

Summertime in the Belgrades

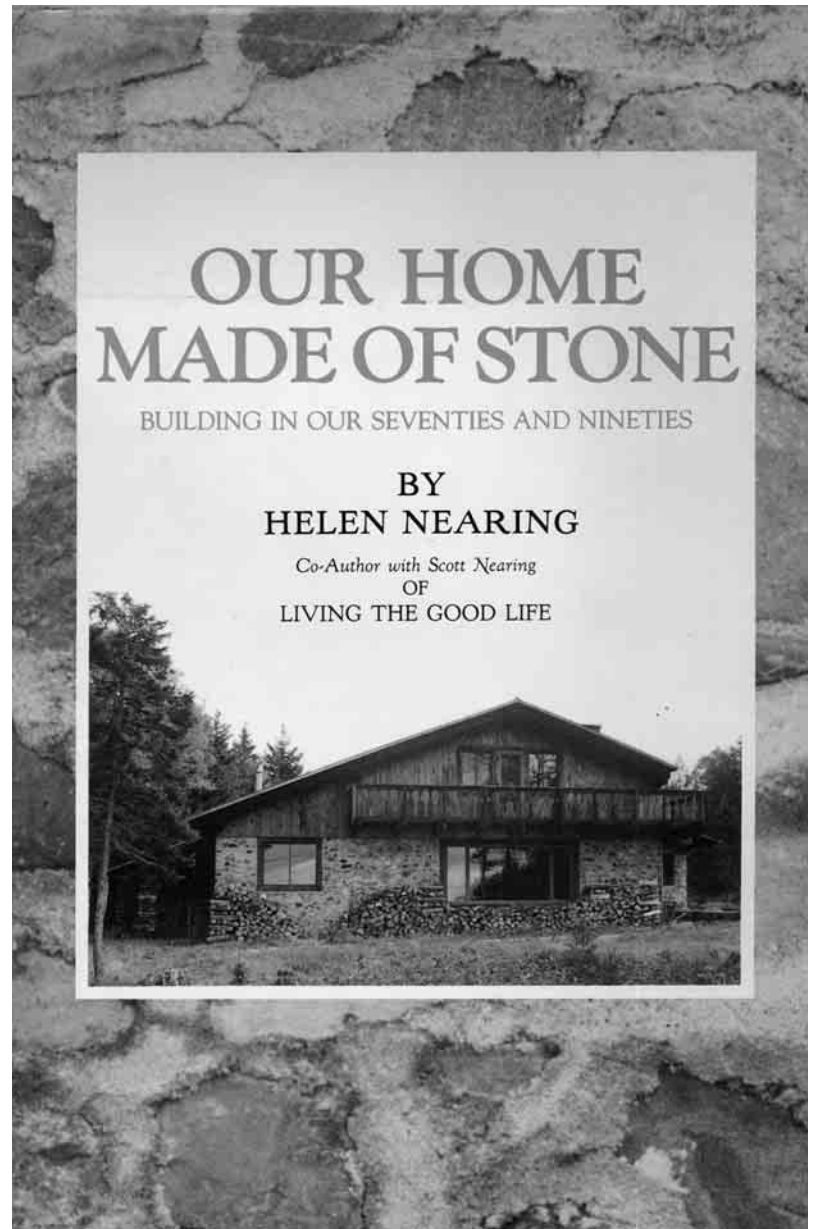


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VOLUME 26, NUMBER 10

Famous Legacies of Belgrade's Hidden Homestead

by Esther J. Perne



Down a road once taken, through a field once mown, lies a house once lived in - a home filled with children and pets and art and food: food that was farmed on the property, harvested and put by to last a large household through the long, challenging Maine winters.

The house itself is a study in uniqueness. Owner-built in the style of Maine's legendary back-to-the-land homesteaders, Scott and Helen Nearing, authors of "Living the Good Life" at Harborside in Brooksville, Maine, the building was constructed by hand of thick fieldstone walls set in cement and intersected by beams in the manner of a European chalet. The center piece and a source of heat is a huge fieldstone fireplace and the granite foundation is believed to be from the 1831 Augusta House Hotel.

This Belgrade construction was prompted by the marriage break-up of artist Cecily Diamond, by her desire to homestead the 224-acre share she received in the division of their historic 1800s farm and by the need to have an art studio for herself and to raise her

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Continued from page 1

four adopted children. And, as in all Maine fields, there was an abundance of stones available.

Embracing a lifestyle of landscaping the property with gardens and fruit trees, filling two huge freezers and a root cellar with all their own food, raising herding dogs and Scotch Highland cattle and giving her children a life of freedom, Cecily named the road to her property Freedom Road. Although her days were full of creative activities, painting portraits using local models and occasionally offering art classes at her home, Cecily rarely presented her work outside her house/studio.

Cecily's two younger sons, Nick and Toby, recall this as a happy although sometimes very cold pioneering experience, but with always large, healthy, home-cooked meals. When young, the children attended the day school in North Belgrade and later a school on the Plains Road in Readfield where the learning style was adapted to each child's pace and interests.

Integral to the successful lifestyle on Freedom Road was Cecily's partner Pal Tripp. Pal grew up on the Old Belgrade Road with 8 siblings and lived and worked in Belgrade all his life, including jobs at Gagne Cement, the Belgrade Transfer Station and in camp maintenance. He also was an avid gardener and with Cicely had one of Belgrade's best gardens.


Pal was the one who drove the children to school, went on shopping errands, handled repairs and patiently was a model for one of Cecily's most impressive portraits. He also was the beloved uncle of dozens of nephews and nieces and grandrelatives who often visited the Belgrade homestead which they knew well and have many happy memories of times spent there.

