



Envirothon Champs Once Again

They've done it before and now they've done it again. The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Envirothon team went to the North American Envirothon in New Brunswick, Canada, to compete against 54 other teams from across the Northern Hemisphere and came home with a fifth-place finish.

The team has earned a right to go to the event five times in recent years by being number one in Connecticut competition and, in 2007, members were the international champions.

"It was very exciting to be in the top five again," said agricultural science teacher David Moran, who is the team's advisor. "They get all the teams together in one room to make the announcement—about 600 kids—and they announce [the finalists] by team number. We were announced first, team 1134, and the kids jumped right up and were about as excited as you can imagine."

After earning a position in the final round, the students had to repeat their oral presenta-

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New Face in the Principal's Office

Greeting students at the start of the new school year in September was Matthew Harnett, the new principal. Confirmed by the Board of Education in May, he took the reins July 1.

Mr. Harnett, 44, comes to Housatonic from Berlin High School, where he served as principal last year. Prior to that he served in the top spot at Torrington Middle School. Former principal Gretchen Foster left the post in August 2010 and Herbert Tedford filled in as interim for part of the last school year.

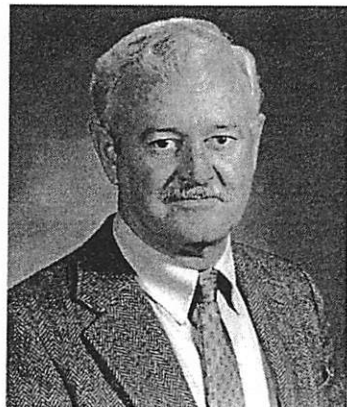
Mr. Harnett said he is excited to come to the school because of its comprehensive program, the quality of its instructors and the community support. In keeping up with the school's operation, he said it appears, "the community supports its school and doesn't seem to let economics hinder that. That's an attractive feature."

The Torrington resident plans to foster an open-door policy with Region 1 citizens and welcomes them to come and talk with him. "I'll be glad to show them what's going on. At the end of the day, all hard

decisions we make are about someone's son or daughter. There are tough choices to be made."

Raised in New Milford, the administrator has a bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire, a master's from the University of Bridgeport and an administrative certificate from Sacred Heart University. He taught middle school social studies in Hamden and Burlington before becoming assistant principal at Seymour High School. He and his wife, Robyn, have two children, Elijah and Mackenzie.

John L. Mahoney: 1938 to 2011



John L. Mahoney

The Region 1 community was saddened May 14 with the death of longtime Housatonic Valley Regional High School teacher and principal John L. "Jack" Mahoney, 73. He was stricken at home and died two weeks later at

St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

Mr. Mahoney's career at Housatonic spanned 31 years and generations of students. He came to the school in 1964 after graduating from Williams College with a bachelor's degree

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Who'sC- TEKS On the Road

The Who'sC-TEKS Robotics team has had a heavy travel schedule this year, with trips to Rochester, N.Y., Hartford and Wolcott, Conn., Massachusetts and Maine. At the meet in Wolcott in June, the group was part of an alliance with teams from New Haven and Farmington. The alliance achieved the highest score at the competition with 114 points. According to team mentor Cindy Fuller, "Our strong alliance proved unstoppable and we easily won all of the final rounds becoming the 2011 Where's Wolcott Champions." Competing were Nathaniel Purdy, Patrick Purdy, Amanda Stanton, Jarred Foley, Stephen Kalogiannis and Wayne Purdy.

John Mahoney, Former Principal, Dies

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and a graduate degree from Wesleyan University. He taught English and social studies in the humanities program until 1983, when he became principal. He retired from the post in 1995.

After his retirement, he worked successfully to get tennis courts built. An annual tennis tournament dedicated to Mr. Mahoney on those courts was held August 27.

He was an active member of the HVRHS Alumni Association that puts out the Blue 'n' Gold. His latest project was working to convert the old vocational agriculture building into a science and technology center. He was a founding member of the 21st Century Committee that raises private funds for educational projects at the school.

