

# VERMONT'S VOICE

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT

NATURAL BEAUTY

## David Haugen Retires As Town Patrolman

By Jane Hanson

Life-long Vermont resident, David Haugen, was born on the farm on which he still lives with his wife Joan. His parents bought the farm in the mid-thirties, David was born in 1942, and he grew up helping his folks at their dairy farm. David was a dairy farmer as well, until the federal cattle buy-out, when he sold his herd and went to work on the UW farms for the next two years.



In 1989, the town patrolman Philip (Pud) Skalet decided to retire and Dave applied for the position. Pud stayed on for a couple months, helping Dave learn the ropes, much like Dave did for new patrolman Jack Schulenberg.

When asked what were some of the most trying parts of the job, Dave demurred, saying it was a great job and he wouldn't want anyone to think that he didn't like it. But when pressed, he admitted that differences of opinion between the town and some of the residents regarding mowing did create some tension, but much was resolved by marking areas residents desired to leave uncut.

It was easier for Dave to describe the enjoyable parts of the job: the people with whom he worked. He said he knew many different Town Board members, all of whom he felt treated him well.

One of the funniest moments he could recall occurred during a major snow storm. He received a call, while plowing, from a woman who had a hair appointment and needed her road plowed immediately, so she wouldn't miss it.

Today's road conditions are rough, due to the heavy rains, but as Dave recalls, the worst year was 1993. "Remember," he said, "most of the roads were still gravel back then." Much of that damage was due to wash out, but this year's problems are primarily spring-related. Blacktop has been undermined and collapsed, and many driveways and box culverts have been washed out.

His advice to Jack Schulenburg, the town's new patrolman? "Keep your nose to the grindstone, do your job, and everything will work out well." (More than a little Norwegian there, Dave.)

Retirement plans include fishing and travel. Here's wishing the Haugens plenty of both.

### Vermont Town Picnic at Tyrol Basin

This year's town picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 24 and will again be hosted by the McKays at Tyrol Basin. Registration will begin at 11:00 am. A buffet dinner of BBQ, veggies, potato salad, baked beans, beverages and more will be served from 12 noon until 2:30 pm. This year, a \$2.00 per person donation will be asked to defray expenses.

Among the amusements available for kids will be a Fun Play inflatable, as well as the traditional favorite, the chair lift up the hill overseeing the town's beautiful countryside.

Be sure to attend this year and meet new neighbors, while catching up with old friends.

# VERMONT'S VOICE

## Look out for garlic mustard in the Town of Vermont!

by Tom and Kathie Brock

Many residents are aware that garlic mustard, a noxious weed, is now a potential problem in the Town of Vermont. So far, however, its presence is fairly localized, and with vigilance it can be eradicated. Last spring we alerted the Town Board to this menace and they were quite supportive in helping control this plant.

Garlic mustard prefers shaded areas, such as Vermont's woodlands, but can also be found in shadier areas of roadsides. It is one of the earliest plants to appear in the spring, and early spring is the best time to spot it. Walk through your woods and look for bright green leaves among the litter. If the leaves are crushed, a distinct odor of garlic is apparent.

Garlic mustard is a biennial plant. Starting from seed, the plant grows in a rosette form close to the ground, gradually spreading. A lot of these first-year plants overwinter and as soon as the soil warms up in the spring they start to grow again. In southern Wisconsin these second-year plants flower in May or early June, and then form large numbers of seeds. The seeds are sticky and readily attach themselves to animal fur, shoes, auto tires, etc. The plant is rapidly spread by human activity, as well as by animals. Within a few years, garlic mustard can become dominant on the forest floor, shading out all native plants.

Small patches of garlic mustard can be controlled by hand pulling. If you find an infestation, return to that



*This photo shows a major infestation. (Courtesy of Glenda Denniston)*



area several times in the spring, because not all plants appear at the same time. If the plants are setting seed, bag them and place them in your garbage (do not compost, as the seeds can survive this treatment).

Larger patches should be sprayed with an herbicide. Both 2,4-D (weed killer) and Roundup are effective. Use concentrations recommended for foliar spraying. A hand-held or backpack sprayer should be used. Be sure that all leaves are sprayed.

*Photos: Left, is a close up of the seeds, which is how the plant looks in late summer. (Courtesy of Glenda Denniston)*

*Right, shows a flowering plant (Courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)*



# VERMONT'S VOICE

## What Vermont Township Is Doing About Garlic Mustard

By Jim Elleson

As you may know, garlic mustard is a noxious, invasive weed that can quickly overrun wooded areas and crowd out native vegetation. As you may also know, the Vermont Town Board is taking this threat to our woodlands seriously, and has allocated some money to kill garlic mustard on Town roadsides.

The Board has hired me and my crew to kill this weed wherever we can find it alongside roads in Vermont. For the past two years, in May, we have been patrolling the roads and pulling or spraying any populations we find. This year, we had help from several residents tracking down garlic mustard on roads in their neighborhoods. (Special thanks to Ken for his eradication efforts along Moyer Rd. and Highway F; to Gary for spraying plants on Moen Valley Rd.; and to Agnes for flagging patches along three miles of Highway JJ; as well as several others who spotted populations for us.) We're seeing definite reductions in the density of this weed, which is good news for landowners in the town.

We'll be back again this fall, after the native vegetation has died back, to treat the basal rosettes, which remain green through the winter. Next spring we'll make another round, and I expect that there will be limited patrolling required in future years to keep this invader at bay. If you know of a roadside garlic mustard population, please let me know by sending an e-mail to [mail@quercus-LS.com](mailto:mail@quercus-LS.com).

If you want to learn more about garlic mustard, there's good information on the websites of the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, [http://www.ipaw.org/invasiders/garlic\\_mustard/gm.htm](http://www.ipaw.org/invasiders/garlic_mustard/gm.htm), and Wisconsin DNR, <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/fact/garlic.htm>. There's also a flyer on the Town website, <http://www.townofvermont.com/>.

### Be On the Alert for the Gang of Eight!

Sightings have been reported this week of a gang of eight young geese, hanging out in Elvers Corners. Reportedly, the geese are attracted to the domestic variety being raised in the area. The ringleader, (known only as Bossy Guy) can be identified by his black neck, white throat patch, and ability to stay the course in the midst of traffic. Should your morning commute take you careening around the corner of J and JJ, southbound, be prepared to slow and even stop - obstinate geese move slowly!



*Above, pictured, are six of the alleged Gang of Eight.*

*Right, the infamous Bossy Guy, gang leader*



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**Mission Statement:** It is the mission of Vermont's Voice to provide information about our town and articles of interest to the residents of our town in order to promote a sense of community, encourage participation in and understanding of town government, and improve communication among residents. Vermont's Voice is a volunteer, citizen-run publication that encourages and depends on citizen participation in providing information, articles, or suggestions for articles, photos, criticism, and help with mailings. The cost of printing and postage is included in the town budget. Vermont's Voice is not the official voice or viewpoint of the town government.

Look for this issue of the Vermont Voice on the Vermont Web Page! Check it out at <http://www.vermonttown.com>.

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Fern Frame 767-3915  
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Summer 2008

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