The Tripp family is a legend in Maine in regard to the state's shameful Malaga Island story, where in 1912 a community of black and mixed racial settlers on the island whose occupation went back a century were evicted to make way for a resort. Some of the victims were released on the mainland, some were committed to Pineland institution for the feeble-minded and some died or disappeared. None of them talked about it.

Pal's father, Harold Sr., was a young boy at the time of the eviction and although nobody knows what path led him to Belgrade, Pal's siblings and some of their offspring have returned to Malaga Island (now uninhabited)


Continued on page 10...

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Water Quality's New Bad Actor

McGrath Pond in Oakland and Belgrade is a headwater for the Belgrade Lakes watershed. It flows into Salmon Lake, on into Great and Long Ponds and eventually exits through Lake Messalonskee and Messalonskee Stream into the Kennebec River.

McGrath Pond with its multi-recreational town park Pleasant Point and its bustling YMCA Camp Tracy, is one of 16 waterbodies in the state (so far) and of two in the Belgrades that is under advisory to avoid consuming lake water or eating fish caught there or in Salmon Lake.

McGrath Pond through the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA), the 7 Lakes Alliance and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is dealing with the latest issue in water quality: PFAS.

PFAS, per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or "forever chemicals" because they don't break down in the environment, have received a lot of publicity in Maine. They have forced roughly 50 farms to permanently shut down, 34 towns to be on a site advisory list, hundreds of wells and waterbodies to be tested starting in 2014 and certain sites (including former landfills) to be on a watch list. One of those former landfills is in the Town of Oakland just above McGrath Pond.

Since 2021, because of concerns that contaminants from the capped Oakland landfill have been leaching into surface and groundwater and reaching the lake, MPSLA has been monitoring McGrath Pond. Maine DEP became involved in 2022 and found very high concentrations of PFAS chemicals in both surface and ground water near the capped landfill and at between 9 and 12 parts per trillion (ppt) in the pond. The national standard is 4 ppt.

In samples of what the DEP calls "flesh fish," tested in the summer of 2022, the concentration of the constituent PFOS in McGrath Pond was approximately 10.8 and 12.8 ppt in black crappie and largemouth bass, respectively. As a result the CDC determined that they fell within the existing statewide mercury advisory of 2 meals per month.

Although 2023 results were not available for the spring MPSLA Water Quality Committee report, sampling data from the 7 Lakes Science Staff show the single PFAS constituent PFOA at 5.6 ppt in McGrath Pond and 3.6 ppt in Salmon Lake.

Based on those results and as a preliminary advisory certain cautions are recommended which include avoiding consuming lake water or eating fish caught in either lake. It is still safe to swim, fish and boat.

The next steps for the MPSLA will be spreading awareness, learning more about the contaminants and developing a plan for remediation.

--Excerpts, including water quality data, in the above are from the MPSLA Water Quality Committee report.



Summertime in the Belgrades

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Discovering a 7 Lakes Alliance Hidden Gem

7Lakes Alliance has conserved more than 12,000 acres and maintains over 20 miles of trails in the Belgrade Lakes watershed, often with the cooperation of other organizations, like Maine's Bureau of Parks and Lands. Trails like The Mountain and Mt. Phillip are very popular and see year-round traffic from both locals and visitors.

The Fogg Island Trail, located off Spring Hill Road in Mount Vernon, is a hidden gem conserved by 7 Lakes. The property features a 2-mile, one way, trail that leads to Lower Long Pond. Along the way, hikers will pass through several distinct natural communities, including young deciduous forests, vibrant and diverse wetlands, and tall, dark stands of hemlock forest. The trail ends with a beautiful section of bog



bridging through a fragile vernal pool ecosystem, leading to a picnic area with scenic lake access. This trail can also be accessed from the water, if visitors would prefer to paddle to the picnic area and explore the preserve from the lake.

The Fogg Island Preserve is more than 650 acres in total, and its undeveloped shoreline helps to safeguard water quality in Long Pond. This wetland ecosystem provides fantastic wildlife habitat and open space for outdoor recreation, including hiking, paddling, and skiing. For more information on 7 Lakes trails and conserved land, visit 7lakesalliance.org. New trail maps are available at the 7 Lakes Alliance building at 137 Main Street in Belgrade Lakes.



Belgrade History Beyond Belgrade

Submitted by BHS member Dianne Dowd

Some of Belgrade's history is designed to leave the area. I am referring to souvenirs of Belgrade. A souvenir is defined as any object that can be collected, purchased, and transported home by the traveler as a memento of a visit. Be it a postcard, coffee mug, T-shirt or any item that indicates it was from Belgrade would be considered a souvenir. Over the years, Belgrade had numerous stores, shops, hotels, restaurants and even camps where souvenirs could be purchased. Gift Shops, such as the Brass Knocker, Maine Made Shop, Village Peddler, and Enchanted Swan primarily sold items intended to be souvenirs. Often the souvenir finds a new home far from Belgrade.

Some souvenirs become family heirlooms that are passed down to future generations. The Belgrade Historical Society received a glass paperweight with an 1890 photograph of the Central House in Belgrade Mills, (after 1900, the name was changed to Belgrade Lakes), from Jim Lantow of Minnesota. He stated that the paperweight had always been on his grandfather's desk. Accompanying the paperweight, was a marriage certificate for Samuel H. Page of Belgrade and Minnie Mae Rollins of Belgrade, dated Oct. 2, 1897. They were married in Belgrade by Rev.

J.S. Cummings and spent their honeymoon at the Central House before beginning their new life in Waverly, Iowa.

