

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 5

MIFF: More Movies Than Ever Before

by Gregor Smith

Come one, come all! The 28th annual Maine International Film Festival opens tonight, Friday, July 11, and will run for ten days. Not only a chance to watch movies, the festival allows you to discuss the films not only with other movie lovers but also with the moviemakers and to travel the world without leaving the comfort of a padded, reclining seat in an air-conditioned theater.

Each year, MIFF presents a wide array of new feature films and shorts, both fiction and non-fiction, from independent producers in Maine and far beyond. The festival also hosts various filmmakers and holds retrospectives of their work.

Festival organizers boast that this year's MIFF has more movies than ever before, due in part to their having received more submissions this year than ever before. While most of the 100+ films will be premieres of some sort (e.g. Maine, New England, United States, World), the festival will also offer a sprinkling of newly restored editions of classic films.

All screenings will take place in the three cinemas on the second floor of the Paul J. Schupf Art Center at 93 Main Street in downtown Waterville and in the adjoining, 123-year-old Waterville Opera House. Except where otherwise noted, the screenings described below will take place in the 800-seat Opera House and will start at 7:00 p.m. All quotes are from the festival's website.

The festival will open with *The Librarians*, a documentary lauding those stal-



The Librarians



The Constituent

wart public servants and defenders of freedom of expression who now find themselves conscripted to fight on the front lines of the culture wars against groups who seek to ban books on LGBTQ+ and Black themes. "Simultaneously infuriating and invigorating,...*The Librarians* speaks directly to our current reality and one which advocates unabashedly for the rights and freedoms vital to a healthy democracy."

On Sunday at 4:00, you can watch a newly restored *Dead River Rough Cut*, the first Maine movie to screen during this year's festival. Filmed in 1975 by Richard Searls and Railroad Square Cinema co-founder Stu Silverstein, this documentary chronicles a year in the lives of Walter Lane and Bob Wagg, two woodsmen enjoying their solitary lives hunting, trapping, fishing, and logging. In the film, they talk about "friendship, women, money, the lone life, and death. Amusing, insightful, sometimes outrageous, their


observations and stories pull few punches."

That 68-minute documentary will be paired with "The Constituent," a new, 37-minute dramatic "short" directed by and starring Ernest Thompson. Best known as the playwright who crafted *On Golden Pond*, Thompson adapted "The Constituent" from his one-act play of the same name. Set and shot in New Hampshire, the film also stars Gordon Clapp, who is best known as Detective

Continued on page 2

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MIFF
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July 11-20, 2025

Passes, Tickets, and Program
available

MIFF.ORG



Continued from page 1

Greg Medavoy from the 1990s police drama *NYPD Blue*.

(On Saturday, July 12, Thompson will talk about the film, and he and Jennifer Finney Boylan, author of the bestselling memoir *She's Not There*, will each read from their latest works from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the 7 Lakes Alliance in Belgrade Lakes. Although admission is free, space is limited and reservations encouraged. For more information, visit <https://7lakesalliance.org/events/>.)

On Tuesday, July 15, MIFF will present its Mid-Life Achievement Award to British actor Clive Owen after a screening of *Croupier* (1998), in which Owen portrays a struggling writer who takes a job in a casino and is solicited to take part in a risky robbery. MIFF will also show five of Owen's other films: *Gosford Park* (2001), *I'll Sleep When I'm Dead* (2003), *Closer* (2004), *Children of Men* (2006), and *Duplicity* (2009). Except for *Sleep*, which will screen on Monday at 3:00 p.m. in Cinema 1, the Clive Owen movies all screen on either Tuesday or Wednesday in the Opera House. Check the festival's program guide or website for times. Each film will be shown only once.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, MIFF will shine its spotlight on movies from Cambodia and Israel. From Cambodia comes *Diamond Island* (2016), a drama about the mass migration of the nation's youth from the countryside to work in the capital's construction



The Negotiator

sites, and *Last Night I Saw You Smiling* (2019), a documentary which follows three families during their last days in their beloved, but dilapidated, apartment complex before it is torn down.

The three Israeli films are all works of director, producer, and cinematographer Avigail Sperber: *The Three of Us* is a documentary feature about a young couple's attempts to integrate their autistic son into a society that does not readily accept the neurodivergent; *If You Let Me Go* is a documentary about a 1990s pathbreaking, female, punk rocker who died young; and "Gevald," a narrative short to be shown with *If You Let Me Go*, follows an LGBTQ+ activist who challenges Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox establishment.

All of the screenings described in the previous two paragraphs take place in the three cinemas in the Schupf Center. Check the MIFF program book or website for times and locations.

On Wednesday evening, MIFF will present its Centerpiece Film. *The Negotiator* is a new documen-

tary from the United Kingdom about Waterville native and former U.S. Senator and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, who, among his many other accomplishments, negotiated an end to the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland in 1998. Directed by Trevor Birney, who produced last year's Closing Night Film *Kneecap*, *The Negotiator* is a "timely, contemporary, and deeply personal film [that] poses provocative ques-

tions about positive United States engagement with the wider world, and how Senator Mitchell — with his inexhaustible patience — turned the apparently impossible into the possible."



On Thursday, you can attend the world premiere of the documentary *76 Days Adrift*, the first of the four, new, made-in-Maine feature films to screen during MIFF. (The other three, documentaries *InhuMaine* and *A Moment in the Sun* and thriller *Sight Unseen*, will not debut until the festival's closing weekend, so we'll save them for next week.)

In *76 Days*, we hear the harrowing tale of Steven Callahan, a solo sailor who, after losing his boat six days into a trans-Atlantic crossing, survived for a month and a half aboard an inflatable life raft before being rescued. The film "explores not just physical endurance, but the transformative power of isolation and the profound bond between human and nature. It's more than a tale of survival — it's a meditation

Continued on page 14...

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Table of Contents

It's Time To Take In A Film: From Local to Global:..... 1-2

Table of Contents: Summer Enjoyment Starts Here..... 3

Lake Messalonskee Milfoil Remediation Efforts..... 3

7 Lakes Alliance: Inaugural Leadership Circle Event..... 4

Belgrade Historical Society: Canned Sweet Corn 4

Take It Outside with Pete Kallin: Kids Can Catch But Not Eat Fish..... 5

Calendar of Events: For All the On-the-Goers..... 6

Waterfront Gardiner: A Summer Ritual Market..... 7

Map of the Belgrades: Routes and Byways and Waterways, Too..... 8-9

7 Lakes Sponsors Conversations with Two Outstanding Authors..... 10

Notebook: What's Up, What's of Interest, What's Coming Up..... 11

Business Guide: Great Goods and Super Services 12-13

Call of the Loon: An Intern Writes: Lots of Love for Loons..... 13

Books with Martha Barkley: The Belgrade Community Read Book..... 14

Real Estate Update: Summer Is A Turning Point..... 15

Dams Keeper Report: Refreshing But Not Perfect..... 15

Messalonskee Steps up its Milfoil Remediation Efforts



For the past 20 years, Friends of Messalonskee (FOM) has worked tirelessly to preserve the health and beauty of Messalonskee Lake. As a grassroots, volunteer organization, FOM has worked to reduce harmful runoff into the lake, to control milfoil growth and ensure that our lake remains clear. With the assistance of State and local funding, grants, and generous donations from its members, FOM has funded milfoil removal using diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH), hand pulling, and laying barriers to growth. Without these efforts, milfoil would have taken over the shores of the lake by now, reducing property values and recreational activities.

