

Summertime in the Belgrades



... Serving the Central Maine Lakes & Kennebec River Corridor

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 7

When A Downtown Has Its Day

by Esther J. Perne



Oakfest at Oakland



River Fest at Skowhegan



Summer Fest at Farmington



Happy attendees of Brew Tasting at Taste of Waterville

Downtowns have many special days: calm, routine days when there is a sense of space and rhythm to comings and goings; exciting, crowded days when the urgency and bustle of errands and shopping fill the air; and celebration days - especially celebrations of summer, linked to holidays, anniversaries, annual festivals, heritage, old home days, harvests and specialty traditions.

Any theme a downtown follows is cause for fun, food, live music, sales, special events, a tal-

ent show, competitions and races and maybe a parade and fireworks. No two activity schedules are the same, no two settings are the same, but they all have in common a spirit of fun, family orientation and friendship for neighbors and visitors and almost everything is held outdoors.

Topping the schedule of the week for downtown celebrations is Oakland's Oakfest, July 22 through 24, three days of fun family events including a kids' scavenger hunt and street dancing with live music on Friday, a 75-stand outdoor

market, dozens of activities for children, a Classic Cruise Car Show and live bands throughout the day on Saturday and a fun run for kids and the 5th Annual Oakfest Paddle, Pedal & Pound Triathlon on Sunday. Saturday is "ShineOn Oakland Day" when non-perishable, individually-wrapped snacks for the Oakland Schools Food Pantries will be collected all day.

Also this weekend, Farmington Summer Fest will be held on Saturday, July 23. Featuring what

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

is labeled as a family-centric series of events, the all-day schedule includes a Live Country Auction, local musicians, crafters and exhibitors, a talent show, a street dance, children's games and activities, a unique team race for clues around Farmington, fireworks and more. This is Farmington's 57th Annual Festival.

Looking forward to August, there are many downtown celebrations scheduled. Kicking off the month is Taste of Waterville on Wednesday, August 3 at Head of Falls. The Taste offers a full schedule of live entertainment with new bands every couple of hours from 1 pm to 11 pm, all while enjoying a showcase of the area's foods from food trucks and restaurants. The Taste of Waterville is an adult-focused event.

Starting August 4 through 7, Skowhegan River Fest offers many activities in downtown Skowhegan, on the Kennebec River and in the surrounding area, including family fun events, a bed race, a golf classic, moonlight madness, raft rides, dinner in Coburn Park, a lobster bake and fireworks.

Other summer festivals on the 2022 event calendar include: the Wilton Blueberry Festival, August 5 and 6; Mercer Old Home Day, August 6; Readfield Heritage Days, August 12 and 13; Madison/Anson Days, August 19-21; the Winthrop Sidewalk Art Festival, August 20.

Pick a downtown and make it a day.



Paddle-Trek

Join us for all or just a part of this 15-mile guided paddle from Mt. Vernon Village to Wayne Village, traveling along many of the lakes and streams that together form the "30 Mile River." Beginning on Minnehonk Lake at Mt. Vernon's Town Beach (meeting at 7AM), the trip route continues down and through Hopkins Pond, Hopkins Stream, Taylor Pond, Echo Lake and its Mill Pond, Lovejoy Pond, Lovejoy Stream, Pickerel Pond, and Pocasset Lake, ending in Wayne Village's Mill Pond (usually close to 2:30PM). To register go to <https://30mileriver.org/paddle-trek/>

Price Children 13-17 - \$15; Adults - \$30; 12 and under – free

Contact 30 Mile River Watershed Association, Lori Putnam, Lori@30mileriver.org, 207-215-2998



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Visit a Farm July 24. Why?



Everyone should know the peacefulness of a barn where farm animals are contentedly munching on hay. Everyone should know the food security of picking a fresh, ripe tomato from the garden for lunch and (without guilt) eating that first pick off the vine because there are others available for lunch. Everyone should know that chickens and pigs and sheep and cows all have different moods and personalities and will recognize their names and the kindness of caregivers. Everyone should know that milk does not come from the grocery store.

Sunday, July 24 is Open Farm Day in Maine with over 100 farms open to the public across the State. Some of the Open Farms in central Maine include:

- Winterberry Farm, Belgrade
- Bacon Farm Maple Products, Sidney
- Misty Acres Alpaca Farm, Sidney
- The Apple Farm, Fairfield
- True Mountain Maple, Industry
- Hummingbird Farm Greenhouses, Turner
- North Parish Christmas Tree Farm, Turner
- Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center, Hallowell



Visit realmaine.com for hours and other details about each farm and about many other farms that will be open to the public on Maine Open Farm Day.

(P.S. Milk comes from cows.) 

Summertime in the Belgrades

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A Homeowner's Guide to Cutting Trees in the Shoreland Zone

1. Cutting within 100' (75' for streams) setback from the normal high waterline

- a. No cleared openings greater than 250ft in the canopy
- b. A "well distributed stand of trees" must be maintained:
 - i. At least 24 points (16 point in stream protection) within every 25'x 50' rectangular area.
 - a. 2-4 inch DBH tree = 1 point
 - b. 4-12 inch DBH tree = 2 points
 - c. 8-12 inch DBH tree = 4 points
 - d. Greater than 12 inches DBH = 8 points

Additionally, there must be 5 saplings less than 2' DBH within every 25'x50' area.

