

Summertime in the Belgrades

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

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 9



Newest Neighbors..Oldest Values

by Jodie Mosher-Towle

Have you had to do a double take then slow down for a horse and buggy while traveling the roads this summer? Well, you are not alone. Mercer welcomed the four Amish families in the past two years and they have established themselves as industrious members of the community. All four families hail from Ohio where land was getting too expensive and there was little room for families to expand. Chris Miller looked for land for sale in Maine and the rest is history.

I spoke with Chris Miller, Eli Yoder and Eli Miller one day last week about their new lives in Mercer with the buzz of a log being sawn in the background where a couple of the older boys were busy preparing an order. All three men have gas-powered sawmills with logs stacked ready for cutting and pre-cut planks are layered and drying ready for sale. You can even bring your own logs for them to custom cut to size.

Homemade jams, jellies, pickles, quilts, kayak racks, planters, picnic tables, Adirondack chairs, fresh baked pies, donuts and baking supplies are just a sample of what you will find at the Amish roadside farm stands on Elm Street in Mercer, Maine. They are all open 7am - 7pm Monday through Saturday with no Sunday sales nor business is conducted as this is their day of rest.

Sons and daughters not only share in the work around the family farms but also hire out to build sheds, porches, gazebos, the girls clean houses and camps, sew and alter or mend your order and do many odd jobs that need attention like weeding your garden! Traveling builders, Andrew, Eli Jr. and Andy, each son from 3 different families, recently completed a beautiful, stur-



Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

dy porch on Lake View Drive in Smithfield just past the Smithfield Baptist Church. They will drive the horse and buggy in a 12-15 mile radius from Mercer to build for you. Just stop by one of the farms on Elm Street to book your job.

The families switch off hosting Sunday church complete with enough food for everyone to eat lunch and that is about 50 people! Meals are prepared and cooked over wood fired stoves. The children attend school in a small, centrally located schoolhouse where most of them walk to school with their lunch buckets swinging at their sides. Laundry is done using gas-powered ringer washers outside, then the clothes are hung to dry. The pastures have grazing sheep which are raised to sell, pigs, chickens for eggs, horses for the buggies and fieldwork. There are fishing poles at the ready whenever there is time for one of their favorite family activities.

At Eli Miller's farm, there are over a dozen pairs of ice skates hanging on nails on the side of one of the outbuildings. A small bog just off the dirt road



serves as an exciting place to hone newfound ice skating skills for all of the children. I caught up with Eli on his hay wagon steering his team of work-horses out to the hay field. He stopped the team, hopped down and proudly showed me the woodshop and his handmade wares. He is ready to take your order for whatever you may want built.

One thing the three men were in agreement about was safety on the roads. One of Eli Yoder's sons was traveling on the shoulder on Rte. 27 recently driving the buggy when a truck passed him and someone was passing the truck. He went as far off the road as possible to avoid a crash. He doesn't recall seeing any signs indicating sharing the road with the horse and buggy on Rte. 27. He added that signs in Mercer, Smithfield, New Sharon and Norridgewock raise awareness and drivers are more thoughtful.

Pay the Amish farm stands a visit on your next ride around the lakes region and tell them you read about them in the Summertime in the Belgrades! And please return your pie plate and jam jars so they can make even more!



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Bags That Give Back Margaret Chase Smith Library Selected for Hannaford Community Bag Program



The Margaret Chase Smith Library has been selected by Hannaford store leadership in Skowhegan as the benefiting non-profit in the Community Bag Program for the month of August!

This is a chance to reduce single-use plastic in the environment and give back in the community, all while running routine weekly errands at the local Hannaford. For every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag purchased at the store in Skowhegan, a \$1 donation will go to the Library.

The Library invites people to bring their Hannaford Community Bags to Margaret Chase Smith Day on August 26th. Between 11 AM and 1 PM on that date, staff will be filling bags with a keepsake to honor the Library's 40th anniversary. The celebration will also include food, kids' activities, tours, and a presentation. Check the Library's Facebook page for more details.

The Margaret Chase Smith Library is a non-profit based in Skowhegan, Maine. Established in 1979 and opened to the public in 1982, the Library is an archive, museum, educational facility, and public policy center devoted to preserving the legacy of Margaret Chase Smith, promoting research into American political history, advancing the ideals of public service, and exploring issues of civic engagement. The Library houses the political papers, documents, honors, photographs, and memorabilia stemming from the thirty-two year congressional career of former United States Senator Margaret Chase Smith. Learn more about the Library by visiting www.mcslibrary.org.

For more information about the Hannaford Community Bag Program, please visit hannaford.bags4mycause.com.

Fairview Grange

by Jodie Mosher-Towle

The Fairview Grange #342 in Smithfield hosted a meeting last night to vote on spending some funds on grange hall maintenance and discuss rental dates available and booked. They also presented a community member with documentation recognizing him for his 50 years of being a member of the grange on behalf of the Maine State Grange and National Grange. The grange's mission is to nurture community, support education and promote cultural life. The grange offers their facility to the citizens of Smithfield and surrounding areas as a venue for social, educational and cultural events. It is rented for meetings, banquets, NPA & MDIFW Boater Safety Class, Band Jams, Murder Mystery

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Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • sumbelnews@gmail.com

