

# Summertime in the Belgrades

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

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 10



## Thanks To The Seasonal Businesses

by Esther J. Perne

**T**hey make vacations possible, more enjoyable, more memorable, more fun, less housework-y. They provide the unseen magic behind the scenes and supply the visible welcome smiles on the front lines. They help put stars in the eyes of young campers and demonstrate a sense of caring for senior visitors. They are the many, the dozens, of area businesses that are open only during the summer season and the many businesses open year-round that ramp up their work and their work forces during the popular, packed summer months.

They all deserve an incredible thanks.

Thanks for being open on holidays, weekends (what are those??), unless the business is a seasonal church, late nights and early mornings.

Thanks for being mini-information centers and Jacks-and-Jills of all answers, directions, local advice, weather predictions, still more directions to the thousands of vacationers and visitors that flock here.

Thanks for beautifying the region through the landscaping, gardening, mowing, flower boxes and dedicated shorefront improvement projects.

Thanks for managing and promoting recreation: golfing, fishing, sailing, marinas, trails, sports shops.

Thanks for the maintenance and monitoring of lake protection, boat inspections, milfoil removal, invasive plant paddles and numerous conservation education and appreciation activities.

Thanks for hauling produce to town for Farmers' Markets and setting up roadside stands and trustingly leaving eggs and corn and fresh-picked berries for sale at the bottoms of driveways.

Thanks for running grocery stores, gift shops, ice cream stands, seasonal restaurants and take-outs and food trucks.

Thanks for consulting about construction work and contracting and building and completing before the snow flies.

Thanks for the extra hours at municipal services to accommodate paperwork and make available services (such as the dump).

Thank you for continuing the heritage and traditions of fishing camps, youth camps, sports camps and recreation camps and rental camps.



London Wilkie at her Belgrade lemonade stand. *Continued on page 2*

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Continued from page 1

Thank you for entertainment and the arts, for theater and crafts and music, for libraries and book stores and all areas of enrichment.

Thank you employers and employees and all seasonal workers for living a way of life that is not necessarily secure, does not pay well, that is long on absentee parenthood and that, we now know, might not even be openable

or might be highly restricted when the next year's season rolls around.

Thanks to the children who are raised in this strange seasonal work cycle and seem to understand.

Thanks to the large seasonal businesses who in the aggregate employ hundreds of staff and thanks to the single entrepreneur open for business at the local lemonade stand.



## Scenes from A Taste of Waterville

Photos by Gregor Smith



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## 50th Annual Blueberry Festival Coming to Winslow Saturday, August 14!



One of Maine’s all-time most popular, beloved, and downright yummy summer events—Winslow’s annual Blueberry Festival—is coming this year on Saturday, August 14, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., to Winslow Congregational Church, 12 Lithgow Street, Winslow. Admission to the festival grounds is FREE.

Nearly 700 mouth-watering blueberry pies and “all things blueberry” baked goods will be available for sale. Blueberry pies (\$12 each; \$20 for 2; \$10 each for additional pies) may be picked up at the church anytime from 3 to 6 p.m. the previous evening (Friday, August 13) or the day of the festival (Saturday the 14th) from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kicking off the 50th Annual Blueberry Festival on Saturday will be a delicious Blueberry Pancake Breakfast, from 7 to 10 a.m. Cost of the breakfast will be \$7 per person and \$5 for children ages 12 and under. Tickets for the pancake breakfast will be available in advance at Winslow Congregational Church on the Saturday prior to the festival (August 7) from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. In addition to the “all things blueberry” pies and other culinary delights, festival patrons will enjoy a Lobster Shore-Dinner Raffle; live classical, pop, folk, and blues music; local crafts vendors; a yard sale; a popcorn vendor; an agricultural exhibit featuring goats; a dunk tank sponsored by Winslow Community Cupboard food pantry; and a firetruck and police car.

### Night-Before (Friday Evening) Chicken Bar-B-Q Supper

The night before the Blueberry Festival, there will be a Friday-evening (August 13) Chicken Bar-B-Q Supper (with “all the fixin’s”) at Winslow Congregational Church, which will be served by first-responders from the Clinton Fire Department. The Chicken Bar-B-Q Supper will run from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Blueberry pies, blueberry baked goods, and a yard sale also will be available during the Friday-evening supper. Cost of the Chicken Bar-B-Q supper is \$12 per person, with advance tickets strongly encouraged, but day-of tickets also available. Advance tickets will be available at Winslow Congregational Church on the Saturdays prior to the festival (August 7) from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and also at Rita’s House of Pizza (51 Bay Street) and Pool Tech (28 Charland St .) during regular business hours through Thursday, August 12.

### More about the 50th Annual Blueberry Festival

A beloved community favorite since 1972, the Blueberry Festival raises funds to empower the local humanitarian/Christian-service work of Winslow Congregational Church. Celebrating its 193rd birthday this year, the historic church is housed in a building dating from 1796, which has been home to a worshipping congregation since 1828.

Everyone seeking a wonderful opportunity to gather and enjoy a treasure trove of “all things blueberry” is cordially invited to attend this year’s Blueberry Festival. Mark your calendar now!

**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)

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## — Calendar —

Summer events; fall events; all great events for family outings! Concerts, fairs, farmers markets and more....

**Friday 8/13** - 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil Stream Support at Rome Trout Brook, 8 am, [www.7LakesAlliance.org](http://www.7LakesAlliance.org), 495-6039, Robbin's Mill Stream, Hoyt's Lane, Rome.

