

## Young minds at work in New Durham

*Camp Invention brings inventor to school to check out kids' work*

BY CATHY ALLYN  
Contributing Writer

NEW DURHAM — If you poked your head into New Durham School (NDS) last week, you could hear the sounds of voices raised in excitement, hammering, and mechanical yapping. Kids giggled as they walked down the hall wearing safety goggles.

Hammering? Yapping? Safety goggles?

When the academics are over, it's time for NDS to transform itself into Camp Invention, an enrichment program for elementary school-aged children to practice innovation.

The brainchild of the National Inventors Hall of Fame in partnership with the



INVENTOR Eric Fossum discusses design and function of contraptions New Durham School students came up with at Camp Invention this past week. The program enables kids to build prototypes as they experience being physicists and engineers.

CATHY ALLYN

The Wood Estate Trust Fund provided the bulk of the funds for NDS.

This year the components intended to make invention relatable and fun included designing a vehicle of the future, taking apart a mechanical robot dog to diagnose puppy problems, creating a prototype daily to solve challenges, and building a smart home. Each camper brought home two personalized robots at the end of the program.

NDS staffer Kyra Dulmage once again took up the reins as director, and her colleagues Torri Richards and Lena Madden served as teachers.

"Students are given challenges within certain parameters and then turned loose to create," Colby-Seavey said.

The optibots, light sensing robots, were Brayden Barbarisi's favorite activity. "There was a lot more teamwork with it," the entering seventh grader said. "We each got our own section to draw, and then the optibot follows the track."

His classmate, Addison Blattenberger, said she preferred the pet vet, as she could style her robotic dog how

United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention uses hands-on activities to promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning.

It also builds problem-solving skills and encourages entrepreneurship in a fun and engaging environment.

This year marks the third Camp Invention at NDS and the fourth for the Governor Wentworth Regional School District.

As a co-chair of the Science Task Force,

current NDS principal Kelly Colby-Seavey met with Camp Invention personnel in the winter of 2014 to look at bringing the program to district children.

"The school board has been hugely supportive of providing all children this opportunity," Colby-Seavey said. "Funding is in place so any child who wants to participate will have transportation and the ability to attend."

Parents paid a nominal fee of \$30 for a 33-hour week program.

## Not forgotten

*Town historian endeavors to locate and decorate graves of Revolutionary War vets*

BY MARK FOYNES  
Contributing Writer

ALTON — With the Independence Day holiday here, The Baysider wanted to take a moment to reflect on a few local Revolutionary War veterans who helped secure the opportunity for the architects of our nation to develop the framework of a government of and by the people.

Helping in this endeavor was Alton Town Historian Marty Cornelissen. He'd just recently decorated several of the town graves where veterans of all wars are interred.

He also provided the Baysider with a personal guided tour of some of Alton's most remote burying grounds where Revolutionary War veterans were laid to rest after they returned home.

Most everyone knows about the cemetery just north of Prospect Mountain High, as well as the one in the village. But Alton's landscape is dotted with smaller family plots - some having a few dozen headstones, with at least

one containing just two.

With an abiding interest in helping the present-day inhabitants of Alton appreciate the community's rich history, Cornelissen volunteers a lot of time with the town historical society and other organizations. When he offered the chance to visit a few out-of-the-way burying grounds, we jumped at the chance.

We met real quick recently at the Alton Circle McDonald's. Cornelissen provided a few quick facts before beginning our adventure.

He said that there are 96 documented burying grounds in town - but that he has helped identify five more. He admitted that at some point the town will need to update its documentation to reflect what he's found.

"It's important for future generations, but there's legal implications, too," he noted. As an example, he said the town has specific setback requirements that need to be considered when planning roads and developments near burial sites.

Cornelissen noted that Alton has among the most family plots of most towns in the Granite State. He's rightfully proud to have contributed to the discovery of several locations that had been obscured by the passage of time.

Cornelissen said he learned of these sites' whereabouts by networking with local landowners who have been willing to share their locations.

"I'd have to think there are others, so we're always on the lookout," he noted.

Cornelissen said the cooperation of landowners and the observational prowess of hikers and hunters helps identify some of the more obscurely-located sites.

For June, our outing was on a relatively cool day. Aloft, an overcast sky blanketed above. The clouds threatened rain, and we endured a couple of light drizzles. But the showers held off, allowing us to complete Cornelissen's itinerary.

The first of the sites we visited came as a complete surprise to me. Just off Route 28, located behind the rest area enroute to Wolfeboro, there's a Revolutionary War veteran buried.

