

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 3

Freedoms of Summer

by Esther J. Perne



The freedom to be a kid, or watch a kid, or watch someone else's children receive so much excitement and satisfaction from the rewards of the season: a treat, playing on a playground or in the water, trailing along to an event...all these and many more simple gifts of the season are freedom to a young and hopeful child.

The freedom to be outdoors, to know the outside world is loyally out there even when work and life demands take over, to be able to casually and competently take part in the whole great outdoors lifestyle of eating and enrichment and athletics and socializing - in small samples or huge outings. It's a freedom, that whole outdoors. Kind of makes one want to slam the door extra hard on the way out.

The freedom of pursuing a sport no matter what level, no matter what anyone says or thinks or how old the intention. Take up something new, take up something old, take up something that gorgeous muscular model has invitingly suggest-



ed. Or don't. Freedom includes the no word, too. The freedom of joining a crowd, of enjoying

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Dylan Lynch (5th generation coming to Belgrade's Great Pond); photo credit: Uncle E.J.

the sidelines or melting right in (on a hot day...literally). Maine summer crowds are huge on laughing and greeting folks they haven't seen for a day or two, huge on bringing the whole family and maybe the dog, huge on talking competitively with the event. Basically, these crowds refuse not to have a good time, to be free to have

fun no matter what.

Freedom to celebrate: all the world loves a parade, a red hot dog, red and white bunting, blue ice cream, music by the local band and fire trucks. Everyone cheers the little girls pushing doll strollers, the boys on the decorated bikes, the horses who would rather be home, the dignified

senior dignitary riding in the convertible, a ride they recognize they might take, too, by gum, until their attention turns to the candies and trinkets and pea pods sailing off floats. Ah, the freedom to be a kid - or act like one.

Here's to the freedoms of summer.



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Sharing, Caring, Respecting



Summertime in the Belgrades

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Sharing the roads... Maine's roads are public ways and horse-drawn carriages and wagons using them are protected by law. Motorists are required to stop when requested to by the horse's attendant and wait until given the go-ahead, especially if the animal is disturbed.

Other laws include: don't use vehicle horns around animals; don't rev engines; turn off high beams; and, when passing, allow a 3-foot clearance (more is better). In a recent incident, a passing vehicle pulled the back left wheel off an Amish horse-drawn wagon; much worse accidents have happened.

Remember, the roads are shared with our Amish neighbors.
 Sharing the waters...

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Grass Can be Bad for the Lake – Here's Why

The grass is not always greener. Expansive lawns that slope down to the water risk fouling water quality.

Grass has shallower root systems than trees, shrubs, native ground covers and other types of vegetation. Deeper roots more effectively hold dirt in place. Dirt contains the naturally occurring element phosphorus – a key nutrient on which algae feeds. So, the more dirt – and phosphorus – washed into a lake by stormwater runoff, the higher the likelihood of an algal bloom.

Turf also fails to slow and absorb stormwater runoff as well as other vegetation and duff – organic matter such as leaves and pine needles. Stormwater gains velocity as it passes over grassy declines, increasing erosion into waterbodies.

That's why the State of Maine passed a law that prohibits raking duff within 75 feet of shorelines – to preserve absorbent material that impedes stormwater runoff. The statewide conservation organization Maine Lakes recommends limiting lawn size, mowing less often and leaving clippings on the ground.

Leaving clippings on the ground also negates the need to fertilize lawns – another way grass can threaten a lake's health. Phosphorus is a key ingredient in fertilizers. Applying fertilizer to a lawn risks phosphorus being washed into a waterbody, again feeding algae. Further, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides can harm children, pets and aquatic life.

Stuart Cole, 7 Lakes Alliance's erosion control project coordinator, offered these suggestions for mitigating the impact of lakefront lawns:

- Request a LakeSmart or Youth Conservation Corps evaluation to identify ways to control erosion from a lakefront property. Request an evaluation by emailing stuart.cole@7lakesalliance.org. Recommendations from LakeSmart evaluations can be implemented by 7 Lakes Alliance's YCC, which provides labor at a discounted rate.

- Plant a vegetative buffer between the lawn and the lake. Blueberry bushes are especially effective. (Plus, fresh blueberries!)
- Let lawns revert to their natural states, mowing only once a year.
- Regrade lawns to flatten slopes and reduce the speed of runoff.
- Install a rain garden – a vegetated, low-lying area that collects runoff.

For more information, contact Cole at 207-495-6039.



This erosion on McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake is from water flowing across a sloping lawn with no other vegetation to slow the runoff. Grass does not absorb runoff well and is less effective at holding dirt in place.



Friends of Messalonskee led a wonderful buffer workshop at Lake View Cemetery in Oakland on June 20! Many partners, including the Town of Oakland, the 7 Lakes Alliance Youth Conservation Corps and community members joined in this fun and educational event! Participants learned about native plants that reduce erosion and create buffers that help protect our lakes from harmful algal blooms and provide wildlife habitat. Attendees then put their education into action and planted lowbush blueberries, blue flag iris, wild bee balm, sweet fern, and juniper bushes to prevent further erosion.