Although FOM's efforts have made a big difference, milfoil growth has been increasing to the point that Messalonskee is now the second most infested lake in Maine. Milfoil enters the lake through the Belgrade Stream, which is heavily infested. As a result, the southern end of the lake has developed thick areas of milfoil infestation, and there are several other shoreline areas with significant growth.

FOM has now partnered with 7 Lakes Alliance and the Maine DEP to more aggressively combat milfoil. The DEP has awarded 7 Lakes a significant 2 year grant that includes funds for milfoil remediation on Messalonskee lake. There will be increased DASH, hand-pulling and laying of barriers. FOM is contributing financially to this effort, and has a team of volunteers that continually survey the lake shores to record and track milfoil growth.

FOM also partners with 7 Lakes Alliance in its Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBIs) at the lakes 2 boat launches. This year, FOM volunteers are assisting with CBIs at the Oakland boat launch one day a week for much of the summer.

With the more aggressive approach to combatting milfoil and continuing its other watershed programs, FOM has experienced increased costs. Consequently, FOM has embarked on a fundraising campaign to raise at least \$20,000 to meet these costs. A raffle is being conducted with a prize of \$5,000 to be awarded at a drawing on August 30. Raffle tickets can be purchased online with a debit card on the FOM website, friendsfomessalonskee.com, or at various public events including the Belgrade Farmers Market, Belgrade Village Green Artisan Fair, and Oakfest. You must be in Maine when you make a purchase, but you do not to be in Maine to win.

FOM is grateful to its members, donors and volunteers, and always welcomes more participation in its efforts to preserve and protect the lake.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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Explore Messalonskee Lake and its Ecology by Kayak – July & August

Messalonskee Lake and Steam are wonderful natural resources of the mid-Maine region and offer numerous recreational and conservation activities. If you have always wanted to learn to kayak and explore the lake's ecology, this class will offer a free kayak lesson and will provide all equipment needed. You will also learn about the flora and fauna of the lake and stream followed by a kayak paddle near shore to find various specimens. Prerequisite: know the basics of how to swim, but we will be staying close to shore. Please wear water shoes; a bathing suit or shorts, sunglasses or polarized glasses, sunscreen, and hat are also helpful and appropriate. Do be prepared with extra clothes just in case you get wet. Must be 17 to register. If needed, a Rain Date

Continued on page 4...

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7 LAKES ALLIANCE Summer Celebration

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/ so we may have an accurate head count.

Sponsored by: Hammond Lumber Company



A Night to Remember: Inaugural 7 Lakes Alliance Leadership Circle Gathering

On the evening of June 27th, members of the 7 Lakes Alliance Leadership Circle gathered for a memorable celebration at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club. Against the backdrop of a spectacular summer sunset and panoramic views of thousands of conserved acres of land, including the Kennebec Highlands, the event was a reflection of both gratitude and shared commitment to protecting the lakes and lands of the Belgrade Lakes region.

Guests enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres while taking in sweeping views of the very lands and lakes that Leadership Circle members help conserve. It was an evening of connection and inspiration as attendees heard updates from CEO Dr. Chris Monz and new board chair, Jane Eberle and co-chair Rachel Gaddes Jablonowski.



Board chair Jane Eberle (right) and co-chair Rachel Jablonowski (left) with Laurie Raleigh of 7 Lakes Alliance.

The evening marked the inaugural Leadership Circle event, celebrating those whose annual donations of \$1,000 or more provide critical funding for 7 Lakes Alliance's year-round programs. These donations directly support work to address the growing environmental challenges facing our watershed, including harmful algal blooms and invasive aquatics that threaten the health of our lakes.

The Leadership Circle's generosity sustains our mission to safeguard and restore the Belgrade Lakes region through science-based conservation and strong community partnerships. We are deeply grateful to all members

of the Leadership Circle for their vital sustained support. This new tradition honors both their impact and the important work made possible by their commitment and investment in protecting the place we all hold dear.

...Continued from page 3

will be announced. Limit 8 students.

Monday, 10:00 a.m.—Noon | 1 Meeting, July 21

Sponsored by the Adult Ed office at Messalonskee High School and Friends of Messalonskee Watershed

Meet at the State of Maine Boat Launch on Old Rt 27 in Belgrade across from Loon Ridge Cottages and near Hammond Lumber in Belgrade, ME.

Self-Supporting Registration Fee: \$7, Mike Guarino, Maine Wilderness Tours, Instructor and Friends of Messalonskee Lake Member.

Monday, 10:00 a.m.—Noon | 1 Meeting, August 11

Sponsored by the Adult Ed office at Messalonskee High School and Friends of Messalonskee Watershed

Meet at the State of Maine Boat Launch on Old Rt 27 in Belgrade across from Loon Ridge Cottages and near Hammond Lumber in Belgrade, ME.

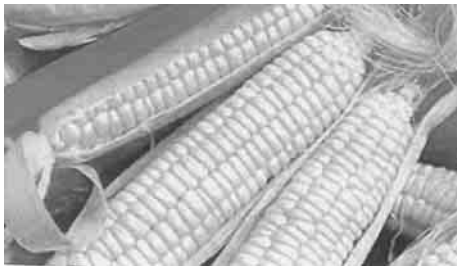
Self-Supporting Registration Fee: \$7, Mike Guarino, Maine Wilderness Tours, Instructor and Friends of Messalonskee Lake Member.

Belgrade History Beyond Belgrade Canning Sweet Corn

Submitted by BHS member Dianne Dowd

When I was doing research on the Ice Harvesting Industry, I came across another industry that once flourished in Maine, that of the canning of sweet corn. Canned sweet corn from Maine was exported across the globe and was highly sought after. This industry lasted from the 1860s to the 1960s and brought prosperity to rural communities across Maine.

While in France in the late 1830s, sea captain, Isaac Winslow of Portland became interested in canning. He acquired the appropriate French canning



patents and during his voyage home, he developed a plan for canning Maine sweet corn. By 1844, together with his brother, Nathan, Winslow had perfected the process. First the kernels are stripped from the cob with a curved knife, then placed in a tin can. The can is heated to

kill bacteria and then hermetically sealed.

Maine's weather and its favorable growing season produced the perfect sweet corn, picked in the milk stage rather than in the ripe stage (like grain corn). Using Winslow's process, the crop quickly became a success. In 1861, 12,000,000 cans of corn were packed in Maine. With only a short time span for the harvest of sweet corn, the canning factories or "Corn Shops" needed to be located near the farms ensuring freshly picked corn. By the end of the 19th century, 75 Corn Shops could be found in rural Maine including one in Belgrade.

John Crowell Taylor, a Belgrade native of Westport, Massachusetts returned to the family farm following his 2nd marriage in 1882. In April of 1885, he and his son, Edwin opened a corn shop, J.C. Taylor & Son in Belgrade. The cannery was located near the stream bridge in Belgrade Depot. With the railroad nearby for shipping and a contract for 30 acres of sweet corn, Taylor produced a superior product. Most of his inventory was shipped to Massachusetts. Later he would expand his business to include canned apples. Belgrade's corn shop closed around 1900.

With increased competition from other parts of the country and the economic conditions of the Great Depression, Maine's corn canning industry began a steady decline. Maine's last remaining corn shop located in Farmington (site of MacDonald's and Irving station) closed in 1968.



