revenues over and above the cost of doing business are considered "margins." These margins are used by the Cooperative as operating capital. This capital allows WEC to finance operations, power restoration after outages, and construction, with the intent that this money will be repaid in later years when the Cooperative is financially able to do so. The return of money to members is what the capital credit account and providing that money to process is all about.

The capital credit process is a two-step procedure. First, we "allocate" margins to member accounts. That doesn't mean you get that money in the year allocated. Think of this as a credit to an account we set up for you called capital credits, and it is a "promise" to pay you in the future or some point down the road.

The next step is what most members are most interested in, and this is the "retirement" of dollars - actually sending out dollars to members (in the form of credits on bills, or checks). In the second step, we decide how much money we can give back to our members from the members' capital credit accounts. This return of dollars is taking a portion of your capital credit continued on page 8

Inside

Reaching VT's renewable energy goals will be a challenge. Let's start with the premise that we're all in it together. President's Message, page 2.

A 50-Year Anniversary! Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, and its relationship to WEC's Community Fund. Story on page 3.

WEC will soon be issuing capital credit distributions to many Co-op members. You'll find a summary of the 2015 Equity Distribution Plan, and the names of former members who qualify for benefits if contact can be made, on page 4.

Thinking about solar hot water? See the Co-op Store for information about discounts for WEC members. Page 7.



Linemen Hans Pope-Howe (left) and Doug DeGroseilliers, with the final new pole in the Co-op's reconstruction project in Tunbridge. Page One story and photos continue on page 6.

Washington Electric Cooperative

East Montpelier, VT 05651

The Renewables Debate

Confronting Our Energy Challenges Honestly And Openly

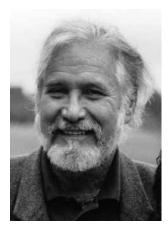
By Barry Bernstein

s always, when we get to this time of year it seems that summer is too fleeting, although I am thankful for the warm weather (maybe a little too hot) in August and early September. We have experienced some scattered outages, and on my property a large

ash tree came down after a lightning strike, taking the line out and with it the electric service. But crews were there quickly and got the lights back on before I had time to return calls from my neighbors asking if I knew what had happened.

As the seasons change we all begin

BADDY REDNICTEIN



our preparations for colder temperatures stacking wood, freezing and canning vegetables, sending the kids back to school, and so much more – while at your Co-op we continue to work on the fair weather jobs: regular maintenance, pole inspection and treatment, right-of-way trimming, new hookups,

and Construction Work Plan projects. One of those projects, a very rural line reconstruction in Tunbridge, is featured in this edition of Co-op Currents.

Generation

Production at our Coventry generating plant continues to be strong, while the Wrightsville hydro plant is at its low-production part of the season.

The move to

predominantly

renewable energy

sources undeniably

will come with

impacts, and it will

be up to all of us

to make sure they

are balanced and

mindfully developed

as we move forward

with new state laws

and public policy

initiatives.

As the new state law, Act 148, takes effect, excluding many kinds of organic materials from landfills, it has begun to affect the content of the waste taken in by the Coventry landfill. Organics are the materials that break down through biological processes, which produces the methane gas that our Co-op uses to generate

renewable electric power at our plant alongside the landfill. But as we reported in our July issue, the reduction in food wastes going to the landfill because of Act 148 is compensated for by sewage treatment plant sludge, including sludge from Montpelier and Barre here in central Vermont. This organic sludge goes through the same biological processes, and also speeds up the breakdown of other materials in the landfill, so our source of methane will remain plentiful.

Another issue we're encountering that has to do with changes in the landfill's content is the increase over the years of a chemical compound called siloxane. It comes from hygiene and cosmetics products – shampoo, soap, makeup, etc. as well as plastics, salad dressings, mayonnaise and other sources. Siloxane enters the landfill in the assorted waste that is transported there, and also in the sewage treatment plant sludge. It enters our generating plant in gaseous form with the methane, but when heated by combustion in our engines the siloxane becomes silica – basically, sand. Sand, of course, is an abrasive and wears down the valves, cylinders and other parts of our Caterpillar engines.

WEC is at the beginning stage of exploring options for replacing the 10-year-old gas scrubber equipment we have used at the generation plant, and in doing so we are looking at new technology to help us address the siloxane issue. We will provide more information on the subject of a new scrubber system in upcoming editions of Currents.

Reaching 90 percent renewables by 2050

Your Co-op continues to support the state's goal of obtaining 90 percent of our energy – in all energy sectors - from renewable sources by 2050. I have discussed global warming and climate change regularly in my President's Message, and the continual impact it has on our Co-op, our membership, and the state. WEC took an early leadership role in working with members to assist and support them becoming more energy efficient and conserving energy. We also took leadership in converting our power supply to 100-percent renewables and embracing net metering. Following the passage of Act 56 and Act 99, we are embracing the opportunities contained in those laws

for working with our members to help them reduce their fossil fuel usage. Our staff members are exploring potential program options, and we will be writing more about these new programs as they develop.

We strongly believe that one of the first steps for members who have not already done so is to get an energy audit of their homes or businesses so they can best weigh their options for managing their energy needs despite perhaps limited access to funds. Tightening your building's envelope, replacing inefficient appliances, and (when appropriate and affordable) converting from fossil fuel to a renewable fuel source for heat or even transportation, are all potential avenues that our members could pursue.

When considering solar panels, electric vehicles, and air source heat pumps, the sticker price is not small. Looking at all your options, including weatherization, is important so that you can invest your dollars wisely. Your best option may be to super-insulate your home and then downsize your systems because they'll no longer need to be as productive (and use as much energy).

But the place to start is the energy audit. It will provide the information you need to devise an energy-saving plan appropriate to your situation and your financial resources.

The big questions

As we engage the critical questions regarding Vermont's 90-percentrenewables goal - "How do we get there?" and "How do we honestly weigh the tradeoffs?" - it's important that we do so respectfully and transparently. Obviously, there are very strongly held views, as evidenced in the debates on wind, expansion of the gas pipeline, and more recently on commercial solar expansion. What is most critical, from my perspective, is how we weigh our choices and reach our conclusions on

continued on page 7

Co-op Currents

Co-op Currents (Publication No. USPS 711 -210 and ISSN



WEC is part of the alliance working to advance and support the principles of cooperatives in Vermont.

156 0010

No. 0746-8784) is published monthly except February, May, August and November by Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc., Route 14, P.O. Box 8, East Montpelier, Vermont 05651. The cost of this publication is \$.48, which is included in the basic monthly charge to each member. Periodical postage rates paid at East Montpelier and at additional offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Co-op Currents, P.O. Box 8, East Montpelier, Vermont 05651.

Board of Directors

1227 Plice Dood Marchfield VT 05659

	President	(May 2016)	Bbearvt@myfairpoint.net	456-8843		
	Vice President	ROGER FOX (May 2018)	2067 Bayley-Hazen Rd., East Hardwick, VT 05836-9873 rfox@pivot.net	563-2321		
	Treasurer	DONALD DOUGLAS (May 2017)	21 Douglas Rd., East Orange, VT 0508 dondougla@gmail.com	36 439-5364		
	Secretary	ANNE REED (May 2016)	3941 Hollister Hill Rd., Marshfield, VT 05 annereed48@gmail.com	658 454-1324		
		ROY FOLSOM (May 2016)	2603 US Rt. 2, Cabot, VT 05647 RoyGrnsy@aol.com	426-3579		
		STEPHEN KNOWLTON (May 2018)	160 White Rock Drive, #2, Montpelier, VT knowlsf@auburn.edu	05602 223-2230		
		DAVID MAGIDA (May 2017)	632 Center Road, Middlesex, VT 05602 vtmagida@aol.com	223-8672		
		RICHARD RUBIN (May 2018)	3496 East Hill Rd., Plainfield, VT 05667 rrubin@sover.net	454-8542		
		MARY JUST SKINNER (May 2017)	P.O. Box 412, Montpelier, VT 05601 mskinner@sover.net	223-7123		
PATTY RICHARDS General Manager patty.richards@washingtonelectric.coop		eral Manager	WILL LINDNER Editor Willlind@sover.net	TIM NEWCOMB Layout		
	Editorial Committee					

The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Deborah Brown, 802-223-5245.