Layout Design: Michael Breault, 207-578-0226 • mo.breault@gmail.com

Webmaster : Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com

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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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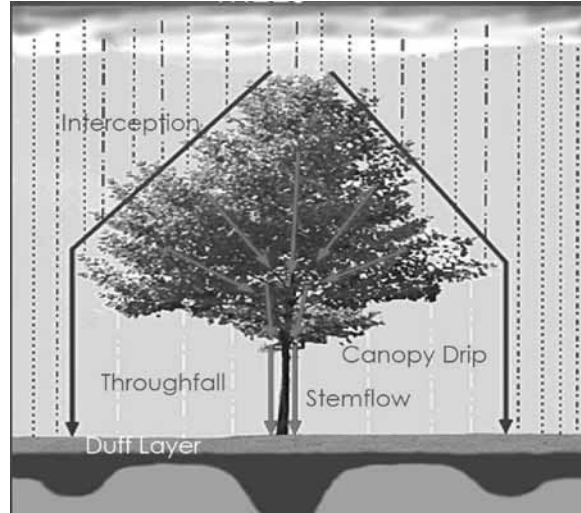
by Pete Kallin

I picked a lot of blueberries last week- lowbush on top of Vienna Mountain (newest addition to Kennebec Highlands) and highbush along a few spots along the shoreline of Long Pond. Unfortunately, the week has also involved a lot of out-of-town travel, a few medical appointments, some meetings, and a memorial for a good friend. As a result, I didn't get as much time outside as I usually do so I have decided to update a Watershed Wisdom column I first wrote a decade ago that is still quite relevant.

Maine has a strong Shoreland Zoning Act that emphasizes protecting the integrity of the vegetation within 250 ft of a Great Pond, especially the 100 ft closest to the water (75 feet for most wetlands). The rules are a bit complicated and often violated, sometimes inadvertently. A few years ago, there were some serious violations in Naples, ME, where the Town received fines in excess of \$700,000. Closer to home, cases have recently occurred on Great Pond (Belgrade and Rome) and Salmon Lake. In these cases the violator often argues, "It's just a tree! I'll plant new ones." Unfortunately it takes decades to replace a mature tree. And a tree is more than just a piece of standing wood with leaves on it. It is actually a remarkable stormwater control system that is better described as the Transpiring, Recyclable, Energy Efficient Stormwater System, or TREES for short. This key component of Mother Nature's basic watershed design is a wonder of efficiency, and coupled with vegetated wetland buffers, does an outstanding job of protecting the water quality of lakes and streams.

As anyone who has ever taken shelter under a tree during a rainstorm knows, trees do a great job of protecting the land under them. When the large raindrops hit the vegetation, they are broken up into many little droplets that continue to fall towards the ground, breaking up into ever smaller droplets as they hit more layers of vegetation, a process engineers would call "energy dissipation." The large surface area of the leaves and small branches becomes coated with water that never reaches the ground, a process hydrologists call "interception." The water that continues to fall to the ground ends up as a fine mist, or slowly moving drops that drip off the lower parts of the tree. This moisture falls gently onto a thick spongy "duff layer" of decomposing leaves and pine needles that comprises the forest floor, soaking in slowly. As the runoff filters slowly through the forest floor, it continues to soak into the sediments below where it enters the groundwater table. A substantial portion is taken up through the roots of the plants and transpires directly back to atmosphere via evapotranspiration from the leaves. Except in very large rain events, very little stormwater actually runs off from a forest.

Contrast this with rain that falls on a plowed field, paved surface, or a dusty camp road. The raindrop hits the ground at high speed, with enough kinetic energy to erode the surface of the soil and splatter up muddy water. This water begins to puddle up and move down the hill, carrying dirt, manure, or other pollutants such as oil or grease along with it. If the surface topography is steep, the stormwater gains momentum and continues to erode, picking up an even higher pollutant load. Typically the stormwater from these developed areas is routed rapidly through ditches and pipes directly to the nearest stream, river, or lake. The turbulent motion generates kinetic energy that allows the flowing water to carry a large load of suspended sediments. When the polluted water eventually reaches a large pond or lake, the velocity will slow and the suspended sediment will settle out. The coarser sediments settle rapidly near the



Trees dissipate energy, slow the flow, reduce erosion, infiltrate and cool the water, cool the air, and sequester carbon.

ing across the land surface towards the water. This water continues to be slowed and filtered by vegetation and rarely develops enough momentum to cause erosion or carry a heavy sediment load. As the flowing water approaches a stream or lake, it typically flows into a heavily vegetated wetland buffer that acts as a large sponge to absorb the water and further slow the flows, allowing suspended sediments to settle. Some of the fine sediments adhere to the surface of the plant stems in the water column, a process known as "adsorption." The end result is that the water finally reaching the lake is clean and clear.

Another important and often overlooked advantage to Mother Nature's system is that much of the water entering the lake or feeder streams comes not over the surface of the land, but infiltrated through the ground. This not only filters and cleans the water but also chills it to the groundwater temperature, which around here is about 50° F (10° C). Contrast this to water running off a hot asphalt road or parking lot in the summertime, which can easily exceed 80° F. The cooler water is much healthier for the lake, enabling higher dissolved oxygen levels and much happier fish, especially trout and salmon. The stand-

shore forming a delta near the inlet (check out the north end of Long Pond where Rt 27 drains into the lake at Tracy Cove) but the finer sediments (and attached pollutants) move out into the lake, creating turbidity, or cloudiness. These fine sediments settle very slowly, spreading pollutants and nutrients such as phosphorus to the deepest portions of the lake.

Under Mother Nature's system, thanks to the trees and surrounding vegetation, there is much less water flow-

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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.

SUMMER THEATER

Thursday 8/4-Saturday 8/13 "King's Night Out." 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Friday 8/5-Thursday 8/11 - "Eurydice", "Pandora", "Anthony & Cleopatra", "Lysistrata," "Amphitryon", "Comedy of Errors", 933-9999, Theater at Monmouth.

