

# Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 4

## When the 4th Falls on Friday

by Esther J. Perne



**W**hen the 4th of July falls on Friday here in Maine, a whole summer weekend lies ahead, full of possibilities for activities and outings or just doing nothing.

A Friday 4th of July fits in conveniently with all the celebrations the area has to offer and with the extra time that's available to watch a parade or stroll a downtown or enjoy entertainment or children's games or definitely be fascinated by fireworks.

On July 4, 1777 when the first anniversary of independence was celebrated, a strong, enduring (and endearing) tradition was established: fireworks!

Fireworks illuminated Philadelphia Harbor, they illuminated Boston Common and they illuminated that sense of unity that a new country with a new beginning was experiencing.


This summer the fireworks of July 4th will be illuminating a sense of unity, too, one that connects so many residents, vacationers and visitors to this region, with its beautiful setting, its abundance of outdoor recreation, its quiet towns and quaint community gatherings and its welcome to a Friday holiday when a whole summer weekend lies ahead.

Enjoy it all. But first....the fireworks.



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## Maine International Film Festival is Coming!

by Gregor Smith

In just a week, the Maine International Film Festival will return to downtown Waterville. The festival will present a wide selection of feature films and shorts, both documentaries and narrative, from independent producers in Maine, elsewhere in the United States, and the rest of the world.

While most of the festival's 100+ offerings will be premieres of some sort (Maine, New England, United States, World), MIFF will also present retrospectives of the works of esteemed filmmakers who come to MIFF as its special guests.

The festival will open Friday evening, July 11, and will run for nine more days. All screenings will take place at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center and the adjoining Waterville Opera House.

With over 100 films to choose from, it's hard to know what to watch, but here at *Summertime in the Belgrades*, we have studied the program guide and produced this curated list of highlights:

- *The Librarians*, the documentary that opens the festival, which lauds local librarians, those steadfast defenders of freedom of expression who now face increasing challenges from groups who seek to ban books on LGBTQ+ and racial themes;
- A Mid-Life Achievement Award for British actor Clive Owen and screenings of six of his films: *I'll Sleep When I'm Dead* (2003), *Children of Men* (2006), *Closer* (2004), *Croupier* (1998), *Gosford Park* (2001), and *Duplicity* (2009);
- A Lifetime Achievement Award for Ken Eisen, co-founder of both Railroad Square Cinema and the Maine International Film Festival, festival program-

mer, and president of Shadow Distribution, a Waterville-based distributor of independent films;

- *The Negotiator*, MIFF's Centerpiece Film, a new documentary from the United Kingdom about Waterville native George Mitchell, whose many accomplishments include negotiating an end to the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland in 1998;



Clive Owen in *Croupier*

- Four Made-in-Maine Feature Films, three of which are documentaries (about a sailor who survived 76 days in adrift in a life raft on the high seas, about Houlton, Me., the easternmost U.S. town in the path of the April 2024 total solar eclipse, and about the homelessness crisis in Bangor), and the fourth, *Sight Unseen*, a fictional thriller filmed in a camp on Great Pond in Belgrade;
- Three Compilations of Short Films: the Maine Narrative Shorts (fiction), the Maine Documentary Shorts (nonfiction), and the "Kaleidoscope Shorts," with eight films, some fiction and some not, from elsewhere in the U.S. and beyond;

- The Maine Student Film and Video Festival, a competition featuring the best short films from Maine filmmakers in grades K-12;

- *Dead River Rough Cut*, a newly restored 1976 documentary about two men living life on their own terms in Maine's North Woods, which will be shown with a new, shorter, fictional film, "The Constituent," written and directed by Ernest Thompson (On Golden Pond) and starring Thompson and NYPD Blue's Gordon Clapp;

- A retrospective on the work of mononymous Mainer Huey, including his *Wilderness and Spirit: A Mountain Called Katahdin* (2002), a meditative homage to Maine's highest mountain, the people who revere it, and a separate program of five of his shorts on various subjects, all made between 1977 and 1983;

- Eight other newly restored classics, ranging from *Phantom Lady*, a black and white, 1944 film noir, to Jacques Rivette's *L'Amour Fou* ("Crazy Love"), a 4+ hour opus from 1969 about a stormy romance between a theater director and his leading lady, to David Lynch's 2001 thriller *Mulholland Drive*; and finally



- "World Cinema Spotlights," which will present new and recent films from Nigeria, Cambodia, and Israel — the Israeli films all being works of Avigail Sperber.

We'll write more about many of these screenings in the next two issues of *Summertime*, but for now, we encourage exploring the MIFF website, [www.miff.org](http://www.miff.org), or by picking up a free copy of the festival's glossy, 68-page, program booklet at the Schupf Center or at many other businesses around town. See you at the movies!



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North American Premiere of  
Documentary about Maine Senator  
George J. Mitchell, *The Negotiator*,  
to Screen at 28th Maine  
International Film Festival



Photo by Fine Point Films

The Maine Film Center will present a screening of *The Negotiator* during the 28th annual Maine International Film Festival (MIFF), which will be held July 11–20, 2025, in Waterville. The documentary surveys the life and work of Senator George J. Mitchell, who was born in Waterville and served as the United States special envoy to Northern Ireland during the 1990s. In 1995, President Bill Clinton appointed Senator Mitchell as his economic envoy to Northern Ireland. Mitchell later chaired the multi-party peace talks that led to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. The film follows his involvement in the peace process, including travel between Northern Ireland, Washington, D.C., and Maine, and focuses on the efforts required to reach a political settlement. Directed by journalist Trevor Birney, *The Negotiator* uses interviews, archival material, and contemporary footage—including on location in Waterville—to explore Mitchell’s role in the negotiations and the broader context of U.S. foreign engagement. Birney previously produced *KNEECAP*, which closed last year’s MIFF. The screening of *The Negotiator* is sponsored by the Unity Foundation, and will be introduced by the film’s producer Stephen Douds. The film will be shown at the Waterville Opera House on July 16 at 7PM. Festival passes and tickets are available now at [MIFF.org](http://MIFF.org).

About the Maine Film Center Maine Film Center (MFC) educates, entertains, and builds community through film. Through its legacy as Maine’s first independent art house, Railroad Square Cinema, and the annual Maine International Film Festival, MFC showcases the best of American independent, international, and repertory film, and offers the best popcorn in the known universe. For more information, visit [MaineFilmCenter.org](http://MaineFilmCenter.org).

