

The Quorum Review

Official Newsletter of the Brownstone Quorum, Inc.
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January 2008

The President's Message

by Jim Tripp

2007 was another busy year for the Brownstone Quorum.

In 2007, we focused on three primary goals: the 3rd Annual Portland Brownstone Festival, the implementation of design improvements at the Riverfront Park, and the funding and construction of a pavilion to house the historic Brownstone Arch. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, 2007 was a great success.

Jeanne Dilworth served as general chair of the Festival Committee, working with about sixty organizations to make the town wide affair successful. Mike Susca again did a monumental job as the Quorum hosted a cookout at the riverfront. From the set up to take down, Mike kept everything on schedule. The Quorum cooked and served hundreds of hamburgs and hotdogs with all the fixings, and Dave Kuzminski provided the music as hungry Festival goers munched throughout the afternoon. (See Festival report below.)

The development of the riverfront property progressed nicely in 2007. We defined the usage areas along the ROW trail with a picnic site on the river (west) side of the trail and laid out Heritage Plaza on the east side of the trail tucked in under the hill.

Through the hard work of many Quorum volunteers, the help of Frank Hayes of the Exploration and Discovery Park and some of his crew, plus the time, effort, and equipment of new Quorum member, Steve Klick, we cleared over 300 feet along the riverside, and covered it with wood chips to protect it until we are able to plant grass this spring. It was exciting for us to be able to use this area for the Festival in September.

But the most exciting 2007 Quorum project was the design, fundraising and construction of the pavilion to display the historic brownstone arch on Main Street. (See "The Arch Project" following.) Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Howard Rosenbaum and his Arch Pavilion team, over \$68,000 of the projected cost of \$70,000 has been collected. The project which has been in the works for several years is coming into fruition. We broke ground last fall and expect dedication this coming spring. (con't on page 3)



Pavilion under construction December 8, 2008

The Arch Project

In 2004, the members of the Quorum became concerned about what would happen to the newly-restored Brownstone Arch if it were again left to the elements. Townspeople expressed the desire to have it permanently displayed, probably in front of the brownstone school on Main Street, where previous restorations had been placed for years.

The Quorum did not want it to be left to the elements. The Board of Education did not want the responsibility for it on school property, and they definitely did not want a shelter for it built on the school lawn.

The Quorum decided to create a permanent home for it. The first step was to survey townspeople as to an appropriate style for the shelter and the most desirable location for it. Tom Bransfield approached a co-worker, Brian Adams, who provided three conceptual designs for the structure. The Quorum identified three possible site locations.

At the Portland Agricultural Fair in 2005, the Quorum took an extensive survey of Portland residents attending the Fair. They overwhelmingly selected a post and beam structure, open and accessible year round, and wanted it located on Main Street at the Town-owned parking lot between the bank and the Police Station. It would not only be readily visible, it would have the added benefit of the security the police would afford.

Next, the Quorum approached the Board of Selectmen and requested they be allowed to go forward with the project. The Selectmen approved the location and granted the Quorum permission to proceed, and agreed to support fundraising efforts.

Howard Rosenbaum and Tom Bransfield agreed to be co-chairs for the project.

As word of the project spread, help came from several directions as people committed to it. Jeff Jacobsen of Jacobsen Engineering, Portland Town engineers, volunteered his own time to determine the efficacy of the site for the project and the engineering requirements for a public building. Rick Staub, a principal of Point One Architects, donated his professional services in the final design and construction specs. Sue Fiedler, licensed landscape architect, provided the landscape design. Rick Kelsey, Portland resident and Director of Public Works donated hours of his personal time at various stages of the process.

Once the technical aspects were complete and approval was given by the Board of Selectmen, Howard and Tom began researching appropriate contractors for the project and sent out Requests for Proposals. Post and Beam Homes, Inc. of East Hampton was selected. Even with donated services

worth several thousands of dollars, general cost estimates were about \$70,000.

Fundraising began. More professional service donations came in. Printing Plus provided the flyer to be sent to potential donors. Mark DeFrancesco offered masonry services at cost. Butler Construction offered stone fill. Signs and Designs offered the construction site sign at cost.