The Central House was originally the home of Charles and Abby Lord Austin. In 1874, they opened their home in the center of Belgrade Mills to young men coming to fish in the Belgrade Lakes region. They called this "inn" with beds and meals, the Central House thus establishing the beginning of tourism in the Belgrade Lakes. In subsequent years, the barn was converted to bedrooms and a three-story separate addition was added. As families began to come to Belgrade, the Central House added a four-story annex with a large dining room overlooking Long Pond and larger bedrooms, and finally around 1902, an additional three-story annex with more bedrooms was added. Charles Austin died in 1915 and the Central House was sold in 1916 to a consortium that renamed it The Lakeshore Hotel. Ultimately, it closed in the summer of 1962. A portion of the hotel remains as a private home.

The paperweight and accompanying documents have finished their travels, and Belgrade Historical Society is honored to be entrusted with these irreplaceable treasures





— Take It Outside —

Memories Being Made

By Peter Kallin



11-year-old Charlie Wheeler with 40" Pike.

Hard to believe this is the penultimate edition of "Summertime!" The summer is flying by and the papers are full of "Back to School Specials." Many of the roads entering our watershed have welcoming signs that describe it as a place "where memories are made." There was definitely a lot of that going on last week. The kids are ignoring the back-to-school ads and getting out for some end of summer hiking. I visited several trailheads that were packed with cars from all over (e.g., cars from six different states at Roundtop). I did a bit of foraging for mushrooms and spent some time with the 7-Lakes Stewardship Committee making improvements to the Lambert Trail off Drury Lane. We did a lot of "rock work," building rock steps and staircases. This involved moving some large rocks, as well as turning some large rocks into small pieces to help stabilize the rock placements. Former YCC Team Leader and now 7-Lakes Community Engagement Coordinator, Sally Whittington, put some of her YCC rock crushing skills to good use as seen in the photo at right with Beth Dyer. Check out the new rock staircase in the background. If you haven't yet hiked this trail, you should check it out!



Sally and Beth crushing rocks.

At the Farmer's Market last weekend, eleven-year-old Charlie Wheeler and his dad, Chris, came up to the 7-Lakes table to talk to me and Bill Swan. I had met Charlie and his mom earlier in the summer when they were hiking Mount Phillip and put his picture in Edition 4 of Summertime. This time, he shared the picture of the large pike (40", over 15 pounds) he caught trolling in Great Pond. You can tell by the smile on his face that he made some memories that day!



Miles and Olivia overlooking Whittier Pond.



Elliott Moore atop French Mountain.

Recently, my neighbors, Joel and Kathi King, had their daughter, Modjolie Moore, and her family (Husband, Ricky and kids Miles (11), Elliott (3), and Greta Moore (7)) up from North Carolina for a week-long visit along with a grand niece and nephew (Olivia Keating (3), Luca Keating (5)) from Holden, MA. Modjolie was a charter member of the Belgrade Lakes Conservation Corps (now 7-Lakes Alliance Youth Conservation Corps) in 1996 and 1997. With the hot, humid weather this week, the family spent a lot of time on the King's pontoon boat, fishing and swimming. They also made a trip up French Mountain with all the kids.

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. Or a parent or grandparent. You will be creating memories that will last. 7-Lakes Alliance is host-

Continued on page 15 ...




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Calendar

- **Through Saturday 8/17** - Skowhegan State Fair, endless food, fun, exhibitions, livestock events, live bands, daily shows, harness racing, pulls, demolition derbies, parking \$5 per car per day, \$15 gate admission, kids 10 and under free, \$25 ride bracelet, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.
- **Through Sunday 8/18** - "Mrs. Parliament," Lakewood Theater, 474-7176, Route 201, Madison.
- **Friday 8/16** - Studio Two: Beatles Tribute Band, the early years 1962-1966, featuring Berklee College of Music Alums, 2 and 7 pm, free admission, air-conditioned, 946-5311, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.
- **Friday 8/16** - Artwalk Gardiner, visit the studios, meet the artists, displays in downtown businesses, 5-8:30 pm, Water Street, Gardiner.
- **Friday 8/16** - The DE Experience, Americana party band, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.
- **Saturday 8/17** - "The Aristocats Kids," Lakewood Young Performers, 10 am, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.
- **Saturday 8/17** - Winthrop Sidewalk Art Festival, food, sales, artists, crafters, 9 am-3 pm, along Main Street, downtown Winthrop.
- **Saturday 8/17** - Mushroom Foraging with Dr. Rachel Criswell, sponsored by 7 Lakes Alliance, 1-2:30 pm, Fogg Island Preserve, 174 Spring Hill Road, Mt. Vernon.
- **Saturday 8/17** - Chris Poulson and Pam Tyler (and Lefty, too!), 7 pm, The Union Coffeehouse, Village Green, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.
- **Saturday 8/17** - Bailey Ukelele, 7 pm, Union Meeting House, Church Road, Readfield.
- **Sunday 8/18** - Katie Daggett and Ed Desjardins, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.
- **Sunday 8/18** - Skowhegan Community Band, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.
- **Monday 8/19** - Western Maine Foothills Band, Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.
- **Wednesday 8/20** - Game Day, dozens of games, bring a lunch, spend the afternoon, have fun, 10 am-3 pm, 465-6306, North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield

Road, Belgrade.