DBH = Diameter at Breast Height, or diameter measured at 4.5' above ground level

- c. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed in any ten year period
- d. Pruning the bottom 1/3 of a trees branches is allowed
- e. Existing vegetation under 3' in height, including leaf litter and forest duff layer, cannot be cut, covered or removed!
 - i. A cleared six foot meandering path to access the water is allowed

2. Cutting beyond the 100' setback from the normal high waterline

- a. No cleared openings greater than 10,000ft² or 25% of the total lot located within the "shoreland zone", whichever is greater
 - i. Shoreland zone is 250' from high waterline (75' for streams)
- b. Cleared opening of 5,000ft² or greater must be separated by a 100' canopy buffer
- c. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed in any ten year period
- d. The total footprint area of all structures, parking lots, and other non-vegetated surface areas cannot exceed 20% of the total lot located within the "shoreland zone".

3. Dead / Hazardous trees and replanting

- a. Unquestionably dead:
 - i. If a tree is unquestionable dead (no leaves, no bark, deep cracks, top broken off, etc.), take pictures, remove the tree properly, and replant as specified below.
- b. Alive, but hazardous
 - i. If a tree is not unquestionably dead, but still viewed as "hazardous", have a licensed Maine forester or licensed arborist inspect the tree and submit a letter including:
 - 1 why they think the tree is hazardous
 - 1 what it is a hazard to
 - 1 Their license number
 - 1 a picture of the tree
 - c. Tree replanting

- i. If the removal of a dead or hazardous tree violates any of the provisions listed above under Sections (1) or (2), trees will need to be replanted, ideally in the quantity specified below:

- 1 For each tree removed between 1-9" DBH, replant one (1) tree
- 2 For each tree removed between 10-19" DBH, replant two (2) trees
- 3 For each tree removed greater than 20" DBH, replant three (3) trees

- ii. Trees to be replanted must be;

- 1 Of a native species
- 2 A minimum of 54 inches tall
- 3 Planted within 20' of the stump of the removed tree
- 4 Planted no closer than 5' to other living trees
- 5 Maintained for a minimum of 3 years (replanted if they die)

- iii. Replanting plan

- 1 A tree replanting plan must be submitted to the town office for approval before replanting takes place.
2. The plan must include a map that accurately shows
 - a. Location of removed tree(s)
 - b. Location of replacement tree(s)
 - c. Replacement tree species
 - d. Distance to the water body or resource.
- iv. Other things to consider when replanting
 - 1 Document the replanting by taking pictures of the newly planted trees (if applicable)
 - 2 For extensive replanting within 75' of a water body, a D.E.P permit may be required. Check with your local office for details

For a complete list of the cutting standards, please see section 15(P) of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, or contact your local code office.

Andrew Marble, Code Enforcement Officer

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— Take It Outside —

Counting Loons

by Pete Kallin

The third Saturday in July is the annual loon count in Maine, coordinated by Maine Audubon. See: (<https://www.maineaudubon.org/projects/loons/annual-loon-count/>). This year's count took place July 16th and was the 39th annual count in this important ongoing citizen-science project dedicated to better understanding one of Maine's most iconic birds. Every year over 1000 volunteers, of which I am one, attempt to count all the loons on over 300 Maine lakes at the same time. It's organized like a military operation, and I am the coordinator for the dozen or so volunteers on Long Pond, which is divided into 9 Survey Areas, with a 10th in Ingham Pond. Early in the morning all counters head for their assigned section of the lake to be in position to count all the adult loons and loon chicks in their area between 7:00 AM and 7:30 AM. I left my dock around 6 AM, planning to fish for a bit before picking up my counting partners, Fred and Ann Knight, at their dock on the way to our Survey Area. I spoke to my neighbors, Jason and Sarah Toner, who were on their way to pick up Rose Talbot to count thoon parents began sequestering their chicks.



Fred Knight, Loon Count Assistant.

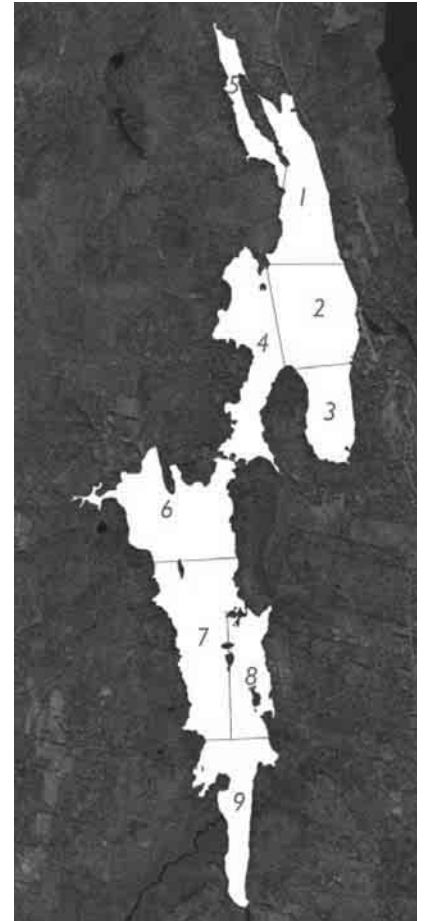


Rose Talbot counting loons from Toner's boat.