Letters went out. Jim O'Rourke, 32nd District State Representative, obtained a State grant of \$25,000 for the project. The Board of Selectmen committed \$10,000. Howard and Tom, and other Quorum members, made personal appeals to local businesses and individuals. Special donor opportunities were provided. Engraved memorial paving bricks to become part of the landscape design were available for contributions of \$100 to \$499. Contributions of \$500 or more would be noted on a plaque at the site.

List of Contributors, as of January 4th.

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Michael and Paula Agogliatti | Sally Doyen | Stephen and Nancy Kinsella | Quality Welding Service, LLC |
| Airex Rubber Products | Herbert D. and Barbara V. Duey | John Kmetz and Patricia Doherty | Quarry Ridge Golf Course |
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| Margaret Brainard | Marshall V. Fogelmark, Interior | Thomas and Linda Melia | John H. and Marjorie H. Schufer |
| Sue and Tom Bransfield, Smith | Design | Misc. Donations/Brownstone | Alice Schumacher and Mike |
| Memorial | Myron R. and Jane M. Foster | Festival | Troderman |
| Tom and Susan Bransfield | T. Eric and Chantel Foster | Misc. Donations/Portland Fair | Gertrude L. and Robert W. Scully |
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| Discovery Park | Linda Gamache | Richard and Bonnie Oliver | Sheila Spalding |
| The Brownstone Quorum | Geato's Flower Shop | Ruth Olson | Water and Sewer Specialties |
| Nella Bruni and Laura Bruni Runte | William Gildersleeve | Hyime and Reva Paley | Kirk D. Stackhouse |
| Eileen E. Burke | Richard and Lynn Gildersleeve | Ralph and Sara Paley | Stor-U-Self |
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| and Dance | Romanie Gussenhoven | Raymond and Janet Poet | Tri Town Foods |
| Continental Autobody | Adeeb S. and Lynne N. Haddad | Ms. Ponski's History class | Triram Connecticut |
| John and Marilyn Cooney | Elsie Hale | Portland Automotive, Inc. | Bruce and Karen Tyler |
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| Curley Realty Co./Betty Curley | Henkels and McCoy | Portland Electric Company | Arthur L. and Phyllis G. Waldman |
| Current Electric | Antonio Hernandez | Portland Engine Co. #2 | Webster Bank |
| William and Christine Dahlberg | Art and Mary Ellen Hetrick/Farrells | Portland Exxon | The Wedding Dress |
| Sharon B. Dalton | Kristine Hopp and Lucien Guilmette | Portland Golf Course/Fairway 5 | Barbara and Steven Weiss |
| Daniels Oil | Salley J. Irons and Thomas R. | Portland High School Student Fund | Norma Werdelin and Winifred Hand |
| Daniel and Janalyn Davis | Linskey | Portland High School Student Fund/ | Robert A. Wildermuth |
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| Diana, Inc | Katherine M. Jarzabek | Portland Memorial Funeral Home | Eunice Wiseman |
| Jack and Bernie Dillon | Charles B. Johnson | Portland Police Union | Brian and Susan Wolff |
| Jeanne Dilworth | Jean Kelsey | Janet R. Prout | YHB Investment Advisors, Inc. |
| Shirley DiModica | Richard D. and Terry O. Kelsey | Patricia M. Przywara | Nancy Zimmer |

Letters of acknowledgement for contributions have been sent out. Howard and Tom will be contacting individual donors to confirm exact wording for the plaque and the paving bricks.

The work on the pavilion is nearly complete. In April, when the landscaping is complete, the Quorum and Town officials will schedule a dedication celebration and hope to see you all there.

In the meantime,. Howard, Tom and all of the Quorum members express their sincere gratitude for each and every contribution. Combined, they have made a reality of the plan for the protection and display of the arch, symbol of Portland's illustrious history.

The President's Message (Cont'd from page 10)

I also want to take a moment to talk about membership. In 2007, we hit a new record in paid memberships. We hope to continue this trend and build our membership even more in 2008. This is critical for many reasons. The more support we get from the community, the more we can accomplish at the riverfront. Support can come in many forms. Some are able to give of their time. Others choose to support us financially. Some are able to do both. All contributions are very important.