**Friday 8/13 and every Friday** - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot near Better Living Center, Front Street, Farmington.

**Friday 8/13** - Chicken Bar-B-Q Supper, served by the Clinton Fire Department first responders, the night before the Blueberry Festival, 4-7 pm, also a bake sale and a yard sale, advance tickets strongly encouraged \$12, Winslow Congregational Church, 12 Lithgow Street, Winslow.

**Friday 8/13** - Waterville Rocks Free Concert, The Big Takeover, free, family friendly outdoor concert, all ages, 5:30 pm, music starts 6 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

**Friday 8/13 and every Friday in July and August** - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, 8/13 The Half Moon Jug Band, 6-7:30 pm, on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

**Saturday 8/14 and every Saturday** - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Gristmill, corner of Court

and High Streets, Skowhegan.

**Saturday 8/14** - 50th Annual Blueberry Festival, admission free, 7 am Blueberry Pancake Breakfast through 1 pm, nearly 700 mouth-watering blueberry pies and "all things blueberry" baked goods, <https://winslowucc.org/blueberry-festival/>, Winslow Congregational Church, 12 Lithgow Street, Winslow.

**Saturday 8/14** - Coffeehouse on the Village Green, featuring Maine's First Family of Traditional Music, John and Ellen Gawler and surprise guests and Open Mic Hour, 6:30 pm, donation \$5, bring your own chairs and refreshments, in case of rain at Union Church, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

**Saturday 8/14** - Rustic Overtones, Whistlestop Concert Series, 7 pm, Narrow Gauge Cinema, Farmington.

**Through Sunday 8/15** - "Living on Love," Lakewood Summer Theater, 474-7176, Route 201, Madison.

**Sunday 8/15** - Belgrade Lakes Association Raffle Drawing, at the Farmers' Market, 512-5150, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

**Sunday 8/15 and every Sunday** - Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

**Monday 8/16** - 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil Update, 4:30 pm, [www.7LakesAlliance.org](http://www.7LakesAlliance.org), 495-6039, 137 Main Street,

Belgrade Lakes.

**Tuesday 8/17** - L.C. Bates Museum reopens for walk-in visitors, masks required, on-site screening form required, Thursdays and Fridays noon-4 pm, Saturdays 1 pm for family programs, 238-4250, Route 201, Hinckley.

**Tuesday 8/17 and every Tuesday** - Early morning paddle on Great Pond, 7 am, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards available, no fee, The Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

**Tuesday 8/17** - Tinkergarten - Outdoor Playtime, 495-3508, 10 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

**Wednesday 8/18 and every Wednesday** - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 3-6 pm, Somerset Gristmill parking lot, downtown Skowhegan.

**Wednesday 8/18 and every Wednesday** - Weekly Cruise-In, 377-5550, 5-8 pm, live music, 50/50 raffle, food and ice cream specials, Fast Eddie's, Route 202, Winthrop.

**Wednesday 8/18 and every Wednesday** - Weekly Cruise-In, 645-2145, 5:30-7:30 pm, Dutch Treat, Route 2, Wilton.

**Wednesday 8/18 through Saturday 8/21** - Living on Love, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

**Thursday 8/19** - 7 Lakes Alliance Invasive Plant Paddle on Salmon Lake, 8:30 am, [www.7LakesAlliance.org](http://www.7LakesAlliance.org), 495-6039, rain date 8/20, boat launch, Salmon Lake, Belgrade.

*Continued on page 10...*



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**the Union Church of Belgrade Lakes ← ←**





## — Take It Outside —

The summer is flying by. Hard to believe this is the penultimate edition of "Summertime!" The weather has continued to be variable- some rainy days with cool nights interspersed with a few hot and humid days, but occasionally really nice for hiking in the shady woods. With more of our population vaccinated against COVID, many of last year's restrictions have been relaxed and we are seeing more of our traditional summer visitors. At the same time, we seem to have more visitors from throughout the State of Maine; many exploring our area instead of traveling out of state as they may have in the past. There continues to be an increase in family gatherings with an emphasis on outdoor activities. It is heartening to run into so many families out enjoying the local trails. While people have changed their schedules, Mother Nature continues to move forward with hers and this summer is moving forward just as rapidly as it always does.

Recently, my neighbors, Joel and Kathi King, returned from North Carolina with their 8-year-old grandson, Miles, for a week-long visit. Miles is an avid fisherman and Grandma Kathi asked me if I could take him out on Long Pond for a bit. The next morning, Kathi and Miles met me at the dock a bit before 7 AM and we headed down the lake toward a spot where the bass had been pretty actively feeding all week. The first thing I noticed was that the cool night (mid 50s F) had cooled the surface water from about 75F down to 70F overnight. I spotted loons feeding in an area and we slowed to trolling speed. I set up two trolling rods and began trolling with our lures about 25-feet down, right around the base of the thermocline. Before too long, we had a nice strike on the rod next to Miles. I grabbed the



Kathi King with grandson, Miles.