David Magida

Anne Reed

Will Lindner

Donald Douglas

Patty Richards

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complain Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adiudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Helping People Help Themselves For Fifty Years

Once a New Idea in Adult Education, CVABE Hits a Milestone

eading, we tend to think, is something that should be learned in grade school. Children are taught to read, just as they're taught to line up in the hallway, use the playground safely at recess, and raise their hands in class when they have a question or an answer. Adults, in a developed society, are presumed to look at words on a page or a sign or a screen, and know what they

Yet in Vermont, says Carol Shults-Perkins, the executive director of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education (CVABE), one in eight adults lacks basic literacy skills for reading and writing.

"And that's 62,000 people in our state," she says.

There can be any number of reasons: rural children forced by the death or injury of a parent to leave school early to help on the farm; an unsettled life because of an unstable family situation, resulting in one move after another and constant changing of schools. Furthermore, educators haven't always understood as much as they do now about learning disabilities, and that a child who can't be reached through ordinary instruction can be taught successfully through alternative means. Consequently, many learningchallenged children of an earlier era are the adults whom Carol and her CVABE staff and volunteers refer to as having "fragile literacy skills."

To call this an impediment is an understatement.

"There's lots of significant data," Carol says, "linking illiteracy to unemployment, poverty, criminal activity, and higher healthcare costs." All of these are negative consequences not just for the reading-impaired adult, but for society as a whole. "And the children of adults who are illiterate," she adds, "are twice as likely to have literacy challenges themselves."

If you're a Washington Electric Co-op member and you have elected to support WEC's Community Fund by donating your annual capital credit refund from WEC, rather than having it applied as a discount on your November electric bill, you're doing something about fragile literacy skills here in your home area. CVABE serves 47 towns in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties; Washington Electric Co-op serves members in the rural areas of 41 towns in Washington, Orange, and Caledonia counties. The overlap is considerable, making it a great fit for the grants given from the Community Fund.

If you are not contributing your capital credit refunds to the Community



Warren is helping Nhi to prepare for the citizenship exam. She passed and was sworn in as a U.S. citizen on August 11th.

Fund you're missing an opportunity to help not only with literacy problems that negatively affect real people and families - and, in fact, the overall quality of life in your community - but the many other programs supported by

the Community Fund, as well. The September issue of Co-op Currents (this one) annually begins the process of identifying and locating former WEC members who qualify for capital credit refunds (see page 4). The introduction to that list also informs WEC members about the capital credit distribution plan adopted for the current year by the Co-op's Board of Directors. The process

culminates over the next several weeks with the distribution of those credits as electric bill deductions (for current members) or checks (for former members no longer purchasing power from the Co-op).

So it's a good time to again encourage people to forego these (usually) modest payments and donate them to the Community Fund instead - a fund where every donated dollar helps provide grants to worthwhile nonprofit organizations throughout WEC's 41 towns and across Vermont, with literally none of the money diverted to overhead or administrative costs. Added to the contributions from thousands of other WEC members, they pack more punch, because they help support programs like Central Vermont Adult Basic Education.

'Night school' no more

CVABE is celebrating a milestone this 2015-2016 school year. It began as a new idea, branching off from the traditional "night school" that used to

> be the typical approach to remedial adult education, in 1965. This year CVABE is 50 years

"We'll be celebrating that anniversary in June," says Carol Shults-Perkins, "and publicizing it throughout the year."

Adult basic education, on the CVABE model, was an evolutionary improvement on the night school system. Night school was

primarily geared toward helping adults earn a Graduate Equivalency Degree, or GED. CVABE provides that service if that's the student's goal, but it's also structured to assist adults who want to fill a gap in their lives by finally earning their high school diploma.

"I don't think there are many jobs you can get at all anymore without high school credentials or a GED," says Carol.

What's probably more important is the flexibility built into the program. Night school was a school-based model with group classes held in the evening. CVABE departed from that regime.

"Having individualized instruction and home-based services became recognized as a need," Carol explains. "And it was about much more than literacy. Teachers at the night schools recognized that many in their classes

couldn't do basic math. A two-hour night school class was not hitting that mark."

Over the next few years this alternative approach evolved and acquired more resources. In the five decades now under CVABE's belt, its professional staff has grown to 20, which includes 12 teachers providing direct services to students. Those services remain very personalized, helping the students determine their academic and career goals, and then helping them accomplish those goals. Most are still free, though tests for the GED and a few other services entail the standard fee.

"I was one of the first two home-based teachers hired in this area," says Carol, who joined the CVABE staff in 1972 and has served as executive director since 2012.

Educational and human-services agencies helped link the new organization with people who would benefit from its services. One of the first connections made was with Head Start. That program's outreach workers had entrée into the homes of many low-income households with pre-schoolaged children, says Carol, "And they would often recognize that the parents couldn't read to their children because they couldn't read themselves."

CVABE's growing corps of mobile instructors - folks like herself, Carol recalls, driving from home to home with educational materials in the back seats of their cars - were provided with the names of Head Start parents, and started knocking on doors, talking about the program, stressing that most services were free and one-on-one instruction could accommodate the schedule of each adult student. She looks back fondly on those days of working with people eager to take advantage of this convenient and individualized model of adult schooling.

"The program grew by word of mouth," she says. "I might be teaching in someone's kitchen and a neighbor would drop by. The student might say, 'This is my teacher; I'm working on math for my GED,' and that individual would ask me about the program."

As CVABE became more established it developed "learning centers" teaching and administrative facilities in Barre, Montpelier, Waterbury, Bradford, Randolph, and Morrisville (addresses and contact information can be found at www.cvabe.org) to complement the home-schooling option. The centers sometimes attract people who don't want to reveal their literacy and math deficiencies to family members.

"We've had a number of individuals who, once they entered our doors and

continued on page 8



Central Vermont Adult Basic Education executive director Carol Shults-Perkins

WEC's 2015 Equity Distribution Plan

Co-op Seeks Former Members For Capital Credit Refunds

ashington Electric Cooperative is preparing to issue capital credit refunds to current and former members, as authorized by WEC's Board of Directors. Under the 2015 Equity Distribution Plan, capital credits will be returned to eligible people who bought power from the consumer-owned electric utility during the years 1993 and 2014. While safeguarding the Co-op's financial stability, the Board of Directors has targeted a total amount of approximately \$350,000 for distribution in 2015, which is \$50,000 greater than the amount allocated for this purpose in 2014.

Capital credits are allocated to Co-op members (customers) for those years in which WEC's revenues exceed its operating expenses. Capital credits are a way of dividing those surplus revenues – called margins – among the member-owners. The amount of a member's allocation is based on the size of the Co-op's margins in the year(s) in question, and how much electricity that member purchased. Each Co-op member has a capital credit account in his/her name, which is a bookkeeping entry managed on an annual basis by the Cooperative.

