

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 8

Meetings With Meaning: Protecting and Preserving Maine's Lakes

by Esther J. Perne



Meetings are a way of life in Maine and a standard that the remainder of the country admires. There are meetings throughout the year for just about any purpose but the meetings that stand out for their significance to central Maine's recreational and economic future are the meetings of the lake associations.

According to the umbrella organization

(Maine Lakes) for lake associations there are 130 in the State. Near the Belgrades, there are 8 in the 30-Mile River Watershed, 4 in the Winthrop Lakes area, several single (non-chain) lake associations and 5 in the Belgrades: East Pond Association, North Pond Association, Belgrade Lakes Association (Long Pond and Great Pond), McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association; and Friends of Messalonskee.

Each of these associations represents an infrastructure solidly in place and experienced in dealing with informational, educational, social and environmental outreach, at holding parades and lake-friendly days and clean-up days, at giving awards and recognition, at putting up signs (no wake) and posters (I Brake for Loons) and distributing bumper stickers (protect and pre-

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

serve), at publishing newsletters that whether small or large are packed with useful information, and providing websites that collectively answer everything you wanted to know about lake associations but were afraid to ask.

It would take volumes to track everything that just these 5 Belgrades lake associations have accomplished. They have tested for water quality, helped in watershed surveys, monitored invasive plants and fish, bitten the bullet on serious solutions: herbicides, alum treatments, hiring law enforcement to deal with a persistent speeding issue.

Outreach has included booths at summer festivals; billboards at boat landings; individual lake watershed marker signs; elaborate can and bottle collection schemes; clean-up days; buffer plant distribution; merchandise sales and extremely clever fund-raising.

Over the years lake association committees have tactfully negotiated: a reduced decibel level of reveille at a local youth camp, convincing gravel truckers to use covers to curtail dust blowing onto the lakes and the re-routing of waste trucks enroute from the turnpike to the management site. They have met with town officials, held intensive retreats on water quality problems and transformed from summer-only committee meetings to year-round nonstop business forums.

They have worked collaboratively with other organizations, with towns, with camps, with col-

leges, with local scout troops and schools, with Granges, with watershed alliances, with conservation corps and with state departments and commissions.

Individual volunteers have spent hours going over town tax records to determine what percentage lakefront properties represent.

The list goes on, the experience continues, the structure is in place, so are the annual meetings. In the summer of 2022, East Pond Association met on July 16; the remaining meetings for the season are:

Friends of Messalonskee: Saturday, July 30, 5 pm meeting, 6-7 pm social hour, the Center for All Seasons, Belgrade Lakes. The guest speaker will be from Biodiversity Research Institute, an organization that is helping to translocate loon to rebuild areas with declining loon populations.

Belgrade Lakes Association: Sunday, July 31, 4-6 pm, Belgrade Lakes Golf Course. Keynote speaker, Sharon Mann, Invasives Aquatics Program Director, 7 Lakes Alliance.

North Pond Association: Tuesday, August 9, 7 pm, via Zoom. Hear about the Water Based Management, 2-year development project, in response to water quality degradation.

McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association: Thursday, August 11, 6 pm, Pleasant Point Park, Oakland (rain date August 12). Bring your own chairs; mask optional but recommended. Presentation by Sharon Mann, 7 Lakes Alliance "Invasive Aquatics: the threats they pose and how you can prevent them."

Take it Outside continued from page 5....

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



Mel pointing to some hornfels



Parallel dikes with granitic intrusions.



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Neighbors Driving Neighbors is Back in the Driver's Seat!



Rider Louise Kilponen

Neighbors Driving Neighbors (NDN) is a community-based nonprofit whose volunteer drivers transport those who don't drive. For the past two years, NDN has navigated the rough terrain of Covid, offering free rides to medical appointments and deliveries of food and medicine, but otherwise limiting its ride program – until recently, when rides to all destinations reopened!

During the pandemic, NDN was blessed with the leadership of Dr. Dan Onion and the Medical Advisory Committee he led. This committee met monthly to assess the impact of Covid on our communities and to create best practices for safe transportation. While the current committee led by Dr. Jeff Lovitz continues to monitor the pandemic closely, NDN is excited to have the green light. The program offers free rides to all destinations within 35 miles, for fully immunized riders.

While NDN builds community connections by linking volunteer drivers to riders, it relies on the support of the community to keep its operations going. The NDN online auction, which runs from July 1 to 29, still has some great items and experiences to be won, and you can bid from the comfort of your home! Check out biddingowl.com/neighborsdrivingneighbors to place a bid on one-of-a-kind art, treats and experiences.

Serving Belgrade, Rome, Mount Vernon, Vienna, and Fayette, NDN welcomes you to connect with your neighbors at the annual NDN Community Breakfast on August 6, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the Mount Vernon Community Center. Stop by to enjoy delicious homemade egg casseroles, potatoes, fruit and pastries. Meet old and new neighbors, and support a great cause!

NDN is thankful for the generous support of so many in our community and is honored to be able to help provide transportation to help people continue to live meaningful lives in their homes. If you or a loved one needs transportation in our five-town area, please reach out to register with us at www.neighborsdrivingneighbors.org or call (207) 860-0677. Follow us on Facebook at Neighbors Driving Neighbors. We'll be glad to see you on the road!

Summertime in the Belgrades

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McGrath Pond - Salmon Lake Association

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Annual Meeting Aug. 11th @ 6:00 pm - Pleasant Point Park, McGrath Pond. Rain date Aug. 12th @ 6:00 pm

Details at <https://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org>

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So, What Is It Like Collecting Water Samples?

North Pond Resident Sheila Leavitt's Story

Now that algae blooms have become a regular unwelcome summer visitor on North Pond, we have been hearing a lot about the water quality (aka WQ) of the lake. These reports often include numbers and graphs, and some of you may wonder, how we get this information. The short answer is – a lot of hard work on the part of dedicated staff members and volunteers. Sheila Leavitt, a North Pond summer resident, volunteered last spring to collect water samples and learned first-hand the challenges and “fun?” of collecting water samples.