Miles with smallmouth bass.

rod out of the holder and handed it to Miles to reel in, assuming we had a nice smallie on. The fish put

## Summer Flying By

by Pete Kallin



Miles' Rainbow trout



Trout filet broiled with wild mushrooms.

up a nice battle but Miles was equal to the task, with just a bit of help from Grandma, Kathi. As I got ready to net the fish, it jumped near the boat and I realized he was battling a nice Rainbow trout. We soon landed a nice, fat 19-inch 'bow, which I carefully unhooked and took its picture in the net before releasing it. We continued trolling and caught several small-mouth bass and a nice Yellow perch. I also ended up catching a nice 19-inch Rainbow trout that we decided to keep. When I cleaned and fileted the trout, I gave one filet to the Kings and kept one for dinner.

The increased precipitation has made this a banner year for mushroom foragers and Black Trumpet mushrooms are in all the usual spots and then some! Black Trumpets are some of my

*Continued on page 15...*

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## Call of the Loon

**Q:** There was a loon out in front of our dock that looked like it was in its death throes or maybe he was wrapped up in fishing line and was trying to get undone. What should I do with him? He seemed to calm down after a while but I didn't know who to call.



**A:** Thank you for reaching out. Most likely your adult loon, and I am assuming it was an adult, was merely bathing him/herself. Bathing antics are merely a part of their preening calisthenics.

The more we study these creatures and their behavior, the more thought provoking they become. When you see an adult bending over backwards to scratch the back of their head with their eyes closed, you can picture just how good that must feel!

Relaxing times, particularly during this breeding period, can be short lived as they all are constantly being challenged by their own kind, mostly territorial disputes.



A Long Pond adult bathing.



The Classic Wing Flap can be part of stretching and/or drying exercise, but it can also be a territorial display.



Three adults all trying to appear "intimidating" and larger than life in their quest for survival.

*Continued on page 7...*

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## - Conservation Too -

### The Issue of Forest Pests i.e. "Forest Bugs"

By Dale Finseth

This seems to have been the season of invasives. Previously I had an article about invasive plants and the ways to monitor your property and manage for their spread. This week I will focus on invasive forest pests or "bugs". Maine's Soil & Water Conservation Districts have been working with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Animal and Plant Health to help people identify invasive forest pests i.e. bugs that could do serious damage to our woodlands or in some cases cause you illness. While some of them have not yet appeared in Maine, many have. We need to be vigilant and identify them should they appear.

The browntail moth is already here and got the most press coverage this spring. Some areas of the State are affected more than others. Many people are experiencing the rash on their skin and other problems.

Kennebec County and the midcoast areas were more heavily infested.



Some people and their trees have suffered serious damage. As I write this the BTMoths are at the stage of laying their eggs in small webs in the leaves of trees. We expect those to hatch and become the caterpillars again in August. This moth's caterpillar has two distinct red/orange dots on its back. These caterpillars will then create distinctive tents later in the summer and early fall. Those winter webs appear at the end of branches rather than closer to the trunk in crotches of the branches. Oak trees and fruit trees seem the more likely targets.

The browntail moth caterpillar has tiny (0.15 mm) poisonous hairs (setae) that cause dermatitis (skin rash) similar to poison ivy on sensitive individuals. Direct contact with the caterpillar or indirect contact with airborne hairs may cause the reaction. Most people affected by the hairs develop a localized rash lasting a few hours or several days but on some individuals the rash can be severe and last for weeks. It is also possible for respiratory problems to develop which require a physician visit and possible treatment. We have yet to see how bad the caterpillar infestation will be this fall. Given

how bad this spring's infestation was, it could be heavy. If you have questions about what to do about browntail moth - rashes, trees, or otherwise - call 211.

Another forest pest already here is Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. It is not that uncommon. We have been working to identify its location, possible spread and efforts to control damage. Evidence of its existence are "woolly" collections on the underside of hemlock branches along the stems where the needles occur. It only occurs on hemlock trees.

Up until two years ago we had not officially seen the Emerald Ash Borer. It is now officially identified in Maine, particularly at our SW border with New Hampshire and also in Northern Maine. Identify it early and try and limit its spread. The Emerald Ash Borer can devastate woodlots of Ash trees. Once fully established, destroying the wood is often the best option. The small shiny green insects bore into the Ash trees and destroy the tree from the inside. Sick Ash trees are suspect. The insects are tiny [see photo of examples placed on a penny] and the actual holes in the tree's bark are also very small. The damage to the Ash tree is the best way to begin identification.

What can a person do? Try and learn how to identify some of these nasty Forest Pests. The Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has an excellent website for all invasives including these Forest Pests.



[www.informe.org/portal/about\\_me/invasives.html](http://www.informe.org/portal/about_me/invasives.html) If you think you have identified one of these critters, do not be afraid to call the Maine DACF. 207-287-3891. Or contact them through Maine Bug Watch at [bugwatchcme.agr@maine.gov](mailto:bugwatchcme.agr@maine.gov). They would rather help you learn it is NOT an invasive than have you fail to report the real deal. Take a picture or collect the bug in a bag or bottle and keep it in the freezer. Help out in this effort to protect Maine from these invasives.

Remember, protecting the woods is one way to protect water quality. Do your part!

For information about any of our conservation projects please contact Dale Finseth at 622-7847, x 3 or check our website at [www.kcsxcd.org](http://www.kcsxcd.org)



...Continued from page 6



A Belly Landing with wheels up!

If you have a particular question regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: [info@blmaine.org](mailto:info@blmaine.org) and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Thank you all for your care and support of our loon population.