WEC's practice has been to divide its capital credit distributions between FIFO (first in, first out) and LIFO (last in, first out) plans; the former is an approach that pays earlier (or "first") members, and the latter term (LIFO) applies to plans that pay the most recent (or "last") members. FIFO distribution plans reach back to pay off historical capital credit accounts. Since WEC initiated capital credit distributions in 1998 it has retired all allocations from 1939 through 1992, plus a portion of the credits members earned in 1993. LIFO distribution plans pay the most recent allocations, a way of providing the benefits of belonging to a cooperative to current or very recent members.

This year \$300,000 of the money earmarked under the 2015 Equity Distribution Plan will go to Co-op members from 1993. The Co-op began addressing the 1993 capital credits in 2014, refunding \$172,669 to members from that year. The \$300,000 refunded this year will leave an unretired balance of \$68,289 in capital credits from 1993. Of the remaining \$50,000 included in the 2015 plan, \$40,000 will address distributions for the most-recent completed year (LIFO), 2014. WEC's margins in 2014 totaled \$1,295,102.

When the Co-op retires only a portion of the capital credits from a given year it does not mean that some members or former members are paid and others are not. Rather, each person who qualifies for an equity-distribution payment is paid proportionally.

The final \$10,000 will be applied to the Contributions in Aid of Construction (CIAOC) allocation that all 2013 WEC members were notified about in January 2014. For a period of time, the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) permitted Vermont's electric cooperatives to include CIAOC contributions (payments made by members toward

the costs of additional poles and wires needed for their connections) as equity, which is outside the norm of established accounting practices. In 2011 the PSB directed the co-ops to discontinue that practice, and to allocate the funds they had accrued from CIAOC, over 36 years, to their memberships of 2013. This year's \$10,000 is WEC's second installment on that obligation.

To qualify for a refund, *former* Co-op members must have a minimum of \$20 coming to them from their capital credit accounts, and must have submitted a properly executed authorization form to the Co-op by October 9, 2015. Current members who are eligible for refunds based on their 1993 and/or 2014 electric payments will receive their refund as a credit on their electric bill, regardless of the amount.

Alternatively, members, both current and former, can choose to contribute their 2015 capital credit refunds to the Community Fund administered by Washington Electric Cooperative. More than 1,300 people have taken the opportunity to do so – many on a permanent, recurring basis – and more are always welcome. Funds contributed by members in 2015 will be combined with any remaining, unspent monies in the Fund. The Fund makes financial contributions to qualifying community causes, per WEC Policy 6. A year-end report on 2015 Community Fund activities will be published in *Co-op Currents* in an early issue in 2016.

All individual retirements will be reduced by any uncollectible or delinquent amount(s) owed to the Cooperative, as permitted by the WEC Bylaws. No early retirements will be made to the estates of deceased members. No distribution will be made to patrons who purchased and paid for renewable energy credits (RECs) in 2014

WEC may impose a \$10 annual service charge on all patronage (capital credit) accounts for years in which the credits have been retired and went unclaimed. This service charge can be applied to unclaimed accounts annually, until the balance in those accounts is \$0.

Earlier this summer WEC sent out Capital Credit Patronage Refund Authorizations to eligible former members, using the person's last-known address. Listed below are the names of people or accounts whose authorizations were returned as undeliverable. WEC is asking friends, acquaintances, and relatives of the people listed here to contact those potential recipients or their rightful heirs, and have the former member or beneficiary contact Washington Electric Cooperative directly, at 802-223-5245 or toll-free at 1-800-932-5245.

WEC will issue this year's capital credit refunds in November 2015.

Abare, Robert Abbiati, Georgianne Adams, Steven Ahearn, Donald Aiken. Kenneth Albarelli, Joseph S Albertson, Stephen Aldrich, Georgia Alexander, Joan Alfano, E C Allen, Charlotte American Tel & Tel Co, Amwest Surety Ins. Co, Anderson, Mark Anderson, Roland Andrews, Kathleen Andrus, George Argent, Parker Arndt, Walter Ashe, William Asquith, Laura Ather, Joanne Atkinson, Trevor Atwood, Renee Atwood, Stanley Audette James Ausfeld, Thomas W & Jill M. Austin, Deborah Avery, Anthony Ayer, Patrick Badeau, Cynthia Bair (Estate), Samuel Baird, John R Baker, Gail L Baker, Joseph Baker, Kevin Baldwin, Dave Bales, David Ball, Diane Ball, Nancy A Bankes, Tina M Barberi, Joy R Barcomb, Don A Barcomb, W Kent & Wendy M Barfield, Coy Barker, Jeanette

Barker, Winston

Barnett, Dorothy

Barnett, Susan

Barnocky, May

Barral, Robert

Barrows, Michael

Barrett, Rita

Barnett (Dec), Anna

Barnaby, Terri

Barry, Douglas Barteau, Carl Bartels, Walter L Bartlett, Robert Bash, John Bates, Bess Baumgardner, Earl Bean, Kenneth Beardsley, John Beardsworth, Rhonda Beck, Florence Beckler, Minnie Bedle, Julia Beede, Penny Beier, Deborah Belanger, Mike Belcher, Alden Belisle, Sandra Belval, Martin & Julie Bennett, Patrick Benoit, Lori Bent, Robert Berger, Peter Bergeron, Laurie Bernier, Judy Berridge, Peter Berry, Alan Betit, Michael Betts, Andrew Betts, Peter Bielecki, Mark Bienvenue, Shawn Biggar, Margaret Bilbrey, Christine M Billings, John Binder, Frank Birutta, Gale Bishko, James G & Sally A Blair. Duane Blair, Gregory Blair, Richard Blakslee, Ralph Blanchard, Walter M Blau, William Blay, Donna Blow. Paul Bobar, Otis Boisvert, Robert Bolin, Oscar Bolles, Beverly Bolles, Jason Bolton, William Booth, Gordon J Bordonaro, Patricia Bouldreault, Sean Boutin, Sandra

Bresett, Jonie Breymayer, Geraldine Brickett, Wilmoth Brickett (Estate), Vera Brigham, Marshall Broad, Martha Brock, Bernard Brolin, Herbert Brolin, Ruth Bronson, Robert Brooks, Virgil R Brown, H Webb Brown, James Brown, Leticia Brown, Margaret Brown, Thomas E. Bruleigh, Kendall Bryant & Dailey, Budzvn. Frederick H Burdett, Jerome Burgieliwicz, Sheila & Nelson Olmstead Burke, Francis Burke, Peter J & Linda Larocque Burnham, Ellen Burns, Joyce Burns, Marjorie M Bushey, Ralph Butler, Francis Buttitta, Mary Button, Andrew Button, John Buxton, William Cabral, Debra Cadorette, Dorothy Cady, Mary Cahill, Robin Calliope, Tami Camara, Albert Cameron, Catherine Cameron, William Campbell, Machelle Canas, Richard Cano, Antoinette (Estate) Cano, Victor Caplan, Karen Capone, Frank Carignan, James Carpenter, Paul Carr, Brenda J