We have included here a self addressed stamped envelope that you can use to renew your membership, or to join for the first time. You can note whether and how you want to participate in Quorum efforts. You can even make an extra contribution, if you choose. Your support, continued or new, in any form, will be greatly appreciated.

2007 was exciting. 2008 promises to be even more so.

Quorum Annual Meeting

The Quorum will hold its annual meeting on Monday, January 28th 2008, 7:00 PM in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Library.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. Ray Purtell, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Glastonbury. Mr. Purtell led the development of the recently completed Riverfront Park along the Connecticut River off Welles Street in Glastonbury.

The Park site was a combination of former agricultural fields, wood land, some wetlands, with heavily eroded drainage ditches. The ditches have been replaced by reconstructed channels which control erosion both along the river edge and in the parkland. The open area now contains a lighted baseball field, three rectangular fields – where Glastonbury recently held its Apple Festival - and a picnic pavilion. A new drive makes each site accessible to all visitors. Ample parking has been provided. A large community center

at the north end of the park is in use day and evening by individuals and community groups.

Mr. Purtell toured the Portland Riverfront Park with Jeanne Dilworth, Nan Zimmer and Sandy Darna, Portland Parks and Rec. Director, so that he could speak knowledgeably about our situation. He was impressed. "I'll buy it!" he exclaimed as we came to the overlook at the north end of the Park.

Mr. Purtell's education (a Bachelor's degree in Park and Recreation Administration, from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst) and his experience in Glastonbury riverfront park development can provide Portland and the Quorum with significant guidance as we work to develop a town park on our riverside quarrylands.

All interested persons are invited to join us on the 28th. A brief business meeting - awards, election of officers and reports – will precede Mr. Purtell's talk, with refreshments to follow. Please join us.

Michael Troderman Remembered

Sweet, syncopated jazz floated through the rooms and out the doors of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home in the evening hours of December 22nd, 2007 . Ages-old Hebrew song and dance melded the separate clusters of visitors into a family of mourners who gained strength from each other as they spoke of, remembered, laughed, cried, and celebrated the life of the man they all knew as Mike ("Michael" to Alice).

Bandmates, friends, family, clients - each held special memories of Michael Troderman.

"Just sitting in for Mike tonight."

"His CPA should have had 'social worker' attached."

"My father taught me to love."

"He was my friend."

"He was my mentor."

"Mike was pretty laid back, accepting, caring, always upbeat and positive"

"Mike really loved his grandkids."

"He never put anybody down."

"Every day was an adventure to Mike."

"He was a good father."

"Give him X-country skis, - he was an explorer; a bike – he was the driver; a tennis racquet – he was the competitor; a keyboard – he was joy."

"Mike was so proud of his kids."

"Mike made his own decisions, even the last one."

"I loved my father."

"Mike loved you all."

And we loved Mike.

Michael Troderman: Founding member of the Brownstone Quorum. Quorum Treasurer. Quorum Master of Ceremonies and Music Man. Giver of ten years of special service to the Quorum and the people of Portland.

3rd Annual Portland Brownstone Festival

The 3rd Annual Brownstone Festival, sponsored by the Brownstone Quorum, with cooperation from the Portland Economic Development Commission, was a real success, even though Saturday, September 15th dawned dark and gloomy. Festival participants were somewhat discouraged as an early morning rain began to fall, but since this was a “rain or shine” event, they set up their displays as agreed.

Out of the rain, at the Senior Center, a pancake breakfast served full capacity from 8:00 to 9:30 when supplies ran out. But by 10:00 they were back in business with “stuffed” baked potatoes – which also sold out well before the noontime.

The breakfasters and others visited the smaller room at the Center to take advantage of the Masons’ Connecticut Chip/Child ID Program, and downstairs for the Art Show and Sale presented by the Portland Arts Association. Both events were popular all day.

The Town Green displays got their first visitors shortly after 9:00 AM, despite the light rain. The Farmers’ and Crafters’ Market offered baked goods, farm products, jewelry, handmade soaps, and wool and wool products. Local entrepreneurs offered party planning, gourmet kitchen products, children’s books and sand art. The Portland Garden Club sold flower arrangements, aprons and plants and the Historical Society presented their new cookbook.

