

LINKING LEARNING TO LIFE

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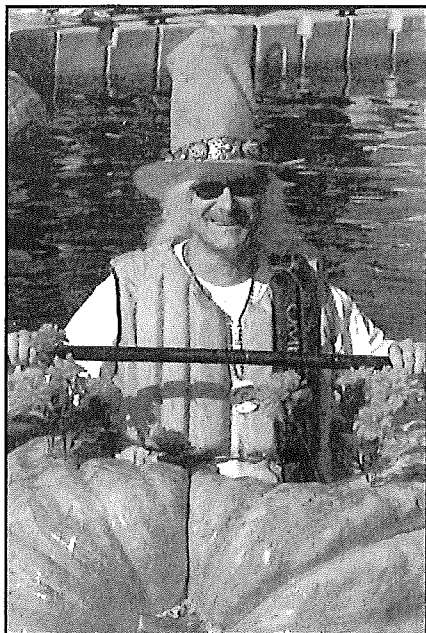
Second Annual Giant Pumpkin Regatta and Festival

By Lindsey Lathrop, *Linking Learning to Life*

For many, fall is a time that brings fond memories...the sound of crunching leaves under your feet as you hike your favorite trail, the red and orange colors of the Green Mountains as you drive down 189, the crispness of the air as you sip hot apple cider. But there is one thing that is missing...racing on Lake Champlain in a giant hollowed-out pumpkin boat, of course! The 2nd Annual Giant Pumpkin Regatta & Festival is set to sail on Sunday, October 11th at the Burlington Waterfront. The event is put on by the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce (LCRCC) and Linking Learning to Life (LLL) with this year's platinum sponsor, the New England Federal Credit Union. It will feature a race of giant carved pumpkin boats and a fun-filled harvest festival with local food vendors, activities and entertainment. The event is being held as a benefit for PILOT (Program to Inspire Leadership, Opportunity, and Thought), a youth leadership program for area high school students run by both LLL and the LCRCC.

So where do these giant gourds come from? Thanks to the amazing generosity of competitive pumpkin growers from the Vermont Giant Vegetable Growers Association! They will compete in the giant pumpkin weigh off at Sam Mazza's Farm Market in Colchester on the Saturday before

the event and then truck their prized beauties to the waterfront for the regatta. The race heats will include business sponsors, local celebrities, students from the PILOT program, pumpkin growers, and winners of the regatta raffle. Over a thousand people witnessed last year's regatta and it was featured on MSNBC and spoofed on Saturday Night Live!



Guess they didn't think crazy Vermonters would get into the chilly waters of Lake Champlain and race pumpkins! Awards will be given to race winners as well as other competitors throughout the festival...think pie-eating contests and best costumes!

In order to make this Burlington's annual fall event and a successful fundraiser for PILOT, we are looking for business sponsorships and they are limited! Sponsorships include:

- participating in at least 1 pumpkin race with the business' flag and decorations,
- the business' name on all event promotional materials,
- being listed on Lake Champlain Chamber & Linking Learning to Life's websites,
- being named in paid media spots, and
- being listed on event waterfront display.

Businesses that are interested in sponsoring a pumpkin to race should contact Cari Kelly at the LCRCC at cari@vermont.org or 863-3489 x 227.

We hope to see you at the Giant Pumpkin Regatta & Festival this fall! More information will be coming soon and check www.LLLvt.org and www.vermont.org for updates!



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