Dick Greenan, Chairman,  
BLA Loon Preservation Project



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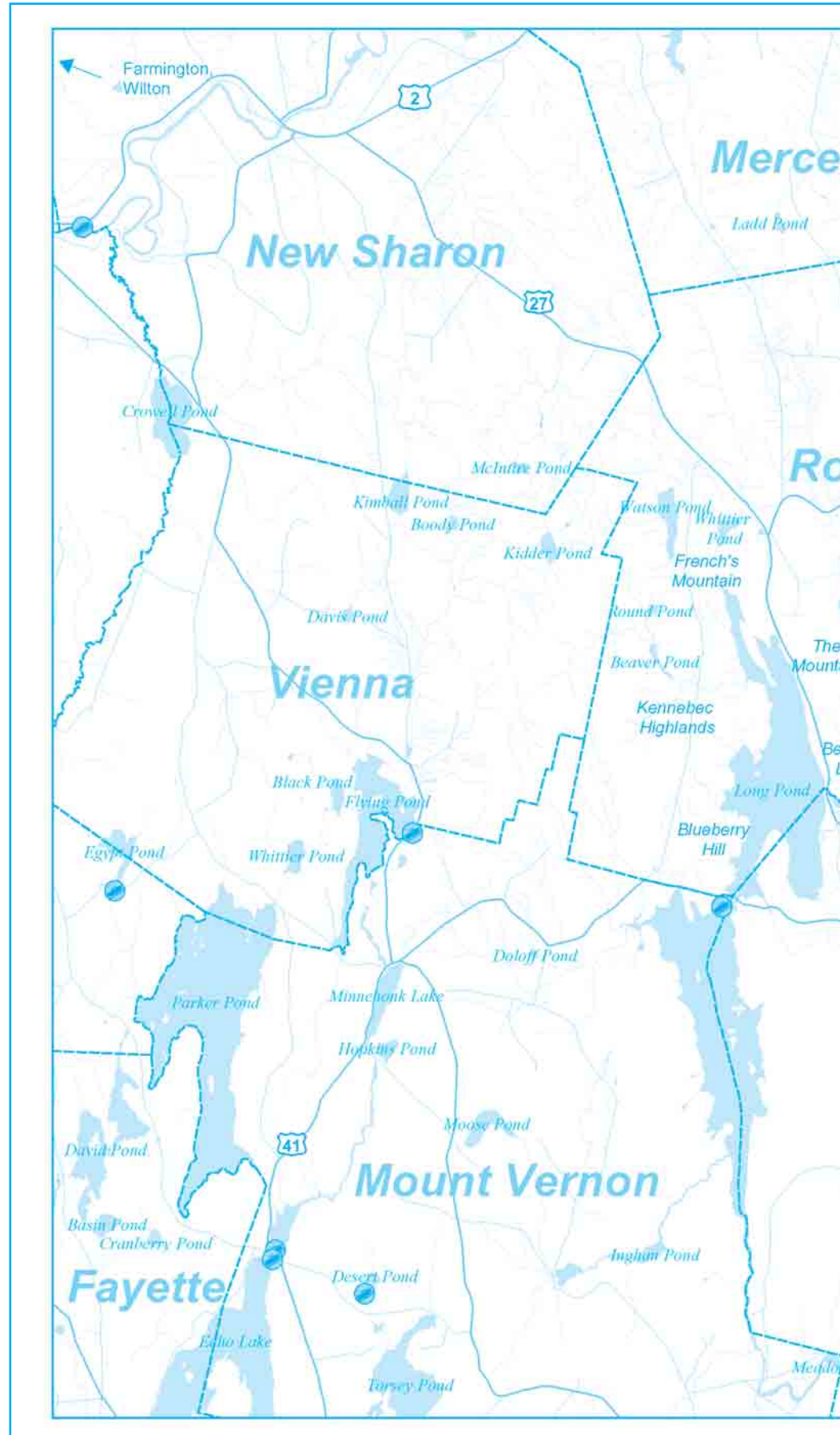
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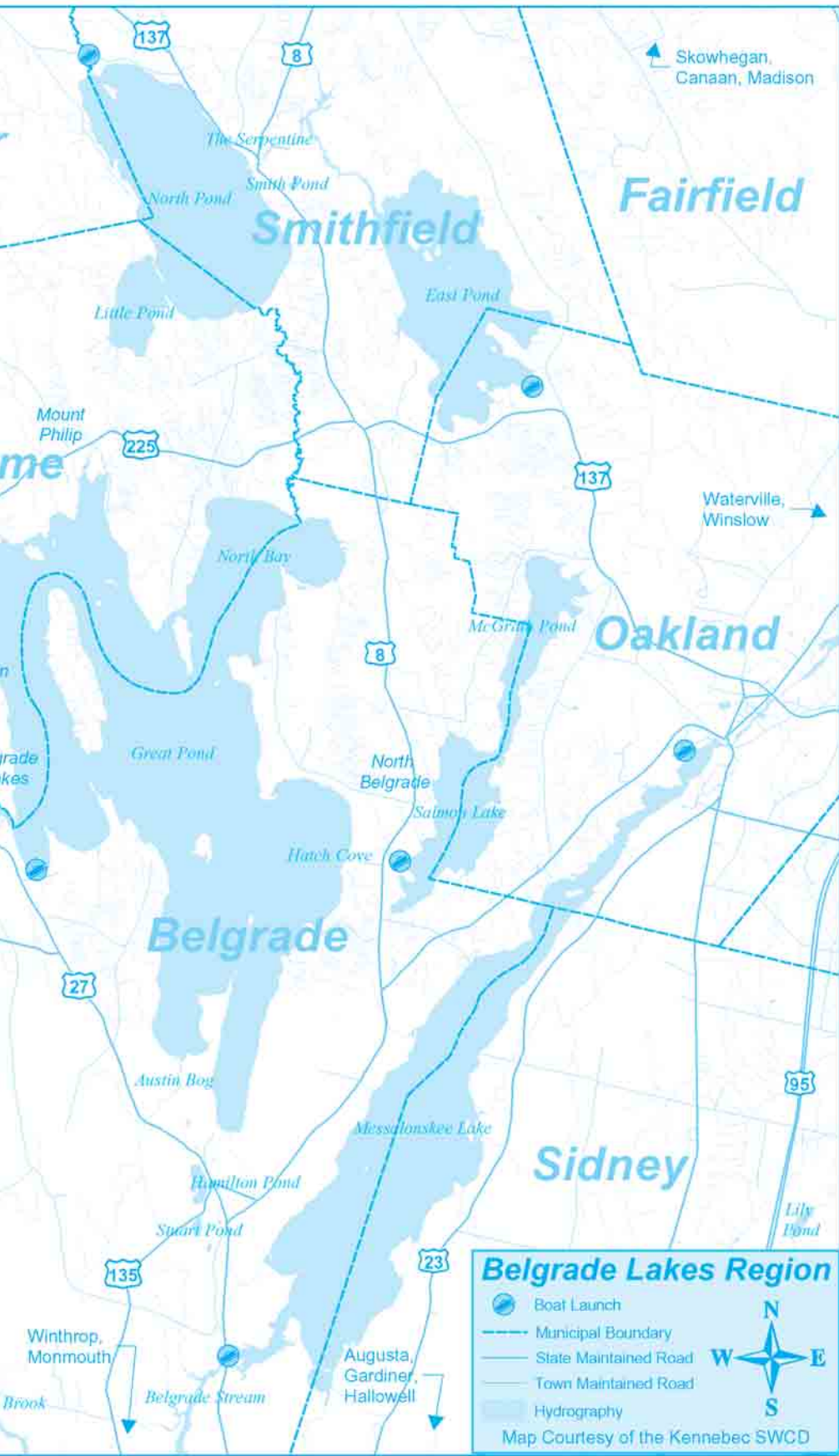