Bowen, Roscoe W

Bowin, William

Braman, Daniel

Brennan, Marty

Braunlich, William

Catlin, G Peter Cavalier. Marie Century 21, Ceplikas, Alison Ceppetelli, Ronald Chaffee, Jean Chaffee, Michael Chafin, Brian & Catherine Chalmers, Wayne Chaloux, Sandra Chamberlin, Aldora Chamberlin, Debbie (Norton) Chamberlin, Jay Champany, Sydney Chapin, Dorothy M Chapin, Linda Chartier, Theodore W Chase, Candis Chase, Chris L & Julie A Choen, David & Gertrude Cholewa, Raymond Clancy, David Clark, Daniel Clark, Harry Clark, Peter Clark-Booth, Kimberly J Clearwaters, Duffy Cleland, William Clifton, Ernest Clough &, Phyllis Codling, Aaron W & Nicole Codling-Terhune, Sarah & Timothy Coffey, George Coffin, Barry Cofrin, Tabor Colbeth (Estate), Bernard Colburn, Judith Cold Creek Hunting Club. Collins (Estate), Norbert Colnes, Andrea Colomb, Edward Colombo, Robert Coltey, George Combs, Diana Conard, Waller Conger, Ethel Connolly, Dorothy Conroy, Kevin Converse, Joseph Cook, Christopher Cooper, Jon

Carrier, Sandra L & Dan G

Whitcomb

Carrig, Leslie

Copeland, Robert Corbitt, Michael Cormier, Raymond Corron, L Coughlin, David Coulter, Kathryn Coutant, Florence Coutu, Raymond A & Sara E Couture, Laurent Couture, Matthew Covey, Merle Coxon, Cynthia Craw, Robert Crawford, Ian Crawford, John Creighton, Thomas Creps, Wenda L Crisante, James Crosby, Jeanie Crossett, Mary Crouse, David S Crowley, Sally Crown. Deborah Crowther, Irene Cullen, Joan Culver, Jr., William J Currier, Raymond E & Curtiss, Robert Czajkowski, Frances Dahline, Arlen K Dalmer, Brian Davidson, Nick Davis, Charles Davis, Kathryn Davis, Lorena Davulis, James Defelice. Frank Deforge, Kathleen Defranceaux, Carter Delaney, George Delia. Muriel Demers, Karen M Demingware, Cora Depalo, Caroline Derby, Diane Desmeules, Mark Deth, Michelle S Dewey, John W Dexter, Tammy Dexter (Estate), Bernita M Deyo, Donald Dickinson, C Dilts, William

Dinsdale, Janice

Doane, Stanley

Dodge, Albert Dolinsky, Ann Doubleday, Elsa Dougherty, Mary Rose & Thomas E Brown Dowd, Blanche Doyle, John E. Doyle, Virginia Dresser, James Drew, Frederick E Drinkwater, Gene Driscoll, John T Driscoll, Peter Drury, John Dubuque, Robert Duchaine, Morris Ducharme, Susan M Dudley, Michael Dufresne, Robert Duggan, Rita Dukette, Rose Dunbar, Jr., Bernard Duncklee, Norman Dunn, Monique Dunn (Estate), Janet Dupont, Roxann Duprey, William & Deborah L Dutcher, Marguerite Dwinell, Joanna Dworkin, David Earth Construction Inc, Eastman, David Eastman, Shirley Edson, Theresa Eldred, Allan Eldridge, Laura Elkin, Milton Ellingson, Barbara Emerson, Russell Engborg, Evelyn Fniti. Anita Ennis (Estate), Everett Entriken, Jane, Mike, Philip & Paul Estes, Brian Fadden, Linda Fagant, Carol Fairbrother, Lawrence Farnsworth, Gary Fazio, Joseph Fenner, Ernest Fenner, Ernest L Ferguson, Floyd

Ferland, David

Ferno, Herbert

Finley, James

Flanders, Arlene Flinn, Edwin Foley, Nola Foote, Peter Fortin, Lawrence Fortman, Frederick E Foster, James Foster (Estate), Kenneth Foster, Sr., James K & Gertrude E Frank, Elizabeth Frappier, Larry Freeman, Bill Freeman, Ronnie French, Bert French, Beverly French, Stella French, Thomas Friedman, Penni Fullam, Everett L Gable, James Gadapee, Edward Gagne, Michael P Gagnon, George Gahagen, Jacqueline Gallagher, Ruth Gammel, Ann Garcia, Florentio Gardner, Ross Garneau, Traci Garron, Edmund T Garron, Edmund T & Alan R Quirk Gates, Philip Gauthier, Linda Gazaway, David Gazaway, Jr., David L Geiger, Carolyn R Geiger, Kevin George, Janet M Ghoodrich, Deanna Giantonio, Patrick Gilbert, Louise Giles, Scott Gillander, Mae Gillespie, Robert Gilman, Charles Gilman, Gary Gimble, Josephin Girardi, Thomas

Glidden, Benjamin

Gloria's Salon Of Beauty,

Glines, Kermit

Fishbach, Michael

Fisher, Robert

Fisher, Stephen

Trainor, Joanna

Trombly, Joanne

Turner, Elizabeth

Uhouse, Martha

Ulmer, Johanna

Upham, Gregory Vail, Braedon

Valler, Amy Van Eerde, John

Vasquez, Claire

Vereline, Michael

Vermette, Joanne

A.M. Greene

Vt Institute For Self

Wachtel, Deborah

Walbridge, Frances

Wall, Kevin Walsh, Deborah & Arnold M Walton, William Ward, Clayton

Walbridge, Gerald

Ward, Gary Ward, Marion

Wason, Mona

Watker, Wayne

Lucinda

Weir, James

Weiss, Daniel

Weiss, Stephen Welch, Patrick

Welch. Robert

Westney, Susie Westover, Dean

Whalen, Thomas

Wheeler, Angela

Wheeler, Gerald

Wheeler, Herbert

Whitaker, Jody

White, Jamie

White, Paul

White, Sherry

Wiese, Peter Wight, Donald

Wild, David

Wild, Hazel

Wilkinson, Dean

Willey, Douglas

Willey, Margaret Williams, Dale

Whitcomb, Dan G.

Whitcomb, Lawrence

Welch, Raymond

Welch, Stanley Wentworth, Roderick

Wheatley, Brian & Carol K

Wheeler (Estate), Helen

Wheeler (Estate), Leona

White, Wayne Whitham (Estate), Hugh E

Weed, Edgar M

Watkins, Timothy

Watson, Christopher

Watts, Barbara A & M V

Webster, Thomas D &

Wehe, Albert & Jame

Reliance,

Vigeant, Michael

Vitti, Marion

Volpini, Frank

Vermont Sports Apparel, I,

Vermette, John

Vail, Edith

Tucker, Diane

Trombley, William G

Goddard, Norman Godfrey, Brian Goldberg, Gary Gomes, Jerry Gonyaw, Dean Gonyaw, Myrtle Goodenough, Beverly Goodling, Kimberly Goodrich, David Goodrich, Donna Gorchinski, Edward Gordon, Alexis Gordon, Linda Gordon, Susan Gosselin, Jacqueline P Gottfried, Leslie Gould, Jeffrey A Gove, Robert Govoni, Patricia Grab, Robert Grady, Jeremia Gravel, Edward Gray, James Green Mtn Chocolate, Greenberg, Leo Greenslit, Darcy Grier, Paul Griffin, Bridget Griffin, Valdah J & George F Jr Grimm, Marianne Grossman, Henry Grossman, Sallie Gte Vermont, Contel Of Vt Gte Vermont, Guadagnoli, Donald Guarcello, Giovanni Guillette, Robert Gumbrell, George Guy, Stuart

Hackmann, Jeff Haggett, Beatrice Haggett, Phoebe Hagopian, G Haile, Dennis Hale, James Halpin, Jody A Hamelin, Charles Hamilton (Estate), Jean L Hamlett, Teresa Hance, Borden Haney, Shirley Hanks, May Hanley, Robert Hansen, Winifred Hanson, Lisa Hanzimanolis, Margaret Harrigan, Edward R & Linda Chapin Harrington, Dean