About MIFF Founded in 1998, the Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) is a project of the Maine Film Center. Over 10 days, the Festival showcases 100 films, representing the best of American independent and international cinema, and spotlights Maine and the world’s most exciting and innovative filmmakers.

Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • [sumbelnews@gmail.com](mailto:sumbelnews@gmail.com)

Layout Design: Michael Breault, 207-578-0226 • [mo.breault@gmail.com](mailto:mo.breault@gmail.com)

Webmaster : Gregor Smith • [gregor@roadrunner.com](mailto:gregor@roadrunner.com)

[www.belgradelakesnews.com](http://www.belgradelakesnews.com)

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Sunday, July 13, 4-6 pm  
137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes

Please join us for our annual summer gathering to learn about the important work being done by 7 Lakes Alliance to conserve the lakes and lands we all love. Together, we'll celebrate the wonderful supporters and volunteers who make this work possible.

Thanks to our generous sponsor, there is no fee for this event. Kindly RSVP at [7LakesAlliance.org/events/](http://7LakesAlliance.org/events/) so we may have an accurate head count.

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## A Year At 7 Lakes Alliance

Dr. Chris Monz, President and CEO

We’ve been looking forward to this day for at least a month, ever since spring returned to the Belgrade Lakes watershed. As is often the case, busy schedules and family commitments kept us off the water longer than we had hoped. But at last, the moment arrived: time to return to Lower Long Pond in our kayaks.

My wife Wyatt and I were fortunate to paddle on a cool, clear day. For me, kayaking is not just recreation – it facilitates a spiritual connection with the water. I don’t feel like I’m on the water, but rather a part of it. As an ecologist by training and a lifelong outdoor enthusiast, I carry this deep connection in all parts of my life and with all the work we do at 7 Lakes Alliance.

It’s hard to believe a full year has passed since we returned to Maine. And in that time, so much has been accomplished – thanks to our dedicated team and the support of this remarkable community. You’ll find the full story in our 2024 Annual Report (on our website: [www.7lakesalliance.com/annual-report](http://www.7lakesalliance.com/annual-report)), but a few highlights stand out:

**Land Conservation:** Over 1,000 acres were protected last year through conservation easements and fee purchases, including critical parcels near Lower Long Pond and East Pond that safeguard water quality, wildlife habitat and old growth forest.

**Lake Science:** Over 2,000 water quality samples have been taken in the watershed across all seasons enhancing our understanding of lake ecosystem functioning and dynamics.

**Invasive Aquatics:** Our invasive aquatics team continues to be vigilant in the ongoing control efforts which have become more complex with longer seasons and new aggressive species. Our Courtesy Boat Inspectors prevented numerous invasive plant fragments from leaving and entering our lakes.

**Erosion Control:** Our Erosion Control and Youth Conservation Corps completed hundreds of projects to limit sediment and nutrient runoff in our lakes.

**Education and Outreach:** We launched our floating classroom boat, hosting more than 250 students who learned about lake ecology right on the water.

**Recreation:** We expanded our trail system, including the opening of our first universal access trail.

These milestones reflect real progress, yet we know the challenges ahead are real. Our lands and waters are more vulnerable than ever- to human impact, to unsustainable development pressure and to the accelerating effects of climate change. These shifts are arriving faster than anyone predicted just five or ten years ago, even as funding from state and federal sources becomes more difficult to secure.

Yet I remain optimistic. 7 lakes alliance has the expertise, the passion and the momentum to meet these challenges head-on and to lead in watershed science both regionally and nationally. I’m honored to be part of this organization and grateful for the strong support we receive from this community and beyond.

As Wyatt and I made our way over to Lost Pond, we paused to drift. We watched herons and loons, listened to the gentle sounds of nature, and sat in stillness. It reminded us, as it always does, of why this work matters.



## Belgrade History Beyond Belgrade

Submitted by BHS member Dianne Dowd

On a beautiful day this past February Tom and I traveled to Thompson Ice House Museum in South Bristol to witness an old-fashioned ice harvest. Ever since I discovered some advertisements for an ice business in the attic of our old farmhouse, I have wanted to see a traditional ice harvest. Although most of the icehouses have long disappeared; the Thompson Ice House Museum is a working museum dedicated to the methods of traditional ice harvesting.



Ice was such an important commodity before the invention and everyday use of refrigeration. The ice on a pond or a river was cleared of snow and huge cakes of ice were cut with special tools and then stored in an ice-house. The icehouse was insulated with thick walls filled with sawdust. The ice cakes were stacked in the ice-house and covered with more sawdust.

Some folks may remember Dalton Ice Company here in Belgrade. It was located on the shore of Great Pond where the Center for All Seasons is today. The Dalton Lumber Company was located at the same place. Having a ready supply of sawdust, helped make Dalton Ice Company successful. There was a huge demand for ice delivery in the summer months. The Belgrade Hotel alone required 1,600 pounds of ice delivered daily. In addition, many of the house-keeping and youth camps needed ice delivered regularly. Dalton Ice Company closed not long after the Belgrade Hotel burned in 1956.

The Belgrade Historical Society has a nice display of ice harvesting tools at the Old Town Meeting House. Check out our display at our Open Houses, Thursday, July 10, 9-12 or Thursday, July 24, 1-4. For more information on the Thompson Ice House Museum visit its website, [www.Thompsonicehouse.com](http://www.Thompsonicehouse.com), and be sure to check out their wonderful YouTube presentations of traditional ice cutting.



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## Foraging and Educating

Continued on page 10 ...

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## — Calendar —

### 4th of July - Belgrade Lakes

**Thursday 7/3** - Fireworks over Long Pond, music by Lefty and the Ladies on the Village Green, fireworks 9:15 pm, Belgrade Lakes.

**Friday 7/4** - Independence Day Celebration, music, games, specials, children's activities, fun events and food throughout the day.

- 8 am-1 pm Belgrade Lakes 4th of July Farmers' Market, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street
- 9 am-1 pm Belgrade Public Library Book Sale and Bake Sale, Center for All Seasons, south end of Belgrade Lakes
- 12 noon Boat Parade on Mill Stream, from Great Pond to the bridge in Belgrade Lakes
- 4 pm Street Parade through The Village, line-up 3:30 pm on Rome side of Village

### 4th of July - Winthrop

**Friday 7/4** - Annual Friends on the 4th" 5K Run/Jog/Walk, loop around Lake Maranacook, 8 am start

time, Norcross Point.