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## Kennebec on Fire Festival at Coburn Park, Skowhegan, a Fundraiser for the Wesserunsett Arts Council

The Kennebec on Fire Festival will take place at Coburn Park in Skowhegan on August 29 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. This festival will feature five fire brazier sculptures being lit on the river. Viewing spots include Coburn Park and the riverside beach accessible via Mount Pleasant Avenue in Skowhegan. Inside Coburn Park there will be live music performed by Sunday Project, a jazz band.

Artists and Crafters are invited to sell their work in the park, please call 207-313-4878 to secure a vending spot, free of charge. Kids and adults will be able to enjoy live interactive bubble art and listen to live music performed by Sunday Project. Refreshments will be for sale.

Entry is free however donations are gratefully accepted and will benefit the Friends of the Skowhegan Opera House.

The new fire brazier sculptures were made by several different Maine artists including: Steve

Andersen, Jay Sawyer, Terrence Parker, Magdaleena Rouhiainen and William Josiah Glover.

Kennebec on Fire is a collaborative project between Main Street Skowhegan and the Wesserunsett Arts Council, made possible by funding from the Maine Arts Commission, Maine Community Foundation, Brookfield Renewable, and Skowhegan's GFWC Semper Fidelis Club.

Main Street Skowhegan is a nonprofit organization working to revitalize Skowhegan.

The Wesserunsett Arts Council is an umbrella organization for the Open Arts Studio, the Somerset Cultural Planning Committee, and HooSkow Radio. All three branches of the Wesserunsett Arts Council strive to connect the people of Somerset County to its heritage, agriculture and art.



...Continued from page 4

Thursday 8/19 and every Thursday - Outdoor Storytime 495-3508, 11 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

Thursday 8/19 and every Thursday - Gardiner Classic Car Cruise-In, 592-7019, 3-7 pm, music, demonstrations, giveaways, 50/50, local foods, www.gardinermain-street.org, Waterfront Park.

Thursday 8/19 and every Thursday - Art in the Park, new theme every week, 3-5 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Thursday 8/19 and every Thursday - Waterville Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, Front Street, Waterville.

Thursday 8/19 and every Thursday through 9/2 - Music on the Village Green hosted by Chris Poulson, 8/18 Joey Charles, 6:30-8 pm, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Through Saturday 8/21 - Skowhegan State Fair!

Thursday 8/19 through Saturday 8/21 - Play On, a comedy by Rick Abbot, presented by the Vienna Woods Players, 7 pm Thurs-Sat; 2:30 pm Sat matinee, reservations at viennaplayers@gmail.com, Union Hall, Vienna.

Friday 8/20 - 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil Stream Support at Rome Trout Brook, 8 am, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, Robbin's Mill Stream, Hoyt's Lane, Rome.

Friday 8/20 and Saturday 8/21 - Madison-Anson Days, craft show, events in both towns, parade, dynamite cookoff, many more events, downtown Madison and Anson.

