



Acton Historical Society, Inc.

February/March 2020

Co- Presidents Letter

To Our Dear Valued Members,

On Sunday May 17, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm, we will be holding a celebratory Open House now that our Hosmer House campus landscaping project is officially complete. The goal is to thank the Town and the Community Preservation Committee for their funding generosity, acknowledge the efforts of the contractors and project team, and invite the whole town to take a look.

In addition to tours of the Hosmer House, presentations, demonstrations, and exhibits, the AHS is planning to open up its 19th century barn to the public for the first time, as we convert this storage building and its collection of agricultural tools and machinery into a three-season museum.

Other local historical, conservation, and agricultural groups will also be participating.

This event will be free of charge, and more details on events and schedules will follow.

We hope that you will attend and, as the date gets closer, help ensure a large turnout by letting your friends and neighbors know.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Klauer and Doug Herrick

Sunday, March 15th

4 PM

AHS Program on Ice Cutting

By Doug Herrick and Larry Kerpelman

On Sunday, March 15, at 4:00 pm in the Jenks Library, a presentation will be given on The Ice Trade in New England.



This talk will focus on the 19th and early 20th century ice cutting industry, typified by the needs of local farming towns such as Acton. It will also review the global ice economy created by the “Ice King” Frederic Tudor, and the international market for premium ice typified by Wenham Lake ice.

In addition to focusing on ice harvesting in Acton, and the various ponds where this took place, the history of ice harvesting and the various cutting tools and technologies will be shown.

Celebrating the life of Carol Spinney

The Town of Acton and its citizens will be honoring the memory of Carroll Spinney, Acton native and a graduate of Acton High School, class of 1951. Carroll gave life and voice to Sesame Street's *Big Bird* as well as *Oscar the Grouch*



Do you have any memories, mementos, or photos of Carroll Spinney in and around Acton? The tributes will take a variety of forms, both permanent and temporary (your ideas and comments appreciated)

Please deliver or email your items to the West Acton Citizens' Library (21 Windsor Avenue Acton) at

WACL@actonma.gov with the **Subject: Carroll Spinney - Big Bird Tribute**. Watch this space for updates!

www.ActonCitizensLibrary.org.

I Am Big Bird Film Screenings

The biography film ‘I Am Big Bird’ about the life of Carroll Spinney will be shown at the Acton Memorial Library on Thursday, March 19th 7pm- 9pm and again on Wednesday, March 23rd 1pm-3pm at the Acton Senior Center (FREE Event open to the public). Attendees can bring memories or memorabilia to the film screening events to share as part of the local Acton tribute & celebration.

Patriots Day April 20th

Hosmer House

300 Main Street, Acton

"How Far We Have Come" exhibit

1-4 pm

This exhibit will show the evolution of the Hosmer House from the 1970's until today.

Hold the Date: May 3rd 4PM Acton School History Program
Learn more interesting details about Acton and its schools throughout the centuries!



Acton Historical Society
Open House Celebration – May 17
1-4PM

With the Jonathan Hosmer House (300 Main Street) landscaping project finished, the Acton Historical Society is planning an Open House celebration event on May 17. The goal is to thank the Town and the Community Preservation Committee for their funding generosity, acknowledge the efforts of the contractors and project team, and open up the AHS to the community at large.

In addition to tours of the Hosmer House, presentations, demonstrations, and exhibits, the AHS is planning to open up its 19th century barn to the public for the first time, as we convert this storage building and its collection of agricultural tools and machinery into a three-season museum.

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