- **Wednesday 8/21 - Saturday 8/24** - "Mrs. Parliament," Lakewood Theater, 474-7176, Route 201, Madison.
- **Thursday 8/22 - Sunday 8/25** - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Festival, 10 bands, camping, kids, extra large audience tent, concessions, a lot of field pickin', Litchfield Fairgrounds, 30 Plains Road, Litchfield.
- **Thursday 8/22** - House & Garden Tour and Guided History Hike, 10 am, \$10 per person, reservations recommended at vaughanhomestead.org, 622-9831, Vaughan Homestead, 2 Litchfield Road, Hallowell.
- **Thursday 8/22** - Nature Journaling: Ferns and Wildflowers, with Maine Master Naturalists Mary Ellen Dennis and Deb Stahler, 10-11:30 am, a walk on The Mountain, please register at sally.whittington@7lakesalliance.org, meet at The Mountain Trailhead, Route 27, Rome.
- **Thursday 8/22** - Cruise In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.
- **Thursday 8/22** - Josee Vachon - traditional and contemporary folksongs from Quebec and Acadia, 6 pm, free, Lithgow Public Library
- **Thursday 8/22** - Annual Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Lakeside Libations & Celebrations, fundraiser for water quality and education programs, 5:30-9 pm, 395-5239, YMCA Camp of Maine, Winthrop.
- **Thursday 8/22** - Black Wolf Band, WaterFront Music

Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

- **Thursday 8/22** - Midnight Breakfast, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Farmers' Markets: breads, meats, baked goods, produce, preserves, flowers, fruit and vegetables in season.

- 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.
- Wednesday** - Gardiner Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, The Common
- 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** - New Sharon Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Douin's Market
- 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.

Fall Trip for Seniors to Fort Knox and the Penobscot Narrows Observatory

The Belgrade Senior Resource Committee will be hosting a Fall Trip for Seniors to Fort Knox and the Penobscot Narrows Observatory on Thursday, September 19th. The trip will include a stop in coastal Belfast after your Fort Knox visit. Lunch is on your own at a restaurant of your choice at one of Belfast's many restaurants or bring a picnic lunch and enjoy sitting down along the waterfront. Free time after lunch for a walk on the Belfast Harbor Walk to take in the beautiful coastline or enjoy shopping at the many boutiques in Belfast. The cost for the trip is \$10 for resident seniors (includes seasonal residents of Belgrade) and \$20 for non-resident seniors. The fee will cover the cost of Fort and Park entry plus the Observatory elevator ticket. The chartered bus will leave the Center For All Seasons (Belgrade Rec Center) at 8 am and return around 5 pm. Pre-registration is required. Please call 207-495-2258 for sign-up and ask for Mary.

If you are not able to join us for this trip, the Senior Resource Committee has weekly events:

- Monday Walks - 9 am meet at the Sahagian Road Boat Landing
 - Wednesday Game Days - North Belgrade Senior Community Center - 10 am - 3pm bring a lunch if you like and have fun!
 - Thursdays Craft Day - North Belgrade Senior Community Center - 9 am - 12pm (noon)
- Visit the Town of Belgrade website for upcoming events for seniors at Senior Resources Committee | Belgrade ME (townofbelgrade.com)

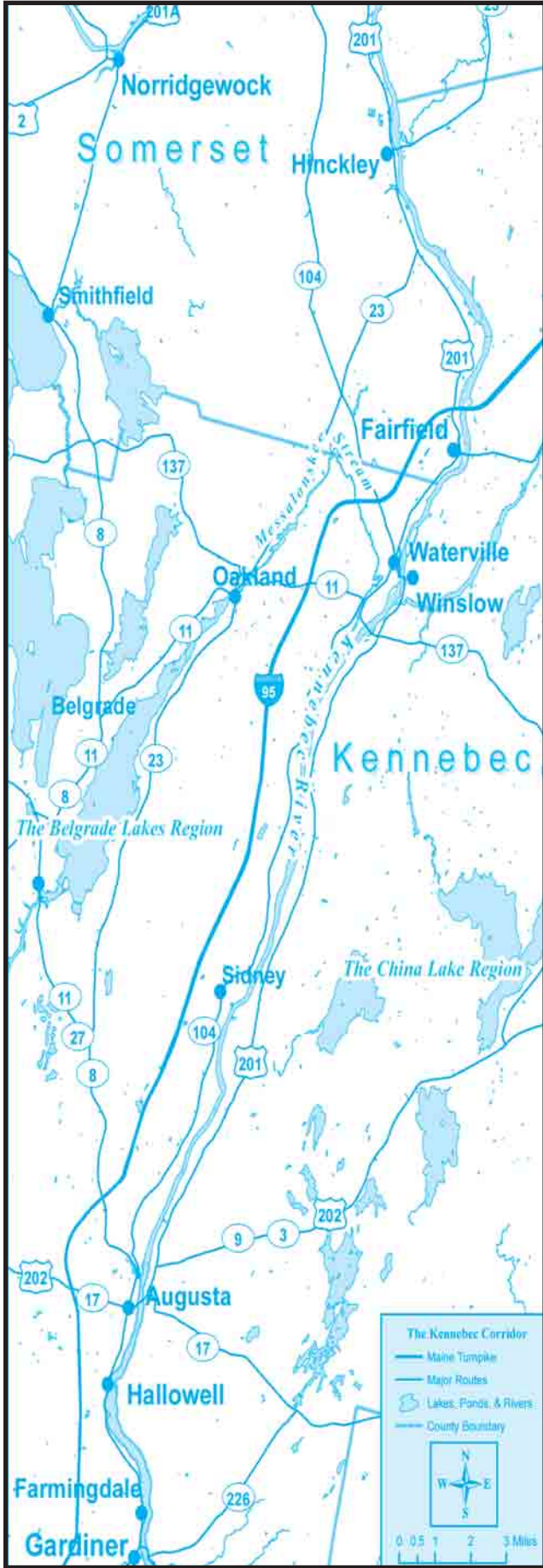
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— Along the Kennebec River Corridor —



Margaret Chase Smith Appreciation Day Celebration on August 26th, 2024

On Monday, August 26th, 2024, the Margaret Chase Smith (MCS) Library invites everyone to Margaret Chase Smith Appreciation Day. The celebration will take place from 4pm to 6pm and is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. Staff remarks will be given at 4:45pm and will be followed by a gallery talk given by exhibiting artist Jerri Whitman.