- 4th of July Legion BBQ - hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage - and games - corn hole, horseshoes, badminton, volleyball - American Legion, Winthrop.

**Saturday 7/5** - 5th of July Fireworks Show, 9-10 pm, Norcross Point, Winthrop

### 4th of July - Farmington

**Thursday 7/3 through Sunday 7/6** - The Wall That Heals, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, open to the public 24 hours a day, Narrow Gauge Square, Farmington.

**Friday 7/4** - 4th of July Parade, line-up and judging 9 am, Olsen Student Center parking lot, parade starts 10 am, downtown Farmington

**Thursday 7/3 through Saturday 7/13** - Ravenscroft, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 2-1, Madison.

**Friday 7/4** - Weekend Concert, New England Music Camp, free, 3 pm, Bowl in the Pines, Goldenrod Road, Route 23, Sidney.

**Sunday 7/6** - Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market, 8 am-1 pm, 7

Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

**Monday 7/6 - Friday 7/11** - Young Naturalists Day Camp, ages 11-14, 9 am-2 pm, \$100, L.C. Bates Museum, 238-4250, lcbates@gwh.org, Route 201, Hinckley.

**Monday 7/7 through 8/15** - SailMaine Youth Camp, six one-week sessions, 971 235-3173, Center for All Seasons, Belgrade Lakes.

**Monday 7/7** - Western Maine Foothills Band, selections from big band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm, Meeting House Park, downtown Farmington.

**Monday 7/7** - New England Music Camp Faculty Recital, soloists and ensembles, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, New England Music Camp, Route 23, Sidney.

**Tuesday 7/8** - Poetry Afloat, poem writing workshop with Doug "Woody" Woodsum aboard a 7 Lakes Alliance Boat, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

**Tuesday 7/8** - The Combo, guitar driven goodness, Rock on the River Concert, 7-8:30 pm, Bandstand, Hallowell.

**Wednesday 7/9** - Invasive Aquatic Plant ID Workshop, 10-11:30 am, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

**Wednesday 7/9** - Working Class, SummerFun Concert, 6 pm, *Continued on page 11....*

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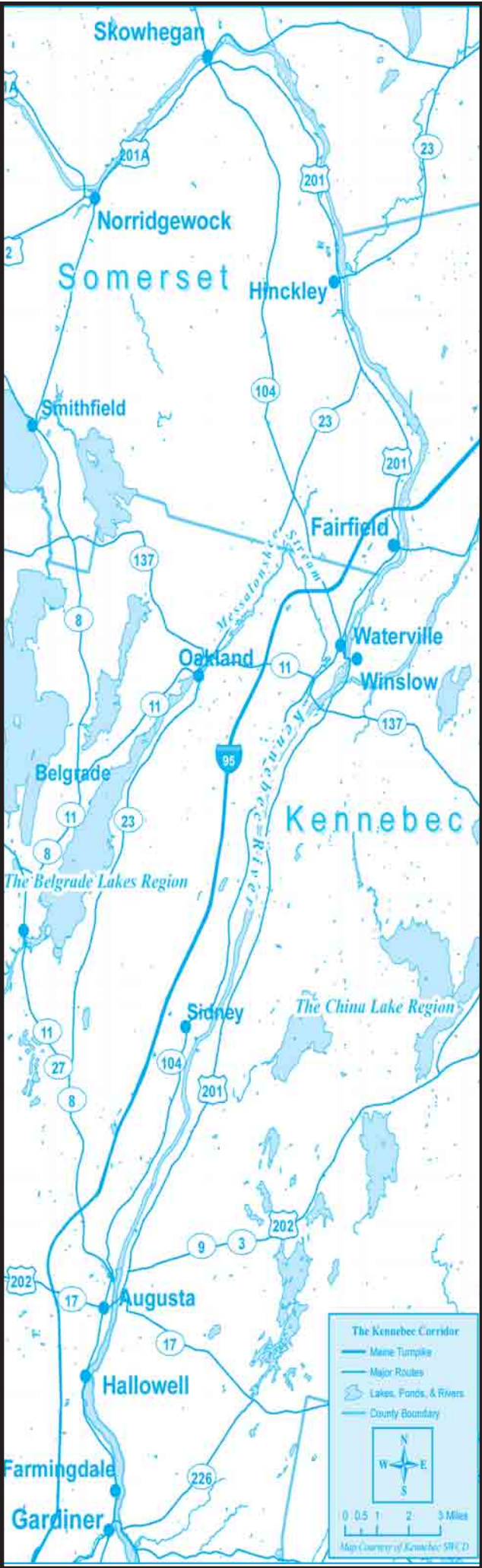
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A parade, a presentation on history, an afternoon of food, music, fun and family activities, a symphony orchestra concert and a finale of fireworks. A full day of celebration is planned in Augusta for Friday, July 4, including:

- 10 am** - a parade from the State House, along Water Street, across the Calumet Bridge and ending at Old Fort Western. (There will be a shuttle between Old Fort Western and Mill Park during the festivities.)
- 11:30 am** - reading of the Declaration of Independence at Old Fort Western by Augusta’s Mayor O’Brien, followed by a musket salute.
  - “Old Time 4th Celebration” - games, contests, wagon rides and a performance by the Down East Brass.
  - BBQ Chicken and Strawberry Shortcake luncheon by Club Calumet.






**1:30 pm** - Mill Park festivities, including a bounce house, games for children, a DJ, live music from Ashley Maron and Dakota and food trucks.

**3-5 pm** - Augusta Symphony Orchestra presents A Maine Capital Fourth at the Civic Center with a patriotic musical celebration. Doors open at 2:30 pm; family activities 3-4 pm; ASO Concert 4-5 pm. Open to the public with free parking, free admission, air-conditioned.