As Sheila reports, “When there is a heavy rainstorm, we go out 4 times a day (8 AM, noon, 4 PM, and 8 PM) to check on our streams. The day after the storm, we go out twice to take more measurements. In my case I was monitoring three tributaries – Pattee Brook, Bog Stream, and the Serpentine.

“First, we check the height of the water in each stream by reading the number on a metal yardstick that Danielle (Wain) places in the water at the beginning of the spring. Sounds simple, right? But it’s not so easy. First, you have to stay on the shore to avoid stirring up sediments in the water, so you might be looking at the yard stick from some distance. Then the water often is moving, making it hard to identify the correct water line. Imagine trying to see how much liquid you have in a measuring cup while the water is sloshing around. Finally, getting an accurate read is even more challenging if you, like me, wear bifocals and have to contort yourself in order to get the reading portion of the bifocals lined up to the numbers on the yardstick.

“After we record the yardstick measure, we take samples of the water to see exactly WHAT is going into the lake --in particular, how much phosphorus, since that is the number one culprit in algae blooms. To prepare



for collecting the samples, we carefully mark each test tube for location, date, and time of day and rinse out each test tube twice to be sure it is free of any extraneous material. Then we fill it, cap it, and put it into a cooler that is later delivered to Colby College to be tested. Rinsing and filling the test tubes also has a few challenges. You have to stay on the shore (no stirring up those sediments!) so sometimes you have to bend WAY over to get the test tube into the water. In fact, my husband made me a special pole to hold the test tube and keep me from falling in as I scooped up the water (see picture).

“Finally, I did say “heavy rainstorm,” right? So that means that you are often doing these acrobatics while peering out from under your rain hat, struggling to stay upright on a slippery, muddy shore, and trying to hold pens, data sheets, and test tubes in your wet slippery hands.

So, collecting water quality data can be an adventure, but it’s also a fun challenge and you

learn a lot! Most of all, I am thrilled to be contributing to efforts to prevent algae blooms in the future. Would I do it again? YES I would -- in a heartbeat!

Excerpt from 2022 North Pond Newsletter

Midori to Present Free Recitals at Colby College

By Gregor Smith



Midori

Internationally acclaimed violinist Midori will present two free solo recitals at the Atlantic Music Festival at Colby College during the first week of August. Both recitals, on Wednesday, August 3, at 4:30 p.m. and Thursday, August 4, at 10:00 a.m., will take place in Lorimer Chapel.

The two recitals will feature works by J.S. Bach, as well as by living composers. On Wednesday, she will play Bach’s Violin Sonatas No. 2 in A minor and No. 3 in C major and his Violin

Partita No. 2 in D minor, as well as “Nunn Komm” by Thierry Escaich and “Long Wave and Random Pulses” by Annie Gosfield. Thursday morning, she will present Bach’s Violin Sonata No. 1 in G minor and his Violin Partitas No. 1 in B minor and No. 3 in E major, along with Rhapsody No. 1 by Jessie Montgomery and “Passagen” by John Zorn.

A child prodigy, Midori — professionally, she uses just her given name — made her orchestral debut at age 11 in 1982 with the New York Philharmonic under the baton of Zubin Mehta. Since then, she has performed with orchestras around the world, has made 21 records, has been honored at the Kennedy Center, and has founded several nonprofit organizations, including Midori & Friends to support music programs in New York City’s public schools. Currently, she is Dorothy Richard Starling Chair in Violin Studies at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and a Distinguished Visiting Artist at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

Except during the first year of the pandemic, 2020, the Atlantic Music Festival has brought teen and young adult classical musicians and older instructors to Colby College each summer for master classes, private lessons, rehearsals, and performances. This year’s festival runs from June 27 to August 7 and includes over two dozen performances, all of which are free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.atlanticmusicfestival.org or call 888-704-1311.




Wednesday, August 3

Noon - 11 PM Head of Falls ~ Waterville

9 PM ~ 21 & Over
Beer & Wine Gardens ~ Local Cuisine ~ Live Music

Noon - 5 PM Culinary Vendors
Noon - 10 PM Food Trucks & Bite Booths
3 PM - 7 PM Brew Tasting
3 PM - 8 PM Cornhole Tournament

Live Entertainment Schedule

Luxury Lounge

1PM - 2PM Riff Johnson
2PM - 3PM Rick Ray
3PM - 5PM NE Music Camp
5PM - 6PM Adam Babcock
6PM - 7PM Mike Morrison

Beer & Wine Garden

4:30 - 6:30 Downeast Brass
6:30 - 8:30 Trifecta
9:00 - 11:00 Motor Booty Affair



— Take It Outside —

Hard to believe how fast summer is going by. Last week I wrote about the annual loon count and mentioned the eagle that flew up the lake just before the count began. Loons all over the lake alerted the rest of the loons to the eagle's presence and loon parents began sequestering their chicks. As a result, no chicks were spotted in Upper Long Pond during the count, when we were expecting at least three. The next day, I went out with my grandson and found three chicks that were successfully hidden by their parents while the eagle was out and about the previous day.

