

==== SUZDAL SISTER CITY COMMITTEE ====

As 2013 comes to a close, the Sister City Committee is pleased to report that our connection with friends in Suzdal, Russia continues to be strong. Although there was no travel during 2013 between citizens of our two towns, the internet, Facebook and telephones keep us in touch.

Our relationship with Suzdal is now in its 21st year and an exciting facet of the relationship, to me, is that a newer generation of young people in Suzdal is actively engaged with staying in contact with friends in Windham. Over the years, approximately 50 citizens from Suzdal have visited Windham; many of those being students. A somewhat smaller number of Windham folks have visited Suzdal. My wish for the future is to be able to encourage more Windham people to visit Russia and that students will be included in that group of visitors.

Each year the Windham Town budget appropriates \$500 towards Suzdal support. If there is no personal visit during the year, the donation is saved until a safe means of transfer is available. Carrying the donation in hand is the best and safest method. In recent years, the Windham donation has gone to support the orphanages and medical relief for the polyclinic.

I was saddened to hear of the death of Mikail Ivanov, long-time Mayor of the Suzdal Region. He was a man who oversaw the educational, historic, and medical needs not only in the Town of Suzdal, but in the area (villages) surrounding the Town, as well.

On December 22, I had a call from Mila Yurastova, who was in the States with her husband for a brief holiday. She tells me that 2014 will be the 990th anniversary of the Town of Suzdal and she feels that the new administration will be inviting sister city representatives from the various countries to be there in Suzdal to celebrate. I will supply updates on this possibility as plans may develop. At this time, it is hoped it will be possible for a group representing Windham to be able to travel to Suzdal in 2014.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,



Barbara Coish, Chair