**9:15 pm** - Fireworks display at Mill Park.




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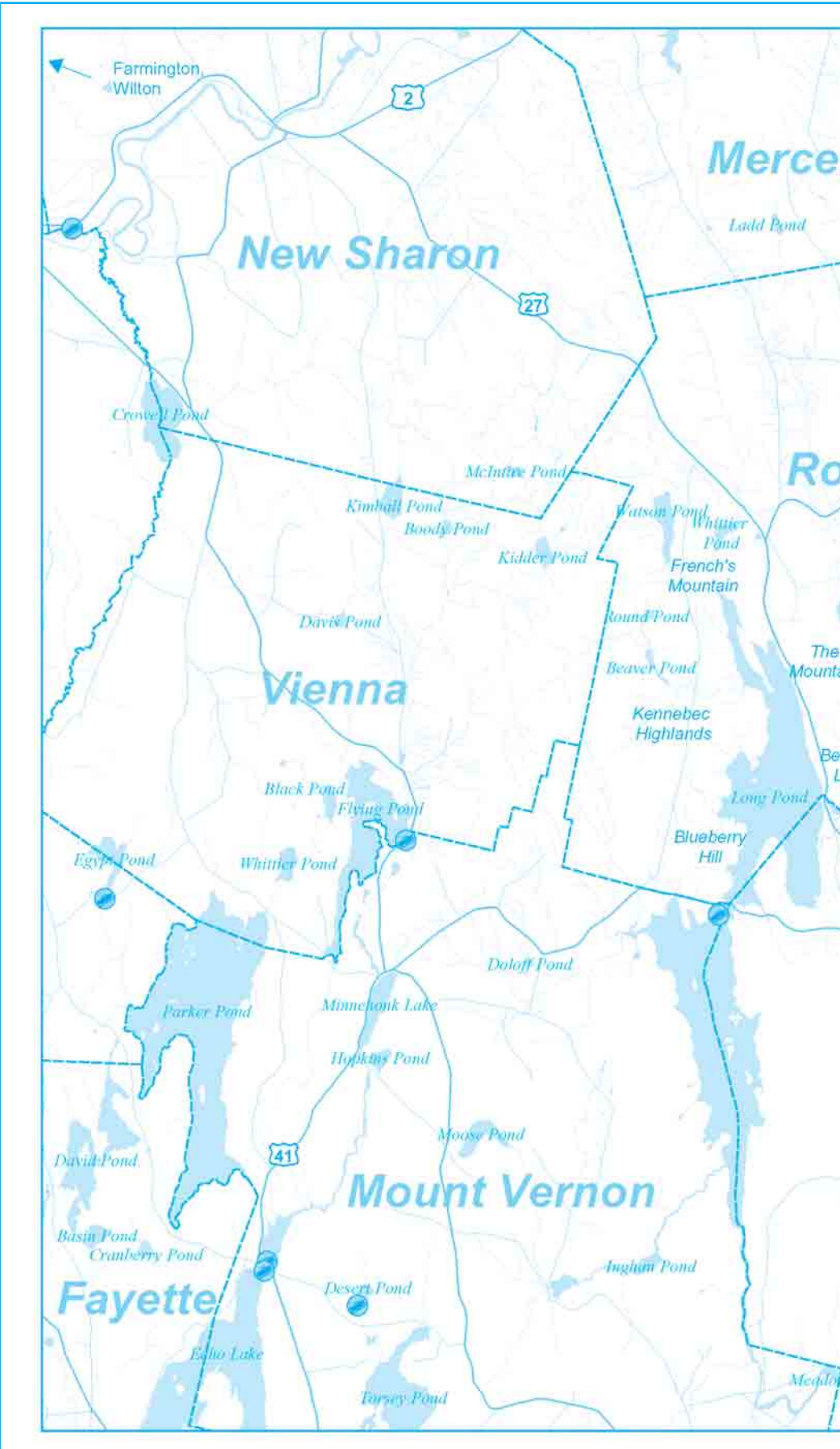
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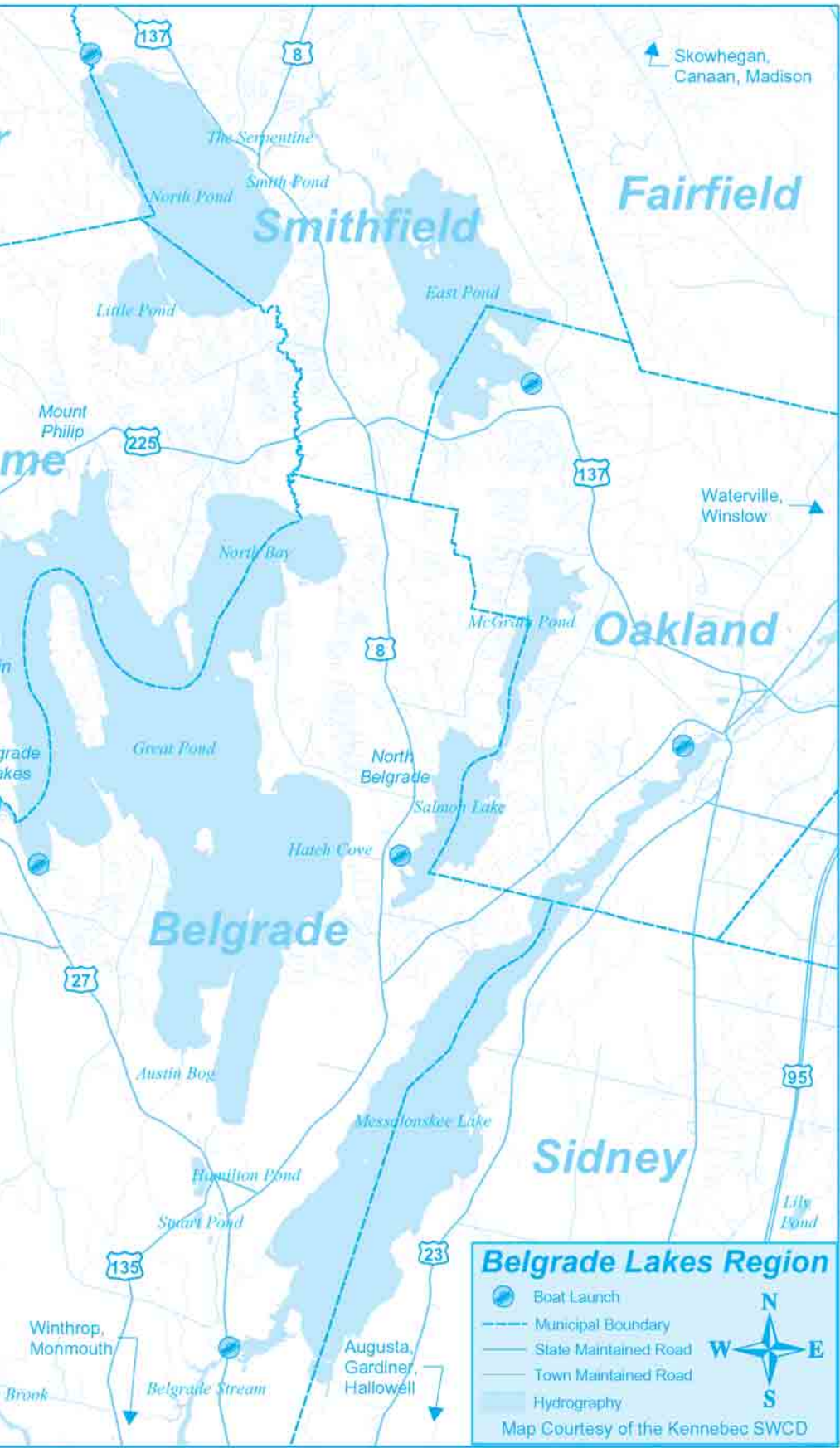
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## Notebook

