

# Alton Central students create Quest for Alton

ALTON — Third through sixth grade students in the Gifted and Talented program at Alton Central School have just completed an eight-week project to create a Quest for the community of Alton. Quests are educational treasure hunts designed to teach participants about the special natural and cultural features of a place.

"It's a fun way to learn history — more fun than reading a textbook," said fifth grader Molly Quinn.

Working with Camille Burns, an Antioch University New England graduate student interning at Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center (PFEEC) in Laconia, and PFEEC's Co-Program Director Sarah Dunham, students first met with staff from the Alton Historical Society and went on a walking tour of the downtown area to learn about the history of nine sites, including the former corkscrew factory (now the Lion's Garden florist), the old shoe factory (now Gilman Museum), the Cochecho Inn (now Likin' Bikin'), the Grange Hall (now the Alton Dance Academy) and the Town Hall. Over the next several weeks students did research on the various buildings and wrote clues in the form of short poems to teach Quest-goers fun historical facts about each site. Poems also guide participants from site to site. At the end, clues lead to a "Treasure Box," which contains a sign-in book, historical photos and more information on the various sites and a rubber stamp. Regular quest-goers carry a "passport" in which to collect their stamps.

"Going on the Quest is a great way for Alton residents to learn more about their town," Dunham said. "It is also a fun thing for visitors to do to introduce them to a new place."

The Quest was modeled on others compiled by the Vital Communities Valley Quest program, based in White River Junction, Vt.

The Quest is now available to the public online on the Alton Central School Web site ([www.alton.k12.nh.us](http://www.alton.k12.nh.us)), the Town of Alton Web site ([www.alton.nh.gov](http://www.alton.nh.gov)), the Prescott Farm Web site ([www.prescottconservancy.org](http://www.prescottconservancy.org)), the Valley Quest Web site



COURTESY PHOTO

STUDENTS Deb Shepard, Liam MacStravic and Ronnie Jeffrey work on Alton's Quest.



JOSHUA SPAULDING

STUDENTS Ryan Thibeault, Shelby Rodger, Daniel Drury, Deb Shepard, Liam MacStravic, Ronnie Jeffrey, Zach Callaghan, Zach Dwyer, Kevin Gilbert, Mackenzie Burke, Luke Mostoller and Andy Hamilton were all part of creating Alton's Quest.

([www.vitalcommunities.org/valleyquest](http://www.vitalcommunities.org/valleyquest)), and in hard copy at the Alton Historical Society and Town Hall.

For more information,

please contact Dunham at Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center at [sdunham@prescottconservancy.org](mailto:sdunham@prescottconservancy.org) or 366-5695.

## Two hurt in rollover on Route 11

ALTON — At 7:03 a.m. on May 29, the Alton Police Department responded to a single-car accident on Henry Wilson Highway (Route 11) near the New Durham town line.

Upon arrival officers discovered a Ford Explorer rolled over off the shoulder of the westbound lane. Both occupants were ejected from the vehicle. The driver was identified as 25-year-old Charles Bacon of West Ossipee. The passenger was identified as a two-year-old minor child. The occupants were transported to Huggins

Hospital and later flown to Maine Medical with serious injuries.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation, but the scene shows that the vehicle rolled at least four times before coming to final rest. Witnesses say that the vehicle was seen prior to the accident traveling at high rates of speed passing vehicles.

Charges have not been filed, but are likely forthcoming for operating with a suspended license and failing to properly restrain the child.