Harris, Fredrick
Harris, Steve
Harris, Susan & Michael G
Hart, Amy M
Hart, John
Hart, Lillian
Hart, Mark
Hartman, Jeffrey
Hatch, Dale S
Hatch, Margaret
Hatch, Marguerite
Hatch, Ralph
Hathaway, Lynn
Hatin, Robert J & Catherine

Harrington, John

Haupt, Karen

Hawkes, Glenn Hayes, Kathleen Haynes, Larry Heald, Lester Healey, Robert Heath, Donald Heath, Parker Heath Estate, Richard Heaton, Kate Pipino & Donald A Hebebrand, William Hebert, Ernest Heffernan, Michael Helburn, Margaret Helgesen, Bernice Hemenway, Nancy Henderson, Gary Henes, Richard E & Cheryl J Henning, Robert

Henrikson, Fred (Revocable Trust) Henry, Bernard Henry, Tom Herman, Sylvia Herrick, James Herriott, Cynthia Herzig, Heather Hetzler, Gregory Hierons, Robert Hill, Arthur Hill, Camellia Hill, Laura Hill, Ralph Hill, William Hiner, James Hinton, Henry Hoblin, Harry Hodgdon, Clara Hoffert, Mary Hoffman, Marion

Holmes, Donna B

Holmes, June

Henrikson, Fred

Holmstrom, Raymond Hood, Lynn & Terrance Hood, Terrance Hooper, Curtis Horst, John Horton, Marilyn W & Albert

Horton, Marilyn W & Albert & Jame Wehe Houghton Estate, Elliott C Houle Jr, Wm, Gloria Miller, Joyce Sabins, Diana Combs, & Linda Gordon Houston, William

Hovey, Cindi Howe, Mandevil Howell, Gail Howland (Estate), Susan Hoyt, Gordon Hoyt, Samantha A Huestis, Thomas Hulbert, Lloyd Hull, Marc & Pamela Hunter, M Kelley Hunter, Maggie Hurt, Charles

Hunter, M Kelley
Hunter, Maggie
Hurt, Charles
Illuzzi, Joseph
Infante, Mark
Isaak, Lauren
Isham, Christine
Jackson, Stuart
Jaeger, Paul
Jamele, Peter
Janes, Melissa
Jarvis, Lucy
Jensvold, Erik, Chris &

Jensvold, Erik, Chris &
Andrew & Malcom
Joslyn
Jerome, Sarah
Jerry, Stephen
Jewell, Adelaid
Johnson, Betty
Johnson, C
Johnson, Gregory
Johnson, Jeffrey J & Pamela
Johnson, Pauline
Johnson, R
Johnston, Kenneth
Jones, Allison
Jones, Corey
Jones, David
Jones, Henry
Jones, Robert

Jones, Warren Jones, William Joslyn, Malcomb Joyal, Robert Jurkiewicz, Helene Kahagon Ltd, Katz, John Kay, James Kazmarski, Kelli Keeffe. Carolyn Keel. Jimmie Keene, James Keene, Michael Keith, David Keith, Gail & Patricia Kelly, Colleen L & Peter Berger

Kelly, Kevin
Kelton, Mary Ellen
Kent, Lisa & Timothy
Keyser, Jr., F. Ray
Kilian, Jon
Kimball, Brian
Kinder, Pamela
Kindestin, William
King, Janet
King, Tamara S & Don A

Barcomb Kirkpatrick, Scott Kitchen, Lee Kiier. Christine Klee. Karen Kmball, Allen A & Gladys Knapp, Alice Knapp, Eric Knapp, Leo Knowles, Florence Knowlton, Deborah Knox, Lora Kohl, Arlene Kokoszka, Lawrence Kramer, Donald Krause Jr (Estate), John Kreisz, Shirley Kuglics, Wendy Kyle, Tom Labadie, Patricia Labrie, Hughes Lacasse, Robert Ladd, Gordon

Lafogg, Bertha J Lagassey (Estate), Donald

Lahart, Russsell J & Renea S Lahue. Donald Lakatos, Peter Lalli, Luciano Lamoille Valley Rr, Lamp, Michael Lance, John Landers, Lorraine Landino, Henry Lane, Mary Langone, Robert Lanphear, Charles Lanphear, Doris Lapan, James Laperle, Alan Lapierre, Margaret

Larcomb &, Evelyn

Larivee Estate, Annie
Larkham, Glen & Wendy
Larkin, Edwin
Larocque, Linda
Larow, Gary
Lash, Jonathan
Laundry, Reginald
Lauterman, Roy
Lawrence, Frank
Lawrence, Susan
Layton, Robert
Lebourveau, Danielle

Layton, Robert
Lebourveau, Danielle
Leclerc, Michael
Lee, Lisa
Lefevre, Kevin
Leggett, John
Lemay, Juliette
Leno, Deborah
Leonard, Ellen
Leonard, Mark
Lesnak, Michelle
Lessig, Robert
Levarn, Corrine
Levesque, Jean
Lewis, Norton
Lewis Sr, Brice A

Lewis Sr, Richard M &

Valerie L Lilley, Kim Livingston (Estate), Elizabeth Locke, Norman Long, Eugene Lord, Charles Lord, Marian Lorentzen, Doreen Lori, Michael Loring, William Love, Charles Lovelette, Lisa Lovering, William Lowell. Carol Lowell, Kathleen M &

Joseph R Carden Jr Lowell, Neil Luce, Donald Lumbra, Donald Lund, Gail Lyford, Nelson H Lyman, Rodney Lyn, Vincent Lynch, Douglas Lynn, John Lyon, Jean Lyons, David Lyons, Robert Macdonald, Jeffrey Macie, Ronald Mack, Roger Magoon, Edgar Magoon, Robert Magoon, Virginia S Magoon &, Laurie Mahon, Patricia Males, Amanda A Mallary, R Manavola, Joseph Manges, Darcy Mangino, Albert

Mignogna
Manly, Susan
Manning, Kelly
Marcoux, Lisa
Mark, Marion
Marsh, Christine G
Marsh, Douglas
Marsh, Marylou
Marshall, Jill C & Gary S
Wilson
Martin, Edward L & Doris J

Manley, June & Bridgette

& Lori Martin, Mary Martin, Robert Martin, Tina Masi, Victor Mason, Carroll Mason, Kelly Maxfield, Terry Mayhew, Jane Mayhew, Wanda Mazuroski, Edward Mcallister, Stacy Mcbride, Christin Mccarthy, Joseph Mccracken, Maurice Mccullough, Marilyn Mcdanolds, Doris Mcfarland, Stephen Mcgill, Charles Mcgrath, John Mckenna, Michael Mckenney, Thomas Mckinnon, Cheryl Mclane, Michael L &

Emma A Mcqueen, Raymond & Barbra Meeks, Charles Menard, Katherine Menard, Robert Merchant, Melvyn Merrill, Arthur & Teresa Merritt, Barry Merritt, Robert Merritt Sugarhouse, Messer, Richard Miller, Gloria Miller. Lawrence Minard, Richard Minor, Austin

Misiak, Ronald Missner, Richard Molander, Russell Mongeur, Robert Montgomery, Bryce Montgomery, Frank Montpelier Woodworks In, Moody, Michelle Mooney, Eleanor Moore, Helen Moore, Mavis Moore, Pearl Morey, Roger Morin, Julie Moroch, Grace & Robert Morris, Shawna Morris, Shirley Morrison, David Morrison, Eric & Karen