### 7 Lakes Alliance: Talk By Two Belgrade Authors

- Jennifer Finney Boylan and Ernest Thompson, two Belgrade-oriented authors, will share in a presentation about their writing and their lake connections on Saturday, July 12, 3-5 pm, at the 7 Lakes Alliance headquarters, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes. Boylan will read from her newest book "Cleavage: A Memoir, Men, Women and the Space Between Us" and Thompson will offer a preview of his soon-to-be-released novel "Out Clause." DDG Booksellers will provide numerous titles of both authors for purchase to be signed. The event is free. Please register at <https://7lakesalliance.org/events/>

### Belgrade: Free Daily Story Stroll

The Belgrade Public Library and Library Trustees are hosting a Story Stroll along the walking trail behind the Belgrade Regional Health Center, 4 Clement Way (off Route 27). The featured book is Sugar in Milk, which illustrates the power of kindness and the shared humanity between immigrants and their new communities. The walk is free and open daily all through July and August. The 0.2 mile loop and beautifully illustrated story are a fun activity for young children. 816-2609.

...Continued from page 5



85-yr old John Brower, taking his new wife, Lindsay, outside at French Mountain.

vest that has two "log yard" entrances off Watson Pond Rd. There is more information about this harvest at the trail-head kiosks and at the 7-Lakes office. One of the things the Maine Forest Service is doing is identifying areas where there are significant numbers of white, green and brown ash trees. They are inoculating the trees in these areas to protect many of the trees against Emerald Ash Borers (EAB) in order to create small islands of EAB-resistant trees that could help the forest survive an invasion of EAB. EAB is already in York and Aroostook County and converging towards central Maine. One of these "islands" is right near the Sanders Hill Trailhead where the "Loop" trail comes off the north side of the parking lot. The treated trees are marked with a green metal medallion at eye level.

Check the 7LA Website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and FaceBook site for upcoming events. Our Thursday afternoon (3 to 4 PM) Chewonki presentations are ongoing (July 10: Mammals). We will also be offering regular expeditions on our new education boat on Tuesday mornings at 9 AM and Invasive Plant Workshops on Sunday mornings during the Farmers' Market. Check with Sally (495-6039) in the gallery if you are interested in signing up. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of recreational opportunities this area offers. Do like they used to in "the good old days" and take a kid fishing, or on a hike, or paddling in a canoe. It's how memories are made. Or take a parent, so they can become a kid again. Don't miss the 7 Lakes Summer Celebration on July13th at 4PM to 6PM.



8-yr old Ash with one of several nice fish he caught.

## Oakland: Annual Area Alumni Banquet

- On Saturday, August 9, the Oakland Area Alumni Association will hold its annual banquet at the Waterville Elks Lodge, 76 Industrial Drive. Social Hour will be at 10:30 am. At 12 noon there will be a business meeting and buffet lunch and presentation of the Eagle Award for community involvement and the Generational Award to a family of alumni. The Horace & Louise Pullen Memorial Education Award will be presented to a 2025 graduate or graduates. Attendance is \$28 per classmate and guest. Participants must pre-register with payment by July 25, 2025. For more information contact 314-4981 or [kr8264@gmail.com](mailto:kr8264@gmail.com)

## Waterville: Actors Auditions

- Auditions for the comedy, "The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again" by Michel Tremblay, will be held on Sunday, July 6, from 2-5 pm and Monday, July 7, from 6:30-9:30 pm. The play, which is a heartwarming walk through the playwright's memories of his loving yet sometimes irascible mother, will be performed September 19-21 and 25-28. Auditions are cold readings from the script in the Theater at The Playhouse at Waterville Station, 17 Railroad Square. Call 319-2656 to schedule an audition.



Green marker on treated ash tree.





...Continued from page 15

entered into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

So you may be wondering what happened to Milton Bradley's birthplace in Vienna? If so, you will be pleased to know it is still standing and was purchased in 2009 by the Vienna Historical Society (VHS). Their

small but mighty group of board members and volunteers has since worked diligently to preserve the house as well as the history of Vienna and Mount Vernon. The c 1832 Cape Cod still retains much of its antiquated interior features, including the granite and rubble stone foundation. The cellar recently created a big problem for VHS when one of their

members discovered a foot of water had leaked inside. Further inspection revealed its walls had shifted enough to endanger the stability of the entire structure. "We were told by a contractor that we were lucky the first floor didn't cave in on us," said Ingrid Grenon VHS president. The estimate to do all the interior and exterior work is about \$200,000. VHS has secured a contractor who specializes in restoring historic structures and currently has \$67,000 available to start the work, of which \$32,000 is dedicated to the inside of the cellar. The rest will be used towards excavation and installa-

tion of a drainage system around the exterior of the building to prevent further leakage, according to Grenon. "This house is an important part of Vienna's history and we are going to do our best to save it," she said.

....Continued from page 6

Waterfront Park, Augusta.

**Wednesday 7/9** - Local author Maureen Milliken will talk about her Bernie O'Dea series of murder mysteries, 6 pm, Belgrade Public Library, 124 Depot Road, Belgrade

**Wednesday 7/9** - The High Kings, Irish folk music, ticket \$36-\$46, Waterville Opera House, 1 Common Street, Waterville.

**Thursday 7/10 through Sunday 8/24** - Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare, 933-9999, [www.theateratmonmouth.org](http://www.theateratmonmouth.org), Cumston Hall, Main Street, off Route 202, Monmouth.