Early in the week, I attended a 7-Lakes Alliance-sponsored mushroom walk with Greg Marley on The Mountain. Almost twenty of us learned a bit about mushroom ecology, collecting, and identification. Considering how dry it has been this summer, I was surprised how many mushrooms we found in our roughly hour-and-a-half walk. I came home with enough chanterelles for my pizza later that night. Later in the week, we got some much-needed rain via a strong thunderstorm that took down some trees and caused power outages. The next morning, fellow 7-Lakes Alliance Board member, Mel Croft, and I set out to explore some interesting, submerged rocks we had visited a few years ago in Lower Long Pond. I had originally found the rocks while snorkeling during an Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP). Mel, a retired geologist, and I donned masks, snorkels, and fins and found the rocks after a short swim. The rocks came in all kinds of shapes, and sizes, with different colored layers and mineral filled dikes in cracks. I immediately found what appeared to be a fossilized prehistoric moose antler almost three feet long. Imagine my disappointment when Mel explained it was not a fossil at all, but rather the results of tectonic activity that helped form the landscape millions of years ago. According to Mel, about 400 million years ago, magma intruded into deeply buried rocks (shales) in the Belgrades. The hot



Mushroom walk on The Mountain with Greg Marley.



My prehistoric petrified moose antler.

magma "baked" the surrounding rocks (shales) forming a metamorphic rock called hornfels – a process known as contact metamorphism. The formation of the Appalachian Mountains elevated these rocks to their present location, and millions of years of erosion have exposed them in Long Pond. During this process, the magma cooled to form the granite that makes up the Kennebec Highlands. After our underwater expedition, we trolled back to the north end of the lake and Mel caught a nice roughly three-pound small-mouth,

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. There will be an IPP paddle (or snorkel) on Salmon-Mcgrath on August 12th. In addition to plants there is interesting underwater geology there, too. More info is available at the 7-LA website. The Tuesday afternoon (3 PM) live animal talks from

Continued on page 2...

Underwater Rocks

by Pete Kallin



Loon with chick "the day after."



Day after Loon Count Assistant.



Mel Croft with nice Smallie

LAKEFRONT LIVING



THREE MILE POND - China MLS 1534174- To find a location that combines total privacy 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 year-round recreation! **\$535,000**



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. **\$495,000 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

Through Saturday 7/30 - "Halfway There," August 4-13

"King's Night Out." 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Friday 7/29-Friday 8/5 - "Eurydice" opens; "Pandora", "Anthony & Cleopatra", "Lysistrata", "Amphitryon", "Comedy of Errors" scheduled 933-9999, Theater at Monmouth.

THIS WEEK

Through Saturday 7/30 - The Kneading Conference (7/28-29) with dozens of workshops and presentations and Bread Fair (7/30) with dozens of booths and vendors, Fairgrounds, Skowhegan.

Friday 7/29 - Albert Cummings, 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 7/29 - Pan Fried Steel, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 7/29 - New England Music Camp Faculty Recital, 1-844-476-6976, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Arts Center, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Friday 7/29 - Sunday 7/31 - Eastern Maine Agility and Dog Show, free to public, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 7/30 - Breakfast and Craft Show, 9-11 am, 293-4220, North Vienna United Methodist Church, 572 Tower Road, Vienna.

Saturday 7/30 - Robin Hood: The Musical, Lakewood Young Performers Camp, 10 am, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Saturday 7/30 - Spencer & the Walrus, meticulously recreate the music of the Beatles, Whistlestop Concert Series, 6 pm doors open, 7 pm show, \$25, general admission, Amphitheatre Stage, Narrow Gauge Cinemas, Front Street, Farmington.

Sunday 7/31 - Village Green Craft Show, homemade gifts from

central Maine and beyond, 10 am-3 pm, rain or shine, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/31 - Community Hike on the Mountain, 7 Lakes Alliance, 1 pm, 495-6039, Mountain Drive, Route 27, Rome.

Sunday 7/31 - Katie Daggett and Ed Desjardins, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 7/31 - Borderline Express, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Sunday 7/31 - The Bacon Brothers, 8 pm, 933-9333, Waterville Opera House, downtown Waterville.

Monday 8/1 - Western Maine Foothills Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 8/2 - Dreadnaught, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Wednesday 8/3 - Taste of Waterville, sponsored by the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, food, beverages, cornhole competition, noon to 11 pm, Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Wednesday 8/3 - The Laura Hudson Project, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Thursday 8/4 - Sunday 8/7 - River Fest, dozens of activities downtown, on the Kennebec and throughout surrounding area, food, competitions, river events, live music, bed races and much more, fireworks, downtown Skowhegan.

Thursday 8/4 - Bookhead Sweettooth, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

WHISTLESTOP

CONCERT SERIES

Spencer + the Walrus



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Brett Dennen
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Waterville Opera House Announces 2023 Season



WATERVILLE OPERA HOUSE
2023 THEATRICAL SEASON



The Waterville Opera House (WOH) is delighted to announce its 2023 theatrical season. Two amazing musicals and two entertaining plays will reignite the stage of the historic 120-year-old theatre in downtown Waterville.

"We're excited to bring this amazing selection of theatrical productions to life for our community," says Michelle Sweet, executive director of the Waterville Opera House. "Our season dates have changed, but our quality and passion haven't."

Opening the 2023 season is "The Play That Goes Wrong" (March 31-April 9). Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning comedy is a laugh riot, featuring accident-prone thespians who battle against all odds to finish their play as it progresses from bad to utterly disastrous with hilarious consequences.

The show of the summer is "Rock of Ages" (June 16-25). Featuring smash-hit songs from the 1980s, this musical sensation follows several dreamers and aspiring stars as they attempt to save their beloved Sunset Strip venue from encroaching strip mall development.

Mystery abounds in "Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express" (September 1-10). This whodunnit story follows famed detective Hercule Poirot as he tries to determine who murdered an American tycoon aboard a packed train before the killer strikes again.

Kicking off the holiday season is "Elf the Musical" (November 17-26). Based on the beloved holiday film from New Line Cinema, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy, a young orphan, who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and grows up in the North Pole before eventually embarking on a journey to discover his true identity.

"From laugh-a-minute comedy to suspense-filled mystery to full-on musical spectacle, there truly is something for everyone to enjoy!" says Sweet. "I hope to tempt our theatre patrons back to the Waterville Opera House in record numbers by offering a 2023 Season Pass to catch all four of these crowd-pleasing offerings at a discount."