Mr. Mahoney will also be remembered for his passionate following of his beloved Boston Red Sox. He also joined his close friends **Edward Kirby, '45**, teacher, principal and Region 1 assistant superintendent, and

Barclay Prindle, '56, on yearly excursions out west, traveling to remote desert areas. "We were called the Connecticut Cowboys," said Mr. Kirby. Mr. Mahoney was the last president of NOLA, the National Association of Outlaws and Lawmen, before it merged with the Wild West History Association.

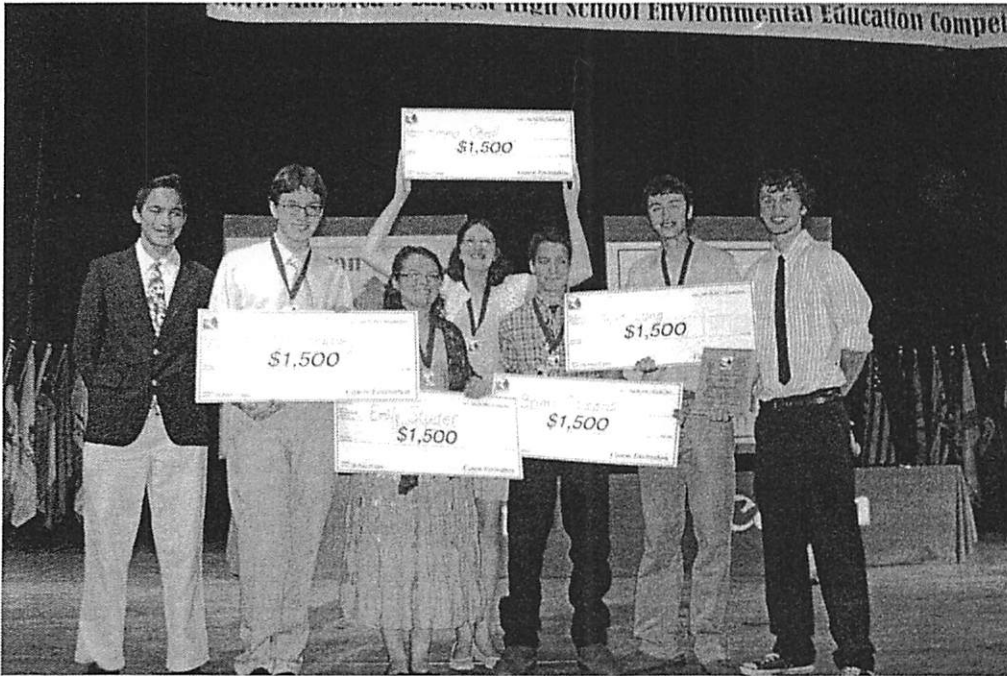
Friends talked about the fun and frolic had at the yearly Kentucky Derby party Mr. Mahoney hosted each year.

A memorial service in a packed Housatonic auditorium was held in June at which were heard tributes from family, friends and colleagues. Mr. Kirby, serving as master of ceremonies, reminisced about his long association with Mr. Mahoney. He listed the titles he had for him, including educator, historian, athlete, baseball coach, grammar purist, western hombre, "but most of all friend." **Ellery "Woods" Sinclair, '56**, and Mr. Mahoney came to Housatonic as teachers the same year. Mr. Sinclair told of Mark Twain being Mr. Mahoney's favorite au-

thor, with "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" at the top of his reading list. "Jack had the heart of Jim and Gene Brooks [his assistant principal] had Jim's soul."

The service was hosted by Mr. Mahoney's four children: **Nancy (Mahoney) Soper, '85**, **Michael Mahoney, '82**, **Sheila Mahoney Hayward, '80**, and **Kathleen Mahoney, '83**. In her remembrance, Mrs. Soper said she was always hesitant to tell people who her father was, fearful that some former student or parent might not have appreciated him. "My dad wasn't perfect, but he was wonderful," she told those gathered. "He was right beside me my entire life. Now when people ask if Jack Mahoney is my father, I say, 'Damn right he is and I'm proud of it.'"