THIS WEEK

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

Through Sunday 8/7 - Atlantic Music Festival, free concerts, www.atlanticmusicfestival.org, Colby College, Waterville.

Friday 8/5 - Popcorn & Documentaries, 3 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Friday 8/5 - Ballroom Thieves w/Francesca Blanchard, 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 8/5 - Dom Colizzi, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 8/6 - Neighbors Driving Neighbors Community Breakfast, delicious homemade egg casseroles, potatoes, fruit and pastries, 9-11 am, Mount Vernon Community Center, downtown Mount Vernon.

Saturday 8/6 - Beanhole Bean Supper, sponsored by Belgrade Firefighters Association, \$12 adults, \$7 children 5-12, free under 5, 5-7 pm, Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Saturday 8/6 - Belgrade Lakes Loon Calling Contest, hosted by Castle Island Camps, free Fresh Ella's ice cream, 6:30 pm, Lakepoint Real Estate parking lot, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/7 - Slaid Cleaves, grew up in Maine, lives in Texas, writes songs, makes records, Whistlestop Concert Series, 5 pm doors open, 6 pm show, \$25, \$30 at door, general admission, Amphitheatre Stage, Narrow Gauge Cinemas, Front Street, Farmington.

Sunday 8/7 - Stan Davis, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 8/7 - New England Music Camp Intensive/Prelude Showcase, 3 pm, Bowl in the Pines, Pond Road, Sidney.

Sunday 8/7 - Merry-Go-Roundup, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 8/8 - Sparks Ark Wildlife Experts, 3 pm, 495-3508, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Street, Belgrade Depot.

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

Tuesday 8/9 - Cowboy Angels, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30

pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Tuesday 8/9 - North Pond Association Annual Meeting, via zoom, everyone welcome, business meeting, reports and speaker: Jennifer Jespersen, ecolninstincts, project manager of the Water Based Management Plan, +1 646 931 3860 (meeting ID: 828 9422 7360).

Wednesday 8/10 - Bats of the World with Chewonki, 3 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 8/10 - DJ Matt James, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Wednesday 8/10 - "Comfort and Community: 250 Years of Maine Quilts" presented by Laurie Labar, curator Maine State Museum, 6:30 pm, Belgrade Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/11 - "Interacting with Wabanaki-Maine History," presented by Wabanaki Reach, interactive experience, 6 pm, requires registration, 495-3508, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Street, Belgrade Depot.

Thursday 8/11 - Will McPherson, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

Thursday 8/11 - Mes Amis, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/11 - McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association annual meeting, guest speaker Sharon Mann, Invasive Aquatics, (rain date August 12), bring your own chairs, 6 pm, Pleasant Point Park, Oakland.



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—The Luckiest Boy—

Fishin' with Charles

by Rod Johnson



DATELINE August 1, 1939 – GOIN' FISHIN'

It is 6:05 a.m. and the sun has just crept over the horizon to the East. Vivid red streaks showed through the trees, promising a steaming hot day ahead. The old adage "red sky in the morning, sailors take warning" comes into the mind of Belgrade fishing guide Charles Brown, as he steps outside of his granite house in Belgrade Lakes village. He will have to watch the sky today and be extra vigilant, as thunderstorms are likely this time of year. Getting caught out on the lake in a bad storm with sports on board, is not only dangerous but embarrassing, and likely to affect the tip they might pass on to him after the day of fishing. Charles returns to his house for breakfast and will then prepare to meet his charges at 9:00 a.m. at the Association docks. These are located across the street on Mill Stream and are shared by most of the local guides. His 1919, 24 foot Stewart built guide boat is berthed there along with others. The docks are behind the Damren and Pulsifer houses, accessed by a dirt path from Main street between Damren's barn and the Harden tackle store.

Albert and Blanche Rau had arrived at Belgrade Depot train station yesterday from New York City. This was their fifth year in a row of coming to the Belgrades, and after the long train trip, both were anxious to get settled in at The Manor, Ed and Clara Megill's large home with bed and breakfast. They would spend the next month there enjoying good country food including white perch, and the hospitality of Ed and Clara. The Megills also own the Locust House, a larger building across the street on the Mill Stream side, with rooms and a dining hall where all patrons from both places dine. There had been other options of places to stay five years ago when they first came, such as the Belgrade Hotel, The Lakeshore and others, but the Manor's accommodations were wonderful, and a feeling of family had developed. After being taxied from the Depot to Belgrade Lakes by a local woman named Sadie Yeaton, Ed and Clara had graciously welcomed them back and led them to the upper room facing West, with great views over Long Pond, and they had their own bath. They rested at ease that their luggage from the train, two medium size trunks, would arrive in an hour or two by Model A Ford truck. Tillson's garage just up the street had been offering that service for years and hired local men, often guides, to drive. In the earlier years, Stanley Steamers were the vehicle of choice.