This event is an opportunity to enjoy two temporary exhibitions currently on display at the MCS Library. The first, "Painting an Inclusive History: Maine Women in Politics," is a portrait exhibition which features the work of Maine artist Jerri Whitman. Whitman is currently working to create a portrait of every woman from Maine who has been elected to the Maine Legislature, the U.S. House of Representatives, or the U.S. Senate. The first twenty-six of these portraits are featured in "Painting an Inclusive History."

The second is a student exhibition entitled, "Joshua Chamberlain's Victory at Gettysburg: July 1-3, 1863," which was created by Sylvie Jensen, Penobscot Christian School. Jensen competed in the 2024 National History Day in Maine competition and received the Margaret Chase Smith Maine Exhibition Award. National History Day in Maine is a co-curricular academic program that fosters in-depth research and critical analysis skills for students in grades 6-12. This program is a collaborative effort between the MCS Library, the University of Maine, the Maine Masonic College, John Bapst Memorial High School, the University of Southern Maine, the University of Maine at Presque Isle, and the Maine Humanities Council.

The staff at the Margaret Chase Smith Library encourages all to attend Margaret Chase Smith Appreciation Day this year. Come celebrate the life and legacy of Senator Smith and have the opportunity to congratulate Director David Richards on his retirement!

The MCS Library is open to the public Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm, and reservations are highly encouraged for visitors. To make a reservation, please call the MCS Library, (207) 474-7133. A congressional research library, the MCS Library is an archive, museum, educational facility, and public policy center devoted to preserving the legacy of Margaret Chase Smith, promoting research into American political history, advancing the ideals of public service, and exploring issues of civic engagement.

The Margaret Chase Smith Library is located at 56 Norridgewock Ave, Skowhegan, ME 04976 (207) 474-7133.

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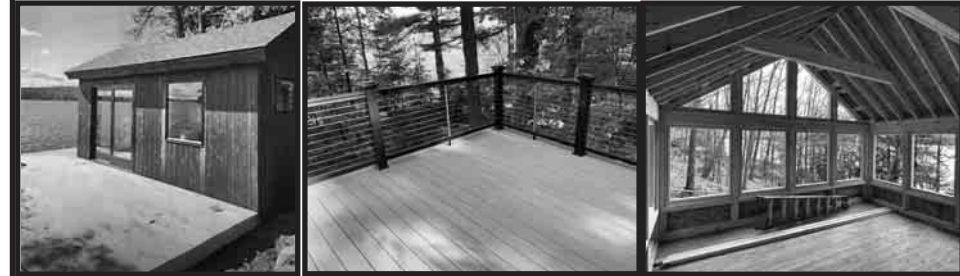