The Oshima Brothers Grace the Stage at the Vienna Union Hall



Coming up on Saturday, July 1st, at 7 PM, the Vienna Union Hall, located in the heart of Vienna Village, is honored to host The Oshima Brothers. This is a special treat and if you haven't heard them before, it's worth your time to enjoy their video's on their site (<https://www.oshimabrothers.com>) or at YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@oshimabrothers>).

"Maine-based indie duo, Oshima Brothers' have been creating music together since childhood. The brothers blend songs from the heart with blood harmonies to produce a "roots-based pop sound that is infectious." (NPR) On stage, Sean and Jamie offer lush vocals, live looping, foot percussion, electric and acoustic guitars, vintage keyboard and bass - often all at

Continued on page 14...



— Take It Outside —

School's Out. So are the Kids

by Pete Kallin



New staff at Ghostlight Theater Camp on East Pond.

Last week was the first week of summer vacation for most schools in the area and families with kids are beginning to show up everywhere. Almost all of the summer camps and sporting camps are back to an almost normal schedule. It is good to see our friends from away returning. These camps are not only very important to the local economy but often bring visitors from all over the country who learn the joys of living near a lake in Maine. Many later come back to settle here in their retirement. There are many former Camp Kennebec alumni around Salmon Lake, Pine Island and Runoia alumni around Great Pound, Manitou and Matoaka alumna around East Pond,

and Snow Pond Center for the Arts alumni everywhere. This is also true of former visitors to Bear Springs, Alden Camps, Whisperwood, Castle Island, Wheeler Camps, and other family camps in the watershed. Residents of Taconnet have been playing tennis with the same "kids" for decades. While there I met several groups of young people who were incoming counselors at various camps, who had heard about the trail from the returning counselors and were checking it out before their campers arrived in the next few days. I managed to get a group shot of the new staff for Camp Manitou's Ghostlight Theater Camp. When I finished my hike, I headed to the Roundtop trailhead to do some scouting for early summer mushrooms. There I met Jake, Miles (6), and Charlotte (7) Benner from Skowhegan, who had just finished hiking the Roundtop Loop and spur trail. The 4.2-mile hike was a long trek for the youngsters, whom Jake described as "trail warriors." Jake works from home and likes to get the kids outside frequently.

The trout fishing has been good for the past month but is beginning to slow down as the water warms. Once the surface water temperature gets above 70, the trout will tend to stay below the surface mixed layer in the cooler water below the thermocline (currently about 30 feet down). I have still been catching some nice rainbows trolling streamer flies or small spoons just off the bottom in areas 20 to 25 feet deep. Also check out the nice Northern Pike that Gary Heath and his

Continued on page 11...



Jake, Miles, and Charlotte Benner.

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Calendar

Additions and changes to events, activities, outings, visits, etc. are welcome and appreciated. Email, call, or stop us on the street with ideas and information.

Friday 6/30 and Saturday 7/1 - 4-H Fair, Fairgrounds, Farmington.

Friday 6/30 - Blistered Fingers, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Summer Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 7/1 - "The Story of My Life," a musical about friendship, 933-9999, in repertory through August 12, Cumston Hall, The Theater at Monmouth.

Saturday 7/1 - Oshima Brothers in concert, 7 pm, Union Hall, Vienna.

Saturday 7/1 - Peter Yarrow and Noel Paul Stookey (of Peter, Paul and Mary), 8 pm, Waterville Opera House, Main Street, Waterville.

Sunday 7/2 - Kennebec Performing Arts, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Sunday 7/2 - Michael Franti & SPEARHEAD, live in concert, outdoors at Snow Pond's Bowl in the Pines, 6:30-10 pm, 476-6976, snowpond.org, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Monday 7/3 - Western Maine Foothills Band, selections from Big Band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm, Meeting House

Park, 139 Main Street, Farmington.

Monday 7/3 - Fireworks over Long Pond, 9 pm, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/4 - 2023 Independence Day Celebration, music, food, games, specials, Boat Parade on Great Pond and Mill Stream 12 noon, Street Parade through the Village 4 pm, fun and events throughout the weekend, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/4 - Book Sale, sponsored by The Friends of the Belgrade Public Library, thousands of gently used books, fiction and non-fiction, 9 am-1 pm, 649-4238, Belgrade Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/4 - 21st Annual "Friends on the 4th" 5K Run/Jog/Walk, 7:45 am deadline for registration at the American Legion, 8 pm, Norcross Park, Winthrop.

Tuesday 7/4 - 4th of July Parade, theme "America the Beautiful," line-up and judging 9 am, Olsen Student Center parking lot, 5 categories: agriculture/animal; band/music/walker; antique (car/truck/tractor); military service/patriots; float; parade starts 10 am, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 7/4 - Augusta 4th of July Celebration, parade from Capitol area 10-11:30 am, a family-friendly party all day at Mill Park, kids activities, petting zoo, juggler, magician, dunk tank, live music including Ellis Falls and Martin and Kelly, also activities at Olde Fort Western, Fireworks at Mill Park and across from Waterfront Park, 9:15 pm, downtown Augusta.