Back at the stone house, guide Charles continued to do his chores and prepare for the day of fishing with the Raus on board. In addition to giving his guideboat a good visual checkover, he added some gasoline to the 10 gallon copper tank, checked the engine oil and sponged out the bilge. After his boat looked shipshape, Charles walked down the street with his empty frogbox to meet baitman Cassie French. Cassie was the main bait supplier for most fishing guides in the area. Each came to Cassie's spot where he parked his old truck every morning, just across from Bartlett's store. His offerings varied, but the mainstay of popular baits were worms (crawlers), crawfish, frogs and hellgrammites (Dobson fly larvae). After morning greetings with Cassie and purchasing a full compliment of bait, Charles walked back up street with loaded bait box in hand, then down the dirt alley to his waiting craft. The Raus arrived soon after along with a few other sports who came to meet their guides, namely Fred Ellis, Merle Rix and Ernest Johnson. After some short pleasantries, Charles directed Blanche and Albert to their respective "chairs" in the boat. Seating for paying sports had seatbacks much like a lawn chair and were not only comfortable, but placed in such a way to allow the guide/captain to operate the boat's inboard motor, row the oars and put bait on both lines. Most sports did not bait their own hooks, nor handle the fish when caught. After the seating was done, Charles cast off the two dock lines, pushed the boat gently out and spryly stepped on the gunnel as he slipped into the seat where oars awaited. Due to the vintage of the Stewart built guide boat, it was not equipped with a reverse gear or neutral. Later models did include those features, but Charles had decided to nurture his old boat until he retired. He rowed the boat backwards well away from the slip, and using one oar forward and one back he slowly turned the 24 footer until the bow was headed out the stream towards Great Pond. With what seemed like little or no effort, he set the very lengthy oars on the wide rails and quickly squirted a thimble full of gasoline into the primer cup. With the other hand, he deftly turned the magneto kill switch to open, firmly gripped the crank handle and pulled upward. The big flywheel of the 2 cylinder Kermath engine rolled over and POP, POP, POP, the boat slowly slithered out through the Mill Stream narrows and into Great Pond. The fishing day had begun.

Stay tuned next week to catch some fish on Great Pond and a nice lunch on Oak Island!

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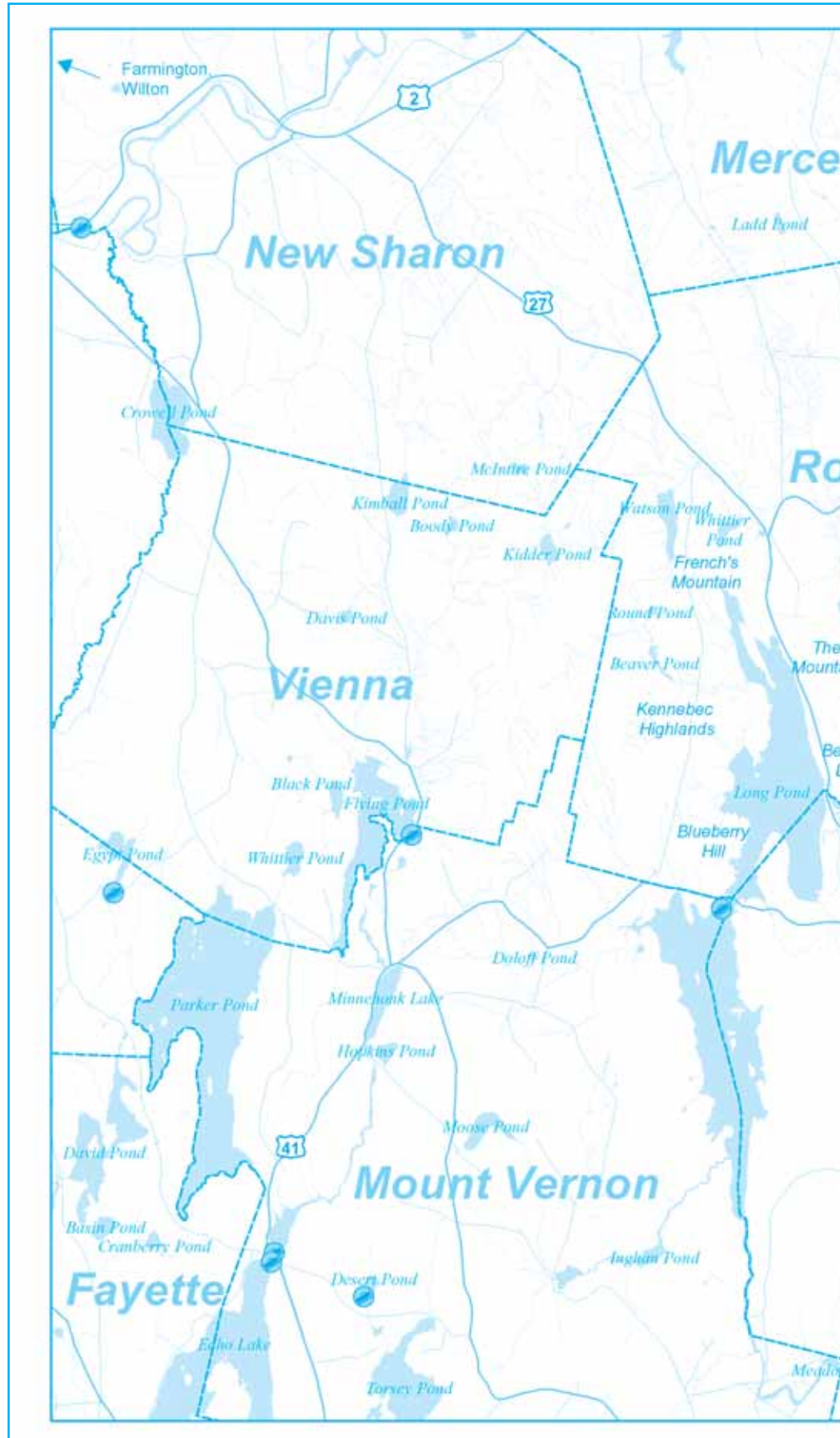
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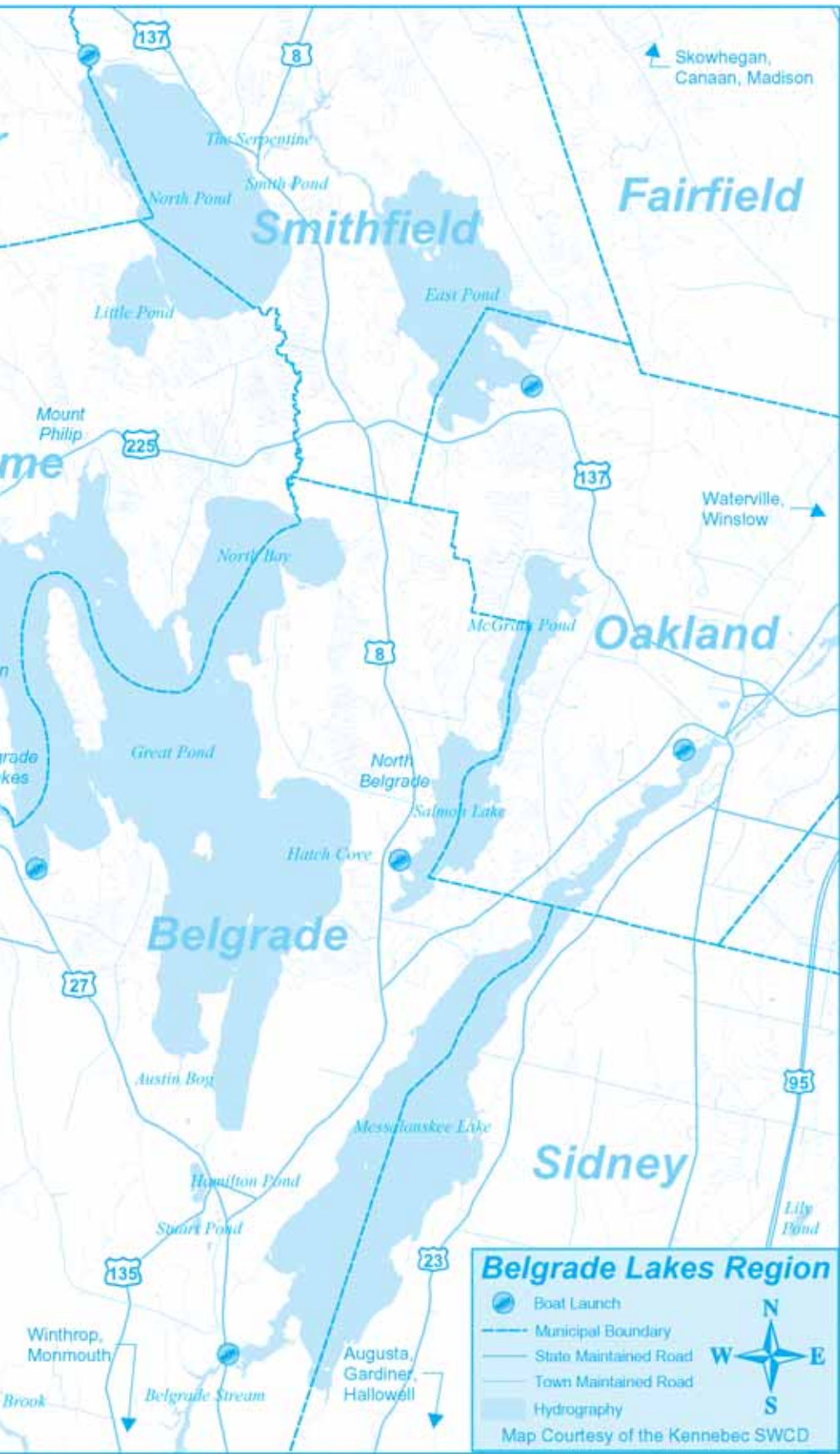
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Call of the Loon