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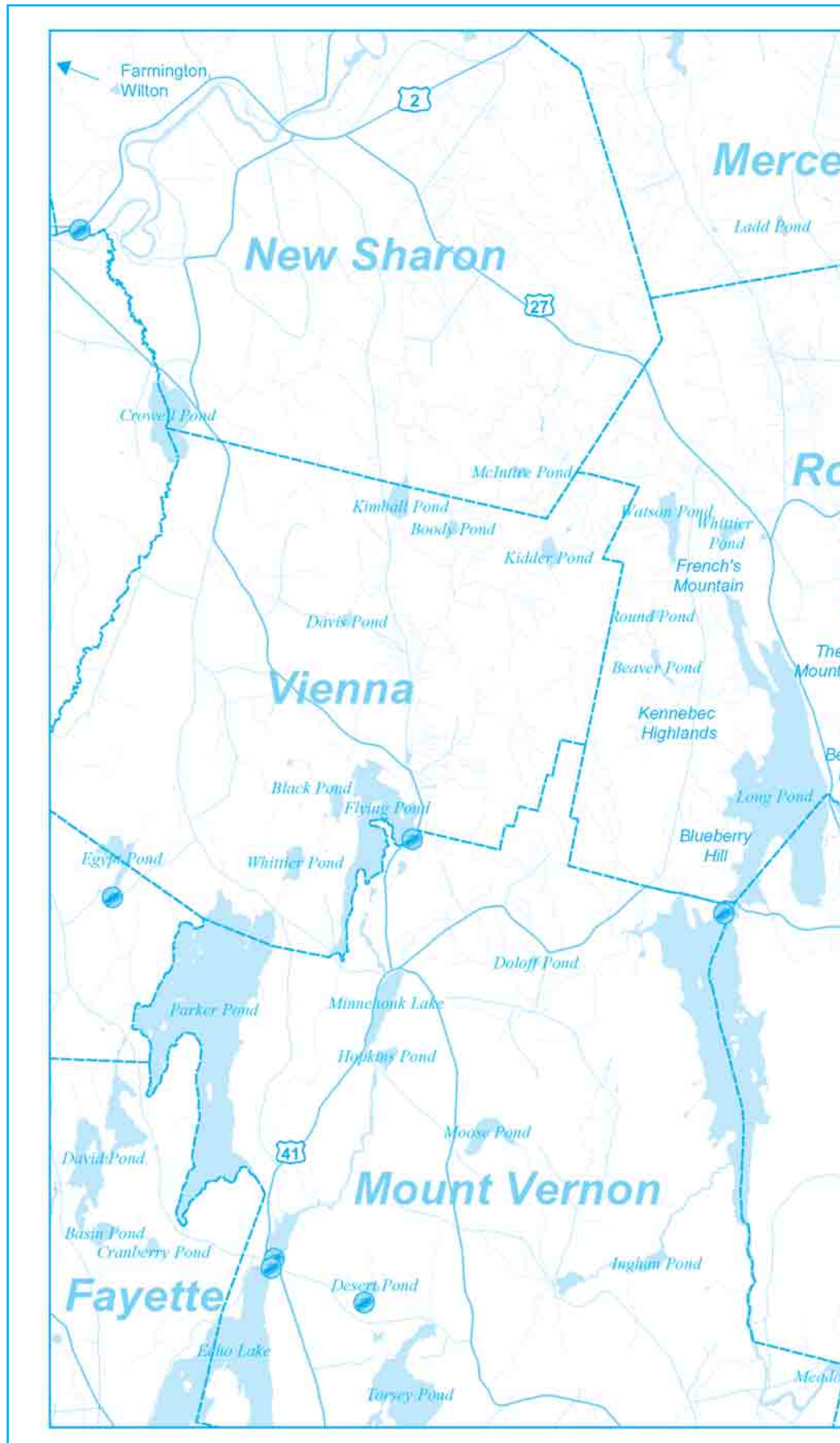
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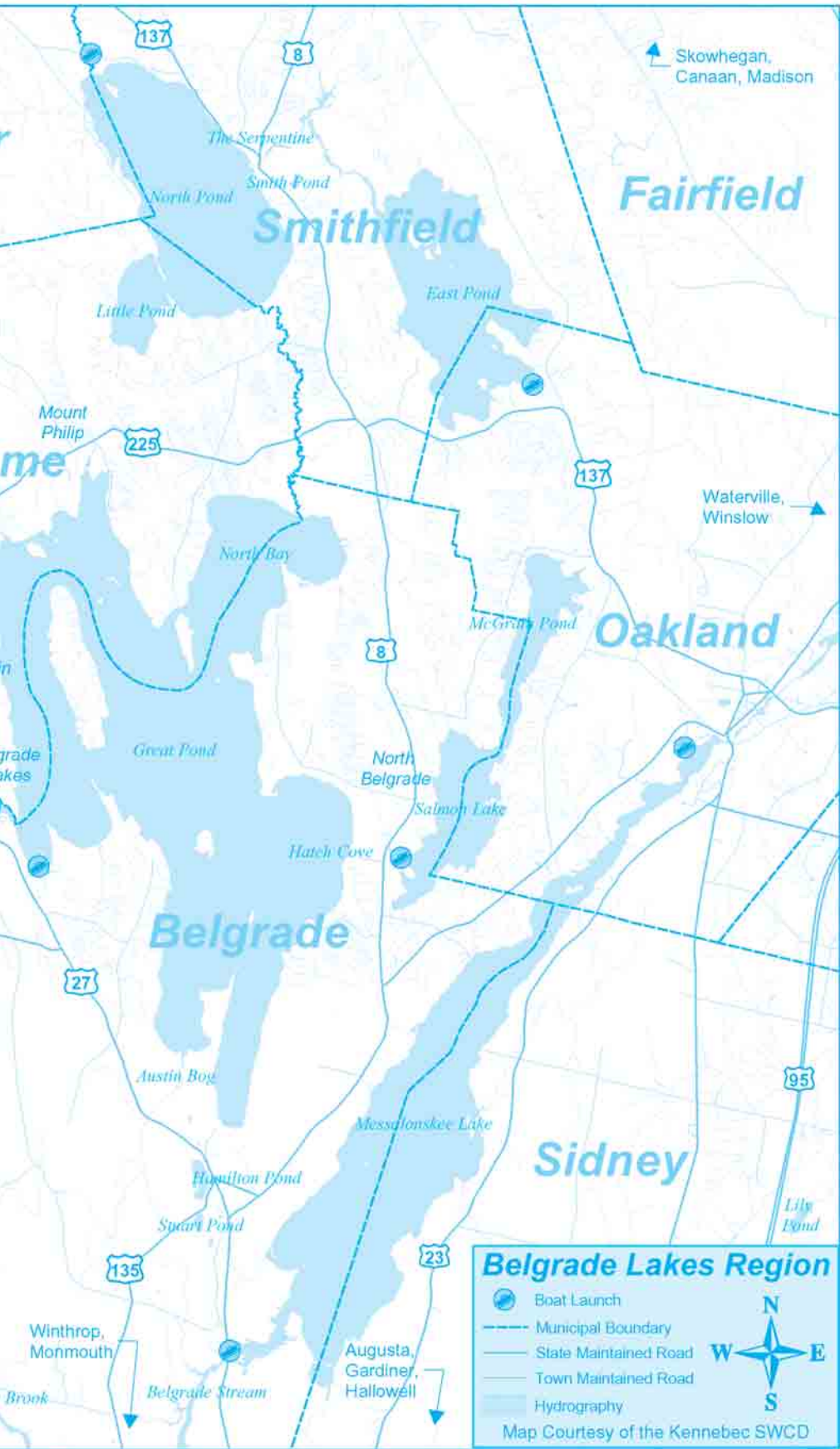


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Happy Memories Put to Paper

Greetings to one of my most favorite periodicals! My name is Lauren Craig and my family and I have been summering on Long Pond for seven years now. What began as an invite to our friend's beautiful lakeside seasonal home quickly turned into us renting it for a week (sometimes two!) each summer.