**Thursday 7/10** - Mammals of Maine, Chewonki Animal Presentation, 3-4 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

**Thursday 7/10** - Animal Self-Portraits, Art in the Park, free, 3-



The Milton Bradley birthplace in Vienna, Maine is now owned by the Vienna Historical Society (VHS).



3. Ingrid Grenon, VHS president indicates where some of the repairs have been made to the foundation of the Milton Bradley birthplace.

author of non-fiction and historical fiction set in central Maine. Contact (207) 441-9184 or [crossings4u@gmail.com](mailto:crossings4u@gmail.com)

5 pm, Castonguay Square, downtown Waterville.

**Thursday 7/10** - Cruise In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

**Thursday 7/10** - Live at Lithgow, Free Summer Concert, songs, history and an accompanying slideshow pertaining to experiences of veterans of WWI, WWII, the Civil War and other conflicts alongside the history of popular music, 6-7 pm, Lithgow Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta.

**Thursday 7/10** - Working Class, Oakland Waterfront Music Series, 6-8 pm, public boat launch and park, Oakland.

**Thursday 7/10** - The Outcats, Village Green Concert Series, 6-8 pm, Village Green, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Milton Bradley's birthplace is located on the corner of route 41 and Bradley Road in Vienna village. The building is open to the public this summer 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon on Saturday mornings or by appointment. VHS will host an outdoor flea market on Saturday, August 23rd 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. when visitors are welcome; and if anyone has an outdoor booth they would like to set up there is no charge but donations are welcome. FMI contact Ingrid Grenon at (207) 293-8048 or [shier60@verizon.net](mailto:shier60@verizon.net). Donations towards the restoration of the Milton Bradley birthplace can be mailed to Vienna Historical Society c/o Ingrid Grenon at PO Box 177 Mount Vernon, ME 04352.

Dale Potter-Clark is a founder and historian for the Readfield Historical Society and

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**High Peaks Artisan Guild**, art gallery, books and antiques, open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am-5 pm, other times by chance or appointment, 245 Main Street, Kingfield, 340-1045, [highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com](http://highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com)  
**Waterville Creates**, 10 Water Street, Suite 106, Waterville, 616-0292, [www.watervillecreates.org](http://www.watervillecreates.org)

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**Peoples Book Shop**, used books, 605 Wings Mill Road, Mount Vernon, 620-2392, [hosehead51@roadrunner.com](mailto:hosehead51@roadrunner.com)

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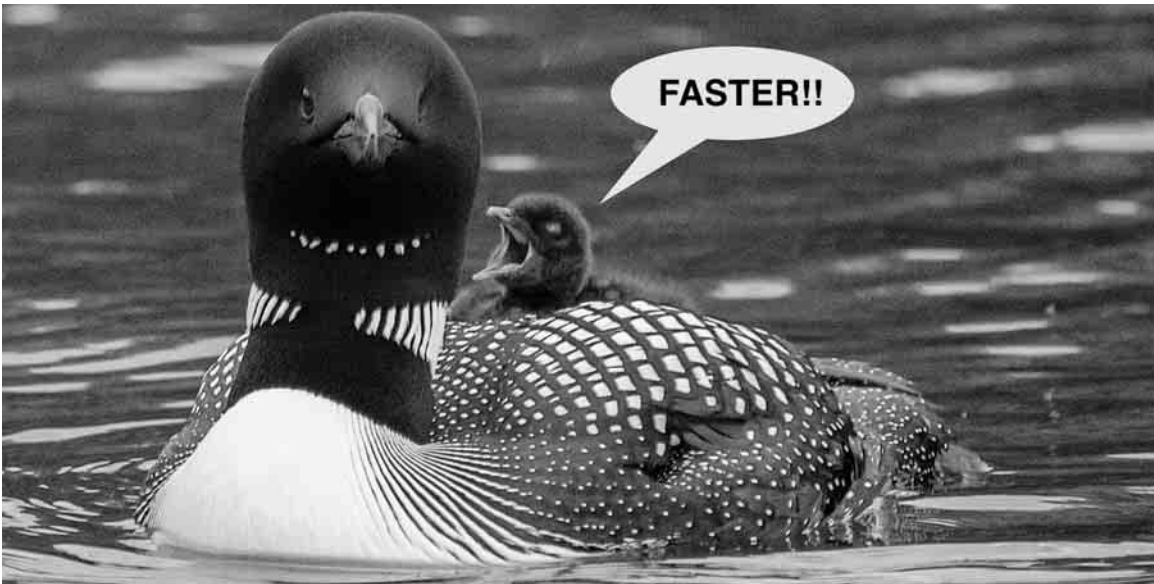


Call of the Loon



Nothing But Chicks!

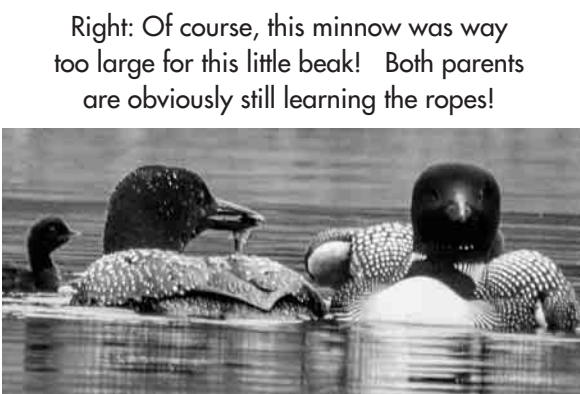
Spring is in the air! As of this writing, we have one pair of chicks on Great Pond and two pair of chicks and one Lone Ranger on Long! At this point in the season, we are discovering new chicks every day. It doesn't get more exciting than this!!



This Long Pond chick is not quite 24 hrs. old and he/she is already barking instructions!



Left: Both of these chicks are also not quite 24 hrs. old yet are learning how to feed. Of course this minnow is way too large for this little beak!