Our assigned area was a cove that has been used for many years by a pair of loons that typically nests on a secluded beach on a small peninsula. Recently, this pair was unsuccessful in raising very many chicks because land-based and avian predators have found the nest and eaten the loon eggs before they hatched. Three years ago, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), as part of their ongoing study of loons on Great and Long Pond (more information in Dick Greenan's loon articles), built and installed a floating raft nest with an avian guard (to prevent predation by eagles, ravens, and blue herons). The nest was moored about 20-feet offshore from the usual nesting site to provide the loons some protection from terrestrial predators such as racoons, minks, et al.. When land-based predators have to cross water to reach the nest, the defensive advantage shifts strongly in the loons favor! For the third year in a row, the loons successfully used this nest and, as recently as a week ago, had been rearing a chick in the cove. Unfortunately on the morning of the count, there were no loons spotted in the cove, perhaps because of the eagle's recent overflight. As of press time, I had not received results from all of my counters but it appears likely that both adult and chick numbers are comparable to last year (2021 Long Pond, including Ingham: 45 adults, 4 chicks). I am a bit concerned about the chick numbers. At least 6 chicks have been reported in Long Pond, but recently at least three have been killed, one by an eagle and one by another loon.

Recently my friend, Dick Greenan had kids and grandkids in town for an old fashioned Fourth of July. After meeting Uncle Sam at the parade, they had lobsters next to the lake and watched the fireworks over the lake from a boat. Take advantage of the rest of the summer and get out on the lakes or hike or bike in the hills. And take a kid along. Or a parent or grandparent. You will be creating memories that will last. 7-Lakes Alliance is hosting many interesting events, which are in the Community Calendar elsewhere in this paper. More info is available at the 7-LA website. The Tuesday afternoon (3 PM) live animal talks from Chewonki are especially popular with kids. Pick up a map of the local trails from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC).

Continued on page 15...



Long Pond Survey Areas.

LAKEFRONT LIVING



1534174 – China Lake MLS 1534174- To find a location that combines total privacy and sweet seclusion with closeness to all conveniences is rare indeed. But here, just 10 minutes east of Augusta, and about a third of a mile off U.S. Route 3 via a quiet gravel lane, is a marvelous year-round waterfront home with 175 feet of frontage, and of course a large dock, on Three Mile Pond. The property has a lovely one bedroom apartment above the garage that could double as additional living space or a great space for guests to be able to enjoy the quiet solitude of lakefront living. This spectacular property also has a great treehouse for the adventurous ones to enjoy. The property provides endless year-round recreation opportunities, as Three mile Pond provides excellent habitat for warm water gamefishes. Don't miss your opportunity! **\$625,000**



LONG POND – Belgrade MLS 1529347 - Quality-built, year-round 4 bedroom/4 bath cape in Belgrade Lakes with deeded beach rights to one of the loveliest waterfront lots on Long Pond! This cozy home provides opportunity for one level living with first floor primary suite and plenty of additional private space for friends and family. Picturesque setting in quiet lakeside neighborhood within a half-mile of Belgrade Lakes village! Two-car garage, large shed, beautiful gardens, large level lawn, stone patios. **\$525,000 Ask For Ellen**



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Calendar

Additions and changes to events, activities, outings, visits, etc. are welcome and appreciated. Email, call, or stop us on the street with ideas and information.

WEEKLY

FARMER'S MARKETS

Tuesday - Augusta Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Mill Park, Water Street.

Thursday - Downtown Waterville Farmers Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls.

Friday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, BLC, Front Street.

Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Maine Grains.

Sunday - Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market, 9 am-2 pm, Main Street.

PLANT PATROL

Every Wednesday through 8/24 - Adopt-A-Shoreline & Plant ID Training, 10-11:30 am, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance headquarters, 137 Main St, Belgrade Lakes.

SUMMER THEATER

Saturday 7/21 - Sunday 7/30 - "Halfway There," 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Friday 7/22-Friday 7/29 "Pandora", "Anthony & Cleopatra", "Lysistrata," and "Amphitryon" scheduled; "Comedy of Errors" and "Eurydice" open, 933-9999, Theater at Monmouth.

THIS WEEK

Thursday 7/21 - "Building Wooden Boats," presented by Rod Johnson, 6:30 pm, Old Town Meeting House, Routes 27 and 135, Belgrade.

Friday 7/22 - Sunday 7/24 - Oakfest, a weekend of fun family events, street dance, children's activities, 5K and much more, downtown Oakland.

Friday 7/22 - Spencer and the Walrus, Waterville Rocks concert, free, family-friendly, 6 pm, beer garden opens 5:30 pm, (rain location Waterville Opera House), Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Friday 7/22 - The Boneheads, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 7/22 - New England Music Camp Faculty Recital, 1-844-476-6976, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Arts Center, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 7/23 and Sunday 7/24 - 51st Anniversary State Appaloosa Horse Show, covered arena, concessions, free to public, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 7/23 - Summer Fest, live auction, exhibits, children's parade, live entertainment, talent show, street dance and more, downtown Farmington.