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— Take It Outside —

Grandkids Can Catch Them But Shouldn't Eat Them

By Peter Kallin

Hard to believe this is already the 5th column of the summer! The hot weather last week, combined with the 4th of July holiday, resulted in a lot of grandkids in town for the fireworks and getting out on the lake. There was a lot of swimming, tubing, and general cooling off in and near the water. My friend Dick Greenan had his son, Jason, and grandkids Sean (9) and Ben (19) visiting for some fishing and wakeboarding. I was encouraged to see a lot of youngsters out fishing with their families. Many of the families were catching sunfish and smallmouth bass and keeping some for a 4th of July fish fry. I warned some of them that the youngsters shouldn't be eating fish from the lake. It's pretty depressing warning grandkids they shouldn't eat the fish they are catching!

I still remember the pride I felt when I first brought home fish the family would eat for dinner. I looked forward to sharing the bounty and learned to clean, cook, and eat fish. My Scandinavian family ate fish at least three or four times a week, especially during the summer. Fresh fish is still one of my favorite meals. Unfortunately, our grandchildren won't have that option, at least not until they are over the age of 8. Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife (IFW) and Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) have issued safe consumption guidelines (<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/laws-rules/consumptionadvisory.html>) for Maine's freshwater fish, which are contaminated with mercury. Pregnant and nursing women, women who may get pregnant, and children under age 8 are advised to eat NO freshwater fish from Maine's inland waters, except that they may safely consume one meal per month of brook trout or landlocked salmon. All others are advised to eat no more than two freshwater fish meals per month, except for brook trout and landlocked salmon, which can be safely consumed once a week. The



Left: Ben Greenan with nice bass. Above: Sean and Ben Greenan ready for wake-boarding.

primary source of the mercury in Maine's lakes and rivers is air pollution from coal-fired power plants in the Midwest. These plants are being phased out but WAY too slowly. Maine is particularly susceptible to mercury pollution because of our acidic precipitation and thin soils with little or no carbonates that can provide buffering. There are other site-specific restrictions for other contaminants, such as PFAS, PCBs, DIOXINS, and DDT. Recently, Maine CDC issued a consumption advisory for PFAS/PFOS for fish caught in Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond. The general population should consume no more than one fish meal a month from these waters (children under 8 and pregnant females should consume no fish). In the Messalonskee Stream between Rice Rips and the Kennebec, adults should consume no more than three fish meals a YEAR. Please check the IFW website above before consuming your fish. And please contact your federal legislators and ask them to support stricter air pollution standards so we can eat the fish we catch!

On a brighter note, I did get out hiking a bit and the trails are in good shape thanks to the hard work of the 7-Lakes Stewardship Committee. Each trail has a volunteer "Trail Steward" who hikes the trails regularly, does routine maintenance and reports more difficult projects to Dan Woughter. For French Mountain, Chris and Andy Cook are the Trail Stewards and they regularly get their kids and grandkids outside to take care of the trails as a family project.

On July 5th, I did my annual "morning after" cleanup cruise the morning after the fireworks. Most years I get one or two bags of floating debris, fireworks remnants, dead fish, beach balls, etc. This year the lake was clean, in part because it was a smaller show, done from land, and attracted fewer boaters. Fireworks are loud and exciting but are not great for our water quality or the nesting loons raising their chicks. Every different color is from a different heavy metal. The propellant contains a lot of perchlorate and phosphorus. The most dangerous are the so-called "water kegs," which are fired into the water and explode underwater while firing more fireworks up into the air. Many large venues like Sea World, Disney, and others are switching over to laser light shows and

Continued on page 10 ...

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— Calendar —

Through Saturday 7/12 - Ravenscroft, mystery surrounds 5 alluring and dangerous women, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Friday 7/11 - Tour of Lake Messalonskee, educational and ecological, aboard the Snowdrifter II, sponsored by Mid-Maine Regional Adult Community Education, 873-5754, 465-9134, Oakland.

Friday 7/11 - Bites & Sites, the Downtown Skowhegan Food Tour, visit six amazing locations, 2 and 4 pm, \$75, space limited, contact Main Street Skowhegan, leave from Joe's Flat Iron Cafe, Water Street, Skowhegan.

Friday 7/11 - Skowhegan River Days, Moonlight Madness, annual street party, concessions, climbing wall, chainsaw carving demos, live music, beer garden, bed races, 4-9 pm, Water Street. downtown Skowhegan.

Friday 7/11 and Saturday 7/12 - Jazz Camp final concerts, student concerts 7/11 6:30 pm, 7/12 10 am; faculty concerts 8 pm, mainejazzcamp@earthlink.net, University of Maine, Farmington.

Friday 7/11 - Darlin' Corey, Erica Brown, Matt Shipman & Kris Day, original and traditional bluegrass, folk and country, 2 pm and 7 pm, free and open to the public, air-conditioned, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

Friday 7/11 - Colwell Brothers, classic rock and soul, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 7/11 - Twelfth Night, by William Shakespeare, opening night, scheduled in repertoire through 8/24, 7:30 pm, 933-9999, Cumston Hall, the Theater at Monmouth.

Friday 7/11 - Sunday 7/20 - Maine International Film Festival, a full line-up of more than 100 films, tickets and passes available at MIFF.org, Schupf Center and Waterville Opera House, Main Street, Waterville.

Saturday 7/12 through 7/26 - Book Sale at the Waterville Public Library, 73 Elm Street, Waterville.

Saturday 7/12 - 6th Annual Strawberry Festival, artisans, crafters, music, food, children's activities, farmers' market and The Cardboard Boat Race, 9 am-3 pm, Route 133, Wayne Village.

Saturday 7/12 - Tee Off On Cancer, raising funds to support Mainers with cancer, starts at 9 am, sign up at masont14@yahoo.com or ggibson1820@gmail.com, Lakewood Golf Course, Route 201, Madison.

Saturday 7/12 - Mean Girls, 10 am and 1 pm, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Saturday 7/12 - Food Truck Fest, sponsored by Lithgow Public Library, grab a lunch, sign up for a library card, play games, learn what the library has to offer, noon to 4 pm, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Saturday 7/12 - Writers Jennifer Finney Boylan ("Cleavage") and Ernest Thompson (On Golden Pond) will hold a discussion about their work, 3-5 pm, register at <https://7lakesalliance.org/events/>, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Saturday 7/12 - Church Supper, steel drum band Vintage Steel performing, 5:30 pm, Smithfield Baptist Church, Smithfield.

Saturday 7/12 - Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations, 7 pm, 293-4321, Union Hall, Vienna Mountain Road, Vienna.

Saturday 7/12 - New England Music Camp POPS Concert, ticketed event, 7:30 pm, snowpond.org, Bowl in the Pines, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 7/12 - Maple and Pine, followed by Open Mic, Union Coffeehouse, 7 pm, refreshments, \$10 donation at door, Union Church, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/13 - Summer Ritual Market, vendors, food trucks, live music, interactive workshops, kids activities, a short walk from Historic Downtown Gardiner restaurants and shops, 10 am-4 pm, along the Kennebec River, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

Sunday 7/13 - 7 Lakes Alliance Summer Celebration, celebration of the Belgrade lakes watershed volunteers and supporters, learn about the work being done, no fee to attend, 4-6 pm, RSVP at 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/13 - The Authenticators, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/14 - Western Maine Foothills Band, selections from Big Band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm, Meeting House Park, Main Street, Farmington.

Tuesday 7/15 - Conserved Land Education Boat Tour, 10-11:30 am, register at 7lakesalliance.org/allevvents, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/15 - Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations, outdoor concert, Turcotte's To Go food truck, M&M's Ice Cream & More, free admission, 5-7 pm, Oosoola Park, Ferry Road, Norridgewock.