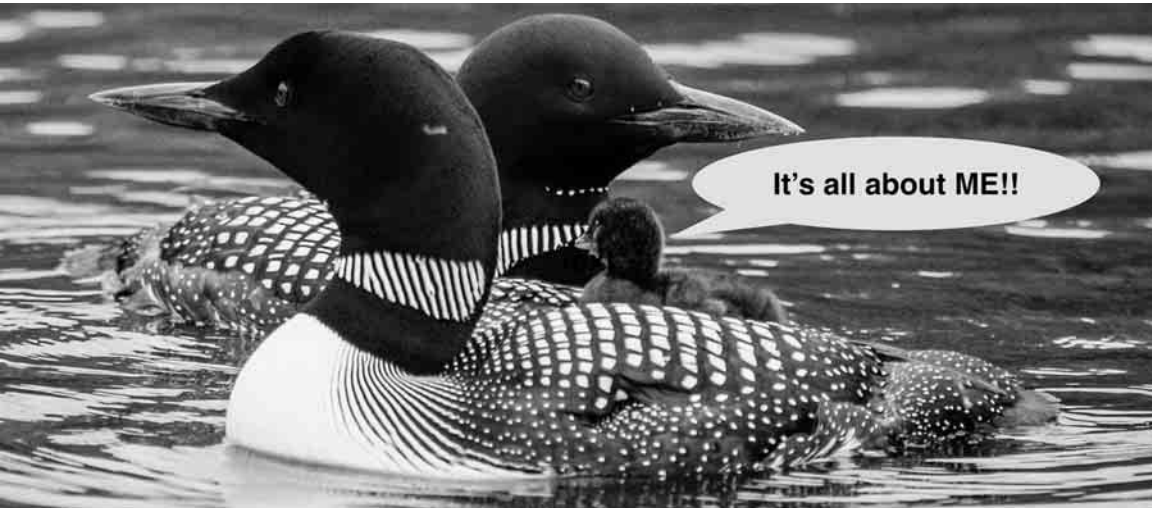
Right: Of course, this minnow was way too large for this little beak! Both parents are obviously still learning the ropes!



Left: The parent is still convinced that the minnow is the right size so will try the fit on his sibling!



The best seat in the house!



Spring and Summer are certainly exciting times here in the Belgrades! If you have a particular questions regarding our Belgrade loons, please email your inquiry to: [info@blamaine.org](mailto:info@blamaine.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







## Books by Belgrade's Boylan

by Martha F. Barkley

How good to recently find *Cleavage* and also a Jodi Picoult creation co-written with Boylan published several years ago.

I keep thinking of the New York Times book review of *Cleavage* that I strongly disagree with. The reviewer mentioned that this new memoir was just as terrific as her first one *She's Not There*. What about Boylan's other terrific memoirs ??? I kept thinking. Every single book Boylan has written about her life has been well received and I personally recommend every single one.

*Cleavage* deals with the mature woman who worries about weight and size 14 dresses. Ho, hum, not again. Jenny Boylan, of course, makes it funny and true, down to the many pizza recipes she indulges in for family get togethers at the lake here in Belgrade.

*Hiking up the Mountain Trail* is memorable in her words with her life-long loving partner. Boylan's two children are also cradled within *Cleavage* too as is the family dog, can't forget the family bound pet.

A very very funny happening at their wedding years and years ago is shared. Read it to find out! Often another incident is repeated throughout this revealing life story:

"At the end of the day she stands by the lake and watched the sun turn the trees on the opposite bank to gold. So deeply does she love that glow that our friends, observing the rays of a setting sun touch the pines, call that 'the Deedie light'." Friendships and family grow through many changes in the Boylan family by the lake, and sunsets continue their constant evening glow.

*She's Not There* was a stirring read for anyone. Colby College support throughout the English professor's career was remarkable and Richard Russo offered very sensitive commentary about his friendship through many years.

*Stuck in the Middle* is amazing family changes for all four of the Boylans, mother and father and two sons. Fun at the lake continues for the entire family during tumultuous growth and love of each other.

### 7 Lakes Alliance: Talk By Two Belgrade Authors

- Jennifer Finney Boylan and Ernest Thompson, two Belgrade-oriented authors, will share in a presentation about their writing and their lake connections on Saturday, July 12, 3-5 pm, at the 7 Lakes Alliance headquarters, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes. Boylan will read from her newest book "Cleavage: A Memoir, Men, Women and the Space Between Us" and Thompson will offer a preview of his soon-to-be-released novel "Out Clause." DDG Booksellers will provide numerous titles of both authors for purchase to be signed. The event is free. Please register at <https://7lakesalliance.org/events/>

*I'm Looking Through You* was especially helpful to me when I read it years ago. This memoir deals with brother and sister issues and then later in the memoir sister and sister issues.

*Good Boy* was a fun book to read and review for *Summertime*. Who doesn't have memories of pets in their own family life? Boylan traces life around the lake with seven dogs, actually more than seven. She returns to her childhood and recalls pets then as well.

Friends have told me they could tell their family stories through pets just as Boylan did in *Good Boy*. My family pet stories would involve two dogs and three cats, vivid memories of different stages of life as our family grew.

Now *Cleavage* is her newest bestseller and I found the cover funny just like her stories within. Not all light reading about the life of a mature woman of weight gain and dress sizes going up and up.

Many of you dear readers are Jodi Picoult followers, so maybe you read her joint effort with Jenny Boylan entitled *Mad Honey*. This popular novelist does her research and there's a lot about honeybees and delicious golden honey. I kept thinking of my favorite honeybee novel: *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue

Monk Kidd.

Any of Kidd's books are a feast and page turners, especially her historic fiction novels. Kidd's later in life writings touch my heart, especially firstlight: makes me think of Maine sunrises and not SC sunrises...

Oh, back to Boylan: read any of her memoirs and find memories around our beautiful Belgrade Lakes in all of them. As our families grow and change, we can still enjoy moments of peace and beauty here by our favorite blue water surrounded by pine scented woods and bowing beeches and drooping hemlocks. "The Deedie light" happens many evenings around the Belgrade Lakes as the sun spreads its glorious evening colors for all to view... Thank you Jenny Boylan for reminding us.



## Maine's Most Alluring Movie Makes its Waterville Premiere

*A Peace of Forest*, the first feature length wildlife movie filmed in Maine, has been screening to sell out audiences and will make its Waterville, Maine premiere at The Playhouse at Waterville Station from July 11 thru July 20, 2025.

Created in Whitefield, Maine, *a Peace of Forest*, has been described by audience members as, "The most beautiful film I have ever seen, exhibiting our natural world," and "This film is a gift; it is so rich."

Touted as a quiet film, *a Peace of Forest* is a one-of-a-kind cinematic adventure allowing viewers to experience a wild, peaceful and mysterious world that is filled with complex relationships and ways of wonder. The 87-minute film celebrates the beauty and intimacy of wildlife in Maine with surprising, tender and exquisite interactions of wildlife during undisturbed moments in Maine's natural world.