Morrison, June
Morrissey, Jean
Morse, Brandi & John W
Dewey
Morse, Linda L & Douglas A
Morse, Lucille
Morse, Patricia
Morway, Luanne
Moses, Jessie

Mosher, Gregory
Moulton, Carolyn
Moulton, Evelyn
Moz, Jane
Mraz, Barbara
Mudge, George
Muhlhahn, Leslie
Mulholland, Thomas
Mullen (Estate), Jeremiah
Munger, Ellen
Murac, Robert
Murphy, Duane
Murphy, George
Murphy, Harold

Murphy, James Murphy, Terry Murray, Nancy Murray, Scott Myers, Lee Myers, Odera Nadeau, Philip Narma, Silvia Nasse, Lyndy Neader, Rhoda Nevens, Virginia New England Tele Co, Newman, Marilyn Newman, Ric Newton, Grant Nichols Trust, Noble, Gregory Noble, Robert Noel, Lorenzo Norfolk Holding Corp, Northrup, Forrest Northrup, Jack

Noyes, Catrina Nunn-Hudson, Martin Nye, Dorothea M O'brien, Sandra Oliver, Carol Oliver, Sheila Olmstean, Nelson Olsen, Harley O'meara, Kelly Oneill, Myriam Orchino, Sherri Ormsby, Deborah Orner, Frank Ortiz, Melanie Otten, Richard Ouellette, Arthur Overstrom, Brenda Owens, Wade T

Page, Carwin Page, Dr. Howard Paige, June Palisoul, Richard Palmer, Scott Papineau, Fonda Paquette, Jeffrey Paquin, Heather Parauka, Marion Parent, Mario Parker, E Parker, Isobel Parker, Lyman Parker, Michelle Parker (Estate), Edith O Parrot, Kenneth Parry, Arthur Paton, Kenneth Paul, Armenthia Paul, Harry

Payne, Douglas PC Cellular of Vt, Sharon Allen Pearson, Robert Peatman, Philip Peck, Mark & Rita Peckham, William Peduzzi, Norman Pelkey, Bonnie S Penn, Rosemary S Perkins, Edith Perkins, Timothy Perreault, Amanda Perry, Linda Perry Iii, Courtland L Persons, D Peterson, Susan Pettibone, Mary

Phelps, Sheila

Phillips, Kenneth Phillips, Terri Pierce, Ben Pierce, Linda Pierce, Walter Pike. Francis Pilbin, William Placa, Antonio Plante, Kathy Plante, Renee Plaster, Cheryl Plattner, Helen Polumbaum, Nyna Pond, Chris Poole, Todd Pope, Arthur Pope, Ruth Poplawski, David Potter, Melissa A Potvin, John Powers, Roger Powers, Wilfred Prechtl, Patricia Preston, Carl Procopio, Walter Prosser, Robert Protas, Alan Provencher, William Pryce, Steve Pulsifer, Elizabeth Purcell, Timothy Pushee, Dale Pyrik, Walter Pytte, Anders Quirk, Alan R Racine, Daniel Randall, James Randall, Russell Rapp, Dorrie Rashid, Sikander Rathmann, Heinz Rawson, Mary Raynor, Raymond Reagan, Robert Reed, Barbara Reed, William Reese, Brenda & Curtis A Regan, Kathle Reid, William Renaudette, Sheila J Resnik, Benjamin Resource Of Comm Liv In, Rice, Joseph Richards, Jeffrey Richardson, Elizabeth Richardson, Joseph Richmond, William Ricker, Priscilla

Ricker, William & Debra Lee Rider, John Riley, Thomas Ripley, Beverly Robertson, Ella Robertson, Walter Robinson, Charlotte Robinson, Marilyn Roemer, Lorrie Rogers, Alona Rogers, Mark Rogers, Sidney Roggensack, John Rollins, Philip Rondelli, Robert Ronner, Arthur Storto, Joseph Rossi, Douglas Rossi, Mark Rossiter, Donna Rouelle, Anna Stryker, Jon Rouelle (Estate), Alfred Rousse, Norbert Roux, Robert Roy, Esther Ruiz, Constance Rummell, Ralph Russell, Alexander M Szulc. Alfred Russell, Earl Russell, Thomas Rutledge, Roy Rutledge, Shirley Taylor, David Sabins, Joyce Sainsbury, Scott Saldi, Robert Sales, Suzanne Sallerson, Mary F Salomaa, Edward H Salter, Gary Sanborn, Raymond

Sarquiz, Ronald G & Michelle Lesnak Savidge, Evelyn Savioli, Catherine Sawyer, James Sawyer (Estate), Edward Sayers, Willie Schaw, Kathy Schibuk, Norman Schmitt, John Schneider, Eleanor Schumaker, Esther Schwartz, Robert Schwarz, Lucille P Scott, Laurette Seften, Nola Sense, E Setien, Cecilia Sevigny, Diane Shangraw, Warren

Shanley, Timothy

Sanders, Gregory

Santor, Jeffrey

Sangermano, Peter

Shapiro, Noreen Shatney, Harry Shatney, Lori Shaughnessy, Mark Shaw, John Shearer, Steven Sherer, Dana Sherman, Patricia A Shipman, David Shor, Betty Shouldice, W Shuttle, Donald Sicely, Grace Silver, Ruth M Simard, Jane Simmons, Scott Sincerbeaux, George Sinon, Joanne Skyview Casino Inc, Slater, Jaciline Slayton, Ina Sloan, Emily Slopnick, Patricia Smith, Anthony Smith, Barbara Smith, David Smith, George Smith, Grover L & Vivian Smith, Kenneth J & C Marie Smith, Lisa Smith, Lynn Smith, Peter Smith, Philip Smith, Sandra Smith, Stuart Smith, Trent Smith, Wayne Smith, William

Smykal, Joyce Snider, Kenneth Snyder, Marvin Snyder, William Solomon, Terry & Emily Sloan Somers, Steven Sorensen, Mary Sothard, Gustave Spaulding, Ruth Spelman, Steve Spencer, Carolyn Spencer, Fred Spencer, Lawrence Spooner (Estate), Forrest Squires, Jeffrey St Cyr, Marcia St Germain, Norman St Germain, Victor & Olga Stanton, Robert Staples, Charlotte Staples, David Stark, Ivy Starr (Estate), William H Steed, Cynthia Steere, Sandra Stein, Nancy Stephens, Alan Stetson, Harvey Stevens, Craig Stiles, Lewis Stoeckel, Ronald Stone, Gayle Stone, Gregory Stone, Harvey

Williams, David Stratton, Robert Williams, Douglas Strayhorn, Alvin Williams, Gwen Stridsberg, Joseph Williams, Jeffrey S & Sullivan, C Theres Sullivan, Robert Denise P Williams, Leslie Sumner, Deborah Williams, Steven Willis, Kendall Surviva, Joyal Wilson, Cindy Sweet, Rheagene Sweetser, Clyde Wilson, Edward Wilson, Gary S Symons, Helen Wilson, Richard Winters, Linda Taplin, Roger F & Kelly J Taylor, Carlyle Wintle, Serena Wires, John Taylor, Frederick Wiseman, Warren Wnukoski, Joseph Tellier, Raymond Temple, Christopher Wojcik, Walter Wolf, Guenther Tescher, Donald Therrien, David Wood, Gregory R & Rhonda J Thibeault, Georgette Wood, Linn Thibodeau, Timothy Wood, Patricia Thivierge, Roger Wood, Susan Thomas, John Woodbury, David Thomas, Judson Woodbury, Gordon Woodward, Joanne Thomas, Kathleen Thompson, Jason Thompson, Velvet Thorne, Philip Thorstensen, Thomas Woody's Power Products, Gordon Woodbury Thurston, Andrew Thurston, Pamela