As the rain tapered off, it got pretty warm, so 80 Licks Ice Cream Cafe was very popular as were the Cellar Savers (those fire engine people) who offered water, soda and popcorn to raise funds in support of their museum. The Cellar Savers, also displayed antique fire apparatus and again presented the enormously popular fire engine rides up Main Street to their museum in Gildersleeve and back to the Police Station.

Note: *The fire engine rides are provided by volunteers, using their privately-owned equipment for which they provide the fuel and the insurance. Some visitors were of the mistaken opinion that the service was provided by the Town Fire Department and funded by Town taxes. It is important for people to understand that such is not the case. The Cellar Savers offer this as a community service.*

The Clean Energy Task Force displayed three hybrid cars and were on hand to discuss their operation and benefits and also to provide information of the 20% by 2020 program.

The Portland Emergency Management Service explained their function and provided the opportunity for volunteers to sign up.

Kids and adults had plenty to do at Family Day, the annual presentation of the Youth & Family Services Department. For kids, there were crafts, jumping inflatables, games and prizes. In the Mary Flood Room at the Library, the Portland Economic Development displayed Student Palette Art, paintings on a Portland theme by students from grades 5 through 12.

For adults there were booths offering special services: the CT Visiting Nurses with a blood pressure clinic, Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council, Families United and Family Access organizations with information on the services each group offers. There was a Ham Radio exhibit and information. And with it all Edward Jones Investments served hotdogs and chips, while the Sojourn Bears provided lemonade (and displayed their “bears” and stuffed Scotties), the Friends of the Portland Library offered baked goods and DVDs and the MOMs Club sold baked goods and cookbooks to benefit the Middlesex Hospital Maternity Unit.

Curious George, a Library Friend, bounced all around the Town Green and kids of all ages could have the Jr. Women’s Club take their picture with him. Detective McGruff appeared as spokesperson for the Portland Police. For the third year, Dr. John Mormile distributed bike helmets to promote child bike safety.



Heather McDougall with Curious George

Across Main Street at the Brownstone Intermediate School, festival goers could catch a hayride from the school down Middlesex Avenue and Middlesex Avenue Extension, through the north gate to the Riverfront Park, along the half-mile riverfront trail up to the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park where visitors could enjoy the facilities at half price, and where kids could make a free brownstone pen holder, before climbing back on a rig to return to BIS. Jeff Kelsey and his family supplied three hayrigs for this, their eighth year of providing the rides.

An outstanding group of displays was set up at Fire House No. 1 on Middlesex Avenue. There was a “smoke house,” a special display that simulates an actual house fire. Firepersons were on hand to guide people through the “fire,” giving safety instructions along the way. At the “meet and greet,” fire department volunteers offered information on all aspects of the Portland Volunteer Fire Services including the Emergency Medical Service and the Fire Department Dive Team. They also provided information on, and applications for, joining the

department. Children could pick up books, crayons and stickers. For adults, there were copies of the "File for Life," a valuable record tool.

From Fire Company #1, visitors could travel up to Trinity Church, where they could take self-guided tours of the historic brownstone church and the old cemetery, final resting place for the many Portlanders displaced from the original cemetery on quarry land when the land was taken over by the brownstone quarrying operation.

The combined Portland garden clubs presented a Portland-themed Flower Show for adults and flower arranging "classes" for young people. An antique car and truck display was cancelled because of the rain. Church members provided refreshments for visitors.

At the Methodist Church visitors could enjoy a concert of music played on the church's historic "tracker" organ, sample homemade goodies, and take advantage of parking and bathroom facilities.

Both Portland museums had special displays. The exhibit of antique fire equipment at the CT Cellar Savers Fire Museum is really outstanding and each Cellar Saver is well-versed in the origin and use of each item. Fire engine riders had a double treat awaiting them when they took a ride break there.

The Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History offered a really special display of memorabilia from Portland's participation in United States wars. Uniforms, equipment, newspapers, photographs, letters and personal items of Portland service persons filled every inch of space inside the museum while an antique military ambulance was available for inspection outside.