The film makers and producers, Lee Ann Szelog and Thomas Mark Szelog, will host a post-screening discussion and audience Q&A after the July 12, 2025, 7:00 p.m. screening.

The husband and wife team of Lee Ann Szelog and Thomas Mark Szelog have a combined total of 60 years of professional wildlife image-making. Often described as Maine's most renowned wildlife photographers, the Szelogs specialize in photographing wildlife in remote locations, using the most ethical wildlife photography practices. They are the recipients of the Philip Hyde Award, presented annually to photographers who are working to preserve the condition of the natural environment through the art of photography. As active proponents of environmental awareness, they promote wildlife conservation and preservation through their films, lectures, exhibits, writings, and photographs. Their book *Our Point of View—Fourteen Years at a Maine Lighthouse*, has been honored as one of the best photo books by Shutterbug magazine and was the winner of the Best Maine-Themed Book in the Maine Literary Awards from the Maine Writers and Publishers Association. The book also is a Gold Medal

winner from the Independent Publishers Association.

*A Peace of Forest* is a masterpiece of their lifelong advocacy and was produced by their production company, Bear Brook Productions, LLC. More information about the film can be found at [apeaceofforest.com](http://apeaceofforest.com).

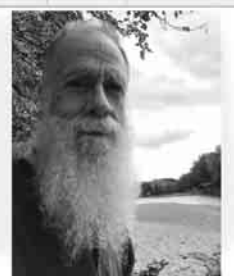
The Playhouse At Waterville Station's mission is to provide cultural entertainment and enrichment to the Central Maine community, as well as to provide opportunities for community members to put on their own events and performances. It is the new home of the Waterville-based community theater group, Aqua City Actors Theatre, as well as home of the Elm City Community Music School and the Fulton Street Media Group.

Dates, times and tickets are available at [theplayhouse.me](http://theplayhouse.me).



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## Playing Games With a Familiar Name

By Dale Potter-Clark

How many times did you play "Candy Land" with your siblings or friends when you were young? As you got older you may have played "The Game of Life" as you sat around the table after a family meal? If so, did you ever notice the "MB" logo on the box? MB stands for the multi-million dollar "Milton Bradley Company," which became a name familiar to just about everyone after 1860.

Milton Bradley hailed from Vienna in Kennebec County where he was born November 18, 1836 in his parents' home. He was the only child of Lewis and Fannie (Lyford) Bradley whose parents had migrated from Rockingham County, NH to Vienna (Bradley) and Mount Vernon (Lyford) between 1799 and 1804. Since Milton was their only child the couple was especially affectionate and saw to it that he was raised in a hard-working, Christian household. They disapproved of dancing, drinking alcohol or gambling but they did enjoy playing chess and checkers with their son and they read to him in the evening. Education was important to Lewis who taught Milton mathematic concepts by using objects such as apples and the boy was a quick learner. His father's emphasis on education and their pleasure in reading and game playing came to serve Milton well as an adult.

Lewis Bradley was a carpenter and he also ran a potato starch factory until the potato blight hit in the early 1840s and he was forced to close his business and moved his family from Maine to Lowell, MA in



1. Milton Bradley, famed creator and maker of board and card games, action puzzles, educational materials for school students and more.

1847, and from there to Haverhill. Despite changing schools more than once Milton was strong in science and math, thanks to his father's tutoring and he also became a talented artist and draftsman. He studied technical drawing at the Lawrence Scientific School at Cambridge, Massachusetts, helping to pay his tuition by giving drawing lessons and selling stationery and writing supplies to his fellow students. Due to his parents' financial restrictions, he had to leave Lawrence after a year and he went to work as a draftsman. That led to his interest in lithography.

Milton Bradley was living in Springfield, MA and

working for a railroad company as a lithologist when he got the idea for his first board game: The "Checkered Game of Life." He was 24 years old in 1860 when he decided to put all his energy into making board games and established his own company. This was reorganized in 1884 and named the Milton Bradley Company. His first venture was to New York City where he readily sold the hundreds of "Life" games he had produced himself to newsstand, stationary and department store merchants. After that his game quickly became a sensation and by 1861 he had manufactured 40,000 Games of Checkered Life.

In 1869 Bradley heard a lecture about a new concept of education for five year olds, called kindergarten. His interest was sparked and he began to champion the kindergarten philosophy of learning through play. Up until then young children had been taught through memorization of facts and numbers. Bradley began producing materials that could be used in kindergarten classrooms, such as crayons, watercolor paints and colored paper. By the end of the 19th century his company was producing about everything a school could need including: desks, chairs, tables, chalkboards, paper, paints, educational toys and games.

Milton Bradley continued to invent and make toys, games and school supplies until he died on May 30, 1911 in Springfield, MA. He is often credited as the father of board games. In 2006 he was

*Continued on page 11....*



## The Dams Keeper Report

As of this writing, all of our pond water levels are actually pretty much where they belong – I can't believe I am writing this at this time of the summer! Thanks to what has felt like persistent showers, they really haven't amounted to much. We have only received .10" of precipitation for the past ten days with just .36" forecasted for the next ten. Normal July precipitation for our area is 3.43", so if 86"/wk. is normal, it looks like we might be headed for another drought of sorts. Great lake weather but our gardens are going to require a little bit more TLC!

Great Pond's Village dam is currently 1.44" above full pond with the main gate closed, as are all of our gates. Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is right at 2.64", also above full pond. Salmon/McGrath is exactly at .06" above full pond, essentially full pond, with its single gate valve still opened the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are down 3.48" below full which is just a fact of life with its electricity generation needs and our current (as I write this) need for A/C! Obviously, we are back to our "Save the Water" mode.

With this past week's heat, all of our ponds lost about 3/10" per day and in doing some research, these are actually normal evaporation rates. An interesting article by C.E. Grunsky entitled "Evaporation from lakes and reservoirs", going back to September 1931, suggests that the evaporation rate with an ambient outside temperature of 85F is approximately 3/10" per day. And if that wasn't enough, about 80% of our camps still use lake water and in addition to the slight seepage from our dams, you can see why we are trying to keep the lakes at 3" above full for a little wiggle room!

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

Hope you get a chance to enjoy your favorite lake!

Welcome back!

Dick

Dick Greenan

Belgrade Lakes Inter-lakes Dams Committee



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