When we got there, I was a bit perplexed. Most anyone driving by or stopping in likely has no idea that there's sacred

SEE GRAVES, PAGE A13

## Beware of telephone scam

ALTON — On July 25, the town of Alton became aware of telephone spoofing or phishing happening in the local area. The perpetrators are using area code 603 and the Alton prefix of 875 on their caller ID when calling.

Some of the calls are pre-recorded automation seeking money by claiming to sell fake products or services. They are using fake call-

er ID numbers of various 875 numbers including those of the Alton town government.

Please be aware this is not the town of Alton government calling you.

If you receive a call from an 875 number, town officials encourage residents not to give out any information.

The town of Alton has filed a formal complaint with the FCC and they are keeping track of

who receives a call and which 875 number is being used. If you receive strange calls, you are encouraged to contact the FCC at [https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/requests/new?ticket\\_form\\_id=](https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/requests/new?ticket_form_id=).

If you want to verify the legitimacy of a call you received or if you believe you are being spoofed or pranked, call the Alton Police Department at 875-0757.

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COURTESY PHOTO

### Baysider and a boat

Peter and Ina Rothwell display the Baysider showing their ship the Dawn as it's docked in Bermuda at the Kings Wharf. If you have a photo of you and The Baysider in a unique location, send the photo and pertinent information to [baysider@salmonpress.news](mailto:baysider@salmonpress.news).

# Alton Parks and Rec offering summer camps

ALTON — Co-sponsored by Meredith Village Savings Bank, the Alton Old Home Week 5K will take place on Aug. 11 at the Alton Bay Bandstand, 9 a.m. Sign up by July 15 and receive a long sleeve race shirt. The course is US-ATF certified through Alton, is paved, scenic, slightly varying with mostly flat and downhill portions and one moderate incline. Computerized timing with bib chip and results posted online, prizes, refreshments, water stops, traffic control and raffle for racers are all included. Forms and map available at [www.altonparksandrecreation.com](http://www.altonparksandrecreation.com) or register online at [www.lightboxreg.com/alton5k2018](http://www.lightboxreg.com/alton5k2018).

**Line dancing lessons**  
Line dancing with Joan Lightfoot is held at the Alton Bay Community Center on Thursdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Adults of all ages and abilities are welcome. Register on site.

**Camp Winnepesaukee**  
Two weeks of summer camp at the Alton Bay Community Center and Railroad Square Park, ages 7-11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sponsored by Alton Parks and Recreation. July 9-13 - American Summer Bash Week and July 30-Aug. 3 - Adventure Week. Registra-

tion forms available at [altonparksandrecreation.com](http://altonparksandrecreation.com).

**Wicked Cool Camps**  
Presented by Wicked Cool for Kids and Alton Parks and Recreation. Camp is held Monday-Friday at the Alton Bay Community Center, grades K-5, July 16-20.

**Wicked Cool Vet School** is 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Become a veterinarian in training this week and learn about furry, flying and fishy friends.

**Wicked Cool Science** is 1 - 4 p.m. Grow giant glowing cubes, create crazy chemical reactions, make glow sticks glow brighter, make a DNA necklace, harness the power of the sun and more.

See [wickedcoolforkids.com](http://wickedcoolforkids.com) for additional information. Registration forms available at [altonparksandrecreation.com](http://altonparksandrecreation.com).

**British Soccer Camp**  
July 23-27 at Jones Field. Three programs available, ages 3-15 years. Register at [challengersports.com](http://challengersports.com).

**Alton Bay concerts**  
Held 7-9 p.m. at the Alton Bay Bandstand. Free concerts for all ages.

July 7 - The Visitors - oldies, classic rock, country rock;

July 14 - Shana Stack - country;

July 21 - Bittersweet - classic rock;

July 28 - Gerry Gri-mo and East Bay Jazz -

## Inventors

(continued from Page A1)

she chose. "I gave mine a leopard print."

Barbarisi has attended Camp Invention in the past and enjoyed it each time.

A first-timer, Blattenberger was eager to share her experiences during the week. She quickly brought up testing the robotic dogs' urine.

"It was not real pee," Barbarisi observed.

Lemonade, cornstarch, and other ingredients were used, instead. But if you're checking for levels of acids and bases, the effect is pretty much the same.

An entering sixth grader said she'd wanted to return to Camp Invention this year "because I like to experiment with things to see what works and what doesn't."

She, too, was quite taken with the robotic dog. "We were in groups and took it apart," she explained. "Then we got to adopt one."

She decorated hers as a Dalmatian and demonstrated how it walked and yapped, and how its eyes lit up. "We're building a dog park," she said. "I built a bed for mine."