Friday 8/20 - Free Waterfront Concert, Astroplanet, sponsored by Johnson Hall, 6-7:30 pm, Gardiner.

Saturday 8/21 - Maine Bicentennial Parade,

maine200parade.com, Auburn/Lewiston.

Thursday 8/26 - 7 Lakes Alliance, Belgrade Public Library and Belgrade Historical Society Community Read: Author Talk with Richard Powers, Zoom event, 6:30 pm, register at 495-3508 or Library@TownofBelgrade.com

Thursday 8/26 - Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, Annual Cocktail Party and Auction, www.watershed-friends.com, YMCA Camp of Maine, Winthrop/

Thursday 8/26 through Sunday, August 29 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival, 10 great bands, large spectator tent, clean restrooms, camping, 873-6539, Fairgrounds, Litchfield.

Friday 8/27 - 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil Stream Support at Rome Trout Brook, 8 am, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, Robbin's Mill Stream, Hoyt's Lane, Rome.

Saturday 8/28 - Designing Women Craft Show, rain or shine, \$2 suggested donation, 9:30 am-4 pm, Longfellow's Greenhouses, Puddledock Road, Manchester.

Saturday 8/28 - "Hole In One" Golf Event to benefit the Augusta Food Bank, 10 am-7 pm, 272-2612, Le Club Calumet, 334 West River Road, Augusta.

Sunday 8/29 - Kennebec on Fire Festival, a fundraiser for the Wesserunsett Arts Council, featuring five fire brazier sculptures being lit on the river, donations accepted, live music by Sunday Project, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Sunday 8/29 through Monday 9/6 - Windsor Fair, www.WindsorFair.com

Tuesday 8/31 - 7 Lakes Alliance Night Sky Tour, 7:30 pm, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, location TBA.







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## Notebook

### Friends of Messalonskee Need Volunteers For Watershed Survey

• Volunteers are needed to help with the Messalonskee Lake Watershed Survey scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, September 29 and 30. The survey will be conducted under the auspices of Ecological Instincts and will involve identifying what owners can do to prevent damaging runoff from their properties. Each volunteer will be assigned a walk or drive section of the watershed. Training will be on September 22, 6 pm on Zoom. Call 618-8723 or go to [friendsofmessalonskee.com](http://friendsofmessalonskee.com)

### Designing Women To Hold Show August 28

• Enjoy a day with some very creative women artists and shop for great artistic gifts. The event will be rain or shine at the grounds of Longfellow's Greenhouses, Puddledock Road, Manchester. \$2 suggested donation at the door will be contributed to the Winthrop Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center serving Kennebec and Somerset Counties. [www.designingwomen.org](http://www.designingwomen.org)

### Vienna Woods Players Present "Play On" August 19-21

• The Vienna Woods Players will present "Play On" by Rick Abbot on August 19-21 at the Vienna Union Hall. This three-act performance is about a small community theater group preparing and staging a play: Act I, Practice; Act II, Dress Rehearsal; and Act III, the Performance. As they enact an amateur playwright's attempt at an Edwardian England murder (more or less) mystery, all kinds of things go wrong and the worst nightmares of a play director and cast should prove hilarious for the Vienna audiences. Reservations are recommended by emailing [viennaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:viennaplayers@gmail.com)



Surprised deer, Photo by Dick Greenan.

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MOND, [www.hammondlumber.com](http://www.hammondlumber.com)

### BOAT MOORINGS

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Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, [www.greatpondmarina.com](http://www.greatpondmarina.com)

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512-5150, [belgradelakesassociation.org](http://belgradelakesassociation.org)

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**Lakepoint Real Estate**, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, [www.belgradelakepoint.com](http://www.belgradelakepoint.com)

**Gail Rizzo, Lakepoint Real Estate**, 242-8199, [gail@gailrizzo.com](mailto:gail@gailrizzo.com)

**Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate**, 730-2331, [pldcamp@msn.com](mailto:pldcamp@msn.com)

**Stephanie Yeaton, Lakepoint Real Estate**, 495-4046, 592-5577, [stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com)

**Trisha Cheney, Lakepoint Real Estate**, 716-6494, [trisha@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:trisha@belgradelakepoint.com)

**Amy Bernatchez, Lakepoint Real Estate**, 314-2353, [amy@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:amy@belgradelakepoint.com)

**Sprague & Curtis Real Estate**, 75 Western Avenue, Augusta, 623-1123, [www.spragueandcurtis.com](http://www.spragueandcurtis.com)

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## The Dams Keeper Report

We were so spoiled by the drought inspired past five years of beautiful weather that it was so easy to take it for granted, although to the demise of our farmers and gardeners! This has been such an unusually cold and wet summer so far. Don't you think that we deserve a little bit better after putting up with the winters that we do? I do!

We just finished releasing some of the water both at the Village and at Long Pond's Wings Mill dam in order to get the levels back down to something reasonable, about three inches above full pond.