Tuesday 7/15 - Bandwich, Crowd Pleasing Tune-age, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street,

Daily through August 31 - Story Stroll on the walking trail around the Belgrade Regional Health Center, 4 Clement Way, Belgrade (off Rt 27). Sponsored by the Belgrade Library Trustees. Free. 495-3508

Note:

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, Belgrade (off Rt 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.

Hallowell.

Tuesday 7/15 - New England Music Camp, Faculty Recital, free, 7:30 pm, snowpond.org, Alumni Hall, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Wednesday 7/16 - Invasive Plant ID Workshop, 10-11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/16 - Toby McAlister and The Sierra Sounds, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Thursday 7/17 - Predators of Maine with Chewonki, 3 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/17 - Lazy Susan Animation and Festival Fun, Waterville Creates Art Program, book read aloud followed by project, rain or shine, 3-5 pm, Castonguay Square, Main Street, Waterville.

Thursday 7/17 - Cruise-In, DJ music, Waterfront Park, 5-7 pm, Gardiner.

Thursday 7/17 - Don and Cindy Roy, Franco-American Musicians, Quebecois and Acadian, free, 6 pm, Lithgow Library, Winthrop Street, Augusta.

Thursday 7/17 - Sharon Hood & Dixon Road, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

Thursday 7/17 - Bess Jacques and The Strays, Village Green Music Series, downtown Belgrade Lakes 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com

Thursday 7/17 - Saturday 7/26 - Theater People, or the angel next door, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Thursday 7/17 - Student Recital, New England Music Camp, 7:30 pm, free, Alumni Hall, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Thursday 7/17 - Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2-B, preview night, 7:30 pm, Cumston Hall, the Theater at Monmouth.



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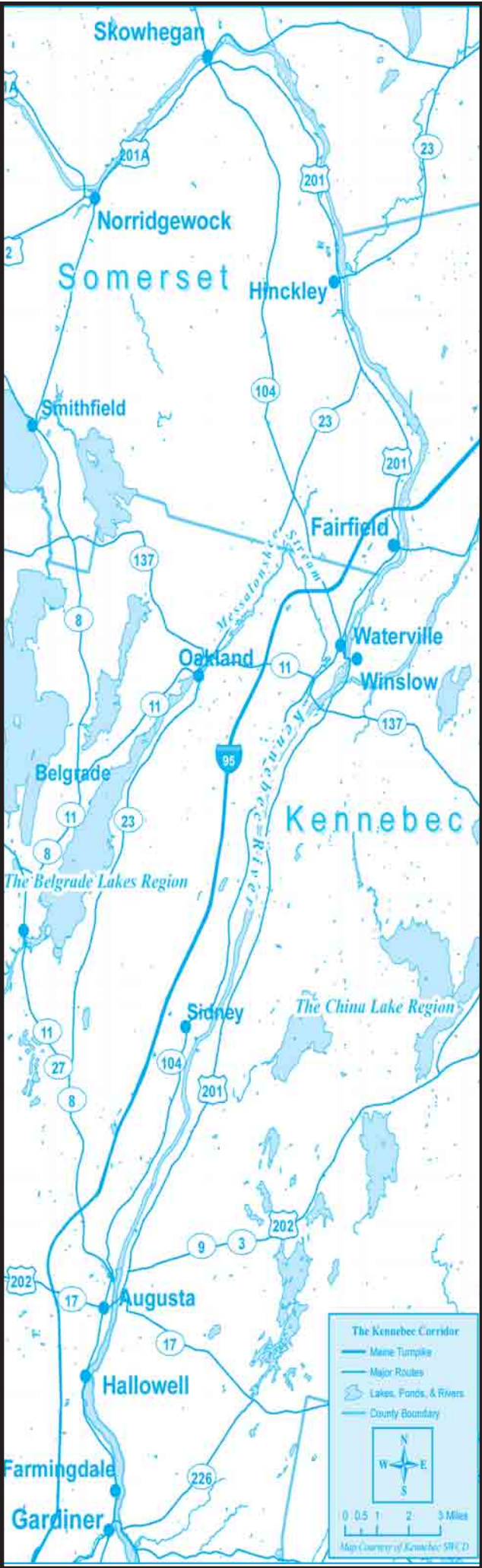
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A Focus on the
Kennebec Waterfront
Summer Ritual Market at
the Gardiner Waterfront

Sunday, July 13th from 10am-4pm (Rain date Sunday, July 20th)

Gardiner Main Street is happy to welcome the Summer Ritual Market to the Gardiner Waterfront for the third year!

Bringing over 50 local vendors, food trucks and much more this event promises to be an amazing day on the Kennebec!

Come down and treat yourself to some unique locally made products and support small businesses while you are at it. And while you are here make sure to visit our Historic Downtown and do some more shopping! Visit our website for a list of local businesses and what they offer: <https://gardinermainstreet.org/>

****BOATERS** - please note that while the boat launch will remain open throughout the day, trailer parking at the waterfront will be seriously limited from 9 am to 5:00 pm.**

To learn more about Ritual Market and see the vendor lineup visit their website: <https://www.ritualmaine.com/pages/ritual-market> and their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ritualmarketme>

If you are interested in volunteering to help direct traffic and assist vendors and customers at our info tent visit our sign up form here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4BAAA628AB9-57372552-summer>

Help Us Keep Gardiner's
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To keep our waterfront gardens looking their best this summer, we are setting up weekly work sessions every Wednesday, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Have a busy summer schedule planned? No worries, sign up for the days that work for you...many hands and regular maintenance will keep our gardens beautiful all season!

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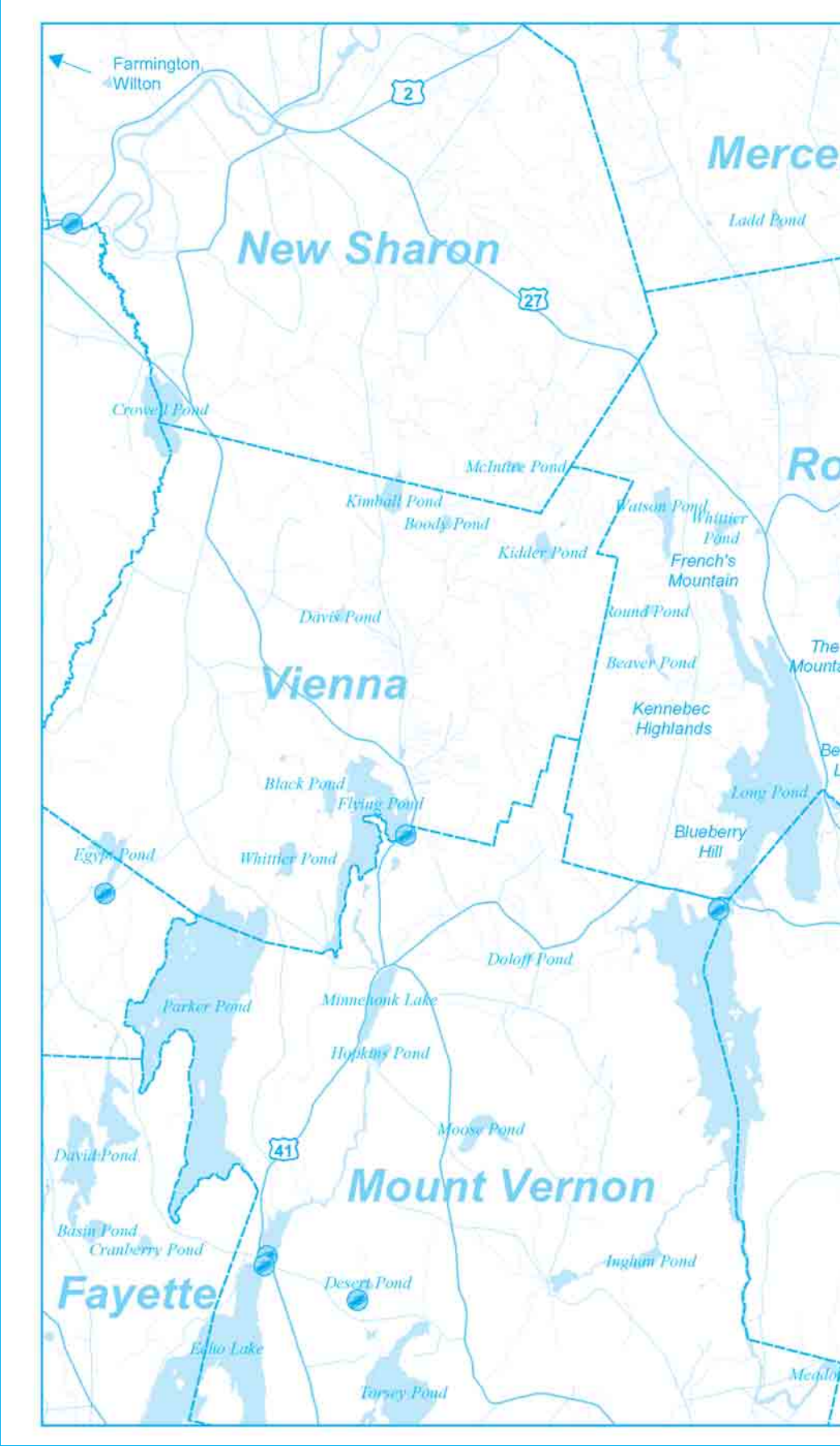