Why Do Loons Chicks Ride on Their Parent's Back?

Once the chicks hatch, they ride on their parents' back for the first two to three weeks of life. Back riding protects them from underwater predators and keeps them warm when they snuggle into the soft down under their parent's wings. Of course, they keep on looking for a free ride way past their three weeks of development just as they keep on looking for a free meal well past their own diving and fishing abilities!

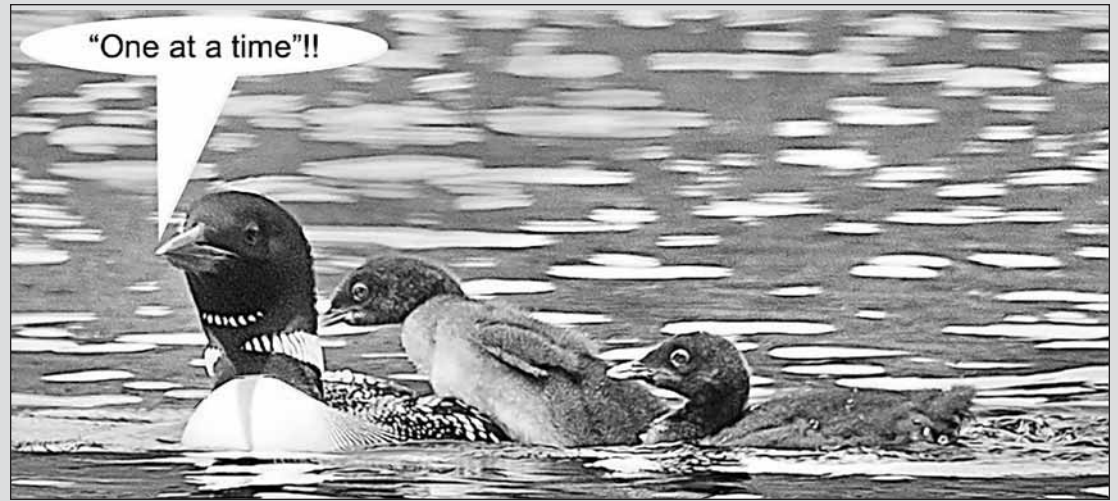
This column is brought to you by the Belgrade Lakes Association's Loon Preservation Project in order to support our loon population in the very best sustainable manner but this effort requires your support. Please support the Loon Preservation Project at your earliest opportunity via www.blmaine.org.