Tuesday 7/4 - July 4th Boat Parade, Friends of Messalonskee, 3 pm, meet in front of the music camp, Lake Messalonskee,

Sidney.

Tuesday 7/4 - McGrath Pond Independence Day Flotilla/boat parade, decorations encouraged, 3 pm, start in the water near Pleasant Point Park, Oakland.

Wednesday 7/5 - Invasive aquatic plants workshop, 10-11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/5 - Biomimicry, meet some live animals that help draw comparisons between human products and animal adaptations, 3 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/5 - Eric Hoogland, "Images of America: Belgrade Lakes Region," talk, signing, 6-8 pm, Belgrade Public Library, Belgrade Depot.

Thursday 7/6 - All Things Septic Systems, presentation by David Rocque, Maine's retired State Soil Scientist about failing septic systems and water quality, 2 pm, Fairview Grange, downtown Smithfield.

Thursday 7/6 - Art in the Park, with artist Paula Wilson, free, open for all ages, 3-5 pm, Castonguay Square, Main Street, Waterville.

Thursday 7/6 - Archie and Friends, Village Green Concert Series, 6-8 pm, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/6 - Conspiracy band, Oakland Waterfront Music Series, 6-8 pm. Messalonskee Lake, Oakland.

Thursday 7/6 - "Half Time," musical, through 6/15, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.



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— Along the Kennebec River Corridor —

Portland-filmed Hangdog is Opening this Year's Maine International Film Festival; Eligible for Tourmaline Prize



The Maine-made film *Hangdog* is screening for the first time in the state as the Opening Night film at the 26th Maine International Film Festival. The film is one of 7 feature-length Maine-made films, all of which are in competition for the juried Tourmaline Prizes.

Director Matt Cascella says "Screening the film in Maine will be a total treat. There are enough Maine-specific nods in our film to hopefully keep Mainers tickled, balanced with broader strokes that should appeal to 'people from away.' Maine is a special place that can't really be boiled down to a few adjectives. There's a refreshing authenticity to it and we hope *Hangdog* captures a sliver of that spirit."

The film is a charming indie discovery: Anxiety-riddled Walt embarks on a comic odyssey through Portland, Maine to retrieve his stolen dog before his girlfriend, Wendy, returns from her business trip. If he fails, he risks losing them both.

Cascella praises local businesses such as Bangs Island Mussels and the Illustration Institute, who "were gracious and willing to help out."

Cascella directed the film and his wife, Jen Cordery, wrote the script. The idea originated from a familiar situation: When they met, it was clear that if Cascella didn't get along with

Cordery's dog, Ollie, one of them had to go, and it wasn't going to be Ollie. The couple moved to Maine soon after the COVID-19 pandemic started, and were inspired by the cobblestone streets and winding alleys of Portland: a place where a dog could easily get lost. "Mainers know who they are; they're not hung up on image and frivolities," Cascella says. "There's something so refreshing in their no-nonsense approach to life that made it the perfect foil for someone who's struggling to accept himself. They serve to both taunt and entice him."

Hangdog is showing twice during the Festival: Friday, July 7 at 7pm at the Waterville Opera House; and Sunday, July 16 at 3:40pm at Maine Film Center 2.

About the Maine Film Center

Maine Film Center (MFC) educates, entertains, and builds community through film. Founded in 2009 to unite Railroad Square Cinema, Maine's first independent art house cinema, and the annual Maine International Film Festival, MFC serves as an important cultural anchor by showing the best of American independent, international, and repertory film, and offering the best popcorn in the known universe. For more information visit MaineFilmCenter.org.