Tickets for all four shows will go on sale to Waterville Creates members on September 5 and to the general public on September 12. Season Passes, giving a 20% discount when purchasing tickets for all four shows, will also be available.

For more information, visit operahouse.org or call 207-873-7000.

Waterville Opera House (WOH) has been bringing the magic of the performing arts to audiences of all ages since 1902. This beautifully restored, 810-seat theatre hosts high-quality community theatre, dance, concerts, and educational programming. As part of the artistic community working to make Waterville a key arts destination, WOH encourages an appreciation for the performing arts and its creative expression by consistently producing exceptional performances for residents and visitors. We firmly believe that art and culture have the power to enrich lives, strengthen community bonds, and serve as an economic engine. For more information, visit operahouse.org.

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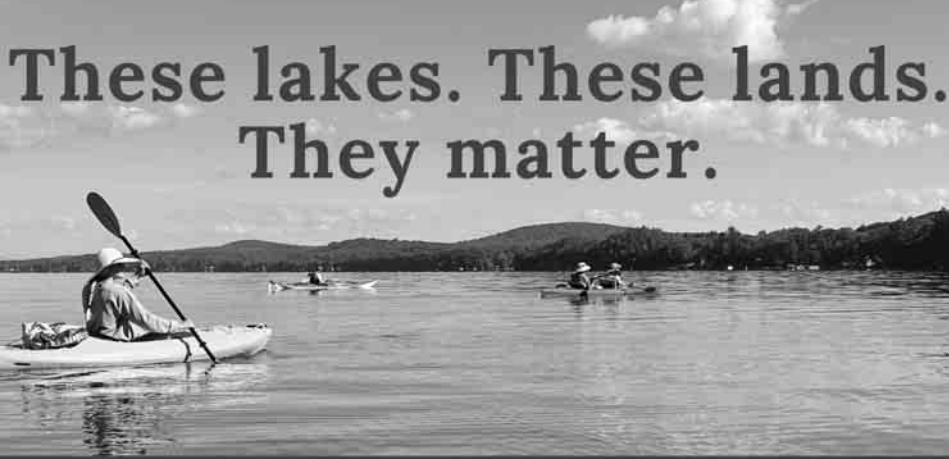
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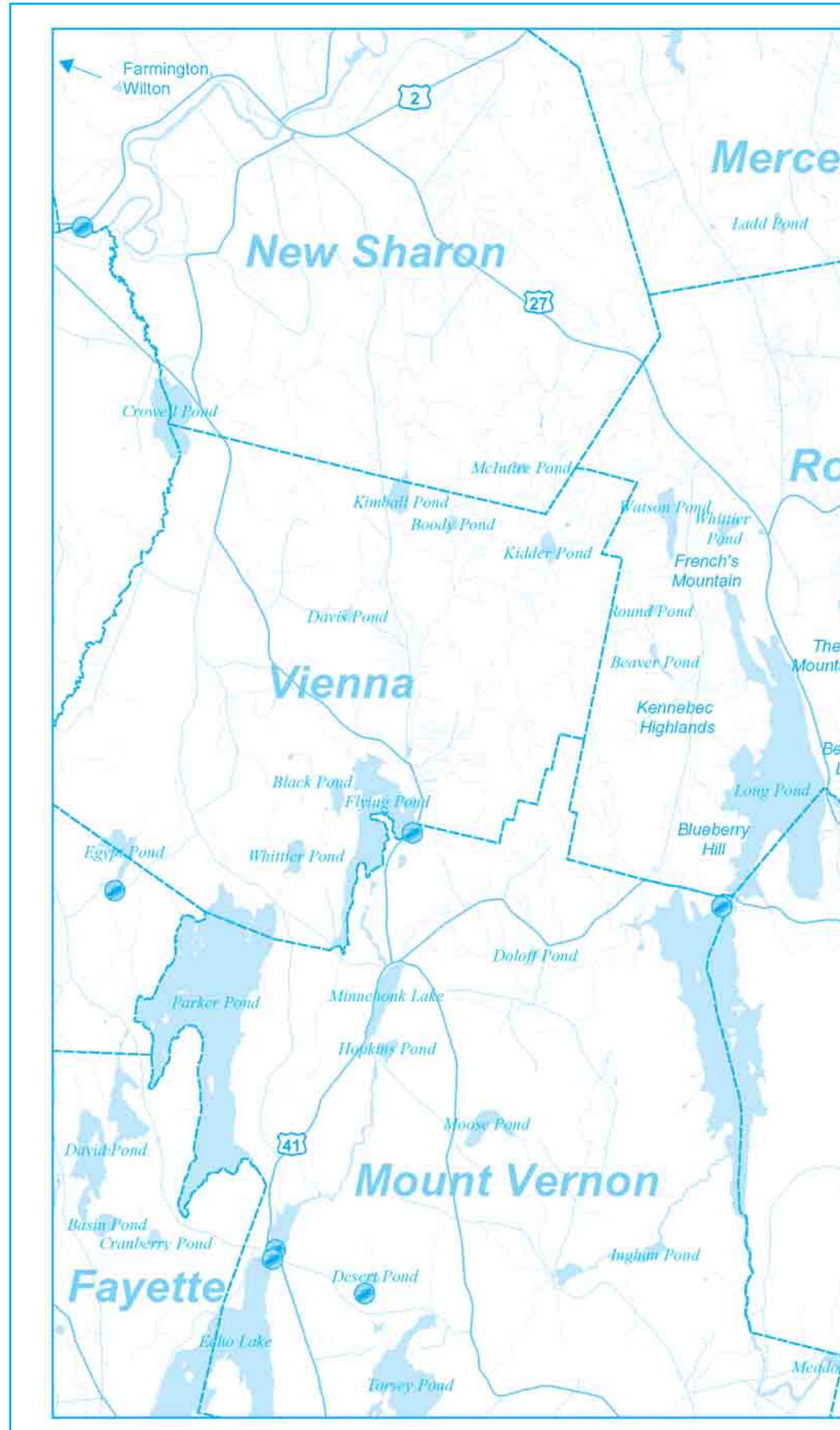
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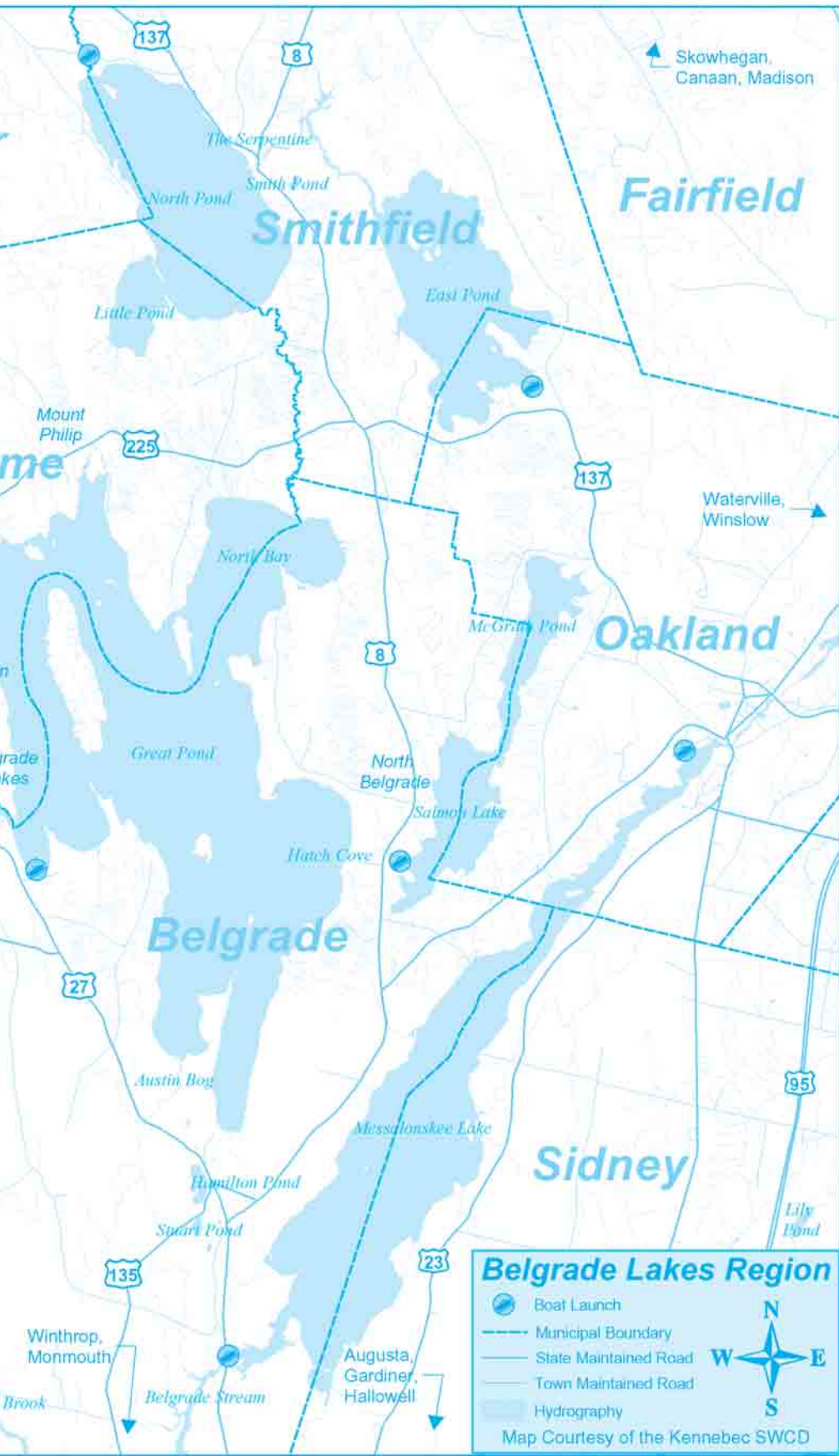
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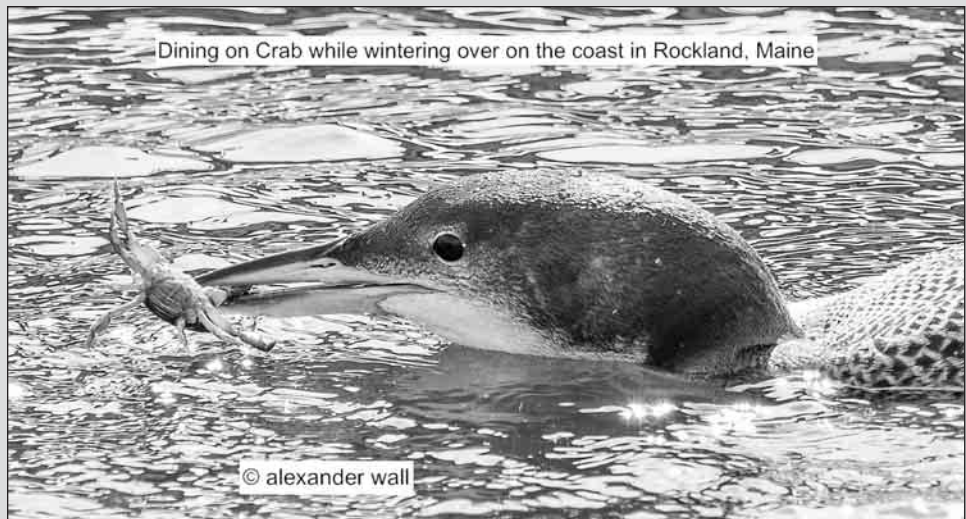
What Do Our Loons Eat?