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"



Getting a running start!



"One at a time"!!



"I'm getting too old for this!!"



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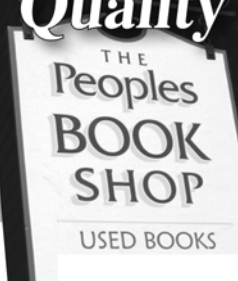


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Appeal

By Laurie Raleigh, 7 Lakes Alliance

The lakes and lands are changing. 7 Lakes Alliance's commitment to them is not.

The Belgrade Lakes region, where family memories abound, is uniquely special and timeless. Whether you are a seasonal or a year-round resident, we all share a deep connection to our lakes and their unspoiled natural surroundings.

Yet these lakes and these lands are changing. As never before, our natural surroundings are under constant threat from invasive plants, green lakes and unsustainable development. That's why 7 Lakes Alliance works tirelessly year-round to conserve the lakes AND lands of the Belgrade Lakes region.

7 Lakes is singularly qualified to lead, using scientific research to deliver solutions that ensure improved water quality and land conservation, which is vital to clearer waters.

Will you please join us with a gift today? Thanks to a generous donor, all gifts will be matched up to \$25,000, meaning you can double your impact.

Conserving our lands and waters takes people, equipment and funds. Donations are made in many

forms, including cash, stocks and annuities, donor-advised funds, real estate and bequests. Honor someone special with a donation in their name or as a memorial gift.

Your tax-deductible donation is an investment in the future of the Belgrade Lakes watershed. Together, we can protect the waters and land that sustain us and our community in this special part of Maine.

To donate, please visit 7lakesalliance.org or send your gift to 7 Lakes Alliance, P.O. Box 250, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918. For additional information, please contact Laurie Raleigh at 207-931-8806 or laurie.raleigh@7lakesalliance.org.

Yes, the challenges facing our watershed are constant. Again, so is our commitment. Please remember your gift to 7 Lakes will be doubled today, so we can continue the critical work of conserving the lakes and lands of the Belgrade Lakes region – today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

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512-5150, belgradelakesassociation.org
McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA), Belgrade
and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
mplassociation@gmail.com

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Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, www.belgradelakepoint.com

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

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

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

Trisha Cheney, Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, trisha@belgradelakepoint.com

Amy Bernatchez, Lakepoint Real Estate, 314-2353, amy@belgradelakepoint.com

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Acme Land Surveying, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5, Farmington, 778-408, 1800-778-408, www.acmelandsurveying.com

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**The Dams Keeper Report**

We had an interesting question this past week from an upper Long Pond resident: "You stated that the water level at Long Pond's Wings Mill dam was 1.4" above full pond but our 'measuring rock' is now totally under water. Something is not right for this time of year?" Well T.S., the top of upper Long Pond is 9 miles from the Wings Mill Dam and Long Pond was essentially tilting with a gradient of about 1/2" per mile, sloping South. In other words, with that week's 2" of rain and the runoff from its steep watershed, upper Long Pond was about 5" higher than the Wings Mill dam 9 miles to the South. Ground saturation and wind of course will add additional variables. These are just a few of the things that the volunteers on your Dams Committee get to fret about! All you

should have to 'worry' about is, do I put on SPF 30 or 50? Or, do we go to Days before or after lunch?

Due to the recent rain events, the water level at Great Pond's Village dam is still holding at a meager .36" but still above full pond with the main gate still closed. Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is also holding above full pond at .84" with both gates still closed. Salmon/McGrath is, because of the mandated 1 cfs. 24/7 flow, basically right at full. Messalonskee, aka. Snow Pond, has as of this writing, dropped even further to 6.24" 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

**No Wake Zones**

by Anthony Wilson - 7 Lakes Alliance Communication Director



One of the amusing scenes in the classic film "On Golden Pond" occurs when young Billy asks crotchety old Norman Thayer if his boat is fast as they are pulling away from a dock. In classic curmudgeonly Norman Thayer fashion, he drops the throttle and the boat rockets forward, throwing Billy back into his seat.

Of course, "On Golden Pond" was made 41 years ago. Today there's a greater appreciation for how damaging wakes crashing into shorelines are on the health of lakes. Hence the rule to travel no faster

than headway speed when in a stream or within 200 feet of shore. Headway speed is the slowest speed at which a motorized watercraft may be operated and maintain steerage. For most boats, that's no more than 6 mph.

The State of Maine defines the area within 200 feet of shore as a water safety zone. The state normally does not buoy hazards within this zone except when marking critical, high traffic areas or a channel (as in the Mill Stream that flows from Great Pond to Long Pond). So safety is one reason to slow down to headway speeds in the 200-foot zone.

But so is lake ecology.

Consider this: As wakes ripple outward, they form waves. Waves eventually crash into shore. That pounding can create erosion, particularly on shores not fortified by riprap. That erosion loosens dirt into a waterbody. Dirt contains phosphorus. And phosphorus is the nutrient that feeds algae, which can turn the water in lakes a sickening green.