Saturday 7/23 - Craft Fair, light food served, free admission, 10 am-2 pm, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

Sunday 7/24 - Pat Pepin Band, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 7/24 - New England Music Camp, weekend concert, free, 3 pm, snowpond.org, Bowl in the Pines, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Sunday 7/24 - Barbie's Sing-A-Long, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/25 - Saturday 7/30 - The Kneading Conference and Bread Fair, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/25 - 7 Lakes Alliance Road Workshop, 10 am-3 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Monday 7/25 - Western Maine Foothills Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 7/26 - 7 Lakes Alliance Live Animals with Chewonki - Scales and Tails, 3 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 7 Lakes headquarters, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/26 - Northern Hybrid, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Tuesday 7/26 - Sandy River Ramblers, 7 pm, \$15, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

Wednesday 7/27 - Breakin' String, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Thursday 7/28 - Whisky Dan, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

Thursday 7/28 - Laura Hudson Project, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com



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<p>Slaid Cleaves AUGUST 7 Amphitheater Stage 6PM doors, 7PM show</p> <p>\$25 advance, \$30 day of show Grew up in Maine. Lives in Texas. Writes songs. Makes records. Travels around. Tries to be good</p>	<p>WARD HAYDEN and the Outliers AUGUST 20 Big Sky Stage 6PM doors, 7PM show</p> <p>\$20 advance, \$25 day of show A musical force to be reckoned with. From heart wrenching ballads, to foot-stompin' rock 'n' roll, whether live or on record, they deliver every time.</p>
<p>Brett Dennen SEPTEMBER 16 Amphitheater Stage 6PM doors, 7PM show</p> <p>\$30 in advance. General Admission See Brett on his So Much More summer tour, featuring Brett's new album, See the World.</p>	

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<https://www.facebook.com/welovesummerfest>



Dwayne Tomah Next Speaker in Wabanaki Voices Speaker Series



The Skowhegan History House Museum is pleased to announce that Dwayne Tomah, Director and Curator of the Sipayik Museum in Perry, Maine, is the next speaker in its Wabanaki Voices Speaker Series. On Thursday July 21 at 7 pm Tomah will lead a discussion after showing the 1-hour film: "The Doctrine of Discovery—Unmasking the Domination". The Doctrine of Discovery refers to a principle in public international law under which, when a nation "discovers" land, it directly acquires rights on that land. The Doctrine provided the basis for subsequent laws depriving indigenous peoples of their lands.

Tomah has been involved in repatriation and Land Back issues and will share historical truth regarding The Doctrine of Discovery from an Indigenous perspective. He is a Language Keeper and teacher of the Passamaquoddy language and culture. He is the youngest fluent speaker of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and has served on the Tribal Council.

His life has been dedicated to working on the language and culture preservation. He has edited the Passamaquoddy dictionary and worked to help create the Apple ~ Passamaquoddy Language App. He shares Native legends through song and dance. He has also worked with Animal Planet on a segment called Winged Creatures, highlighting the history of the Thunderbird.

Tomah is currently working with the Library of Congress on translating the Passamaquoddy Wax Cylinders. These recordings are the first recordings in the world of Native languages. They were recorded in 1890 by Jesse Walter Fewkes, who borrowed the device from the inventor Thomas Edison.

This event is FREE and takes place at Tewksbury Hall on Weston Avenue in Skowhegan and will also be broadcast via Zoom. Masks are required for in-person attendance.

To register for the Zoom link, visit msad54.maineadulted.org. FMI: (207) 474-6632.



Atlantic Music Festival Offers Free Classical Concerts

By Gregor Smith

Although the Maine International Film Festival has ended for 2022 in Waterville, a festival for classical music lovers is still going on. The Atlantic Music Festival offers two more weeks of free concerts at Colby College.

Starting in 2009, the Atlantic Music Festival has brought teen and young adult musicians and older instructors to Colby for all of July for master classes, private lessons, rehearsals, and performances. The festival was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic. The festival was held in 2021, but performances were not open to the public, making 2022 the first year since 2019 that the local residents and summer visitors have been able to attend.

This year, the festival has around 100 students, 30 fellows, and over 40 faculty members. They come from over 20 countries. The students are mostly in their 20s, some already working as professional musicians, some still attending conservatory. This year, the festival runs six weeks, ending on August 7. Students can enroll for two, four, or six weeks. Faculty and fellows stay for the full six weeks.

Upcoming concerts include string recitals on Friday, July 22 at 10:30 (location TBA) and Thursday, August 4 at 7:30 (Lorimer Chapel); piano recitals on Saturdays, July 23 and August 6, both at 1:30 in the chapel; a program of piano duets on Tuesday, July 26 at 7:30 (location TBA); Contemporary Ensemble concerts on Fridays, July 22, July 29, and August 5; chamber music concerts on July 27, July 30, and August 3; a wind instruments recital on August 5 at 10:30 (location TBA); and finally, orchestral concerts on July 23 and August 6. Of special note are the "Contemporary Ensemble" concerts. They feature works composed in the past few decades, some of them world premieres.

All concerts are free, and except where otherwise noted, take place in Lorimer Chapel and begin at 7:30 p.m. The concert information in the preceding paragraph was current at press time, but the schedule is subject to change. For the latest information, go to www.atlanticmusicfestival.org or call the festival office at 888-704-1311.