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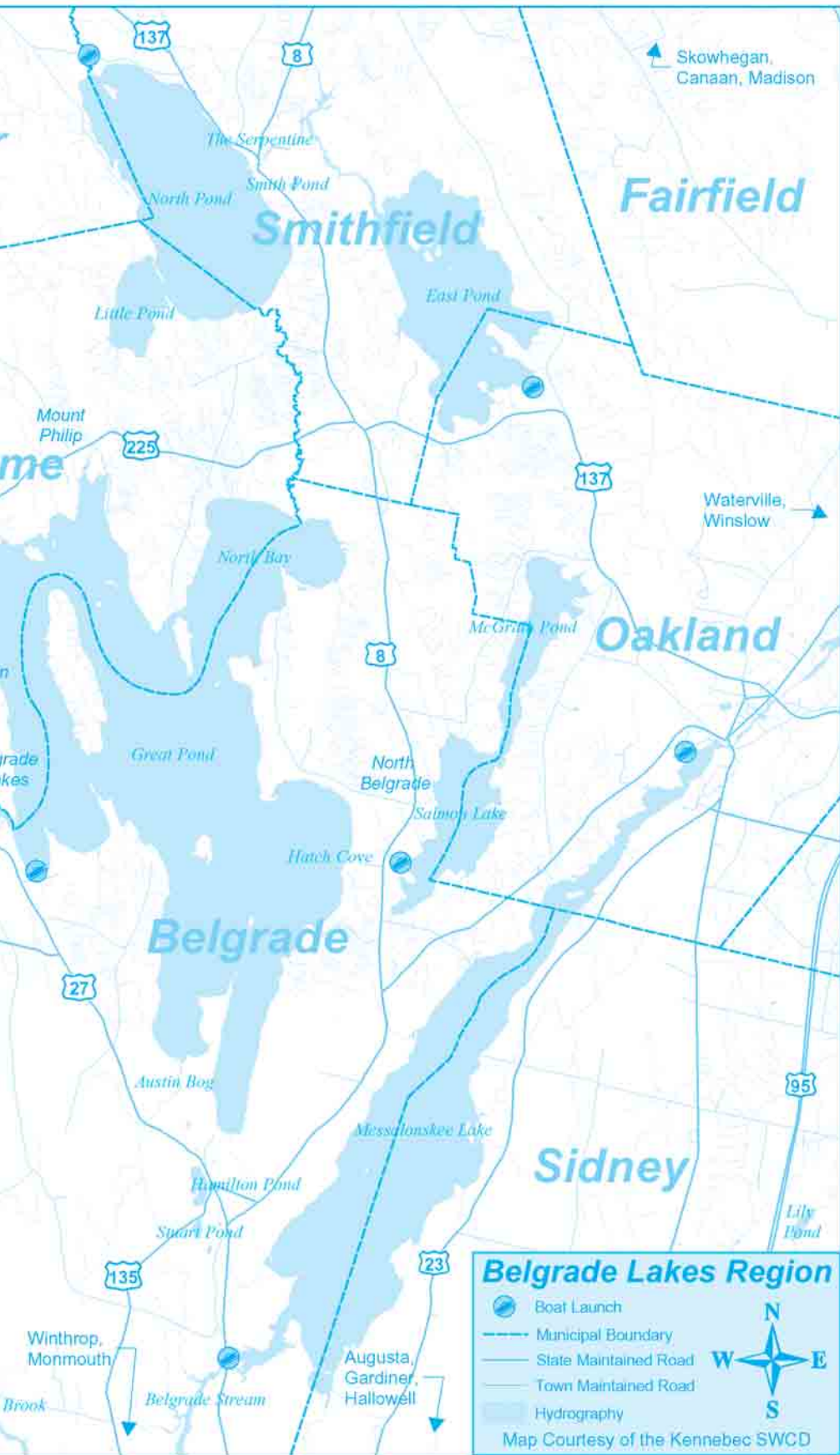
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Call of the Loon



The First Chick of the Season and An Egg Abandoned

This has been a very interesting week with our loons and wildlife in general! We observed our first chick of the season in lower Long Pond but, the parents once again, abandoned the second egg! Just like last year's pair off the same nest.

If you look closely at the egg you will notice the "X" marked on the top. When we suspect that an egg has been abandoned, we mark the egg accordingly. If it has not been turned as is typically done a few times a day, we will collect the egg and transfer it to the biologists at Portland's Biodiversity Institute for processing and testing. Why loons abandoned the second egg or both eggs for that matter, is unknown. Quite often, the abandonment is due to human interference but not always and not in this case. This particular nest was extremely well hidden and out of the way so this one is on the parents!

Also, this past week we were entertained by a pair in a loon territory that has not seen any nesting activity in the past several years. While we were observing the inquisitive pair, they surrounded our boat which they apparently either found interesting or more likely it was the smiles on the faces of our two Colby College Loon Project interns! For over half an hour they circled the boat within a few feet and actually came right up to Brynne who was hanging off the back of the boat with her phone to shoot some video. A once in a lifetime experience!

Continued on page 15...



X marked loon egg



Adult Loon visiting with Colby intern Brynne



A closeup of one of the visiting loons





Dining

Augusta

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• **Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant** at Great Pond Marine, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive,

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• **Village Inn and Tavern** 157 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3553, www.villageinnandtavern.com

• **Winterberry Farm Café**, homemade treats, pie, cookies, granola bars, grilled organic cheese sandwiches, veggies, drinks, 538 Augusta Rd, (Route 27), Belgrade, 649-3331 779-7883

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Weekly Farmers' Markets

Tuesday - Augusta Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Mill Park, Water Street.

Wednesday - Fairfield Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, 81 Main Street, Nazarene Church Parking Lot, 81 Main Street.

Thursday - Downtown Waterville Farmers Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls and Riverwalk.

Friday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot near Better Living Center, Front Street.

Saturday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 9 am-12

noon, in front of Court House, Main Street.

Saturday - Hallowell Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, Steven's Commons.

Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Grist Mill.

Saturday - Wayne Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, on the Green at Mill Pond.

Sunday - Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.



Take it Outside continued from page 5....

twin 12-year-old sons, Jackson and Landen, and their friend, Brayden, caught while fishing on Messalonskee Lake with my friend, Mike Guarino of Wilderness Guide Service. Hard to tell who's happier, Dad, or the kids? The Heath Family is from NJ but has a summer camp on Flying Pond.



Gary Heath with Brayden, Jackson, and Landen, with nice Northern Pike.