The young inventor said she felt she applied her 2017 experience to her schoolwork during the year. "We were working with wire connections in science class and I remembered taking apart a computer last summer."

In the Stick to It module, a noisy group was busy working on several challenges. Anyone walking in was immediately swarmed by children anxious to share their inventions. "Look, it lights up." "Do you want to see what I did?" "We're working on it." "Look what I made."

Morgan Goodspeed, entering second grade, said he was enjoying camp because he likes "to invent stuff. I haven't done it at home

elegant swing, jazz and blues;

Aug. 4 - The Bel Airs - doo-wop vocal quin-

Aug. 11 - Blacklite Band - classic rock - fireworks to follow at

9 p.m.;  
Aug. 25 - Saxx Roxx - classic rock with brass.

yet, but I will."

When asked if he was having fun working on this current challenge to collect coins from six feet away, he replied, "Oh, yeah."

On the final day at the robotic pet vet room, kids banged and drew and cut their way to a dog park. Teacher Madden, glue gun in hand, moved from group to group, reminding her young charges to work with the tools safely, offering assistance, and checking that safety goggles were worn correctly.

Wood, cardboard, buttons and who knows what else littered the classroom. "Lots of these products were donated," Madden said.

The innovators used them all up as they talked, laughed, and built at high speed. As always from children, there were questions as they worked. But Camp Invention offers a unique opportunity to ask the inventors themselves.

As a culmination event, Michael Oister, CEO of the National Inventor's Hall of Fame, and representatives of Invent Now popped into NDS on Friday to tour the modules, recognize Colby-Seavey for bringing the program to the school district, and allow children to rub elbows with their traveling companion, inventor Eric Fossum, a 2011 inductee.

Fossum is best known for the invention of the CMOS image sensor "camera-on-a-chip" used in billions of cameras, from smart phones to web cameras to pill cameras. Currently a professor at Dartmouth University, he holds more than 160 patents, and performs programming duties for Invent Now.

The physicist and engineer jumped in immediately to a table where youngsters battled with cardboard,

string, and electrical circuits, to ask how the creations worked. They, in turn, were free to ask for advice from him.

The entrepreneurship element in invention is also covered in the program, so Fossum shared his accomplishments, challenges and failures with campers to illustrate that all experiences can pave the way to success.

Oister was happy for many reasons that Fossum could attend, but one aspect of his visit introduced youngsters to the idea of intellectual property. "We try to get the inductees to camps," he said. "It's important that kids realize that invention is for everyone. In fact, we should call it Camp Prototype."

His pride in his organization is apparent. "This is a local program accentuating the school's STEM syllabus that scales nationally. Our secret is that the schools feel ownership; our heroes are the teachers and administration."

The program offers tremendous benefits for the campers, but it also provides an opportunity for older kids. "We have half a dozen interns who are high school students earning volunteer hours," Colby-Seavey said.

Intern Caitlyn said she volunteered because she loves to help kids out and "get their creative juices flowing." This has been her first year volunteering. She described the program as "pretty neat. I like to see the kids come up with ideas."

Remarking on the several challenges the campers were confronted with, she said, "They're coming up with so many different ideas to meet the challenge. There are similarities, but the solutions are definitely different."

Later in the day on Friday, campers held

their Inventors' Showcase to demonstrate to their parents what they had worked on all week.

Laura Weed said the camp afforded her daughter an opportunity to work with students from other grades. "It's exciting that she made those kinds of connections. There was a lot of teamwork involved."

There were a lot of inventions, too. "She brought home a whole bunch of stuff. We now have a mansion with smart technology. She came home every day pretty tired. It was a great experience and good that the school could offer it."

"Students use real tools in real life applications," Colby-Seavey said. "They experience the process an inventor might go through."

She said the program's worth goes beyond a tangible invention. "Students who might normally have a hard time sitting and listening are allowed movement, and allowed to take time to use their imaginations. We often see students who might struggle in a typical school setting flourish in this hands-on, almost no holds barred program."

Teachers benefit also, as they have freedom to allow students to explore. "There are no time pressures, so the kids can spend their hours engaged and excited."

Because of the Wood Estate Trust Fund, Colby-Seavey said there are no financial or transportation restraints. "So, this kind of enrichment is especially important for students who may be less advantaged than others."

"Inventors have to understand how to solve problems," Oister said at the Stick to It module, as kids darted back and forth from worktables to the challenge area, discussing, shouting, and tinkering.

He looked around the room with its mind-boggling degree of activity and electricity generated by youngsters all under four feet tall. "Inventors don't start as adults," he said. "It starts now."



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