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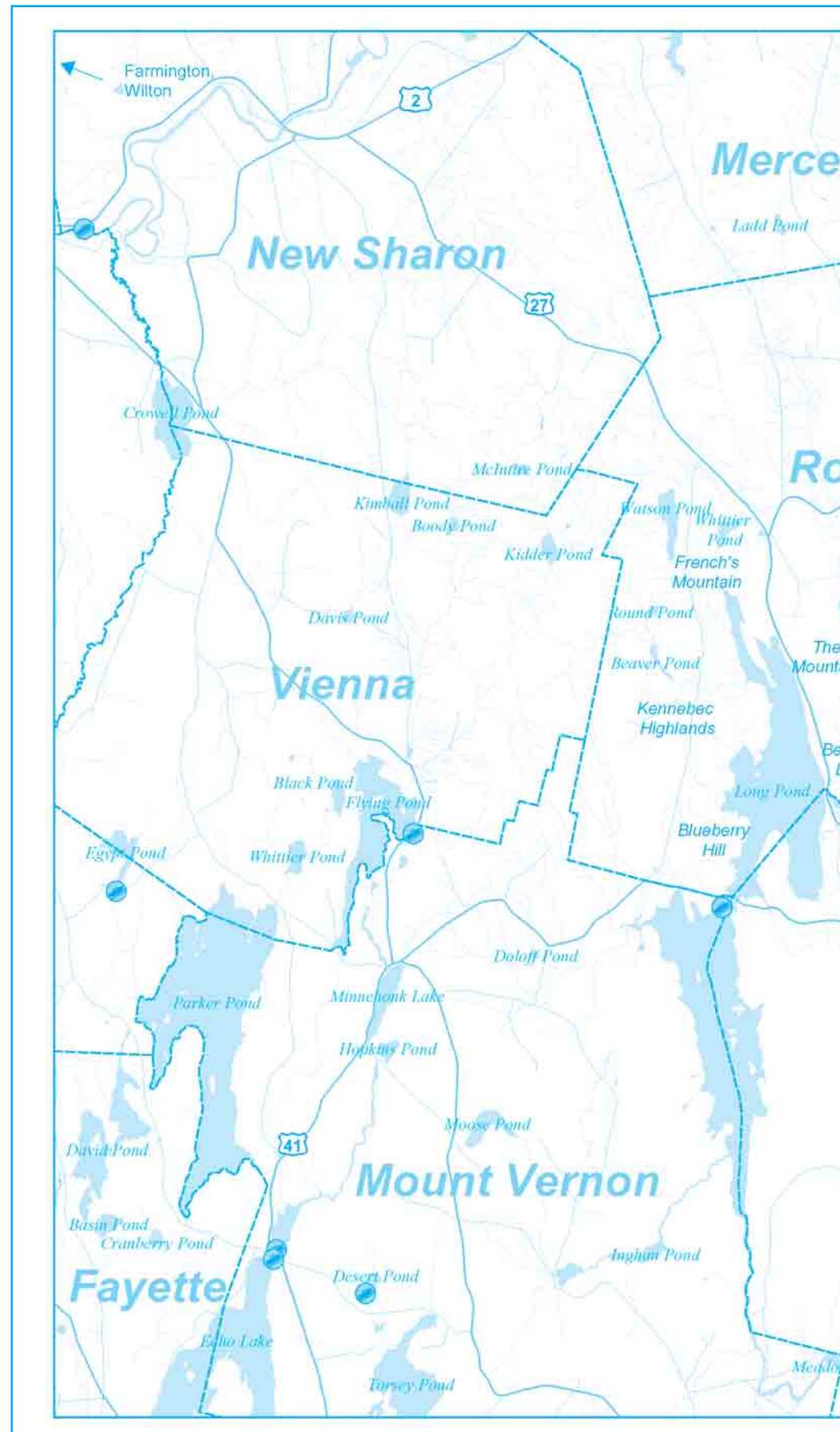
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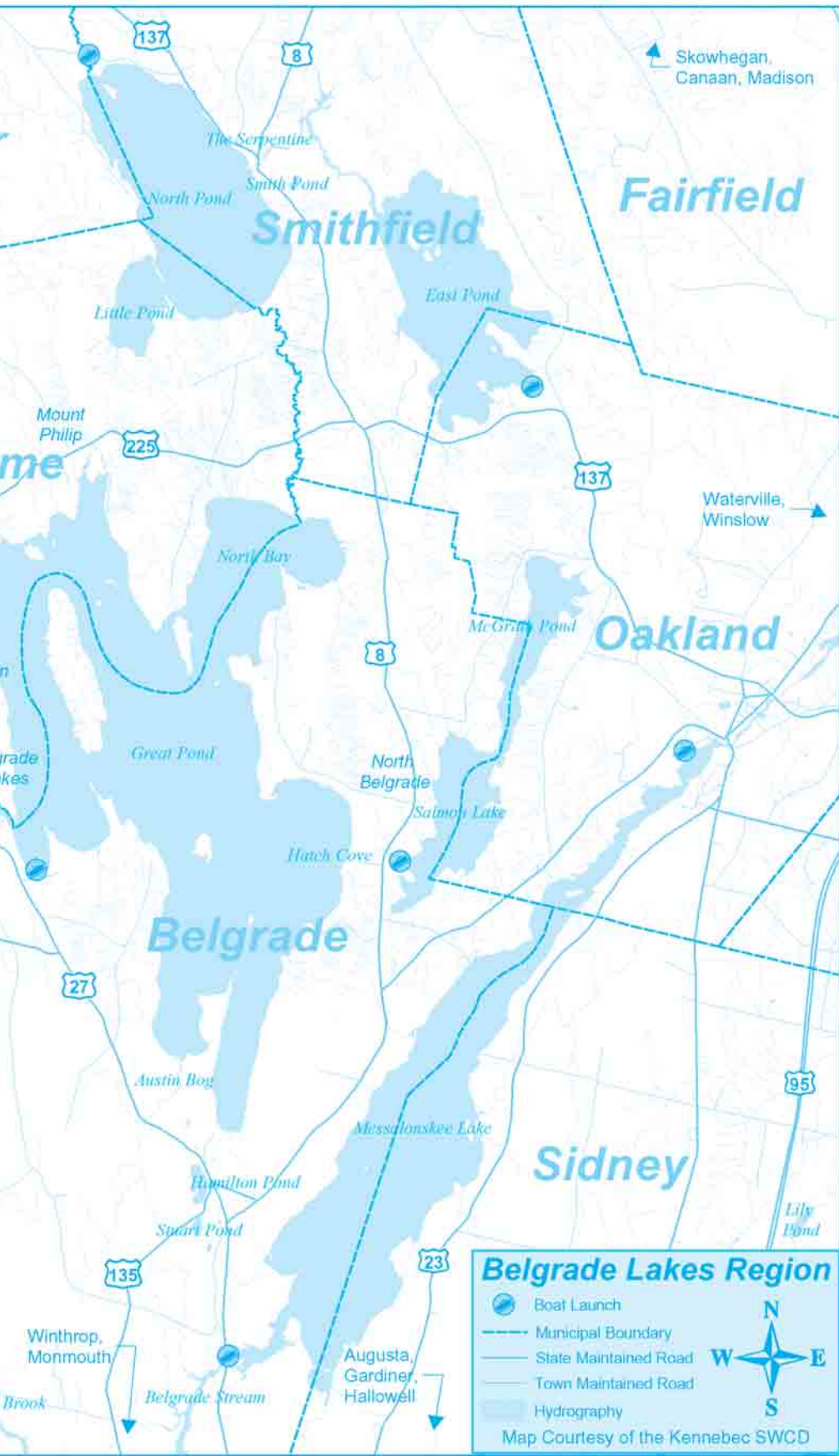
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Call of the Loon



