

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Newsletter

August 2020

Happy Anniversary

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION STARTED IN 2010



The museum was conceived by local resident Alan Thulander when he had an opportunity to buy a 100-year-old barn that was slated for demolition to make way for a residential development. The museum is unique in that construction was undertaken by the local volunteer fire department members with volunteer labor and donated materials and equipment. With the efforts of the volunteer Fire Fighters and equipment donated by Frankestown Sand and Gravel the barn was meticulously dismantled and brought to Frankestown where the site was being prepared.

Over four years the museum slowly began to take shape. Remember this was all being done by part time volunteers and local companies donating time and equipment. The Town of Frankestown stepped up and agreed to allow a timber harvest in one of the town forests to provide the lumber needed to replace the old siding and roof. With the efforts of local loggers the timber was harvested and milled at Wilkins Lumber, a local sawmill.



A foundation was poured and the first floor deck was underway. It was the start of a four-year effort involving many volunteers and businesses. The first floor lumber was salvaged from an old mill being razed in Maine and consisted of 3" thick planks – this was to be a building built to last. A lower level of the building below this first floor deck was to remain unfinished for the foreseeable future.



Remember that old barn at the beginning of this story. The one slated for demolition. Well while this first floor deck was being constructed that barn's timbers were being laid out and numbered for reassembly.

Re-erecting the original barn timber frame was an intricate process of fitting together the old timbers in exactly the same order that they were dismantled. In the **photo below left**, a good deal of manual labor similar to an old barn raising, was needed, aided by a crane (**photo below right**) – a concession to this modern day.



The trees cut from the town forest had by now been sawn into planks for the siding and roof. The wooden uprights that appear to be not in keeping with the symmetry of the timber frame ultimately would become a part of the small loft area which was original to the old barn. Windows would be cut into the siding to match those in the original structure. A metal roof cover would also be applied.

The building was enclosed (**photo below left**) but work remained – the loft, windows, doors, electric system and alarms. On the year of their 75th anniversary, the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department turned the building over to the town (**photo below right**) and it was dedicated to Alan Thulander who had inspired its building and use as a town museum.



The completed Alan O. Thulander Building was soon home to the exhibits of the Francestown Heritage Museum which is open to all with no admission fee.



But that is not the end of the story –

Originally the plan was for this to be a “transportation” museum featuring the towns’ restored Abbott-Downing Stage Coach, hand-drawn fire pumper, summer and winter horse drawn hearses, sleighs and carriages – some 10 primary exhibits. Then people in the town, many of whom lived in older antique homes (we were founded in 1772), realized they had barns full of old tools, equipment, et al. Soon donations were coming rapidly and we expanded into our current five principal exhibit areas (Agriculture, Commerce, Domestic, Fire Fighting as well as Transportation). We now have over 300 exhibit items from the 1700’s, 1800’s and early 1900’s and are expanding into the previously unfinished lower level. We will open that level to the public as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

LABOR DAY

With Covid curtailing the annual Labor Day celebration we will open the museum that weekend subject to any safety requirements in place at that time.