Throughout the years, like many of your readers, we have had the blessing of watching our children savor the joys of summer in the Belgrade Lakes region. It's nothing short of nostalgic bliss every time we cross Castle Island Camp bridge.

Truth be told, I want to live in a world that is Belgrade Lakes -- all the time, every day of the year. Alas, it is not to be. But perhaps that's what makes it so uniquely special for all of us? This unbridled treat of sunshine, lakeshore and lazy days is most appreciated when it's doled out in loving measured spoonfuls.

But I digress...

As a homeschooling mom of two (now) teenage boys, I have the pleasure of educating them and watching them learn and grow. Last year for one of our creative writing assignments I recounted my own experience on Long Pond and I wanted to share it with you and your readers, if you feel so inclined to print it. I call it "Night Swimming on Long Pond." I'd be willing to guess many of your readers have been in a similar happy predicament.

Well, thank you for your time in reading this, and I hope you enjoy my little passage.

God bless you -- and see you on the lake!

Kind regards,
Lauren Craig

Night Swimming on Long Pond

By Lauren Craig

I stood at the end of the creaking, aluminum dock, scanning my eyes across the sapphire blackness of the lake. Even in the dying embers of a Maine August the night was remarkably warm. The heady scent of pine needles and cedar mulch hung in the quiet, comforting air. Above, the vastness of space with all its planets and stars twinkled and winked and beckoned me to do what I had come to do. In the far-off distance a loon's forlorn cry pierced the soft night sky. I listened as it echoed its way across the glassy surface. Looking down at my restless feet, I felt them aching to be freed from the bumps and divots of this metallic platform. I peered over the edge of the dock into the ebony water below. How different it looks at night! Is it warning me to stay put or tempting me to jump in? I knew the answer. I desperately wanted to slip into the quietude, to feel the smooth cool water swallow me in one swift, slicing dive. Mind you, these decisions aren't lightly made. Night waters are black holes of thrilling mystery. That same gurgling happy lake in the daytime has now been transformed into a deep, dark horse that only the brave dare ride. But, like the fleeting miracle of a northern New England heatwave, this placid nocturnal paradise will dissolve just as quickly as moonlight through the depths.

"Come on, boys. Grab your suits and towels." I threw the words behind me to my two equally curious adventurers who were awaiting a verdict. "We're goin' in."



...Continued from page 2

as respected visitors and have attended the dedication of a monument to Malaga Island at Pineland Cemetery.

With its connections to the Nearings and to the survivors of Malaga Island, what happens to this magnificent Freedom Road property now its visionaries have passed away?

In Cecily Diamond's case, she left a will that was never notarized and, following years of legal unentanglement, the estate will be for sale - hopefully to a new visionary.



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Notebook

Augusta

• Colonial Maine Living History! Everyone is invited to a living history event on Saturday, August 17 at Mill Park on Water Street in Augusta. The reenactment is sponsored by The Colonial Maine Living History Association and Old Fort Western, will cover the period 1775-1812 and will include demonstrations on period activities portraying artisans, crafts-people, settlers, soldiers and more. Participants will be wearing reproductions of clothing and using equipment from the period. The event is free and family-oriented.

Belgrade

• Game Day! Every Wednesday for the rest of the summer the Belgrade Senior Resource Committee (SRC) is sponsoring a Game Day at the North Belgrade Community Center at 508 Smithfield Road (Rt 8) in Belgrade. The current schedule is from 10 am to 3 pm but can be flexible to accommodate participant consensus.

The event is open to all ages and Belgrade resident status is not required. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. SCR volunteer Michael Ashland is the host and is an avid game player who has access to nearly 300 different games. Some examples are cribbage, pitch, Back Ally, a large variety of card games, board games such as Scrabble, Qwirkle, Mexican Train, Ticket to Ride and Settlers of Catan and games such as Mahjong, Mancala, Eclipse and History of the World.

Participants are invited to bring a lunch, meet new friends, relax and have something fun and interesting to do.

Gardiner

• Artwalk Gardiner on Friday, August 16, 5-8 pm will be a lively summer evening of art and live music. The artists and their works will be located in shops, galleries, artists' studios and other venues throughout Historic Downtown Gardiner. There will be an opportunity to win an original piece of art by artists Christine Olson and Margret Melanson by picking up an artwalk map and collecting 10 artist signatures. For more information contact artwalkgardiner@gmail.com

Skowhegan

• Skowhegan History House Museum & Research Center is open for its 87th season and is featuring a new exhibition highlighting the center's founder: "Living Legacy: Louise Helen Coburn (1856-1949)." Skowhegan History House Museum is open for tours Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm through September. For more information contact showheganhistoryhouse.org or 474-6632.

Vienna

• The Porch Party Mamas will be performing at the Vienna Union Hall on Friday, August 23 at 7 pm. The Boston-based band of 4 female musicians performs a unique blend of folk, country, Celtic and blues, a repertoire that developed during their own porch party gatherings. This is their fourth concert in Vienna. For more information contact www.viennaunionhall.org/arts-and-events

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www.mainehorserescue.com



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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

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Bench & Field Architecture, LLC, Andrew Hankermeyer, Maine Licensed Architect, residential homes, cottages and light commercial, 649-2561, ahankermeyer@gmail.com

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LakeHouse Design Build, 17 Birchwood Road, Augusta, 242-3663, www.lakehousedesignbuild.com houzz

ARTS

Designing Women, bridging art and community, www.designingwomen.org

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

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BOOKS

Children's Book Cellar, 52 Main Street, Waterville, 872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar

Oliver and Friends Bookshop, 150 Main Street, Waterville, 707-2123

Peoples Book Shop, used books, 605 Wings Mill Road, 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, 17 Birchwood Road, Augusta, 242-3663, www.lakehousedesignbuild.com houzz

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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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This adult feels threatened and is one second away from flushing!

human interference was confirmed multiple times in both cases. On a nearby natural island nest, it too was abandoned due to numerous visits by a small fishing skiff, inquisitive paddle boards, kayaks and swimmers.