The Alarming Egg Abandonment

Why are many of our loons abandoning their second egg? Your Belgrade Lakes Association Loon Preservation Project's volunteers have collected ten abandoned loon eggs so far this year which is very unsettling to say the least and the breeding season is not over. An estimated seventy percent of nesting attempts produce two eggs but yet we are experiencing an alarming number of cases where the parents leave the nest with the first hatched chick and leave or forget about the second egg leaving it in the nest unattended. The thoughtful parents will alternate incubating the second egg until hatched, but to date, that has only happened just once this year between our Great and Long Ponds. It is not uncommon for a loon to abandon an egg particularly with human disturbance, flooding, etc. but are we seeing a higher incidence? Obviously, this is not good for sustaining a healthy loon population. As a result of these abandonments and other related concerns, our Loon Preservation Project is collaborating with other organizations in an attempt to get ahead of this very disturbing trend.

As you may or not know, our local Belgrade Lakes Association is into their fourth year of their Loon Preservation Project to develop a responsible comprehensive plan in order to support our loon population in the very best sustainable manner but this effort requires your support. Please support the Loon Preservation Project at your earliest opportunity via www.blmaine.org.

If you have a particular questions regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@blmaine.org and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Have a great summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon"!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project"



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- **Village Inn and Tavern** 157 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3553, www.villageinnandtavern.com
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Notebook

Belgrade Historical Society

• Belgrade Historical Society will host "Comfort and Community: 250 Years of Maine Quilts" Presented by Laurie Labar, Chief Curator of History and Decorative Arts at the Maine State Museum, Wednesday, August 10 6:30pm, Center for All Seasons

For over 200 years, Maine Women kept farms, businesses, and families together when men were at sea, at war, or in the woods. The beautiful quilts they made reveal information about how these women lived, the social networks that supported them, and the ways Maine changed through the years. Most Maine quilters were middle-class women, who are usually absent from historical records. The information we glean from their quilts enriches the story of Maine's past.

The Belgrade Historical Society is pleased to announce the bicentennial quilt stitched together by Naurine Lord will be on display. This friendship quilt is made of signed quilt squares sewn in the 1870s and the 1930s by many of the farm families living on the West Road of Belgrade. It is a truly a unique and beautiful quilt. A huge Thank You to Dee Cooke for sharing this amazing quilt with us.

A former archaeologist, Laurie received her master's degree from the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program in Early American Culture and returned to Maine to become a curator. She is also an award-winning author. *Maine Quilts: 250 Years of Comfort and Community*, co-published by the Maine State Museum and Down East Books, is her third book. Copies of her book will be available for signing at the event.

BLA Annual Meeting

• The Belgrade Lakes Association's 2022 Member Reception and Annual Meeting will be held July

31, 4-6 Pm at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Course.

We hope to see you there and hope that you and your family are able to enjoy another incredible Summer at the lake! Thank You again for helping us preserve our Long and Great Ponds and this incredible heritage!



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and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
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Gail Rizzo, Lakepoint Real Estate, 242-8199,
gail@gailrizzo.com

Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate, 730-2331,
pldcamp@msn.com

Stephanie Yeaton, Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com

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The Dams Keeper Report

I heard an old phrase this past week which I haven't heard since I was a teenager and if I recall, it was a very common reply from my Mom for just about everything! "That's water over the dam, honey"!!! So that got me laughing as now I am up to my ears in this dam business!! Merriam-Webster's definition of this expression is "something that is beyond recall (happens a lot now-a-days) or reconsideration". Another version of this old expression is "Honey, that's water under the bridge" which Merriam-Webster "refers to events or situations that are in the past and consequently no longer to be regarded as important or as a source of concern." I tried "That's water over the dam, honey" on Sue last night which elicited her typical "are you feeling OK?" in addition to that look. Oh, for the good ole' days when we could get away with these old quips!

Well, all of our pond water levels are continuing to drop due to just not having enough real rain. Precipitation for the past 10 days was a very

meager .32" (.64 the previous period) of rain with .45" forecasted for the next 10 days so I guess we should be thankful for this incredible weather, but our farmers, gardeners and lake levels are unfortunately feeling the brunt.