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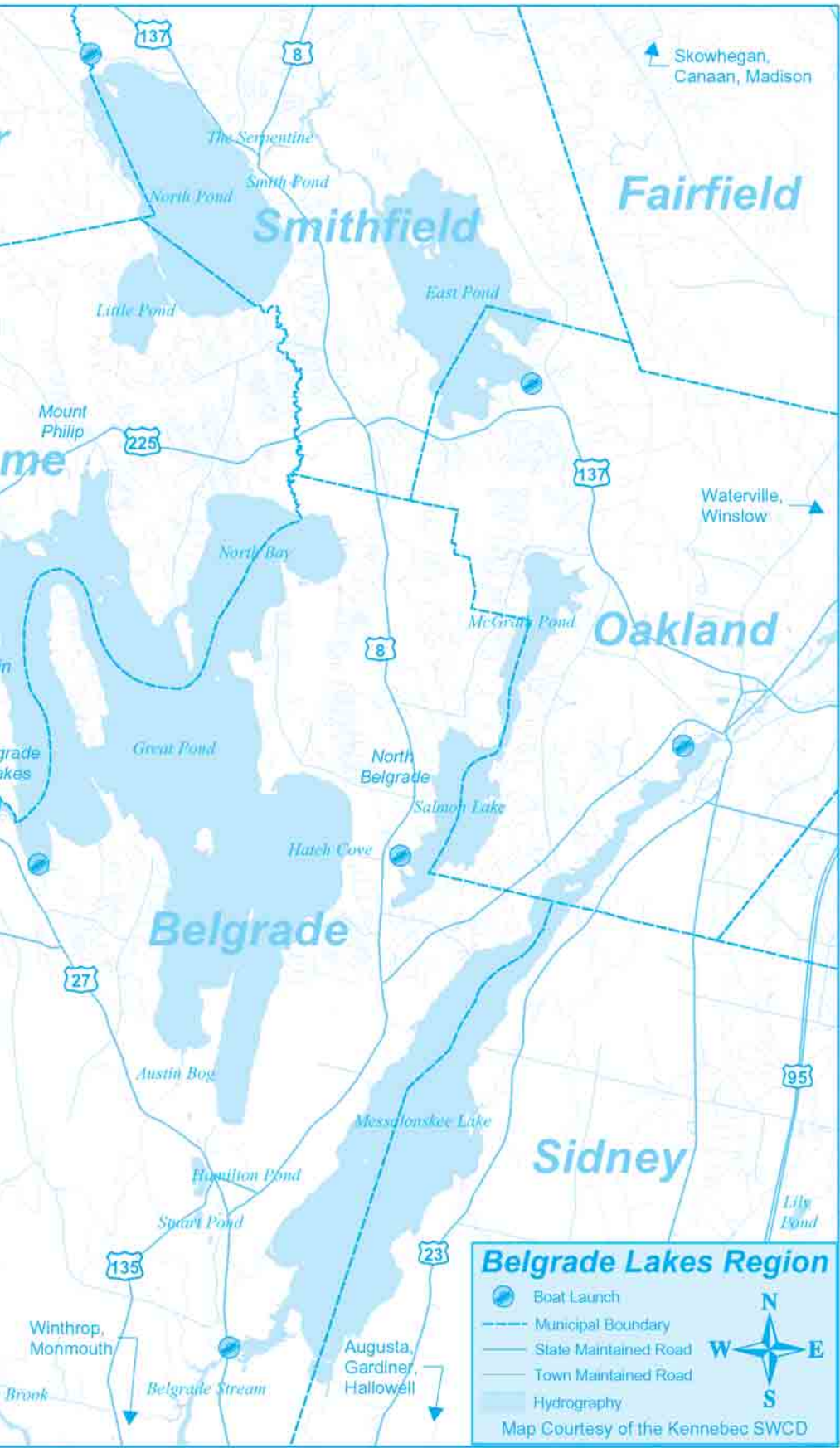
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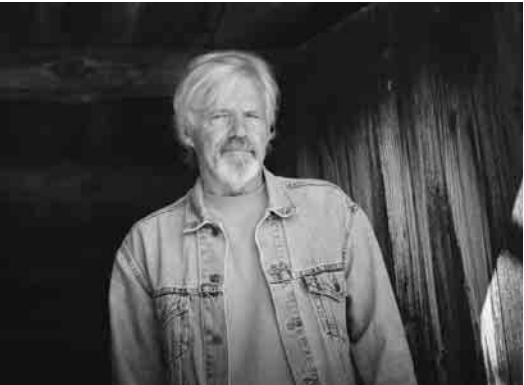
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7 Lakes Hosts Conversation With Beloved Authors Ernest Thompson and Jennifer Finney Boylan

All are invited to attend an unforgettable afternoon of stories, insight, and inspiration with two acclaimed authors who share a deep love of the Belgrade Lakes region. On Saturday, July 12, from 3 to 5 p.m., join 7 Lakes Alliance at 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, for a special conversation and book signing featuring Academy Award-winning writer, actor and director Ernest Thompson and best-selling author and President of PEN America, Jennifer Finney Boylan. Thompson, best known for On Golden Pond, will join Boylan for a special reading of selections from this classic, and offer a preview of his soon-to-be-released novel, Out Clause. He'll also talk about his new short film, The Constituent, which he wrote, directed and stars in, alongside Emmy-Award-winning actor Gordon Clapp (NYPD Blue). The film will be featured at the Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) on Sunday, July 13th at 4 p.m. Boylan, longtime summer resident and nationally celebrated author, will read from her newest book, Cleavage: A Memoir, Men, Women, and the Space Between Us. In this book, Boylan offers a witty and captivating examination of the divisions -as well as the common ground - between the genders drawing on her deeply personal experience. This is Boylan's 20th book which follows best-selling novels, Mad Honey, with Jodi Picoult and Good Boy, My Life In Seven Dogs. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with two literary voices whose work resonates within and far beyond our Belgrade Lakes community.