Members of the American Legion and the Veteran's Commission were available with information and various appropriate forms for veterans interested in veterans' benefits.

Any veteran who missed this opportunity can obtain the information by calling Legion Commander, Reg Farrington, listed in the telephone directory.

The "Main Street" events ended by 3:00 PM and the action moved down to the Riverfront Park where the Brownstone Quorum presented a concert of music by Dave Kuzminski and the students and staff of the CT Valley School of Music and Dance.

A great part of this three-hour concert was the response of the guests, four generations in all, happily tapping feet, nodding heads and dancing to the tunes. It was great!

Sue Fiedler and John LeShane of the Quorum, and Mike DeFronzo of the Meshomasic Hiking Club led

several hikes over the Park trails. Many first time trailwalkers were so impressed that they themselves took others, who had missed the scheduled hikes, off on spontaneous tours.



On the Grill: Tom Bransfield, Jim Tripp, Howard Rosenbaum and Mike Susca, nice job!

From 3:30 to 6:30, the Brownstone Quorum served up a FREE Town picnic with hot dogs, hamburgs, coleslaw, chips, brownies, soda and water to all comers. And there were a lot of them, again four generations - eating, enjoying the music and visiting with their neighbors, many they had never before met. 80 Licks Ice Cream Cafe moved from the Town Green to the Riverfront Park to satisfy everyone's ice cream hunger.

At three o'clock, Jeff Kelsey changed his hayride schedule to a real shuttle service, allowing people to leave their cars parked up in the Main Street area while he carried them down to the riverfront and later shuttled them back to Main Street via the discontinued portion of Middlesex Avenue. He continued this service till darkness fell around 7:00 and everyone who needed the service was back at their cars.

Each year Jeff provides the hayrides free of charge to Festival goers. This year, tractors were provided by Jeff and George Gilbert. Eddie and Joe Chiabrero, Billy Long and Cliff Robinson provided the hay and wagons. Jeff, his daughter MacKenzie, son Jordan and nephew Zack were the drivers. Rick Kelsey and the Town Public Works Department groomed the Town-owned abandoned portion of Middlesex Avenue so that the hayrigs would have a safe way to return Festival goers to Main Street after the picnic, rather than having the hayrigs cross Main Street at Commerce.

A festival, which began in the dark of a rainy morning, ended as quiet evening darkness fell. Visitors and workers alike went home satisfied that it was a very successful event.

The History of Portland, Part 39
The Brownstone Quarries Part VII
by William Van Beynum

(Editor's Note: This is the third part of an article printed in THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE in 1853)

"In (Sir Charles) Lyell's (book) *Travels in North America* (in 1842) plate vii. Figure 1, we find these tracks (of the bird like Brontozoum Sillimanisnum) and castings represented. In figure 2 of the same plate, a slab is cut from the Portland quarries, showing the tracks of two animals passing in different directions, and belonging to the same species above described (in last weeks article).

"Of these footprints, several thousand have been observed in the sandstone of the Connecticut Valley, at some twenty different localities; and it is believed by President Hitchcock of Amherst, that they were made by as many as fifty different species of animals, some of which were birds, some quadrupeds, and others mollusks. By far the greater number that have been found belonged to birds, and thus it happened that the whole are frequently spoken of as bird tracks.

"The immense size of these tracks is perhaps their most striking character. The largest bird track found, that of the Brontozoum Giguntium, indicates a bird of a similar kind as the ostrich, but several times larger.

"A very remarkable footprint is often in these quarries, and elsewhere in the Connecticut Valley, which has puzzled men of science not a little. Our cut is made from a single track on a slab, now to be seen at the office of the Middlesex Company. This slab contains but a single track; but on the stratum from which it was obtained some five or six in succession were seen by the workmen, at the regular distance of about six feet; and what is scarcely less wonderful, it occurs some seventy or eighty feet below the original surface of the rock.

"It is very generally conceded, that no animal exists at the present time capable of making this footprint; but such is the perfection of the science of comparative anatomy, that we may speculate with great plausibility as to its nature.