The water level at Great Pond's Village dam has now dropped down to .48" but still above full pond with the main gate obviously still closed – good work Craig! Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is, for the first time this season, below full pond at 1.08" down with both gates still closed. Salmon/McGrath is, because of the mandated 1 cfs. 24/7 flow, down to 2.5" below full. Messalonskee, aka. Snow Pond, is now down to 6.36" below full. Last week we reported 5.28" below so you get the picture. We are starting to pay the price for this beautiful Chamber of Commerce weather!

If you have a particular questions regarding our Dams and/or water levels, please email your inquiry to: dickgreenan@outlook.com and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email.

Enjoy the Family, your vacation and this incredibly beautiful weather and please stay safe!

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



LakeSmart is Water Quality Smart

by Anthony Wilson - 7 Lakes Alliance Communication Director



7Lakes Alliance's lead scientist is convinced climate change is impacting water quality in the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

Larger and more violent rainstorms wash dirt into lakes and streams; dirt contains phosphorous upon which algae feeds. Also, warmer temperatures seem to arrive earlier, linger longer and run hotter than many lifelong Mainers recall from years past. A warmer, longer growing season gives algae a greater chance to bloom.

The impact of climate change underscores the urgent need for each of us to take simple, feasible actions that can stabilize water quality in the region's streams and lakes.

One imminently doable action shorefront property owners can take is determining whether their properties are "LakeSmart."

LakeSmart is an education and outreach program of the conservation group Maine Lakes.

Administered in the Belgrade Lakes watershed by 7 Lakes, the program recognizes lakefront property owners who manage their land to protect water quality. The program is free, voluntary and non-regulatory. Participating property owners receive individualized suggestions for keeping dirt from being swept into lakes and streams by weather events.

The program begins with an assessment of a property, performed either by a 7 Lakes Alliance staff member or a trained volunteer. To request a free survey, email 7 Lakes Erosion Control Project Coordinator Stuart Cole at stuart.cole@7lakesalliance.org.

Surveys identify what property owners can do to mitigate or minimize runoff. Common recommendations include planting vegetative buffers and/or installing riprap along shorelines, defining parking areas and walking paths with rock aggregate or erosion-control mulch, installing driplines beneath eaves, blocking erosion from roads and driveways with rubber razor, and building infiltration steps and rain gardens.

7 Lakes can also help make recommendations a reality.

Property owners who have undergone a LakeSmart assessment often enlist 7 Lakes' Youth Conservation Corps to provide the labor to implement the suggestions. YCC work projects are also coordinated through Stuart, who seeks state permits that may be needed and can help secure materials such as mulch and riprap. Property owners pay for the materials; the YCC provides the labor at a minimal cost.

Continued on page 15....



Two Maine State Reads: Sigh, Gone memoir by Phuc Tran and Beneficence, a novel by Meredith Hall

by Martha F. Barkley

Both books were recommended by Christina Baker Kline, a favored Maine author who wrote Orphan Train and A Piece of the World.

I ended up reading A Piece of the World four times. I rarely read a novel even twice simply because there are so many unread to go, but Christina Olson's story on the coast of Maine with Andrew Wyeth was mesmerizing. Just the history of the huge ship captain's mansion was tantalizing alone. Now it is a museum to visit and Christina is buried at the foot of the hill family cemetery.

Since our visit, Andrew Wyeth and later Betsy, his wife, have died and they are buried in the Olson family cemetery along side Christina, the iconic cripple crawling the golden grassy hill to her home, painted by Wyeth, Christina's World.

Now, the two books recommended by Kline. Both are Portland area stories. Beneficence is about a loving family of five living ideally on a farm west of Portland. Their life is refreshing to experience with them. The memoir, Sigh, Gone is by a twenty year Latin teacher who fled Vietnam along with his extended family. They were very fortunate to all get out safely and be reunited once in the US.

Both stories grab the reader from the beginning. In Sigh, Gone the stolen bike and violent punishment from Tran's grandmother alarmed me, but the rescue and return of the child's bike helped to resolve the earlier bloody nose inflicted on the child by his mother and grandmother. Violence achieved both the stealing and the return of the kid's bike. The Latin teacher author refers to Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment. Carlisle, PA

bullies told Tran to go back where he came from.

I looked up Beneficence in the dictionary. Grace and kindness are the easiest synonyms for me to remember as I read the early lyrical days of farm life in this very wholesome family of five. Almost too ideal, so the reader knows tragedy will hit.

"The creek cast a spell over us. Water running fast downhill to somewhere else, with enough rocks to make the trip noisy and interesting. The sun is on the water. In the water. You couldn't hear anything except that ride to the sea...". Does that remind you of the sound of the lake waves along our rocky and sandy shores?

The three children are standing in the cold creek scooping up buckets and buckets of smelt and silver fish. What splashy experiences with their dad.

The oldest son has his day with dad when a calf had to be shot: day-dreaming on the son's part brought sharp words from his dad. Hurt, heart-broken hurt, when it was probably exhaustion after so many chores, working together so very smoothly until the required shooting of the calf. Later, a child is tragically killed. Every page was too ideal until then.

While the memoir Sigh, Gone began with the tenuous Vietnam War escape how opposite in the beginning of each book, yet how similar in both families finding the Portland area home.

Belgrade Public Library borrowed these two Maine reads for me from away. Thank you Jared Bond and staff for keeping me reading by Great Pond and listening to the rocky shores swish with the waves of wind driven waters.



