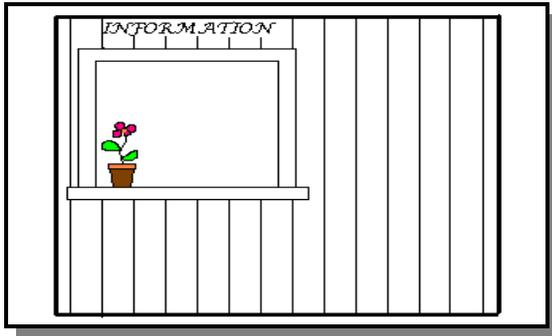


The INFORMATION WINDOW of the WANTAGH PRESERVATION

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August 2005

MAGIC SHOW COMING ON AUGUST 23

Tuesday, August 23 is the magic day, with a Magic Show at the Wantagh Museum in the morning at 10:00 A.M., featuring magician Robert McEntee – this is mainly for kids, but grown-ups will have fun, too. There will be prizes and refreshments for the kids, and a tour through the Museum's special car, the "Jamaica." For comfort, bring a blanket or lawn chairs to sit on. If it rains, we'll move inside. 📖

TRASH & TREASURES SHOW

To start October off with an exiting flourish, we're having our annual Trash and Treasures Show on Saturday, October First from 10:00 to 4:00. There will be all the good things on display that our vendors can whip up. Plan to come to the Wantagh Museum campus and buy some of those wonderful things, and wander through the museum and car to see some of Wantagh's and the Railroad's history.

Not only that, there will be refreshments to keep you going through lunch and even beyond! We plan to have wonderful weather all day, but just in case, we've scheduled a rain date on October 2 and rain cancellations will be announced on our Museum answering machine at (516) 826-8767.

If you'd like to be a vendor, we'll be mailing forms to all on our mailing list in a week or so.

The vendor's fee is \$20.00; vendors will set up from 7:30 to 9:00 and remain until 4:00. 📖



MUSEUM OPEN FOR SUMMER

The Wantagh Museum is still on its summer schedule, and is open from 2 to 4 Sunday afternoons. We do need more volunteers to host the museum. If you would like to volunteer as a host, call Donald Warner at (516) 826-6631, and he will be glad to pencil you into the schedule. 📖

MEMBERSHIP STILL AVAILABLE

Yes, its possible to join, or renew your membership in the Wantagh Preservation Society even now – just fill out the form on page two and mail it with your check. You'll be glad you did. 📖



Preservation Society Calendar

Tuesday, August 23: Summer Magic Show at the Wantagh Museum. 10:00 A.M.

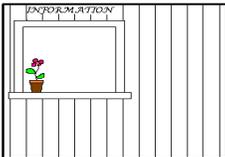
Tuesday, August 23: Trustees Meeting at the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, September 20: Trustees Meeting at the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 24: Museum Grounds Cleanup, 10:00 A.M. until done.

Tuesday, September 27: Membership Meeting at the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 1: Trash and Treasures Show at the Wantagh Museum Grounds, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. 📖



THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Page 2

August 2005

TO JOIN, OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Addr. _____

_____ ZIP+4 _____

Phone _____ New Renewal

Circle one: Indiv. \$6 Family \$12
 Friend \$25 Patron \$50 Fellow \$100

Send to: Wantagh Preservation Society
P O Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

WPS ON THE WEB

To find out the latest about the Preservation Society, look at **www.wantagh.li**. Under "Activities," click on "Wantagh Museum," and then on "Information Window" to read current news or check up on earlier copies of the Information Window. 

AUGUST'S MIND BENDER

Here's another of those Mind Benders!

"I see without seeing. To me darkness is as clear as daylight. What am I?"

Ask for the answer at the September 27 Membership Meeting or at the October 1 Trash and Treasure Show – or wait until the next Information Window. 

LAST MONTH'S MIND BENDER, UNBENT

Rock Group: Mount Rushmore. 

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings. The Editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 

WHAT OUR KIDS KNOW ABOUT WANTAGH

Here's an excerpt from a small textbook used by our High School in 1966. It described early Wantagh this way, and I'm sure they all memorized every word.

On the south shore of Long Island the first families settled much in this fashion: The Carmans in Massapequa, the Seamans and Jacksons in Seaford and Wantagh, and the Smiths in Merrick and Bellmore. A later wave of settlers brought the Birdsalls to the northern part of Wantagh, formerly called Jerusalem. Some of the earliest roads were Jerusalem, Seaman's Neck, and Old Mill Road.

A little community grew up at a bend in the Jerusalem Lane (now Wantagh Avenue) just north of Southern State Parkway).

Like all colonial villages, Jerusalem (Wantagh) had its grist mill and its sawmill, which were so essential to the early settlers. Records indicate that as early as 1704 the Jacksons were given full mill rights to the Jerusalem River. Roads named Old Mill Road and Sawmill Road give an indication as to how important the mills were to colonial farmers.

Early settlers found the soil ideal for wheat and garden vegetables. However, a great plain just to the north made cattle and sheep raising profitable too. The grass on this plain was as high as a "Horse's Belly" and grew for miles and miles. The margin of the grass was so clearly marked on all its boundaries as to give rise to a town named Plainedge. One can also understand the derivation of the name East Meadow, an area to the east of the Hempstead Plain.

The flat level land nearby was similar to the western prairies, where the cowboy became famous. There was nothing quite that glamorous about the "cowboys" of early Wantagh, however. The farmers got together and hired one man to drive the herds up to the plains each morning and return them at night. The cattle fed and browsed all day on the rich, nutritious grass.

There was never much concern about whose cows belonged to whom, as each cow turned off at the proper lane when the herdsman brought the herd down Wantagh Avenue in the evening. 