This area offers some great outdoor recreation, whether you like to hike, bike, bird-watch, fish, sail, or paddle a canoe or kayak. Pick up a map of the local trails at Day's Store or from the 7-LA at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). The 7 Lakes Alliance is sponsoring many events that may be of interest. Upcoming programs including family hikes and Tuesday afternoon nature presentations from Chewonki, are described elsewhere in this paper. Check the 7-LA Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/7lakesalliance2/>) or web site (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) for details: Keep an eye on the sign in front of the building as events are being added all the time. Get on their email notification list for updates. 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.



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Hathaway Mill Antiques, Multi-Dealer Emporium,
10 Water Street, Waterville, 877-0250,
www.hathawaymillantiques.com

APPLE ORCHARDS

The Apple Farm, 104 Back Road, Fairfield,
453-7656, www.applefarm.us

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

LakeHouse Design, Build, Renovate, 17 Birchwood Road,
Augusta, 242-3663. www.lakehousedesignbuildmaine.com [houzz](http://houzz.com)

ARTS

High Peaks Artisan Guild, art gallery open Friday,
Saturday, Sunday 11 am-5 pm, other times by chance or
appointment,

245 Main Street, Kingfield, 340-1045,
highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com

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

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Belgrade Lakes Marine and Storage, Inc, 366 Augusta
Road, Belgrade, (Rte. 27), 495-2378, [www.belgradelakesma-
rine.com](http://www.belgradelakesma-
rine.com)

BANKING

Maine State Credit Union 200 Capitol Street, Augusta,
623-1851, www.maineatecu.org

BEVERAGES

Tree Spirits, 152 Fairfield Street (Rte. 23), Oakland,
861-2723 or 465-3007, www.treespiritsofmaine.com

BOAT COVERS

Covers It All Upholstery & Canvas, 1042 Kennedy
Memorial Dr, Oakland, 465-7847,
www.coversitallupholstery.com

BOAT LIFTS

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Machias, Portland, Rochester (NH), Rockland, Skowhegan,
1-800-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

BOAT MOORINGS

Great Pond Marina. 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),
Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

BOAT RENTALS

Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),
Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

BOAT SALES AND SERVICES

Mid-Maine Marine, 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive,
Oakland,
465-2146, www.midmainemarine.com

BOAT STORAGE

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Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com
Mid-Maine Marine, 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive,
Oakland, 465-2146, www.midmainemarine.com

BOOKS

Children's Book Cellar, 52 Main Street, Waterville,
872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
Oliver and Friends, Bookshop, 87 Main Street, Belgrade
Lakes, 707-2123
Peoples Book Shop, 605 Wings Mill Rd., Mount Vernon,
620-2392, hosehead51@roadrunner.com

BUILDERS

G&L Contracting, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes,
215-7951, 495-2325, 233-7408,
gandlcontractingmaine.com
LakeHouse Design, Build, Renovations, 17 Birchwood
Road, Augusta, 242-3663. 512-8161
<https://www.houzz.com/pro/contact7917/lakehouse-design-build>

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Belgrade, 313-8439

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Thayer Engineering, septic design, storm water mitigation,
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www.thayereng.com

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CONSTRUCTION

CDS Construction, electrical, heat pump, carpentry, Rome,
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DINING

See Directory on page 11

DOCKS

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ELDER CARE

Maine-ly Elder Care, 28 Center Street, Oakland,
465-3249, www.maine-lyeldercare.com

EXCAVATING

David Stevens, Belgrade, 465-3815, cell 314-0314

EYE CARE

Eye Care of Maine, 325 E. Kennedy Memorial Drive,
Waterville, 873-2731, 1-800-660-3403, www.Maine2020.com

FARM MARKETS

Winterberry Farm, 538 Augusta Road, (Rte. 27), Belgrade,
649-3331, www.winterberryfarmstand.com

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Golden Pond Wealth Management, 129 Silver Street,
Waterville, 873-2200, www.goldenpondwealth.com

FILMS

Maine Film Center
MIFF/Maine International Film Festival, miff.org,
miff@mainefilmcenter.org,

FIREWOOD

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Augusta,
622-6353, www.jmlogginginc.com

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Machias, Portland, Rochester (NH), Rockland, Skowhegan,
1-800-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

GENERATORS

Generators of Maine, 262 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade,
495-2285, www.generatorsofmaine.com

HEAT PUMPS

CDS Heat Pumps, Dereck Shaw, 431-6622,
dereck.shaw207@gmail.com

HOME CARE

Maine-ly Elder Care, 28 Center Street, Oakland,
465-3249, www.maine-lyeldercare.com

INSURANCE

GHM Insurance, 51 Main Street, Waterville, 800-244-9046,
www.ghmagency.com

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great
Pond, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes,
512-5150, belgradelakesassociation.org
McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA),
Belgrade and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
mplassociation@gmail.com

LAND AND LAKE CONSERVATION

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

LANDSCAPING

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, Belgrade Lakes, 215-7951,
495-2325, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com

Lynch Landscaping, 78 Maple Street, Norridgewock,
474-2420, 405-0880, www.lychlandscaping.com

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MAILBOAT RIDES

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Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 143 Silver Street, Waterville, 660-4001, 872-7650, www.coldwellbanker.com

Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-1471

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

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

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

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

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

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

STORAGE

Fieldstone Storage, by appointment only, 270 Summer Street, Oakland, 314-5523, FieldStoneStorage.com