In addition to his children, Mr. Mahoney is survived by his mother, his sister and six grandchildren. Contributions in Mr. Mahoney's name may be made to the 21st Century Committee at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Sheffield, Mass. 01257.



Housatonic's successful Envirothon team accepts its reward.

Housatonic Triumphs Again at Envirothon

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 tion, which this year was on the subject of fresh- and salt-water estuaries. For the state competition, they had worked for months developing a presentation, but all that work was thrown away at the international level. "They had eight hours to prepare, rather than three months," Mr. Moran said. In addition, their advisor was sidelined for the final event and the young people were on their own in front of the judges, who consisted of a First Nations representative as well as ministers with expertise in the different areas under consideration.

In the end, Housatonic shared the limelight with Manitoba, Ontario, South Carolina and New Brunswick. "There was a very strong Canadian presence," Mr. Moran noted. "The teams are always very good, the best from their

state or province, so the competition is pretty rigid."

The Falls Village team members were: **Ryan Long, '11, Emily Studer, '11, Becket Harney, Emma Okell and Brian Saccardi.** Also accompanying the team were alternates Matt Matsudaira and Jordan Long, who, Mr. Moran said, were strong enough competitors to easily fit on the main team. The students received \$7,500 in scholarship money for their efforts.

Mr. Long and Ms. Studer were seniors and moved on to college, but Mr. Moran looks forward to the continuing interest of the remaining team and new members.

He said interest in the competition, which consumes the young people's attention for an entire school year, remains fairly consistent. "There are peaks and valleys," he said, "but this year I had 13 kids

who were really dedicated. It really takes a special kind of student to make that journey all year long. They do a lot of work beyond what they were assigned—it's the equivalent of taking another class."

There is much extra work for the teacher as well, but Mr. Moran said he loves working with the students on their project. "I like the kids that come," he said. "They are dedicated and hard working."

In addition to competing, the Connecticut youngsters made good use of their time at the Envirothon. They were near both Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and had a chance to visit and learn about the Bay of Fundy, which is a critical habitat for the semi-palmated sandpiper, and some of the oldest fossils of the carboniferous era.

Tree Planting Continues On Campus

The HVRHS Arboretum and Landscape Committee continues developing and implementing planting plans for the campus. A primary goal is to design and establish a teaching arboretum of native trees to support the curriculum.

Most recently we added to species diversity by planting sourwood, white cedar, crab apple, silverbell, and hawthorn. The hawthorn commemorates the 60th anniversary of AFS on campus; others are class trees, all to have identification plaques. The committee is working on a suitable stone tablet for the new White Oak, which is growing vigorously.

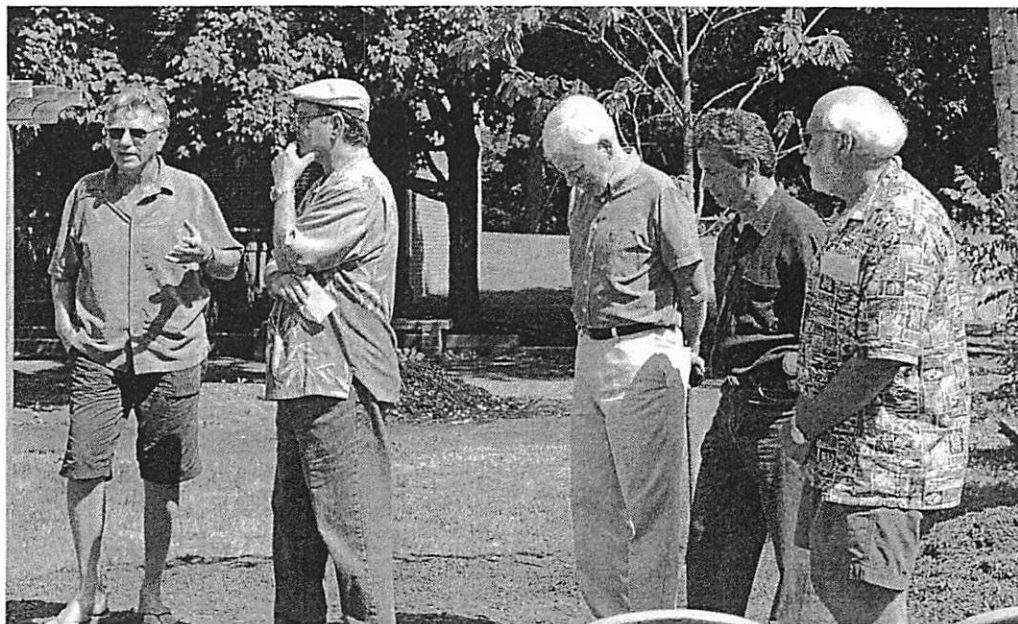
Landscaping continues in many areas, to enhance the parking area and the courtyards for example. Plans are being developed for a conifer collection and eventually other campus collections. A self-guided map of the Arboretum will be available in early 2012.