"It seems very well determined, that the animal was a biped, and not a quadruped. This the track indicates; though it has been suggested that it may have been made by a four footed animal, which, in walking placed the hind foot exactly upon the track just made by the fore foot. And it is certainly possible that if only a single footprint of the kind had been found, we might admit this explanation as possible, but that very many, in fact, all that are found, should exactly resemble each other. If made in this way, is absolutely incredible. It is believed, therefore, to have been made by a two footed animal, though no one is now known having a foot such as this track indicates. Certain species of the frog in the embryo state, it is said, have a foot somewhat like it; and from this circumstance it has been suggested that the animal may have been a gigantic two-legged toad, or frog! If the reader feels a disposition to smile, it will be no more than others have felt on witnessing developments less strange than this; and if his irrepressible smile of incredulity should here after give place to one of admiration at the almost prophetic revelations of the men of science, it will be no more than has often happened in the past.

"Dr. Hitchcock calls the animal the Ozotown Moodil.

"The works and ways of God are wonderful in that which may seem to us of least importance, as well as in that which is greatest; and it becomes us, his dependent creatures, meekly to investigate his work and his works, to learn what he in his wisdom has seen fit to do, rather than to decide as some have done, ex cathedra, what was becoming the Infinite Spirit ...

"We add one further item in this imperfect picture of the past, which, however, aids in giving a degree of naturalness to the scene, though greatly unlike the present. (This item is) a specimen of sandstone in the cabinet of the Wesleyan University, the surface being covered with wave-marks, and the whole pitted with raindrops. We say it gives a degree of naturalness to the scene; for we find all the essential circumstances the same as now, the land and water; the ocean shore, and birds and quadrupeds, though of enormous size, wandering about we suppose, in search of their food; the sunshine, cloud, and storm, all indicating the same general course of events we now witness; and all leading unerringly to the inference, that the works of

nature, however great their variety, have, from the beginning, been under the supervision of the same Infinite and Eternal Spirit, whose kingdom, and whose dominions extendeth throughout all generations.

"Editor's Note: Here begins the second article published two issues later in the NATIONAL MAGAZINE.

"This interesting locality, partially described in a former number, is scarcely more than fifteen minutes walk from any of the hotels in Middletown. An excellent team ferry-boat plies constantly between the two places.

..."Until within a few years, as we have said, the stone was quarried only as low as the surface of the river; but the strata beneath being found to afford an excellent material—better even than those above—some years since a downward excavation was commenced, which in this place (the Middlesex quarry) has not reached the depth of sixty or seventy feet below the brink on which the buildings stand, and covers a space of one or two acres.

"We have also said that the stone lies in regular strata or beds, and its removal is much facilitated by many natural seams of joints, which cross the strata in different directions nearly perpendicularly; and it is these (seams that the Middlesex quarry was started and which resulted in it being a pit with almost perpendicular walls on all sides).

"Though the excavation has reached the depth mentioned, it is to be carried still deeper; indeed, the superintendent has informed us they intend to go down as long as they can find good stone!

"As masses of stone of many tons weight are often to be raised it will readily be supposed that the machinery used for the purpose is strong and massive, and as the bottom of the excavation covers a space of one or two acres, teams are required there, which being placed in a strong box, or movable pen, prepared for the purpose; are lowered into the pit, and again raised in the same manner....