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

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WINE AND SPIRITS

Tree Spirits, 152 Fairfield Street, Route 23, Oakland, 861-2723 or 465-3007, www.treespiritsofmaine.com



The Dams Keeper Report

“Mom, I promise that I’ll never do another Rain Dance – ever!! Can you turn the rain off and bring out the sun again?” We’ve been doing practically daily Rain Dances for the past five years of drought and I guess someone was listening all along, albeit a bit late to the dance! Our long-range forecasters had forecasted another summer with 26% less precipitation and they still are believe it or not!!! All they need to do is open the blinds and look outside! Enough is Enough!!!! Turn off the rain! We’ve got more than what we can handle

Your volunteers on the Inter-local Dams Committee had been keeping the ponds around three inches above full pond (ie. the water going over the spillways/walkways is ankle deep.) But that ship has sailed! With yesterday’s warning from our very own Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency and the National Weather Service out of Gray, Maine:

“A shift in the weather pattern is projected to bring abundant moisture to the region this weekend and continue through the end of the month. Multiple rounds of showers and embedded thunderstorms could lead to isolated flooding over the weekend, and set the stage for more widespread and impactful flooding next week. Historically these weather patterns have resulted in periods of heavy rainfall and flash flooding.

The forecast confidence is high that the region will be impacted by a prolonged wet period, however it is still too early to talk specifics. While we continue to monitor conditions and update you accordingly, please use this time to make preparations and notify interested parties in flood prone locations.

National Weather Service Gray
207-688-4081 - Operations
www.weather.gov/gyx

As of this writing, all of our ponds a bit higher (OK, way too much higher!) than we would like no thanks to these unrelenting showers! Great Pond’s Village dam is currently 4.44” above full pond with one gate opened just 24”. Long Pond’s Wings Mill dam is right at .96”, also above full pond with both gates opened up to their maximum five feet. If one were to only look at these metrics you would assume that Long Pond is in good shape which in reality, is far from the case. Upper Long Pond is 11” ABOVE full pond due to the water flow being held back at numerous choke points such as Castle Island, the mouth of Belgrade Steam at the lower end of Long Pond, and not to mention the 50’ x 5’ deep Spauling Bridge off of the Dunn Road! The bottom line is that it takes several days for the water in Long Pond’s upper basin to make the nine mile trip to Long Pond’s Wings Mill Dam and with these continuous showers, it’s proving almost impossible to get ahead of it.

Salmon/McGrath is 3.6” above full with its calibrated valve set to the mandated 1 cfs. flow and the gate opened three feet. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are down just 2.16” below full, due to their electricity generation needs.

So, in summary, cancel all future Rain Dances and break out the Gore-Tex©!

If you have a particular questions 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.

Welcome back and try to stay dry

Dick Greenan
Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



21st Annual "Friends on the 4th" 5K



Start this year's 4th of July with a bang by entering the 21st annual "Friends on the 4th" 5K Run/Jog/Walk. The race is scheduled for Tuesday July 4, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. held in Winthrop, Maine at Norcross Point. The race, with a scenic course that runs along the eastern shore of Maranacook Lake, is open to runners, joggers, and walkers of all ages. .

The pre-registration fee is \$25 for 11 years or older and \$15 for 10 years and younger. Payment and registration form must be received by 8:00 a.m., Tuesday June 27 to

guarantee the t-shirt and gift bag. Event day registration is \$35 with no guarantee of a t-shirt and gift bag. Same day registration MAY be available day of the race starting at 7:00 a.m. and ending at 7:45 a.m. at the American Legion on Bowdoin Street in Winthrop. Early registration is highly encouraged!

The Friends would like to send a big Thank-You to this year's sponsors - Major sponsor: Homestead Realty. Gold level sponsors: Maine General Medical Center Sports Medicine, Definitive Brewing Company, G&E Roofing. Silver sponsors: Lamey Wellehan, JF Scott Construction, Pine Tree Fence, Augusta Fuel Company, Winthrop Plays Outside, The Weathervane Restaurant, Family First Funeral Homes and Cremation Care. Bronze sponsor: American Awards. All proceeds from registrations support programs offered by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, a 1,000+ member organization whose mission is "protecting the lakes, ponds, and streams of the Cobbossee Watershed through community engagement, conservation and education".

For more information, please contact the Friends office at 207-395-5239 or mail@watershedfriends.com.





Hidden History of Maine by Harry Gratwick

by Martha F. Barkley

In the foreword of this fine 2010 published history of Maine people, David Tyler writes, "In our small state, individuals often have a greater impact on the state than impersonal historic forces." Stories about people usually hold my interest, how about you?

My bookend review will mention only a few from the beginning and a few from the ending of this brief 122 page history. I bet you will find every single person's life worthwhile reading.

We are very aware of the Abenaki presence in our Belgrade Lakes region of pristine waters. Father Sebastien Rale, a Jesuit missionary, compiled the Abenaki-French dictionary so very well that its manuscript is held in the Harvard College library. Other native languages were mastered by Rale as well: Algonquian, three dialects, and "the Huron dialect of the Iroquois."