Our loons feed primarily on fish and yet, will also eat a variety of other aquatic animals, such as crawfish, shrimp, as well as vegetation - and when desperate, even a mudpuppy!

Your 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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Notebook



The Taste of Waterville, August 3, 2022

Awesome August Events Coming Up Cobbossee

- Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Annual Cocktail Party, Thursday, August 26, 6 pm. Raising funds to purchase a new boat for education programs. YMCA Camp of Maine, Winthrop.

Augusta

- The Friends of Lithgow Library Book Sale, August 18-20: Thursday, 9 am-7:30 pm; Friday, 9 am-4:30 pm; Saturday, 9 am-11:30 pm. Cash only.

Belgrade

- On Thursday, August 11: "Interacting with Wabanaki-Maine History" presented with Wabanaki Reach, an interactive experience in which we engage in a story of particular events in the history of 400 years of colonization of Wabanaki people by Europeans in this territory now called the state of Maine. Requires registration 495-3508, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Street.

Belgrade Historical Society

- Wednesday, August 10 at 6:30 pm: "Comfort and Community: 250 Years of Maine Quilts" presented by Laurie Labar, Chief Curator of History and Decorative Arts at the Maine State Museum. Belgrade Center for All Seasons.

Madison

- The Great Ghost Chase, Lakewood Young Performers Camp, Saturday, August 13, 10 am, Lakewood Theater, off Route 201, Madison.

Readfield

- Readfield Heritage Days, Friday and Saturday, August 12 and 13, all day. Fireworks at the Readfield Beach, 9:15 pm, August 13.

Sidney

- New England Music Camp Intensive/Prelude Showcase at Bowl in the Pines. Sunday, August 7, 3 pm, snowpond.org, off Pond Road, Sidney.

Skowhegan

- Dinner in the Park, Saturday, August 6, 5-10 pm. Enjoy a delightful outdoor dining experience and a sky lit up with fireworks, rain or shine. Coburn Park. 612-2571

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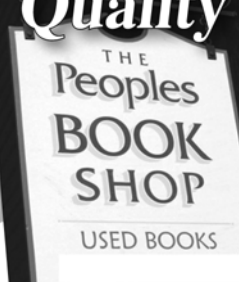
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Gail Rizzo, Lakepoint Real Estate, 242-8199,
gail@gailrizzo.com

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

Well, we can throw out the long-term forecast that the Dams Committee has been following, in addition to Weather Underground for that matter, as we are obviously back to more normal summertime afternoon showers. As I pen this week's column, we have received two storms in just the past 10 days, one producing 1.18" and the other 1.10" for a cumulative total for the period of 2.44". Remember, for the previous 10 days we reported, just a paltry .32". So this is more like it! And fortunately for us, most of these rain events occurred at night so as not to interfere with our long overdue summer activities.

Due to these rain events, all of our pond water levels are now ABOVE full pond – meaning the

water is flowing over all of the respective dam spillways.

The water level at Great Pond's Village dam is now up to 1.32" above full pond with the main gate still closed to hang on to what we've got as long as we can! Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is back to full pond with 1.68" above with both gates still closed. Salmon/McGrath, because of the mandated 1 cfs. 24/7 flow, has come back up to 1.5" also above full. Messalonskee, aka. Snow Pond, has also come up slightly to just 5.04" below full.

If you have a particular question 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



Erosion Control

by Anthony Wilson - 7 Lakes Alliance Communication Director

Erosion control measures are sometimes referred to as "best management practices," or BMPs. One of 7 Lakes Alliance's major thrusts is encouraging and facilitating the installation of BMPs that mitigate stormwater runoff and erosion into streams and lakes.

Those measures are important to protecting and restoring the water quality of lakes and streams. Developed property, particularly construction that is not sustainable, is more prone to create runoff. Dirt carries phosphorus into a waterbody; phosphorus is a nutrient that feeds algae, degrading water quality in the process.

All BMPs are good, says Stuart Cole, 7 Lakes' erosion control project coordinator. Which BMPs are best, Stuart says, depends completely upon the circumstances of an individual property. When asked which BMPs are most common, he identified the following three without hesitation:

- Vegetative buffers – The most effective BMPs, according to Stuart, are vegetative buffers – trees, shrubs, bushes and plants that anchor the soil and keep it from washing away. Most properties can benefit from more buffers, Stuart says. Tree canopies offer the added benefit of dispersing rainfall before it hits the ground, thus minimizing runoff.

Blueberry bushes are a common and effective BMP. Perhaps the gold standard of vegetative buffers is blueberry sod – the sort of which grows on Vienna Mountain and produces wild blueberries. Be forewarned – it's expensive. One square foot of blueberry sod costs \$6.25. So a 10-foot-by-10-foot section would cost \$625.

- Defined pathways – Typically, people take the most direct path when walking between their camp and their dock. That foot traffic often wears a grassless dirt path straight down to the water. The better practice is to define a meandering path to the water using crushed stone or mulch. Again, the gold standard for mulch is erosion-control mulch. And, again, be forewarned: erosion-control mulch is far coarser than the sort of mulch often used on playgrounds or in flowerbeds. But it does an excellent job of staying put and stymieing runoff.



Porous pavers.

(The property owner pays for the materials, though Stuart arranges for that, easing the burden for owners.) To schedule a survey or a YCC project, email Stuart at stuart.cole@7lakesalliance.org. We'd love to help you help the lakes by minimizing runoff and erosion from your property.

- Defined parking areas – Erosion and runoff is far more likely to occur with a dirt parking area than with one whose edges are defined by boulders or railroad ties and in which the parking surface is covered by something other than dirt that is not completely impervious. A great example of a pervious parking area are the porous pavers at the 7 Lakes building at 137 Main St. in the Belgrade Lakes village. The pavers have spaces between them that allow rainfall to seep in, lessening runoff. Underlying geotextile fabric and crushed stone filter pollutants from the water.