So, a simple way to protect lakes (the mission of the 7 Lakes Alliance along with conserving land) is to slow your motorboat or jet ski as it approaches the shore. Wakeboats designed to create giant wakes should stay even farther from shore as they speed across the water.

For folks who rent their camps to summer visitors, for new camp owners and for businesses that rent boats, a reminder of the 200-foot no wake zone would serve both those clientele and the lakes well. Anyone reading this publication likely loves the lakes. As such, we all have a responsibility to be good stewards of them so they can be enjoyed today, tomorrow and for generations to come. That stewardship includes taking actions to prevent erosion that degrades lake water quality.

Take it Outside continued from page 5...

ing biomass of trees sequesters carbon, including much of that in the roots.

So, how do we protect our watershed and maintain high water quality? One way is to protect as much forested land as possible within the watershed. This is one of the main drivers for 7-Lakes Alliance's land conservation programs, especially the Kennebec Highlands Project, to which we have recently added nearly 1000 acres. Please visit our web site at <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/> to see how you can help. On land that is developed, the answer is to mimic Mother Nature's system as much as possible in handling the stormwater runoff. At the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC), all the runoff is infiltrated into porous pavers, grass pavers, or infiltration trenches and filtered through a rain garden before entering the lake through the groundwater. Come visit the center to check it out. Hopefully we can give you some good ideas you can implement on your own property. And pick up a map of our local hiking trails while you're there so you can take a kid out hiking in the TREES-cooled forest. And don't forget to contact the local Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) before you cut any vegetation in the shoreland zone.



The Lobster Coast by Colin Woodard

by Martha F. Barkley

This history of our state is wide in range, from "Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier". Written by a Waterville native, Colin Woodard reached out to numerous coastal specialists and did his research thoroughly. Since I love history, the in-depth footnotes at the end are even fun to peruse and the index helps to guide the reader to the Augusta/Belfast part of the story.

Beginning on Monhegan Island in the first chapter and ending on that pristine island in the last chapter are two beautiful bookends to this rich sea story of fishing and change in the Gulf of Maine. Four centuries of fishing are covered in more detail than I can possibly tell here: various indigenous peoples and many from across the wide Atlantic who fished annually and then finally settled.

"Ted Edison, son of the famous inventor,...fore-saw a time when cottages, hotels, perhaps golf courses and country clubs might spread all the way to the cliff tops (on Monhegan)...and was willing to donate his own land to preserve the island's natural beauty and village character".

9/11 apparently even shocked the ever stable lobster market in Maine and at Monhegan. Port Clyde could not offer a daily price for lobster: never happened before...

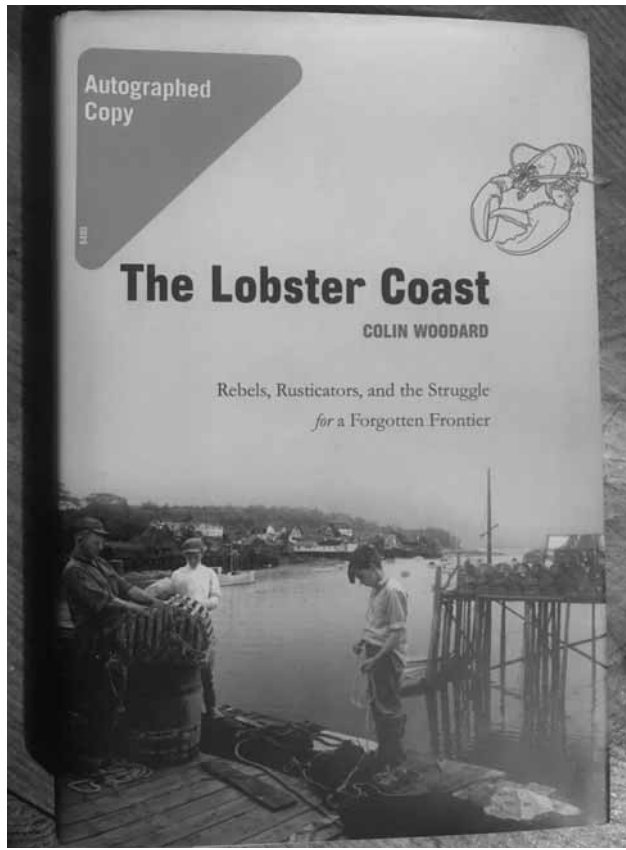
I especially enjoyed a map on page 55 which shows the distinct fishing areas for the Gulf of Maine: Georges Bank, Brown's Bank, Cape Sable in Nova Scotia, Bay of Fundy, Penobscot Bay and Cape Cod. What a fishermen's paradise. No wonder English ships and others repeatedly came to these shores in the early 1600s. The bright blue Atlantic changes to a distinct deep green caused by the Gulf waters containing floating plants of microscopic size.

Lobsters and fish of all kinds feed on the sixty rivers which empty into the Gulf of Maine: Kennebecs, Sheepscots and Androscoggin are among the rivers closest to Belgrade.

Newfoundland fishing was discovered by Cabot in 1497 and followed by cod fishermen from Italy, England, France, Spain (Basque) and Portugal. The Gulf of St. Lawrence was quite the attraction, too.

Captain John Smith of Jamestown fame loved the coast of Maine and he is credited with naming the region New England. "Of all the four parts of the world that I have seen not inhabited," he wrote, "I would rather live here than any where".

Jumping ahead to 1872, Bangor was the greatest lumber city in the world with over one thousand sawmills operating in the state. Granite quarries also sprung up with easy river transport and ocean going vessel delivery around the globe. Even before the great lumber industry, New England shipped 130,000 tons of ice as far as India. So fishing in the Gulf of Maine was not the only economic engine that powered Maine's prosperity.