Jennifer Finney Boylan



Ernest Thompson
photo by 3Sixty/ Bruce Luetters

DIRECTOR'S NOTE "Nearly half a century ago, when I wrote The Constituent as a one-act play, I couldn't have imagined how prescient it would turn out to be, how timely at this perilous moment in our history. It's been performed frequently in the ensuing decades, most famously as a TV special with Ned Beatty and Burgess Meredith playing the roles Gordon Clapp and I have now taken on. In the story, the constituent has written 1,209 letters to his senator, who's finally had enough and shows up at the guy's door. What transpires is a study in speaking our minds and staying true to our principles but also in crossing bridges when we have the stamina to. I love how outrageous and blunt the characters are and how fall on the floor funny the film is, but I love, too, how moving it is and how it really is possible for folks with nothing in common to find common ground. It gives one hope."

...Continued from page 5



Cook grandchildren Maggie and Ben atop French Mountain after raking out water bars..

drone shows, which are better for water quality. With less trash to pick up, I had a lot more time to fish. 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, July 17th: Predators). 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 July 13th at 4PM to 6PM.



Notebook

Belgrade Author Wins 2025 Maine Literary Award

• Belgrade resident Maureen Milliken was named winner of the 2025 Maine Literary Award for Crime Fiction for her novel "Dying For News." The novel is the fourth in the Bernadette "Bernie" O'Day mystery series, which is set in northern Franklin County. The annual Maine Literary Awards are sponsored by the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance and are open to all authors who are full- and part-time Maine residents. There were more than 300 nominees for this year's awards. For more information visit maureen-milliken.com

Belgrade: July Coffeehouse Features Maple and Pine

• On July 12, the Union Coffeehouse will welcome Maple and Pine, a dynamic musical duo featuring Carole Wise and Mark Abraham. Carole is an award-winning singer-songwriter from Maine known for her solo albums "Long Way Home" and "North Star." Mark, originally from Canada, is the former bassist of the internationally renowned band Enter The Haggis and is also a talented recording engineer. The concert will be held at the Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, 67 Main Street, at 7 pm, followed by Open Mic time. Homemade baked goods and beverages will be available.

Oakland: Tea to Benefit Sidney's Tiffany Church

• On Saturday, August 2, 2-4 pm, the Oakland United

Methodist Church on West School Street will be hosting a tea to raise money towards renovating the 1881 Tiffany Hill Chapel in Sidney. Goals include getting a pellet stove to heat the church in the winter and to establish the historic building as a community center to rent out for meetings and social events such as weddings. 547-4108

Readfield: Historical Society Events During Heritage Days

• The Readfield Historical Society will be hosting two events during Readfield Heritage Days, Friday and Saturday, August 8 and 9: on August 8 Wine & Cheese for members at 5 pm and on August 9 a Readfield History Walk on Dudley Plain from 10-11:30 am. The Readfield Historical Society building is open every Thursday and Saturday 10 am-2 pm through Labor Day and by appointment throughout the year as weather permits. 377-2299

Waterville: New Exhibition Curated by Lights Out Gallery

• Waterville Creates and Ticonic Gallery + Studios present "Dark the Night and Bright the Stars," curated by Lights Out Gallery, which explores the theme of ancestry through visual art, sculpture, textiles and traditional craft. Each artist shares a unique approach to honoring and communicating with ancestral memory. The exhibition will be on view from July 9 through October 12 with a lineup of associated programming. The gallery is located in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center.

Belgrade Book Bash to Feature More Than 20 Authors

More than 20 authors from Maine and beyond will be at the Belgrade Book Bash, to be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, July 27, at The Barn at Seven Lakes Inn, 168 Main St., Belgrade Lakes.

More than 20 authors from Maine and beyond will be at the Belgrade Book Bash, to be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, July 27, at The Barn at Seven Lakes Inn, 168 Main St., Belgrade Lakes.

Authors of kids' books, mystery and crime fiction, non-fiction and more will be represented.

The event is free of charge, and will include a free raffle of books and other items. Maine Origin food truck will also be on site.

It is sponsored by Oliver & Friends Bookshop and Seven Lakes Inn.

Participating authors include Richard Cass, Matt Cost, Irene Drago, Rick Hobbs, Steven R. James, Ron Joseph, Allison Keeton, Margy Burns Knight, Jon Lewis, Maureen Milliken, Joan Mularz, Anne Britting Oleson, Dale Phillips, Jody Rich, Kevin St. Jarre, Gabi Stiteler, J.M. Taylor, Rosemary Toppi, Karen Richards Toothaker, Haylei Wilson and Andrew Wolfendon. More may be added.

Author bios and more information can be found at the event website on Facebook (do a search for Belgrade Book Bash).

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Waterville Creates, 10 Water Street, Suite 106, Waterville, 616-0292, www.watervillecreates.org

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7 Lakes Alliance, PO Box 250, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 931-7710, www.7lakesalliance.org



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Gagne & Son Concrete Products, patio setups, stone, masonry products, complimentary outdoor heating, lighting, furniture, 1583 Augusta Road, Belgrade, 495-3313, gagneandson.com
G&L Contracting, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 215-7951, 495-9009, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com
Lynch Landscaping, 78 Maple Street, Norridgewock, 474-2420, 405-0880, www.lynchlandscaping.com

LODGING

Alden Camps, American Plan cottages, boat rentals, 3 Alden Camps Cove, Oakland, 465-7703, www.aldencamps.com

MAILBOAT RIDES

Great Pond Mailboat Rides, calm days are the best, maximum number of riders is 4 small adults, \$20 each, 2-hour ride, leave 9:20-9:40 am Belgrade Lakes Post Office, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, to reserve text 592-1537

PATIO SETUPS

Gagne & Son Concrete Products, stone, masonry, outdoor lighting, furniture, 1583 Augusta Road, Belgrade, 495-3313, gagneandson.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Kevin Couture Photography, HS Seniors, Weddings, Families, Aerial drone images, 474-0754, 858-5382, www.kevincouturephotography.com

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Dockside Physical Therapy, 212 Depot Road, 660-2546

PIANO LESSONS

Dianne Gorman, 191B Bartlett Road, Belgrade, 495-3222, Gorman3366@roadrunner.com

REALTORS

Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 143 Silver Street, Waterville, 660-4001, 872-7650, www.coldwellbanker.com
Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-147, cbplourde.com
John Blouin, Laer Realty Maine, 103 Water Street, Suite 202, Hallowell, 446-7708, <https://www.laerrealty.com/agents/118618-john-blouin>
Portside Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street (Rte. 27), Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, 888-495-3711, www.belgradelakepoint.com
Trisha Cheney, Portside Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, trisha@belgradelakepoint.com
Stephanie Yeaton, Portside Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE AND TRAILER STORAGE

Belgrade Lakes Marine & Storage, 366 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2378, www.belgradelakesmarine.com

SURVEYING

Acme Land Surveying, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5, Farmington, 778-4081, 800-778-408, www.acmelandsurveying.com

WINDOWS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 22 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Damariscotta, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville, Machias, Portland, Rochester, NH, Rockland, Skowhegan, 1-800-HAMMOND, www.HammondLumber.com

WORKSPACE/TECH COACH

Winthrop Workspace, shared office space by day, week or month, contact for tour and free trial day, hands-on help with phones, tablets, computers, 117 Main Street, Suite 10, Winthrop, 395-5019, www.winthropworkspace.com



Call of the Loon

Lots of Love for Loons!

by Ariana Raschid Farrokhi, Loon Project Intern



Upon first setting my sights on the white-dappled and red-eyed Common Loons of our very own Great Pond, I instantly fell in love.