Many people opt for bluestone, which creates runoff, but not as much as asphalt. Bluestone is definitely better than dirt.

7 Lakes' LakeSmart program is a free and easy way to determine if any of these, or other, BMPs can help minimize runoff from a shoreland property.

Recommendations from a LakeSmart survey can often be installed by 7 Lakes' Youth Conservation Corps for a minimal cost.





The Detective in the Dooryard by Timothy Cotton

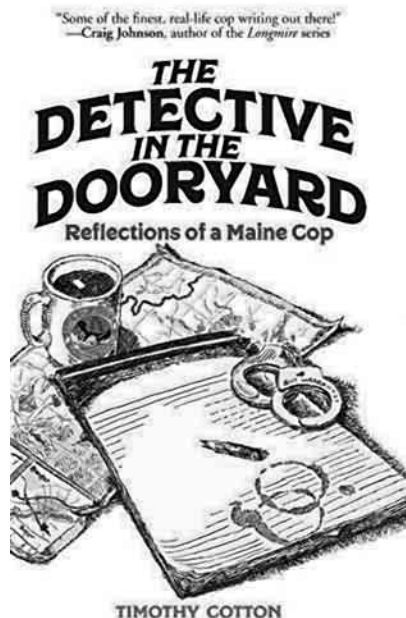
by Martha F. Barkley

These funny, everyday reflections of a Bangor cop will keep you chuckling. What is even more amazing is that Down East Books published this first book in 2020. It sold so very well that a second one is already published and on shelves to buy.

A third is on the way in the Fall of 2022. Let me remind you, dear reader, that is three books in three years, selling quite well according to Renee at Oliver and Friends Bookshop on Main Street in Belgrade Lakes. Sounds almost like romance novelist Danielle Steel, except she sometimes publishes two in one year...and they have not been Covid years.

Cotton's clever use of interweb got me to look up this humorous use of language. Travis Mills, our local comedian and author of *Tough As They Come*, writes "Cotton's writing captures the highs and lows our first responders face during their time in uniform, and reflects what we all love about Maine and its people: quiet thoughtfulness, dry humor, and a strong sense of community."

He does not tell about the rich and famous or astounding events that make the news. What Timothy Cotton does do very cleverly is relate every-



TIMOTHY COTTON

day happenings, many you may have experienced yourself. Here is one, but maybe the \$100 is much more dramatic than everyday life.

"Yesterday, at an undisclosed location, I explained to one nice young lady that I had only asked for fifty dollars cash back, not one hundred and fifty dollars.

She was happy I gave the money back--seemed surprised, actually...

She was embarrassed that I had to count it back to her, but I think she learned something. And I told her I had done much worse things back in the day when I ran a cash register..."

How often the change is not counted out carefully in everyday transactions.

How often Timothy Cotton records funny daily happenings with a smile. I chose his first book to read because I actually liked the cover better than the blazing yellow cover on the second cop car book. So, "don't judge a book by its cover," is advice I did not follow. I grabbed the coffee mug cover with map and police handcuffs. Which one will you read?

Look to the Hills by Patricia C. McKissack

by Martha F. Barkley

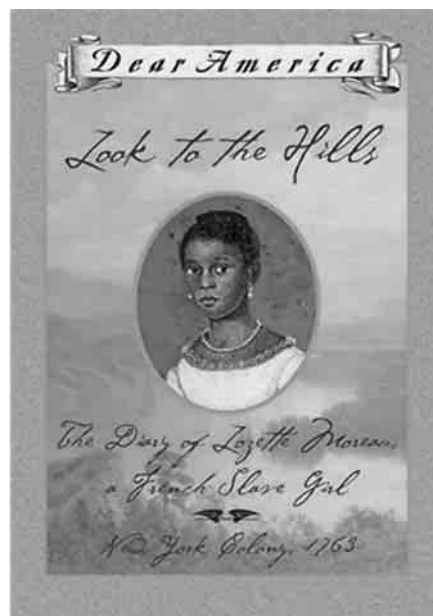
What a different story of a young slave girl in France who ends up here in French Canada, Maine and New York. This is another diary from the Dear America Series by Scholastic from 1763. The "peculiar institution" in France had very educated companions for their elite. Lozette Moreau, a French slave girl, learned French, English and a third language in order to mingle as a companion.

I was familiar with our American colonies "peculiar institution" of slavery distinguishing house slaves from those in the field. Often house slaves were taught to read, etc. But the French had a different organization for their companion slaves. She is pictured on the cover wearing pearl earrings, necklace and lace trimmed gown.

It was a diary of very strange turns with her move from Aix-en-Provence to Canada as her owner chose to move.

Freedom was new to this slave girl upon crossing the Atlantic. She realized how tenuous her very life was with "real work" in the New World was expected of slaves.

Every move meant she was not sure if she would remain a companion or be sold at her owner's whim. Conversations between the two are heartfelt in this diary. "So Captain Woolridge and a detail of English soldiers will be traveling to Fort Niagara with Father Bernard and Armand, who are



Catholic and Protestant, Marie-Louise, who is French, Paul Joseph, an Indian, and me, an African slave. We have to be in a fantasy land, because this combination of people would never be able to travel together in Europe."

Code Noir was a legal document in France that spelled out the masters' responsibilities and the slaves' rights. Quite different from the colonies developing across the wide ocean. Spilling salt was a cause for beating in the New World. Quite different systems even though the Caribbean slaves were often mistreated by the French.

"I was rapidly learning that slavery is a monster with many heads. It doesn't matter if the monster speaks French, English, Dutch, Spanish, or Portuguese: The result is the same." Here in the New World...