Thurston, Robert

Tibolt, William

Tim's Repair,

Toffling, Rose

Tierney, Patricia

Tiffany, Stephanie

Tomaszewicz, Dave

Tomaszewicz, David

Tousignant, Edith

Towle, Susan

Towne, John

Tillotson (Estate), Shirley

Toohey, Marion & William

Towle, Bruce A & Christine

Tibbetts, Germaine

Works, Greg
Wright, Christine M
Wright, Florence
Wright, Jeffrey
Wright, Nancy
Young, Edward
Young, J Peter
Young, Jackie
Young, Lisa
Young, Roland
Young, Wayne
Zaremski, Thomas J &
Lorien A
Zdon, Victor
Zorn, Dean

Zue, Charles L & Eleanor C

Tunbridge

continued from page 1

Now, some 75 years later, a lot of those fields have grown up into woods, making it harder to reach the lines for repair and maintenance.

In some places, WEC has relocated sections of infrastructure to the roadsides. In this part of Tunbridge, though, Weston explains, that wasn't an option. The roads are small and the woodsy terrain alongside them is often steep – not hospitable to a power line corridor. Plus, these twisting, winding roads don't travel from Point A to Point B in anything resembling a direct route. It didn't take long for WEC's engineering department to conclude that rebuilding this power line section "in place" was the best option.

It's certainly not all woods. The first 10 poles or so go across Ted Hoyt's fields, high up on Hoyt Hill Road, which is open territory with wonderful views. But at Ted's place and everywhere else on this power line route "field" doesn't mean "flat," by a long shot, and the work was done with long stretches not accessible by road, and interrupted by creek beds and other impediments. WEC's digger truck (carrying an augur for drilling holes for the power poles) could reach some of these locations; elsewhere the Co-op's track vehicle was needed, and even then it was rough going.

No question that it needed to be done. "This project," Weston explains, "was identified in our current four-year Construction Work Plan [CWP] because there were a lot of old and deteriorated poles, and very small, outdated conductors in poor condition because of splices made over the years for repairs. This is cross-country, low-density territory in terms of the numbers of people served. But our Construction Work Plan helps us target and improve our reliability even at the farthest ends of our lines, because



Washington Electric Co-op member Ted Hoyt, of Tunbridge, was helpful and cooperative, say the Co-op's linemen, when they needed access to his land to set nearly a dozen new poles. Ted has three sons who, he says, will be the eighth generation of the family to farm the land on Hoyt Hill Road.

those Co-op members pay the same electric bill everyone else does."

So in the summer and fall of 2014 WEC undertook that project, pole by pole, with a team headed up by the Co-op's off-road construction foreman, First Class Lineman Kevin Lanphear. And it looked like the end was in sight, until the big storm of December 9 put a stop to it.

"Given the impact of the storm and the clean-up afterward, it took us through March to get the system back to where it was before the storm," says Weston, referring to WEC's overall 1,250-mile electric distribution infrastructure. "April comes along and we have mud season. Try working in those hills in mud season!

"Then all of a sudden it's May, and people are lined up for new connections, just like every summer. But then in July, we said 'Okay, we're going to get back to that line in Tunbridge and finish it up.'

"And that's what we did. The old system stayed in place over the winter and got us through without too many problems for the people there, but they were due for a new power system to serve them."

Kevin Lanphear's crew returned and set the remaining poles for this roughly two-mile section. Then they ran the new conductor in, thicker and sturdier than the wire used in the 1940s.

Because that wire is also heavier, it requires that there be shorter spans between poles to provide adequate support. So there were more of them, and the new poles are stouter than the original ones (several of which had been condemned, marked with a red tag for replacement by WEC's contracted pole-inspection workers). And they are taller; most are 40-foot poles, five feet or so greater in height than what was there previously.

Replacing those two miles of live wire required a series of planned outages, which affected the members in the area. They received advance notice from the Co-op, and came to expect a temporary outage most

Some of the right-of-way for this linerebuilding project ran through the woods (left), and some was on open farming land (below), but very little was conveniently by the road. This is what "rural electrification," now often taken for granted, is all about.



The Tunbridge line-reconstruction was what WEC's Dan Weston calls "raw linemen work." After starting at the Hoyt farm it went cross-country for almost two miles before emerging at the corner of Kibling Hill and Potash Hill roads.



Tunbridge

continued from page 6

Tuesday mornings in August, as well as a couple of Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Weston says he received very few complaints.

"My appreciation goes out to all the members on this section of line for their patience and understanding," he says. "And the landowners were great, giving us access to their property without any problems. We did some repair work when needed, to fill in ruts caused by our equipment. Honestly, half the success for getting this job done so efficiently in August goes to our members, who really cooperated."

The rest of the credit, Weston says, goes to Kevin's construction team (which included Lineworker First Class Jason Smith and Apprentice Lineman Scott Matheson), who accomplished this rigorous work in a short time period, and to Operations & Construction Services Manager Brent Lilley, who oversees and coordinates the Co-op's work projects. It's Brent who gives the crews guidance, sees that they are well-equipped for the

work ahead of them, and shuffles the various demands on the Operations department to make sure a project like the Tunbridge reconstruction gets done.

There are now new poles and wires strung across this mountainous and quintessentially "Vermont" section of WEC's territory. Some of the old poles have been cut off partway up and remain there, waiting for the phone company to transfer their wires to the new power poles. Pretty soon the Co-op will continue the reconstruction beyond where it terminates by a cornfield on Potash Hill Road. "We have another half to three-quarters of a mile that we're going to do," says Weston.

Of course, for the Co-op, this work never ends. Sections of the infrastructure are always getting older and more weathered with the equipment becoming outmoded for advanced technology. For the staff, though, there's a great sense of accomplishment in taking a challenging project like this, which will make a difference for members at the far reaches of the service area, and getting it done, once and for all, before the next storm can hit.

President's Report

continued from page 2

what we want the Vermont we all love to look like. Vermont is our home, and although we sometimes have very different perspectives we all care about it greatly.

A recent development in new generation proposals is the filing with the Vermont Public Service Board for approval of four new, large-scale solar projects, each to host some 20 MW of solar generation. Each of these sites will require hundreds of acres of space. In one instance, I have been told, it calls for clear cutting 300 acres of trees.

I am not against this idea outright, but it does cause me to wonder: As we embrace and make the change to a far more renewable economy, how do we do it wisely and thoughtfully? The map we choose for our future will affect us all. There is no question: As individuals and as a society we must make the change to use less fossil fuels. But how do we do it responsibly? How can we make this transition compatibly with our environmental and aesthetic values? How do we ensure that low-income homeowners and renters are helped in this transition?

Investing our available resources wisely to reduce our carbon footprint is a critical part of the solution, as is tightening standards on all new building construction. But the move to predominantly renewable energy sources will come with impacts, and it will be up to all of us to make sure they are balanced and mindfully developed as we move forward with new state laws and public policy initiatives. We can make these changes going forward wisely if we get our eyes on the prize: the future of our children.

Have a great fall and try to come to our October 8 Community Meeting in East Montpelier at the Old Brick Church next to WEC's office.



Solar Hot Water Made Simple WEC DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE



To sign up for a FREE analysis and system quotation, take the first step NOW by visiting **www.washingtonelectric.coop**, or call **802-224-2329** to speak with WEC's Energy Coach about solar hot water or other energy questions.