"Although the excavation from the present surface is only sixty or seventy feet, this is not to be understood as the whole depth from the original surface of the ground. Where the buildings now stand, as many as fifty or sixty feet of earth and stone have been removed in the operations of former years, one-half of it probably consisting of stone, and the other of loose earth and pebbles. The excavation to this general level, which is a few feet above the surface of the river at the highest freshets, in the four quarries, covers many acres. On the brink of the deep excavation the huge masses of stone are landed as they are raised from the quarry, and men and teams are constantly engaged in removing them to a convenient distance. These operations cannot be witnessed without feeling that both man and beast are constantly in danger of being precipitated, at some unlucky moment, to the solid basement below. In the process of some six or eight years, indeed, since the downward excavation was commenced, two such cases have actually occurred; but strange to say, in neither case did the result prove fatal or even serious. The first instance was that of a man some sixty or seventy years of age, who, as a mere spectator, was accustomed to seat himself directly upon the edge of the rock, in order the more distinctly to witness the operation of raising the stone. But, on this occasion, in an unguarded moment, he was forced off by a sudden movement of one of the huge chains. The pit was not then as deep as at present; and it happened that he fell into a cavity which contained some four feet of water, and thus escaped with little injury. The other case occurred last year. One of the workmen, by some accident, fell from a point (at the edge of the excavation) where the height was found by measurement to be sixty-three feet; and to the astonishment of all present, he immediately arose and walked home, and in two or three days was again at his work! Stories of oxen by whole teams having fallen down the deep precipice, and, with their drivers, been crushed to atoms, have been in circulation; but it is a very suspicious circumstance concerning them that persons who ought to be best acquainted with the facts, if they be such, know nothing of them!

(This article's text will be continued).

*This article first appeared in
The Portland Citizen, Vol. 1 No. 33, October 31, 1958
Courtesy of the Portland Historical Society*

Quorum Membership

Membership in The Brownstone Quorum, Inc. is open to all. Dues are ten dollars (\$10.00) per person per calendar year. The Quorum has no paid representatives. All monies received go toward Quorum activities (see below). An interest survey and stamped, self-addressed envelope are included with this issue of the *Quorum Review* for your convenience.

We welcome all supporters and whatever degree of participation they choose. A reading of this issue will apprise you of the variety of opportunities for fun (and service).

Call me if you have any questions. Romanie Gussenhoven, Chair, at 342-7237

The Brownstone Quorum is a non-profit volunteer organization established in 1997 to protect and preserve the Portland brownstone quarries and related riverfront property, to educate the public about the significance of this site, and to determine public interests regarding quarry and riverfront development. In 2000, the United States Department of the Interior designated this town-owned property a National

Historic Landmark. The Portland Board of Selectmen shortly after authorized the Quorum serve the Board as advisor regarding this site with permission to use and develop community activities there.

Over the intervening years, the Quorum has performed clean-up throughout the area; established a network of 3+ miles of walking trails; conducted monthly canoe rides and annual Quarry Focus Days; provided guided walks for the public and education programs for the Portland schools; published canoe and walking trail maps; established a Tree Trail, identifying and labeling 35 notable trees on the riverfront property and creating an educational map of those trees and their locations.

The Quorum has held programs to provide public education in quarry history, geology, and park development; and conducted surveys of townspeople regarding uses for this land. They have cooperated with the Town and the Hayes brothers with regard to leasing the quarry for the water park.

The Quorum focus now is on the development of the riverfront park into a full community park with the interests and needs of all Portland individuals, families and community groups considered.

Quorum Calendar

2008 Events To Think About And Dates To Remember

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held Monday, January 28 at 7:00 PM in the Mary Flood Room at the Portland Library.

Tag Sale: The Quorum will participate in the Historical Society's Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, May 10th, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM at 29 Prospect St. We need things to sell and people to sell them. We have a lot of fun working together on this. Come join the fun for an hour or two – or all day. Call Jeanne at 342-2260 for drop-offs, pick-ups, or volunteering.

Note: *Because much of the work the Quorum will be doing this year will be actual labor in clearing and developing the Park itself, the regular meeting schedule has been changed. Four community meetings will be held instead of the monthly meetings currently scheduled. Notice of these meetings, agendas, times and places will be provided in Rivereast and on the website.*

Flag and Monument Dedication: Saturday, June 14th at the North Quarry.

4th Annual Brownstone Festival: Saturday, September 13th. This is our biggest project and our biggest gift to the town. See the article about the 2007 Festival in this issue.

Portland Agricultural Fair: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 10,11,12. This is going to be the year of three days of sunshine, with warm, dry evenings, perfect for riding the rides, listening to the music, visiting the exhibits, eating delicious food and having fun with our neighbors. The Quorum will be there with a booth in the Pole Barn.

Newsletter: Jeanne Dilworth & Bob McDougall

Brownstone Quorum Inc.
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The Quorum Review

January 2008

Annual Meeting:

January 28, 2008

7pm Portland Library