French trappers often had one or two slaves as assistants who acted as protectors in the wilds. "Historians mark 1763 as a pivotal year in American history. It was the end of the Colonial Period and the beginning of the American Revolutionary Period."

McKissack has written more than ninety books for young adults and earned many awards. I suggest that mature readers as well can learn history from this Dear America Series and share it with a young person.

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— Real Estate Update —

Yes, It's Still a Good Time to Buy a Home...Here's Why

Are you thinking about buying a home or secondary home, but nervous about the hike in interest rates? You aren't alone. Everyone pauses when there is a change in the economy, and we start to worry about our investments. Justly so.

Realistically, there is never a perfect time to buy a house. It can be a challenge at any time based on your personal situation, the economy, and the market conditions.

We believe there are market factors that make this summer a good time to find your next home, or second home:

Reason #1

Mortgage rates are historically still great. We were spoiled the last few years as the Feds were artificially keeping rates low (monthly Mortgage-Backed Securities & Treasury purchases). * Take a look back at 2009 and prior for a walk down "high

interest memory lane". Interest rates at that time were in the 6-7% range, and even higher as you look further back in the decade.

Reason #2

Real estate is a great investment. Especially compared to renting. Principal & Interest is fixed for the term (i.e., 30yrs) vs rent that will surely increase in today's tight housing market. *

Reason #3

The investment potential for properties in the Belgrade Lakes Region is HUGE. Many home/camp owners have discovered the treasure of vacation rental sites like Airbnb or Vrbo, and localized rental agencies, allowing them to maximize on their investment. Have your cake and eat it too! What I mean is you can own your vacation home for your own time at the lake, and realize rental income for the weeks you are not here

Reason #4

When the market "slows down" and inventory increases, the bidding wars slow down too. Your chance to get in and view a property and write an offer is here again! Locally, inventory is up almost 50% from last month and 15% from 2001 levels. The market is still strong but a shift in the economy will allow buyers a chance to get in the game.

The local real estate market remains strong, but other areas of Maine and the country are showing signs of this slow down. It is always recommended to hire an experienced real estate agent to help you find the right house at the right price.

Contributing sources:

Garrett Ryan Androscoggin Bank*
Freddiemac.com



Honored Land Owners

Fourteen landowners in the Belgrade Lakes watershed who partnered with 7 Lakes Alliance in placing 2,149 acres into conservation were honored at the organization's annual Summer Celebration July 17.

The land acquisitions involved a mix of purchases, donations and conservation easements, all of which have been completed since 7 Lakes' formation in 2017. The property owners join a long list of legacy property owners who worked with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, 7 Lakes' predecessor, in jointly conserving more than 11,000 acres, including the Kennebec Highlands. That represents about 10 percent of the Belgrade Lakes watershed – the land mass that drains into the seven lakes (East, North, McGrath, Long and Great ponds, and Salmon and Messalonskee lakes) and the tributaries that feed them.

7 Lakes Alliance has set a goal of placing 30 percent of the watershed into conservation.

Land conservation is a critical component of preserving and restoring lake water quality. Erosion caused by development represents a threat to lake water quality. Dirt that washes into streams and lakes carries phosphorus, the nutrient that feeds algae blooms.

Natural lands act as a buffer to erosion into waterbodies and a sponge for stormwater.

The landowners honored at the Summer Celebration were:

•**Roy Allen and the George C. Allen Trust**, who sold 813 acres in the Kennebec Highlands, including Vienna Mountain's blueberry fields, to the State and to 7 Lakes.

•**Dwight Allison's family**, who donated a 211-acre conservation easement that protects Little North Pond's water quality and will yield new hiking trails.

•**Cindy and Steve Eccher**, who donated a scenic 83-acre conservation easement that protects 3,700 feet of East Pond shoreline and water quality in the lake.

•**Michael and Cindi Langton**, who sold 4 acres that protect 600 feet of Whittier Pond shoreline and water quality in Long Pond while expanding the French Mountain preserve.

•**Alex and Kathi Wall**, who donated a 94-acre conservation easement on one of Belgrade's oldest farms, protecting valuable farmland, 10 acres of wetlands, and water quality in Great Pond and Belgrade Stream.

•**Bill and Joan Witkin**, who donated 48 acres on Hoyt Island that protect 4,800 feet of shoreline, scenic views and water quality in Great Pond.

•**Roger and Elaine Karabin**, who donated 101 acres on Ingham Pond and Ingham Stream, protecting 6,400 feet of shoreline, scenic views and water quality in Long Pond while expanding the Fogg Island preserve.

•**The Osada family**, who sold 105 acres that will protect 48 acres of wetlands and a 1-acre kettle pond, along with water quality in Long Pond, while growing the Fogg Island preserve.

•**Hillary and Peter Schultz**, who donated a 218-acre conservation easement that protects valuable farmland and water quality in Great Pond, and will provide trails that link The Mountain preserve to the Blaisdell property.

•**The Blaisdell family**, who sold 119 acres that will protect water quality in Great Pond and provide hiking trails that link Quill Hill Farm and The Mountain preserve.

•**Virginia Hunter**, who donated 205 acres that protect 46 acres of wetlands, Pattee Brook and water quality in North Pond. The property will also provide

recreational trails.

•**Denny and Sandy Phillips**, who donated conservation easements on two properties: 147 acres at their residence and 1 acre on Watson Pond. The acreage will protect water quality in Whittier Pond and Long Pond, and provide trails.

•**Warren and Helen Balgooyen** donated a 110-acre conservation easement, adding to previously donated easements of 297 acres, while protecting water quality in East Pond, North Pond and Sandy River.

•**Matt Scott** donated a 96-acre conservation easement that protects valuable farmland along with water quality in Great Pond and Belgrade Stream.

These lands provide a variety of other public benefits including wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Most are NOT open to the public at this time. Please contact 7 Lakes Alliance to learn which ones are.



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