During my training with Lee Attix and Dick Greenan on both Great and Long Pond, I learned about a hundred different little things a day. I observed loon behavior from aggression to courtship, their feeding habits, and even the way these heavy-bodied birds take flight. No sight is quite as fascinating as a loon flapping its wings while using its big-strong legs and feet to schlip-schlap across the water's surface as it builds up enough momentum for takeoff!



An adult loon taking off. Look at those big flipper-feet!



Lunch Time!



Mom and Dad with their two chicks. The adult on the left has fishy food for one of its chicks!

can be just as, if not more, intense than the terns, pattering around on the skiff and observing the loons has been a pleasantly quiet respite. On a clear and windless day, you can see loons as they mesmerizingly swim by the boat just under the surface of the water. Watching the chicks emerge and be fed minnows by their parents has been enchanting.



Me (Ariana) learning how to drive a boat for the first time!

ued hard work and dedication to our Loon population!

If you have a particular questions regarding our Belgrade loons, please email your inquiry to: info@bla-maine.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



As a long-time duck enthusiast, I was surprised to learn that loons are genetically more closely related to penguins than other waterfowl! This makes sense if you have ever seen these birds move underwater. With speed and precision, they dive and quickly catch their aquatic prey. No wonder these birds are the apex predators of the lakes!

Coming from a warmer climate in Georgia, I had not encountered loons until I came to Maine to study at Colby College. But my love for working with birds did not start with loons. Last summer, I worked and lived as a field intern on Outer Green Island off the coast of Portland and spent my days monitoring a breeding colony of Common Terns. These quirky and loveable seabirds of the family Laridae, which includes gulls, are noisy little fellows. Terns enjoy dive-bombing interns such as myself during chick check-ins. My first summer of fieldwork in Maine made me fall in love with the state's wildlife. Compelled to continue working in conservation, I applied to the Loon Project.

Working with the BLA, my summer has been ever more exciting with the elusive Common Loon. While they

Monitoring the loons is always an adventure. It requires attention to detail and the ability to sustain long hours in the baking sun. With my co-intern and friend Makena Logan at my side, we get the job done. I am grateful for all the support I receive not only from Dick of the Belgrade Lakes Association, Lee of the Loon Conservation Associates, and Cathy Bevier of Colby College, but also from the community on both lakes. The help of volunteers in updating us and loaning us their kayaks makes this project possible. Loons are a valuable indicator of water quality and bring joy to those lucky enough to cross paths with one. As I continue my work on the lakes, I hope to gather valuable information on our loon populations to help us keep them around for decades to come!

Thank you Ari (and Makena) for all of your contin-



Call Me American

by Martha F. Barkley

This memoir by Somali Abdi Nor Iftin is not what I expected. Having already enjoyed Somali immigrant books about soccer in Lewiston, I was expecting the American “victory lap.” Not so with this young man who finally arrived at Logan Airport on page 258 when he was in his late twenties.

Most of his memoir tells the story of his more than twenty years in Civil War Somalia. Yes, there are a few happy years with his family before war, living a dreamlike nomad life. His dad was a basketball star of renown and the happy memories are short and brief. Trekking to the city and the following years and years of war are beyond my comprehension.

Abdi and his brother choose different paths. Memorizing the entire Koran under such terror teacher techniques makes me sympathize with Abdi’s rebellious brother who refuses the daily discipline.

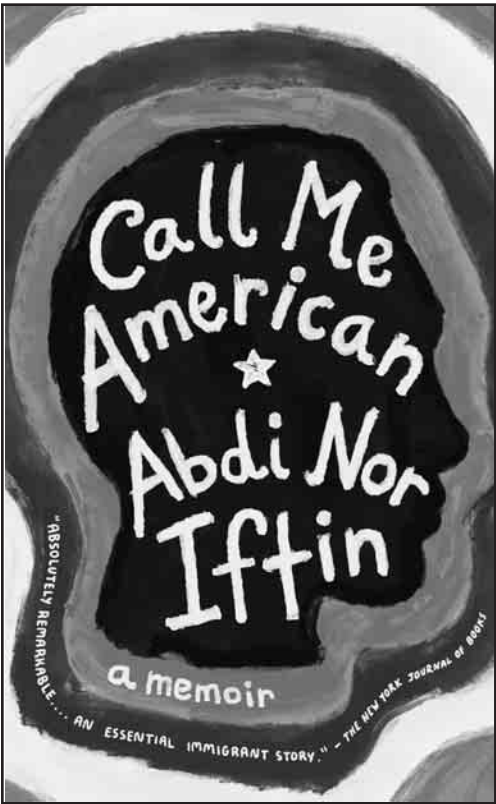
Losing contact for three years with his father is another loss and brings Abdi’s obligation to his mother’s survival. Frequenting American movies was Abdi’s big transgression to Muslim life, but soon his American speech and translating ability gained him fame like his dad’s basketball stardom years before.

Somehow good luck follows his ever so long war torn trek through his hometown of Mogadishu, Somalia and environs: nothing but civil war everywhere. Even meeting a girlfriend at the beach and swimming in the salty sea, breaking another Muslim rule.

Abdi’s American speech reaches NPR here and BBC in London. He carries on weekly radio interviews in his deep underground hidey-hole in his war torn Mogadishu home.

Luck strikes Abdi, but to me, the reader, it is all so very dreary from day to day with challenges for finding food for his mom and quiet sleep from noisy war.

“This was the beginning of my new life...practicing how to dance with the



crowd on the sidewalk...I decided if I was going to talk like an American, I should dance like one.”

However accomplished Abdi became with his daily Koran memorizing and discipline it required, friends would knock on the door and ask his mom, “Is Abdi American here?” At age fourteen, he was kicked out of his home and he went to find his rebellious brother who had not memorized the Koran like he had...very discouraging to read this story of his constant struggles in spite of successes. Living on the edge with warlords all around ready to chop a hand or leg off is way beyond my comprehension.

Abdi survived and so did his brother.

Abdi’s work experience in Yarmouth was not an American dream fulfilled, yet he had a kind American family providing a safe home and abundant food. He finally found Somali friends in Portland where he moved and worked as an English translator. The weekend soccer games were a relaxing release with Somalis who had lived here ten years.

Meeting a new girlfriend and her family were also trying in his life due to Muslim demands by the parents. Did he marry her, I wonder?

Finding so many resolutions at once at the end of this memoir makes me wonder about his brother still in Kenya with a wife and children by now. His mom and other relatives receive money regularly from Abdi, making life so much more bearable back in Somalia. But, how does he keep a’going I keep asking myself. Speaking American actually got him here after too many hoops and years in Kenya camps waiting.

I am hoping to meet this good luck guy in August who has faced far more than I can totally take in.

What does he make of Maine lingo? Maybe he saw a movie or two in Mogadishu with Maine American actors spoken like us? Ah, yuh, hope so.

Continued from page 2...

on what keeps us going when all hope seems lost.”

Throughout each festival, MIFF presents diverse “rediscoveries,” i.e. unfairly neglected, but recently restored, classic films. Besides *Dead River Rough Cut*, described earlier, there are nine more such features this year, as well as a collection of shorts from the late ’70s and early ’80s by mononymous Maine moviemaker Huey. (This collection will have its one and only screening

Thursday at 3:00 in Cinema 1.)