Long Pond is presently 2.5" above full pond with Great Pond at 2.64", also above full, with all of the gates completely shut back down. Snow Pond is today right at 3.84" below full pond with their electricity generation and Salmon/McGrath is now 2" above full pond with their single gate still opened the mandatory 1 cfs. We received 1.76" of rain in just the past ten days, which honestly felt like so much more. We're still having showers practically every day and they are forecasting just .45" of precipitation

**RESTAURANTS**

See Dining Directory on page 11

**RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES**

**Granite Hill Estates**, 60 Balsam Drive, Hallowell, 626-7786, 1-888-321-1119, [www.granitehillestates.com](http://www.granitehillestates.com)

**SCHOOLS**

**St. Michael School**, grades pre-K 3-year-old through 8th, 56 Sewell Street, Augusta, 623-3491,  
[www.smsmaine.org](http://www.smsmaine.org)

**SECURITY SYSTEMS**

**Cayer Security Services, Inc**, 1152 Main St. (Rte. 100), Clinton, Maine 04927, [www.cayersecurity.com](http://www.cayersecurity.com)

**SURVEYING**

**Acme Land Surveying**, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5, Farmington, 778-408, 1800-778-408,  
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**WINE AND SPIRITS**

**Tree Spirits**, 152 Fairfield Street, Route 23, Oakland, 861-2723 or 465-3007,  
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for the next ten day so maybe there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Enjoy the family, your vacation and just maybe, you can put those umbrellas and rain coats back in the closet where they belong!

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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## Books From Maine: A Raising Readers Collection

by Martha F. Barkley

Jared fished from the children's bookshelves at Belgrade Library one Saturday a very special book of books featuring five iconic stories for kids' Read Alouds. The special feature in this particular compilation that impresses me is that each author wrote so many other great stories for your children's enjoyment.

A great guide for parents and a great read for the young from this one book of five literary achievements.

Camping Day by Patricia Lakin, Dino Pets by Lynn Plourde, Little Beaver and The Echo by Amy Mac Donald, Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey, and Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney Porter are the FIVE!!!!

Even though McCloskey and Barbara Cooney Porter are my favorites, your young reader will have you reread the ones they prefer. Reading and rereading the same good tale is what makes readers.

The author biographies are fascinating to me, because by now I thought I knew everything about Robert McCloskey and Barbara Cooney Porter. Not so.

Robert had a barn full of his paintings and illustrations out on the coast at Blue Hill which I shared with my elementary students in Maryland back in the day of teaching in public school. The film with the artist commentary kept my students riveted and then reading his many books followed.

According to this special book that Jared found for me, McCloskey did not start his art work until high school. Prior to that he was an avid musician playing piano, oboe, drums and harmonica. Homer Price stories and his harmonica come to mind immediately.

Machinery and taking things apart and reassembling was another early interest. Burt Dow and motor problems in his boat come to mind. One Christmas, young Robert invented a machine that turned their family Christmas tree. Wouldn't you like that for your tree?

Many of his stories take place on the coast because McCloskey moved from Ohio to Deer Isle, Maine. His two daughters, Sarah and Jane, are featured in his books. Sal is for Sally, as in Blueberries for Sal. One of his daughters collected all of her dad's works and published a book that I bought at Lithgow Library years ago when she presented and played her guitar, too. Musical talent from her famous writer/artist dad.

Caldecott Medals and Honors for Time of Wonder with a great storm descrip-

tion and, of course, Blueberries for Sal. Who doesn't like to pick blueberries?

Barbara Cooney's biography is an enlightening read, too, for the adult sharing these entertaining children's tales. Her favorite time as a kid was when she was sick and could stay at home from school to paint and draw all day. She used her mother's brushes and cleaned them when finished.

Barbara was raised in the New York City area like EBWhite and she longed for Maine like he did as a six year old. Every summer Barbara would spend time in Maine with her grandmother. EBWhite spent every summer from age six onward canoeing on Great Pond with his family and later with his son Joe. Childhood memories for both produced many works for children. Charlotte's Web is my favorite by White.

I found Cooney's biography of Eleanor Roosevelt at Lithgow Library in Augusta. What a joy to see that beautiful library addition with its grand enlargement, tripling its size. I sat and revelled in the children's large, sunny room, no longer in the basement that used to flood. Eleanor Roosevelt actually was thrown from the sinking Britannic and always feared heights and swimming.

Barbara eventually lived on the coast at Damariscotta after traveling to many foreign countries. Lupines left by Miss Rumphius are pictured beautifully in her paintings and story of planting seeds. We enjoy lupines here in Belgrade, not far from the coast.

Read some of the hundreds of good books for kids, many recommended and pictured in this one beautiful book that is in our Belgrade Public Library. It is part of "A Raising Readers Collection." Reading children's books is fun for all of us. Try a few.

## Saturday Water Olympics 2021

by Martha F. Barkley

Yes, Tokyo television coverage was exciting, but out my window on Great Pond it began soon after 9 am with John in the mailboat. There he was with his friendly wave and dependable delivery, rain or shine. Sometimes tourists on board, even during rough or rainy weather.

Today is a sunny Saturday, so Tokyo Olympic crew teams are terrific, but along our shoreline glides by 19 kayak or water board girls from Camp Runoia. Quite a flotilla with more friendly smiles and hellos. I ask them about the sailboats over at Pine Island and they said the three boats today were from Runoia as well.

Upon their return they are greeted by the Runoia water skiing boat. Photos are taken by Pam as Mark drives the boat with Runoia campers on board.

Continued on page 15....