The factory freezer trawler shocked me in its size and overfishing capability. To read that not only Russia, but West Germany, Spain, France, Japan and Poland invaded the Georges Bank in the Gulf of Maine with these massive operations was disturbing. Bye-bye fishing abundance in the 1950s as was in existence for centuries. "On Georges, the foreign fleets were so large that observers likened them to great floating cities."

But why did lobsters prevail or even survive? It was not until quite recently that the video technology was lowered with lobster traps to really view what happens way down there on the bottoms. Baited traps were shown to be attacked by lobsters mounting up like anthills almost immediately when touching bottom.

The lobsters were not trapped! They came and went and dined on the bait like visiting a restaurant. When a trap is pulled up to empty, just those several lobsters at that moment are caught who happen to be dining on the bait. So, for as long as traps have been baited, our lobstermen

have been feeding these creatures like farmers feeding cows.

No wonder the lobsters have survived while other fishing has been depleted. Quite a surprise to me and maybe even you.

"As with the problems of sprawl and development on land, shoring up Maine's working waterfronts will require taking a longer view and planning more carefully for the future...At this writing, the incredible abundance of American lobster is holding Maine's fishing communities together, but as rural Mainers know well, it's risky to have all of one's eggs in a single basket".

We need more than lobsters to restore our Gulf of Maine as it once was. Coastal cod, haddock and too many other decimated species of fish offered diversity back in the day and that strength is one we must bring back.

"Our poor, backwater state has led the country in everything from recycling bottles to securing health care for low-income citizens, from confronting the excesses of drug companies to enacting policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our legislators developed laws recognizing key aspects of our lobstermen's traditional management practices, while scientists and fishermen are adapting cutting-edge technologies to better understand and protect...our fishing industry.."

Any librarian or bookseller can recommend books to you for your summer pleasure. I am glad I bought this history because it turned into a lobster story that I did not expect. Learning renews by interest in finding another book about Maine.

Off to Belgrade Public Library, Oliver and Friends Bookstore and maybe even Bull Moose in Waterville. Farmington has two book shops I enjoy as well. Nothing like talking with book people. Better than ZOOM for me!



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— Real Estate Update —

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

This week the Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the second time this summer. What does this mean for your mortgage rates and pre-approval amounts?

We aren't going to get into a full analysis of economic trends, but here's a quick summary of what this means.

The Federal Reserve sets the cost of borrowing short-term money. This means short-term loans such as credit cards, home equity loans and adjustable-rate mortgages will be affected immediately. Long term debt, like mortgages, is tied to the 10-year Treasury rate and other factors including supply and demand. When mortgage lenders are too busy, their rates increase. When business is light, they tend to cut rates to attract more home buyers. Inflation impacts mortgage rates as well. When inflation is low, rates trend lower as well. So, what that means is that the recent interest rate hikes will not have an immediate impact on mortgage rates.

If the Fed's attempts to break the inflation trend with these rate hikes is successful, we will actually see mortgage rates drop in the coming weeks and months.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association mortgage rates have dropped about a half percentage point in recent weeks. They believe that mortgage rates have already peaked for 2022 and will stay where they are or slightly lower for the remainder of 2022.

During the pandemic, long term interest rates and mortgages were at historic lows, which kinda spoiled us all into seeing such low mortgage rates. We should have known it wouldn't last forever...but we were hoping. Now that the pandemic rates and relief are behind us, we are seeing rates in the 5-6% range and perceive these as high rates. Historically they are NOT high.

The question is if the market is normalizing, is that due to buyers waiting to see where interest rates and home prices trend, or they are delaying

indefinitely because of affordability. If the Mortgage Bankers Association predictions are true, potential buyers who have been waiting out the interest rate announcements may find their way back into the market.

So what should you do? Locally, inventory is up about 50% from last year at this time. Sellers are still pricing their homes to take advantage of the hot market.

Here's the plan. Find a local lender so you can get pre-approved and understand what your buying power is at today's rates. Find a local broker that knows our market and what homes are worth today...and yesterday. Then go to the previous way of doing business - Make an offer at what YOU and your broker think a home is worth, and negotiate. Today's market is giving buyers a chance to make an offer and negotiate, where previously many saw multiple offer situations or couldn't even get one in.



...continued from page 3

Dinners, craft fairs, class reunions, anniversary celebrations, family reunions, birthday parties, family Christmas parties, wedding receptions - you could even get married on the shore of North Pond and hold your reception inside. The kitchen is fully stocked, tables and chairs provided, a piano to use, the stage and curtain are an added bonus for entertainment, 2 bathrooms, a hallway with coat hangers and upper storage, high chairs, etc. It is fully ADA accessible and outside there is even a porous paved pathway to the water's edge. There is ample seating outside as well. The added bonus is there are steps to the new dock for access to and from the lake for your event.

Grange Master Rick Watson shared that they are always looking for new members to share in the vision of serving the community. Wife, Karie Watson, Grange Master Ceres would love to hear from you to book your date. They also give tours of the grange beforehand to help you envision your event in the space. Seating capacity is 96. The grange can be rented for a day with all of the above included for just \$200! Give Karie or Rick a call today! Rick - 207-313-7317 Karie - 207-399-2099



Annual Bean Supper
at Belgrade Community Center
The Center for All Seasons
Saturday, August 6
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Baked Beans, Rolls, Hotdogs, Homemade pies, Cole slaw, and Brown Bread.
***12.00 Adults**
***7.00 Children - AGE 5 thru 12**
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