Two of the rediscoveries will be presented in honor of filmmakers who died earlier this year: *Night Moves* (1975), in which the late Gene Hackman portrays a football player turned private eye, and late director David Lynch’s thriller *Mulholland Drive* (2001), where a young woman loses her memory after a traffic accident and is befriended by an aspiring actress. Check the program book or website for titles, screening times, and locations for all of this year’s rediscoveries.

You can buy passes and tickets either online at www.miff.org or in person at the festival box office on the first floor of the Schupf Center. You can find the complete schedule for the festival and descriptions of the films on the MIFF website and in the the festival’s glossy, 68-page program book, which is available at the Schupf Center and many other places around Central Maine.

Annual Beanhole Bean Supper at Belgrade Community Center
The Center for All Seasons
Saturday, August 2
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Baked Beans, Rolls, Hotdogs, Homemade pies, Coleslaw, and Brown Bread.
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— Real Estate Update —

Seasonal Shift: Summer Cooling Is the Norm in Maine Real Estate

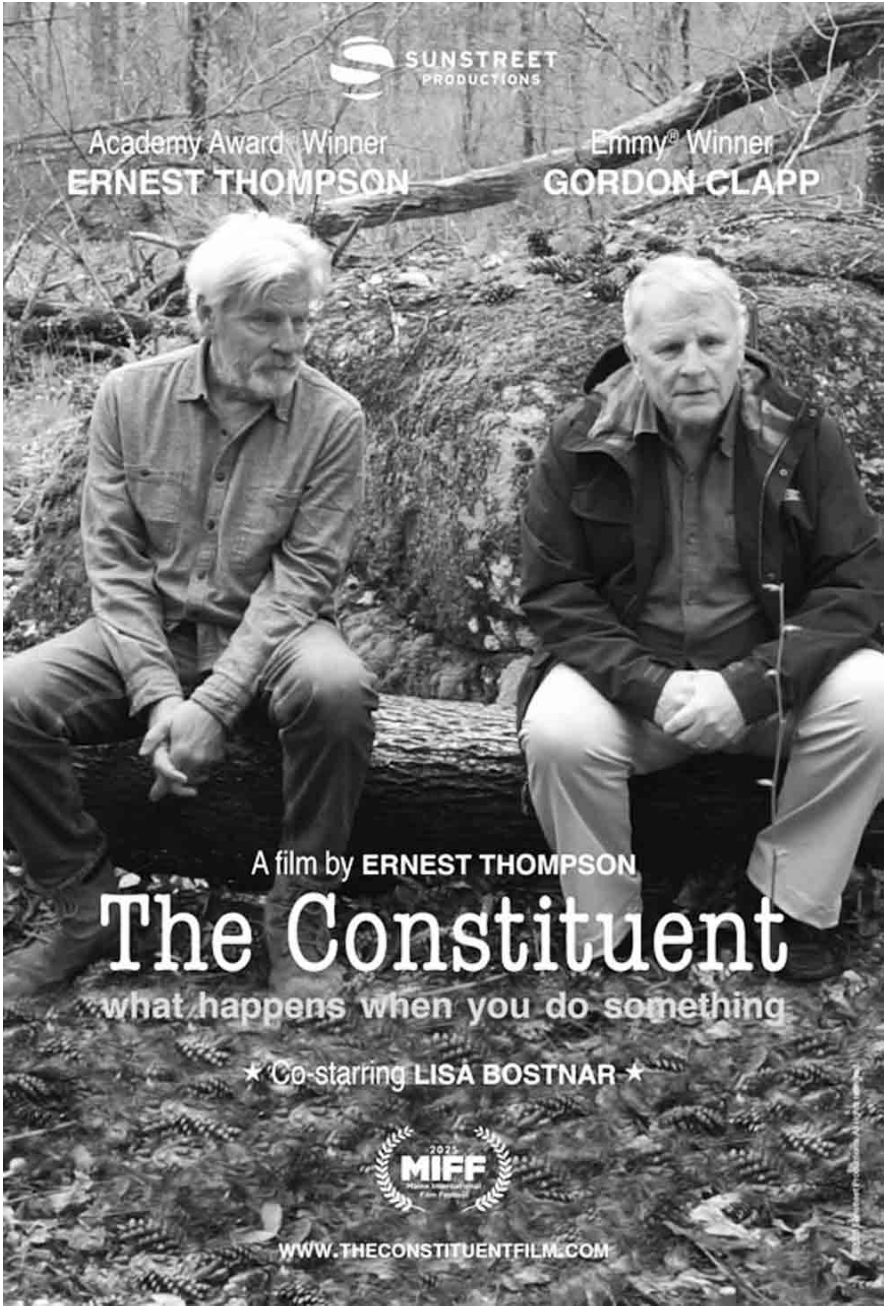
Summer is traditionally the peak season for real estate activity—characterized by strong demand, high inventory, and frequent bidding wars. But seasoned agents know that summer also marks a turning point. After the spring rush, momentum typically slows by mid to late summer as buyer urgency fades, pickiness rises, and mortgage rates often inch upward.

This year is no exception—though it comes with some telling shifts. Inventory across Maine is up significantly—61% higher than this time last year—giving buyers more choice. But with affordability stretched by elevated interest rates and still-high home prices, many are sitting on the sidelines or taking longer to make decisions. As a result, the average days on market has extended by about 10 days statewide compared to 2024. In the Belgrade Lakes Region, some higher end properties are now sitting over 100 days before going under contract.

While sales volume has flattened and price growth has moderated, this is a cooling, not a crash. Maine’s real estate market is shifting toward balance, not tipping into a full buyer’s market. Coastal and urban areas—like Portland, Camden, and parts of the Midcoast—are still seeing faster movement. But the statewide trend is clear: the post-pandemic surge has softened, and buyers and sellers are recalibrating.

Whether you’re a buyer looking for options or a seller adjusting expectations, understanding this seasonal rhythm is key to making informed decisions in Maine’s evolving market.

Dan McCarron



The Dams Keeper Report

Well, the water temperature is finally warming up a bit more to my liking – BUT is still not quite THERE!! Upper Long Pond (at least the top 12”) is a refreshing 78.7 F today (7/2/25) and in my humble opinion, obviously refreshing but not perfect! My toes will tell you that it is nowhere near 78.7F down there and still takes some getting used too! Oh, to be ten years old again!

The weather for our July 3rd Fireworks is looking better (at least as I pen this issue!) and the 4th Festivities looks perfect for our Boat and Street Parades. Boy, did we luck out and we deserve it especially considering the rain that we’ve had to endure earlier this season. We’ve had 2.23” of precipitation for the past ten days and they are forecasting 1.69” for the next 10 suggesting that our precipitation levels are actually pretty normal. Great weather overall. Summer in Maine – you’ve got to love it!!

The Village spillway dam is presently at 1.56” above full pond with both gates closed. Long Pond, at the Wings Mill Dam, is 2.4” also above full pond with both gates still closed. Snow Pond is holding at 2.28” below their spillway which is still good considering their electricity generation needs. Salmon and McGrath are in great shape and exactly at full pond with the 1 cfs. calibrated valve opened 15 turns. Great job Cam!

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
Dick Greenan
Belgrade Lakes Inter-lakes Dams Committee



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3BR/2.5BA on David Pond. Spacious home on wooded property with waterfront access and views.
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