Classes anticipating a class reunion and wishing to acknowledge it with a class tree, please call Ron Dower, 860-824-7836, Dave Moran, 860-824-5123, ext 362., or Ellery Sinclair, 860-824-7454.

—*"Woods" Sinclair*

Geography Students Take 2nd

Last year five students from HVRHS entered the 20th annual Connecticut Geographic Challenge held at the University of Connecticut on May 16. Veteran participants Ben Finkelstein, Ryan Heacox, Jacob Horowitz and Olivia Montoya were joined by freshman Henry Yuliano for a day of competition against 17 other schools from around the state. The teams competed against each other in three areas: map reading, orienteering and general geographic knowledge. The theme for this year's challenge was "Fresh Water" and all questions and activities were designed to test student knowledge about this subject. Students had to know characteristics of specific bodies of water, what parts of the world have limited access to fresh water and important bridges that traverse various rivers around the world. HVRHS students look forward to this competition and always perform well. This year they had to complete their orienteering exercise in the pouring rain and managed to have one of the best scores in spite of the challenging weather conditions. The HVRHS team came in second overall. Jacob, Ryan and Henry will be returning for this year's competition.



Eugene Delaini speaks about their epic 1961 cross-country trip with teacher Thomas Glennon while Richard Donati, Ed Luminati, Gregory Perantoni and Robert Stone listen.

North to Alaska with Tom Glennon

The experience of a lifetime was had in the summer of 1962 when five recent graduates of North Canaan Elementary School climbed into a 1962 Impala convertible driven by their science teacher Tom Glennon and embarked on a 54-day, 15,071-mile adventure. Eugene Delaini, Richard Donati, Edward Luminati, Gregory Perantoni and Robert Stone, all members of the Housatonic class of 1966, say that journey proved to be a turning point in their lives.

They camped most of the time, eventually reaching Alaska and even flew to the Arctic Circle. Among stops along the route were the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone National Park and the Seattle World's Fair. The five wanted to mark the 50th anniversary of that trip in 2012, but decided to move the ceremony

up a year because of Mr. Glennon's failing health. A July 28 date was set at which a tree would be planted in honor of their mentor outside the window of the classroom where he taught legions of students. Sadly, Mr. Glennon died in Florida a week before the event.

But those attending the tribute agreed that while it was a sad time, it was also an occasion to celebrate. Many townspeople and some of the men's classmates came out to see the five, who had not all been together in 40 years, and watch as a sassafras tree was planted. Tom Zetterstrom, '63, arranged for the planting and gave an explanation about its origin.

Mr. Donati said "It was a wonderful experience and our parents recognized it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportu-

nity. A lot of people in Canaan never got more than a 100 miles away then. It was a magic time."

"He gave me a love of science that continues to this day," said Mr. Luminati, "but more important he gave me confidence in myself and who I am." For Mr. Delaini, "that trip is with me every day. It opened up a marvelous world to me. It inspired me to get curious and to realize in life there are so many opportunities. You just have to be willing to step through the door." Mr. Stone said, "Tom taught us the sky's the limit and dreams come true."

The men were in constant contact throughout the planning with Patricia (Harris) Glennon, '60, his wife. She was expected to travel to Canaan this fall to view the tree.