If only we could master our own English language. Everyday I find a new word or usage. Father Rale, in his multiple language skills, was very much appreciated by the Abenakis and French settlers, but the English settlers had a different opinion. "The English tended to regard all Indians as savages..."

Louise Dickinson Rich wrote kindly, "Rale was fond of the Indians and deeply concerned with their welfare. He was just one of many missionaries working equally selflessly among the tribes, but he was the outstanding example of his kind."

History constantly holds controversy, even in the case of a poor kid from Maine who eventually becomes "the first colonial governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony." Yes, Phip's was one of twenty-six brothers and sisters in his family, born in 1651 in the farmhouse located by the Kennebec River.

The portrait of William Phips reveals a very established, ranking self-made man who was appointed by William III, king of England. Phips had run-ins with the governor of NY and Phips even caned and beat with his fists a customs collector for the king. Troubled times for two years, Phips was in London defending his actions when he fell ill to the flu and died Feb. 18, 1695 at the age of 44.

Critics of Phips even admitted, "He had a flair for making himself attractive to powerful and influential men...". The famed Cotton Mather stated, "I

never saw him do evil action or heard him speak anything unbecoming..." Puzzling portrait, but read more details in this history to discover the rest of the story about a poor kid from Maine who became notorious.

Now, to the end of this interesting book, full of individuals in our state who made a difference. Margaret E. Atwood of York was Marvelous

Mattie, a woman of many inventions, not just the flat bottomed paper bag. Over 80 pattens to her name. "As of 2009, she was one of two women among the ninety-five inductees," in the Paper Industry Hall of Fame in Wisconsin.

Lillian Norton of Farmington made her splash in Paris, France in 1878 when she changed her birth name to Lillian Nordica before moving to Milan, Italy. Her mother moved with her operatic daughter to St. Petersburg, Russia, where she doubled her singing salary from year to year and "dined with the Czar."

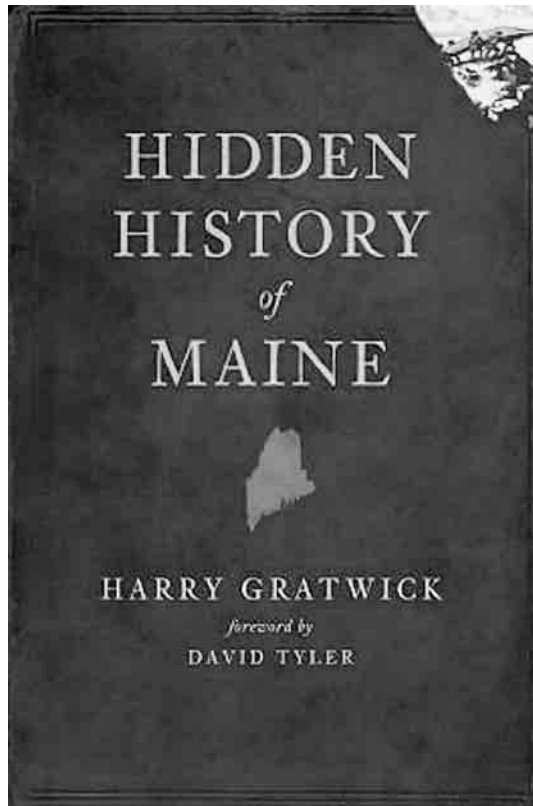
Go for a concert this summer sometime on the lovely Farmington campus at the Nordica Concert Hall. It is a treat to attend. Three husbands and world performances will make you wonder how all this came out of Farmington.

I especially loved reading about the last Maine person of great influence in this book: Ken Roberts. "Robert's books have aged remarkably well...Insatiably curious about the lives of his ancestors,

he used their experiences as a basis for many of his novels, starting with Arundel, published in 1929." My favorite and Northwest Passage a close second, in my opinion.

The writer Booth Tarkington was Robert's friend and twice he dedicated his work to Tarkington. In spite of Robert's criticism of the Pulitzer Prize process, he "was awarded a Special Pulitzer Prize Citation 'for his historical novels which have long contributed to the creation of greater interest in our early American history.'"

Vinalhaven Island is where the author of this collection of biographies resides summers. He taught secondary history for over forty years at the Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia, also coaching baseball. Maybe that is one reason Harry Gratwick wrote about slugger George Gore, nicknamed "Piano Legs"? Batting champion from Maine, read about him or go outside and play ball.






...continued from page 4

once. They want every show to feel like a deep breath, a dance party and a sonic embrace. When not recording or touring they find time to film and produce their own music videos, tie their own shoes and cook elaborate feasts. Maine Public Radio's Sara Willis describes their songs as "beautiful, those brother harmonies can't be beat. They are uplifting and, let's face it, we need uplifting these days."



This popular duo has a wide following in Maine and we anticipate that

we will sell all available seating in short order. You can pre-purchase tickets on our website (<https://www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events>), also linked through our Facebook page. If you have any trouble using these sites you can contact me, Tim Davis, at viennaunionhall@gmail.com. If you want to take a chance and come last-minute to buy a ticket at the door - please visit our website and/or Facebook page for the concert seating availability.