My Dream Home

Betsy Connor Bowen

When my husband and I came to Maine, my husband built a dream home that we lived in for more than 30 years. He designed it himself, with soaring ceilings and large windows that not only brought in the changing seasons but faced out to a sloping lawn with beautiful gardens surrounded by woods. Some evenings we'd catch sight of deer traveling the trees to feed.

As wonderful as those years were, life always seems to throw curve balls. We survived the ice storm of 98, the repairs of our dirt access road when it got washed out, mobility issues, cancer, a difficult teenager, and the ups and downs of our work lives. Then came my husband's terminal illness. I have a stiff upper lip and was determined to tough it out and stay in our home. But the fact was, the dream house I had once loved had turned into a nightmare.

One year later, I decided to stop trying to maintain such a complex property and moved to Granite Hill Estates, where I gave up on having my own fridge, stove, and dishwasher in exchange for the skills of Chef Dave and



Betsy Connor Bowen

his crew, who send us out of the dining room each evening smiling and well-nourished. I am a voracious reader, and there's a library I can borrow from to supplement my e-books. I exercise in the swimming pool and eat fresh vegetables. I feel healthier than ever!


I think that at Granite Hill Estates, I've finally won a psychological battle. I've turned down my old internal alarm system. When I was living alone, it was hard not to panic, but now I have a feeling of safety. I've learned that I probably won't need to do anything beyond my abilities because there will be a helping hand if mine are not strong enough. It's happened slowly, but I have come to feel a deeper peace within myself.

In short, I live in a caring community. We are all aging; we share the same struggles, the challenges of aging bodies and minds – but we all have the

same goal – to grow old together with dignity and grace, and perhaps convey to those who love us, that though they may have brought some pain and sadness, our later years of life were good ones and well lived.




Amy Bernatchez
YOUR LOCAL BROKER




★★★★★

I cannot praise Amy highly enough. She is intimately knowledgeable about the market, gave outstanding advice and was fully available when we wanted to talk. She was with us every step of the way.

-David B.





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— Real Estate Update — Limited Space for Multiple Generations: Now What?

Throughout the 1900s the family bought or built a lakeside retreat in the Belgrade Lakes Region as a place to get away with the kids during the summer. Fast forward many years and the dynamics have changed. Several generations of children are grown with kids of their own, and they all want to spend time at the family lakehouse...together! While the house sits on a beautiful piece of land on the shore of the lake, it's a camp with a funky floor plan and limited space for multiple generations. Now what?

Plan A: Update what you've got. Many older camps were not designed for larger families. The size of the cottage may be adequate, but the sleeping quarters and bathrooms don't match the guests. It's possible that the floor plan can be re-arranged by utilizing the space to offer better sleeping arrangements. Turn a bedroom into a 'bunkroom' for the kids. The cousins will quietly whisper themselves to sleep every night in their own space.


Lofty idea? Many camps have vaulted ceilings or un-utilized attic space. Think about creating a loft space to put additional bunks and beds.

Existing Porches & decks can be enclosed to become additional bedrooms. If there is a basement, can it become a bunk room, or a living space instead of just storage?

Plan B: Expand what you've got! A lot of older camps are close to the water so the potential to add on to the existing structure is limited...but not impossible. Find a reputable builder and work with the local code enforcement officer to see how much expansion is possible. Remember in some cases you may be able to go up if expanding a footprint won't work. You may be able to add enough extra space to work in the necessary bedrooms and bathrooms to accommodate the family.

How about a Bunkhouse? For a lot of properties, there are bunkhouses, garages or secondary structures that already exist on the land. You may be able to update what is already there into comfortable living space. You also may have the option to build a new bunkhouse on the land. Again, a question for the local code enforcement officer.

Remember, we are here to spend time on the lake with family. Building luxury accommodations are not always needed as long as we're all together.

And as a last resort, try to find something new on the lake that works for the entire family or will accommodate the overflow - now and in the future. Or, find something that has more potential for updating and expanding 

Take it Outside continued from page 5...

Individual trail maps for most of the trails can be downloaded from their web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>.

...continued from page 13

Properties that meet the program's standards earn the LakeSmart designation, along with a sign indicating the owner's conservation mindset. The hope is this visible recognition will encourage neighbors to also make their properties LakeSmart.

Preserving water quality is one way lakefront property owners can protect the often substantial financial investments they make in their properties. Beyond that, preserving water quality in the Belgrade Lakes watershed ensures the lakefront legacies that many families enjoy will endure for years to come.



Meeting Uncle Sam at the parade.




Lobster boil with Grandma.

Skowhegan History House

Wabanaki Voices Speaker Series

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Dwayne Tomah
The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination

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DWAYNE TOMAH
Dwayne Tomah is a Languages Keeper, he is Director and Curator of the Sipayik Museum and teacher of the Passamaquoddy language and culture. He is the youngest fluent speaker of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and has served on the Tribal Council. His life has been dedicated to working on the language and culture preservation, he has edited the Passamaquoddy dictionary and worked to help create the Apple-Passamaquoddy Language App. He shares Native Legends through song and dance. Dwayne is currently working with the Library of Congress on translating the Passamaquoddy Wax Cylinders. These recordings from 1890 are the first recordings in the world of Native languages. Dwayne has also been involved in repatriation and Land Back issues. He shares historical truth regarding The Doctrine of Discovery from an Indigenous perspective.

Or register for the Zoom broadcast at <https://msad54.maineadulted.org>



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