Call the Co-op at **800-932-5245**

or visit us on the web at:

www.washingtonelectric.coop/pages/prod.htm



Capital Credits

continued from page 1

you. We balance the amount paid out with the financial needs of the Co-op. Capital credits are a significant source of equity and help to fund the growth and maintenance of the electric system. Therefore, the amount of dollars retired each year is based on the Co-op's financial needs.

Let's take a look at some of the more common questions related to capital credits, to give you a better understanding of what you as a member of the Cooperative are a part of.

What are capital credits?

Capital credits represent the member's share of ownership, otherwise known as equity, in the Cooperative. Your membership with WEC activates a capital credit account in your name. The amount of capital credits a member earns in a given year is based upon the amount of revenue the Cooperative receives from each member. This revenue comes to WEC primarily through the members' payments for electricity.

What is the difference between allocated and retired capital credits?

Allocated capital credits appear as an entry on the permanent financial records of the Co-op and reflect your equity, or ownership, in WEC. When capital credits are retired, a check or a credit to your bill is issued, and your equity in the Co-op is reduced. Hence, it is a two-step process: first we allocate and then we retire capital credits.

How are margins allocated?

We allocate margins into a capital credit account based on your share of the revenue that was generated during that year. (Allocations to members vary, because the amount of electricity they purchase also varies widely.) We calculate your percentage of the total margins and allocate that amount to your account. Capital credits are allocated only during years in which WEC earns a margin. Remember, the allocation process is a "promise" to pay you in the future and does not mean you get that money back in that year; depending on the schedule the Board establishes, distribution of funds or credits in the capital credit account may not be paid out for many years.

Will I receive a capital credit refund each year?

Not necessarily. Each year WEC's Board of Directors makes a decision on whether to retire some capital credits based on the financial health of the Cooperative. When considering a retirement, the board analyzes and projects the financial needs of the Co-op and will authorize a retirement if WEC can afford it. During some years the Co-op may experience high construction and power costs, or unanticipated expenses such as severe storms, which may result in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. These and other events might increase

If you would like to donate your capital credits to the WEC Community Fund, please call us at 223-5245 or send a note to WEC, P.O. Box 8, East Montpelier, Vermont 05651.

costs and persuade the board not to retire capital credits for the time being. Nevertheless, all capital credits that are allocated to members are maintained as a bookkeeping entry in their accounts until such time that the board retires them.

What happens to my capital credits when I leave WEC?

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name until they are retired – in other words, until they are paid back to you. According to WEC's procedures, some payments are made over a long-term period, such as 20 to 30 years. As a result, it is important to ensure that WEC has your current mailing address.

What do cooperatives do with capital credits when they are not retired?

Electric utilities are capital-intensive businesses requiring large investments in equipment. Like all businesses, WEC must maintain a balance between debt and equity to ensure financial stability. During periods of fast growth a large amount of money or equity is needed to build the wires and poles, upgrade the system to keep up with technology, and buy power necessary to serve members.

In order to fund this growth WEC has to borrow money from banks, reinvest member capital, or in some cases do both. By reinvesting your dollars into WEC, we are able to keep rates competitive by reducing the funds that must be borrowed from other sources.

Summary

We hope this has given you an understandable overview of capital credits. Let's review the main points in closing.

- Your Co-op tracks how much revenue you generate for WEC through electricity purchases during the year.
- At the end of the year, when revenues exceed expenses, these margins are allocated as capital credits to members.
- 3. When the Co-op's financial condition permits, your Board of Directors decides on an amount of money that will be expended to retire or pay a portion of the capital credits.
- 4. Your Co-op notifies you of how and when you'll receive your capital credit refund

That's the Cooperative Difference!
And if you are interested in helping others, you can easily donate your capital credits to the WEC Community Fund, refer to the notice in the top center column. See the article on page 3 on one such organization that has received help from the Community Fund, Central Vermont Adult Basic Education.

CVABE

continued from page 7

developed a trusting relationship with a teacher or volunteer, have told us, 'I've been walking by your learning center for years and couldn't get the courage to walk in and say, can you help me learn to read?" says Carol.

CVABE has proved its merit to central Vermont's communities and employers as well. When new regulations expanded the requirement that truck drivers obtain a CDL (commercial driver's license) many towns faced a quandary; they had a workforce of skilled and experienced workers who knew well how to operate their trucks and plows and dump-bodies but were not able to decipher the daunting CDL manual concerning road rules, or succeed at a multiple-choice test. (Check it out online; it's not easy.)

The towns contacted CVABE, and teachers met with the drivers after their shifts at the town offices, or at their homes or the nearest learning center. Crisis averted.

A sign of the times is that the traditional basic curriculum – once called "reading, writing, and 'rithmatic – that enabled people to function in their work environments now includes computer functionality as well: word processing, file management, WINDOWS, e-mail, and Internet searches. Or – an example Carol cites – enabling a blue-collar supervisor on a production line to leave an end-of-shift report for the management or the supervisor heading the next shift. It's

not done on paper anymore.

And this, she stresses, is another critical role CVABE plays: not just helping people gain the skills to get hired for a job, but helping them keep jobs that they already have. It's why companies that have good employees sometimes refer them to CVABE for skill improvements.

Then, of course, there are the new arrivals to our communities, from Vietnam and Bosnia and other parts of the world. Many may be literate in their own languages, but turn to CVABE for English instruction.

So the program has grown. And expanded. It serves more than 500 adults and teens annually (ranging in age from 16 – the youngest age eligible – to more than 90). Yet despite additions to its curriculum, says the executive director, "Our basic, functional literacy program is the heart and soul of what we do."

A great way to volunteer

CVABE depends on a strong volunteer force. Volunteers supplement the teaching staff, provide many practical, office functions, and staff tables and distribute brochures at community events, among other things. They further link the organization with the communities it serves.

"The best way to reach people is to engage the entire community, to have their neighbors involved," Carol explains.

"We see, as volunteers, people who have had great opportunities in their lives, and want to give back. We have retired lawyers. We've had a



Richard is learning to read and write with help from Susan.

retired Supreme Court judge. We have retired nurses mentoring students who want to go into healthcare but need to improve their literacy skills before they can attend Community College. We're always looking for more volunteers."

CVABE is always looking for financial support as well. Its 2015-2016 operating budget is just over \$1.5 million.

Eighty-five percent comes from the Vermont Agency of Education, leaving 15 percent to be raised annually through gifts and grants from businesses (like WEC's Community Fund), individuals, foundations, and voter-approved town funding. The organization reports that 87 percent of its resources support direct services to students, with the remaining 13 percent used for fundraising and administrative costs.

CVABE has not had to work very hard to attract the modest grants available from the Community Fund.

"It's exactly the kind of organization we want to support," says the Co-op's General Manager, Patty Richards, who assists the WEC Board committee that approves Community Fund grants. "It's very people-oriented, actually helping people who live in our service territory to improve their lives and therefore their children's lives. That has a positive effect on our central Vermont communities, where we all live and work. And it's in our Co-op's interests to have well-informed members, able to understand and participate in the programs and options we offer and play a role in the progress of our cooperative utility. I am a firm believer that education is your ticket to the future, and CVABE is helping so many in our communities get on a path to a brighter tomorrow."

As CVABE celebrates its 50th anniversary, WEC encourages its members to support this cause and others by supporting the Community Fund through capital credit donations.

And if they've got money left over, direct contributions to this important organization would be welcome, as well.