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by Mary Ann Horaj (including photos)

## **'CRIMES AT THE CASTLE'**

The walls of the castle were alive with the excitement of a "Whodunit" Murder Mystery about to unfold, as the sun went down over the castle on the hill. The Windham Endowment for Community Advancement hosted the fundraiser at Searles Castle on Friday, September 25th 2009. The "Whodunit?" was more a "Who's Who" with folks from every walk of life in attendance including residents, board members, politicians, families, friends and visitors. The event represented all aspects of Windham under one tent as explained by a board member.

The evening was the brainchild of Stacey Bruzzese, Chair of the Mystery Dinner Theater Production and Vice President of the Windham Endowment, and it took the teamwork of many to make it such a successful event. Dick Forde, who was in charge of stage lighting said, "I ran over as soon as I finished jury duty to get it all set up." He thanked his granddaughter Siobhan Forde for assisting. Brian Smith was in charge of sound for the event. Videography was by Elliot Gould of Windham.

The murder mystery was written by Windham author Anne Kelsey and directed by Donna Tongue. The production had the audience in stitches! The cast of characters included: Don Developer - Kevin Waterhouse; Larry Laptop - Anthony DiFruscia; Trudy True Crime - Christie Hutchings; Wanda Woo Hoo - Jessi Nappo-Mead; Lovely Plant - Kaitlin Waterhouse; Horticulturist - Celina Wilt; Wally the Waiter - Adrian McLeod; Screamer - Sophia Djuricic; Marvin Move-It- Along-Joel Sadler; Suzie Selectman-Kristin Waterhouse; Donald, Jr. - Jonathan Kaplan; Castle Ghost - Amy Nesheim; Tower Ghost - Kevin Waterhouse. The event was a sell-out with approximately 200 guests. The WEDC presented the Windham Community Band with the first annual Community Advancement Award for 2009. The award is in support of the bands dedication of time and talent benefiting the community of Windham.

The Windham Endowment was formed in December 2004. If you are interested in their mission you can visit their website at <http://www.windhamendowment.org/> Donations can be directed toward just about any organization in town including Boy Scouts, Nesmith Library, W.I.R.E., Community Band, Windham High School and more. The mission of the Endowment is to make a difference in the community.

[Photos](#)