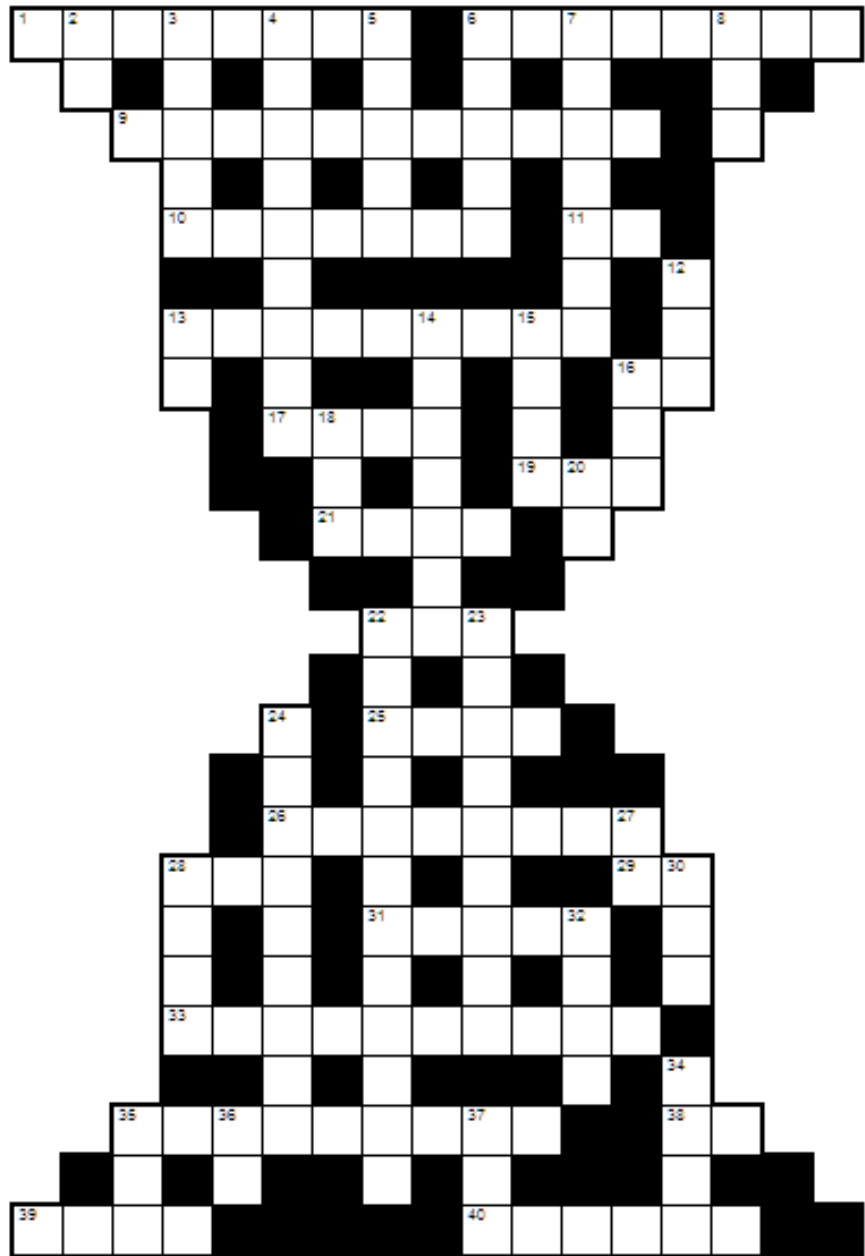
Across

- 1 Hostile aggression
- 6 Exemplars
- 9 Tightening
- 10 Medical treatment
- 11 Absolutely not
- 13 Involving many parts
- 16 Depart
- 17 Eastern discipline
- 19 ___ and cheese
- 21 "Hogwash!"
- 22 Kind of pie
- 25 Home, informally
- 26 Carried out
- 28 Auto
- 29 Belonging
- 31 Dices
- 33 Talk about something
- 35 The state of living
- 38 In the event that
- 39 Belonging to you and me
- 40 Shrieked

Down

- 2 Nonhuman entity
- 3 Goes around
- 4 Of course
- 5 Clear, as a disk
- 6 Admittance
- 7 Quantities of something
- 8 Boy
- 12 Pair
- 13 "oh ___ goodness
- 14 Mesa
- 15 Per head
- 16 High school class
- 18 Black gold
- 20 Cutting tool
- 22 Produced
- 23 Details
- 24 Workouts
- 27 Undertake
- 28 Icy
- 30 Buff
- 32 Boutique
- 34 Conceal
- 35 Ring bearer, maybe
- 36 Enclosed by
- 37 Bawl

This month's puzzle has no theme. I couldn't work "HAPPY TENTH ANNIVERSARY" into a grid so the words this month are generic. However a new shape is offered for your consideration.



For the anxious readers who just can't wait until the solution is printed next month, for a small donation to the Frankestown Heritage Museum Trust a copy of the solution to the puzzle would be e-mailed immediately. Just send me an e-mail at wfm03043@comcast.net.

PS Even *small* donations are appreciated.