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**READFIELD**-Lovely 3 BR cape on a pleasant 2 acre lot. Lots of charm, many recent updates. Beautiful eat-in kitchen w/recessed lights, large front to back DR/LR w/wood floors, cozy den/office area, updated bath, and nice knotty pine entry w/washer and dryer connections. Back enclosed porch and outside deck. Private back yard. 3 BR up w/pretty wood floors. Detached 2 car garage. Heat pump for A/C and additional heat. Updated roof, kitchen, modern windows, newer roof shingles, vinyl siding, more. A rural feel yet very convenient. **MLS #1503410 \$289,000**

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## Retirement Reflections – notes from Granite Hill Estates residents who still find home in the Belgrade Lakes Region

It could be the wonderful amenities, the cozy cottage setting, or the allure of a maintenance-free lifestyle that first draw residents to consider life at Granite Hill Estates. For a select group of residents, it is also location. Being close to the Belgrade Lakes Region meant they would not lose touch with friends, family and the familiarity that they had spent most of their lives or Summers surrounded by.

To provide a firsthand account of finding home at Granite Hill Estates within the Belgrade Lakes area, residents of Granite Hill Estates shared their thoughts.

**Maggie Shannon** on why moving to Granite Hill Estates was necessity's surprise:

"I knew the move to Granite Hill Estates would be good for me when I signed on for an apartment here last winter. At the time I had only an inkling of just how wise a move it would prove to be. The residents here are a real community and a caring one. The frosting on the cake for me and many others here is our proximity to the lakes. It's so easy to pop down to camp and spend an afternoon with family on the dock or dine at the Village Inn."

**Ken Harvey** on the magic of life at camp:

"When my wife and I decided to move from our large old house, Granite Hill Estates was the only place that got serious consideration. For over 55 years my family has owned a camp on Great Pond in Belgrade. We spent

... Continued from page 14

Down towards Horsepoint, the Great Pond Yacht Club must be having their competition today, because the sails number more than twenty from my count afar. They sail and sail in that area for several hours before busting out into the larger lake for a free for all. One green sailboat heads right towards our shore and then tacks its sails in a flurry back towards Oak Island. The sound of the wind in the sails caught my attention.

It is a wonder to see so many pontoons and small motor boats out amongst the activity of our Saturday Great Pond Olympics 2021. Boaters of all kinds were waiting for a pleasant day like today to sail and motor and kayak and canoe. Those July rainy days put this activity off for many.

The Covid Olympics in Tokyo just does not compare to our Great Pond fun in the sun this Saturday. I watched from my dock and found it thrilling. Even Alfond's yellow pedal boat slowly went by with two men discussing their business in low tones.

Some Bear Spring Camps boaters came to fish our deep, rocky shores and ended up helping us retrieve a lure lost on a log down under. Such friendly fishing folks make summer fly fishing from our dock a pleasure. He dove down and brought up our lost lure. When we were younger, we could scuba and retrieve ourselves, but now in our mature status we find others to help. Comparing our catches was fun. What else do fishing folks talk about?

Take it Outside continued from page 5....

favorite mushrooms and are extremely tasty with scrambled eggs. They are also outstanding sauteed lightly with butter and a bit of onions and then broiled on top of fresh-caught Rainbow trout fillets.

As I mentioned, Mother Nature is sticking to her schedule, pandemic or no pandemic. As the water warms, the coldwater fish are moving deeper. The larger pike and bass continue to forage on alewives approximately 25-ft down while the smaller fish remain in the shallows feeding on crayfish and insects while trying to avoid becoming pike or loon food. Hopefully there will be enough time before ice-in for the new loon chick(s) to learn to fly before they get iced in. Mother Nature doesn't change her schedule. Some of the swamp red maples along the shore are already beginning to turn red.

Take advantage of the rest of the summer and get out on the lakes or hike or bike in the hills. And take a kid along. You will be creating memories that will last. Check out the events at the 7-LA web site and the sign in front of the MLRC. Events are being presented as conditions allow and the schedule is fluid. Sign up for the "Night Sky Tour" on August 31st. Pick up a map of the local trails at Day's Store or from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps can be downloaded from 7-Lakes Alliance web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>

every Summer for all those years at camp. Our children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren experienced the joys and acquired the skills that are part of spending a Summer at camp. Even after 50 years it is clear to me that the camp still exercises it's magic and provides an experience unlike any other."

**Dot Matson** on finding home at Granite Hill while maintaining connection with Belgrade:

"Being at Granite Hill Estates, the location is wonderful because our family camp is in Belgrade. It makes it easy for us to visit while still being close to home. I love living at Granite Hill Estates because the staff is great, as is the food and I've made many wonderful friends. There's no place else I'd rather be."

**Charles Kelly** on why location made maintaining connections easy:

"The transition from Belgrade Lakes where I had lived for many years to Granite Hill Estates allowed me to continue to keep in contact with familiar settings like shopping, church and friends. Moving to Granite Hill Estates made the transition from owning a home with all its responsibilities, to having peace of mind that everything is now taken care of. This allows me to live a much richer, fuller life."

While these residents all reflected on different topics we can find some common themes, family, camp, connection, and community. Moving to Granite Hill Estates means embracing community and inviting new people to be part of your life. If we can learn anything from spending Summers at camp it's that the magic of the experience doesn't come from the cabin, it comes from the people. The same can be said for life in a retirement community, it's not so much the building you are moving into but the community that you are joining, at Granite Hill Estates our community is one you want to be part of!

To learn more about the wonderful way of life at Granite Hill Estates contact Steve Roy at 207.626.7786 or email [sroy@granitehillestates.com](mailto:sroy@granitehillestates.com). Granite Hill Estates is located at 60 Balsam Drive in Hallowell, ME.

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