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— Real Estate Update —

The Dream of a Lakeside Compound

"Lakehouse is too fancy, cottage too quaint, cabin too rustic. Here, CAMP is the universal calling for that place by the lake where everyone feels like they're home." This is a quote from Erinne Magee's book THIS IS CAMP.

Summertime at camp is a Maine tradition. It's a time for enjoying nature, living an active lifestyle and best of all making memories. Spending time at camp creates a sense of comfort through all the senses – the warmth and smell of a campfire, the slam of the screened porch door, the smell of the pines, the sounds of the loons, or the winds through the trees.

Do you have the dream of a lakeside retreat that will house the entire extended family, but not all under the same roof?

Our lakes have family camps and compounds all around the shoreline. These family settings were created a long time ago, before waterfront

and municipal regulations limited what could be built on this lakefront land. Because of this, many of these properties have cottages that sit right on the water's edge, some have boathouses, and all have multiple dwellings for many visitors. These properties typically consist of a main lodge which sits on the shoreline. This is often where family meets for their dinner and evening activities. Many have an additional cottage or cottages where the extended family can share their time on the lake. Others have outbuildings or bunkhouses that act as sleeping quarters. These family lake compounds can come in many configurations, but all serve the same purpose of allowing larger families to spend their summer vacations together on the lake.

Over the years, a few of these compounds were split up and sold off as individual cottages. Most of these larger family compounds have been passed down through the generations, and

rarely are sold. A couple of things you can be sure of, when one of these compounds hits the market 1) You will be getting a quintessential Maine lakeside compound as these types of homes can no longer be built, and 2) it will be high in demand.

Right now, in the Belgrade Lakes Region, there just happens to be two classic Maine Family Compounds that have hit the open market. The first is a 4 dwelling classic cottage property that sits on 27 acres on the western shore of Great Pond. The second is a beautiful property on the edge of McGrath Pond that offers 2 cottages and multiple bunkhouses. As you can imagine both of these family compounds will not come cheap but will certainly offer the lakeside living that many larger families desire.

Get in touch with a local real estate agent to find out about these family compounds or to learn about other cottages on our lakes.

...continued from page 10

Although it is getting a bit late in the season to breed, that fact didn't appear to deter this pair from a romantic interlude of "cooing" and "hooting", both good signs of something about to happen! We'll leave it at that!

If you have a particular questions regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@blmaine.org and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Have a great Summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon"! We are so fortunate to summer here in the Belgrades!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project"



Lower Long Pond 2020 banded female preening

4TH OF JULY

FIREWORKS SHOW 9PM
BEST VIEWING AT MILL PARK
JULY 4TH, 2023

Music By

- 8:45AM DOWNEAST BRASS AT MARKET SQUARE
- 4:00-6:00PM ELLIS FALLS BAND AT MILL PARK
- 6:30PM-9:00PM MARTIN & KELLY AT MILL PARK

Food Trucks By

- DOTTIES ICE CREAM, RED BARN, BAO & BEYOND, GOOD STUFF KITCHEN, 207 FOODIES, TRUCKING GOOD FOOD

Mill Park Activities:

- 1:00PM- Carnival Games, Petting Zoo, Dunk Tank and much more
- 2:00-5:00PM Hayrides

Fort Western Events:

Immediately following the parade- Mayor Mark O'Brien will read the Declaration of Independence

11AM - 2PM Chicken BBQ hosted by Le Club Calumet

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Oakland
MLS 1561641 \$1,250,000



McGRATH POND- Classic
Maine waterfront compound that sits
on 2.24 ac. And has 220' on McGrath
Pond.
Belgrade
MLS 1557401 \$995,000



LONG POND- 2 BR/2BA sea-
sonal cottage with 380' on Long Pond
and bunk house.
Rome
MLS 1560763 \$625,000



GREAT POND - 4BR/1BA camp
that sits right next to the lake! Nice
level lot with 90' of waterfrontage.
Rome
MLS 1559129 \$875,000



GREAT POND - 2BR/1BA cottage just
steps to the lake that has been exten-
sively renovated. Enjoy expansive lake
views from your screened porch.
Belgrade
MLS 1557385 \$419,900



EAST POND- Spacious 3BR/2.5BA
home on a large 5.63AC lot with 294'
of private lake frontage.
Smithfield
MLS 1559378 \$1,325,000



LOVEJOY POND- 400 sqft cozy
cabin with 4.36ac of land and 300' of
waterfront.
Readfield
MLS 1555060 \$279,000



WATERVILLE- 3BD/2.5BA
home with 4,136 sq. ft. of
living space situated on 1.55
acres of land.
MLS 1561294 \$649,000



BELGRADE - 3BD/2BA home with
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mercial property on the corner of
busy route 27 and route 225 in Rome
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MLS 1556220 \$260,000



GREAT POND- 7.5 Acres and
481 feet of frontage on gorgeous
Great Pond.
Belgrade
MLS 1558073 \$235,000



LONG POND - 16+ acres of land
with 563 feet of waterfrontage on
Long Pond. Wonderful sunsets!
Belgrade
MLS 158261 \$799,000