Their nests are ‘theirs’ from Memorial Day through October and we need to recognize that and give them their space. While I was out, I twice approached nests from a distance of about 40 yds (I use 10x42 binoculars) and in both instances as I approached, I never saw a loon BUT when I was leaving the area, up pops a loon in both instances that had me in their sights the entire time. So, what is the take away here? Basically, a nest is off limits whether there is a loon sitting on it or not. If you are out in your kayak and a loon comes over, it might very well be catching your attention to follow it out and away from where you were spotted. They are particularly adept at getting your attention and leading you away from their nest, chick, or just being “In Their Face”!!!! They are not coming over to say Hi!



Two inquisitive young adults flushed this loon off her two eggs and circled the nest - twice. Loon can be seen 30 yds to the left and did fortunately re-nest. Although they did not nest this year!

So why don't we just put out a sign on a tree or a floating sign nearby to keep people away from the nests? Do we really think that a sign is going to deter the majority of people or, attract more sightseers? It's a double edge sword. Public education such as the Summertime In The Belgrades provides an excellent service in getting the word out, but it takes the ongoing efforts of all of us and the community that loves these lakes and wildlife and wants to preserve what we have. It is a fragile ecosystem!

Remember, we have collected 11 abandoned eggs this year which should have been chicks!

If you have a particular question 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. Thank you for your help and enjoy this incredible legacy!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



Just came in from another day of surveying our Loons on Long Pond and observed one more example of human interference which was totally without malice but was certainly interference with the livelihood of our breeding loons. In this case, a paddle board went right up to the nest and around it and of course, not seeing a loon on the nest nor in the immediate vicinity, considered her activity perfectly inquisitive, educational and ‘normal’ – in the human sense.

Both of our floating nests in upper Long Pond never nested this year and

LOON NESTING SANCTUARY

Please Stay Away

Please Support Your Belgrade Lakes Association's Loon Preservation Project

Remember, we have collected 11 abandoned eggs this year which should have been chicks!



About Grace by Anthony Doerr

by Martha F. Barkley

Four snowflakes with their differentiated six points are on the cover of this novel. I found it today at the newly advertised Mt. Vernon used bookstore, not really too far away from the village.

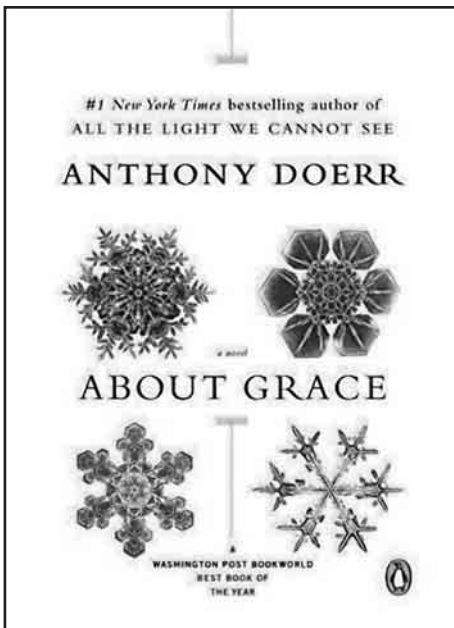
My first swim, also today, in the warm waters of Great Pond made me pause and reread on page 47: "Water was a wild, capricious substance: nothing solid, nothing permanent, nothing as it appeared." Today it was a 75 degree sunny heaven of a day and the water felt like 75 too!

Most of the novel is about Grace, named after Grace Creek, Alaska, a body of water only visited once.

The main character is a lover of snowflakes and snow and quite the scientist, full of pages and pages of crystal water info along with strange abilities to see the future.

Perhaps quite cooling during a hot summer? The author Doerr reached me deeply in *All the Light We Cannot See*, a war story involving a blind girl. When she opened that mysterious can of peaches, I simply had to go out and buy some of those delectable sweet fruits, even though canned. Had any sweet fresh peaches this summer?

Black raspberries and sweet sweet cherry tomatoes came my way the other day from Farmington friend Susan McPherran who used to manage Spring Gallery sculptor garden on Main St. in the village. We were planning to swim in Great Pond, but the wind and choppy waves kept us wading that hot morn-



ing. Waters are ruled by weather.

In this novel as well, Doerr is reaching into light and darkness and touching me deeply page by page. How does his writing almost hypnotize me, and then I swim in Great Pond's gentle waters today and feel "other worldly."

Did I mention that *Summertime in the Belgrades* ad took me to this new, yet old business and I met my neighbor on Great Pond there by coincidence? He thankfully drove ahead of me back towards home because my route there was way around robin-hoods barn.

Isn't it quite the treat to find helpful librarians at the Mt. Vernon Public Library and a young assistant actually programmed my rental car so that I heard the ins and outs of hilly roads from "the voice" as I drove, enjoying the sunny road to Don Hamilton's used bookstore stocked from floor to ceiling. He told me google has a tour on line.

Freedom to enjoy the lake, a new book shop to find and a delightful Doerr novel makes summertime in Maine pure magic. Hoping you, too, are experiencing some of reading's magic and lakeside views of clouds reflected in waters ever so serene on special summer days. Aren't we the lucky ducks? I even heard my first loon call today.

On the cover of Anthony Doerr's novel *About Grace*, A Washington Post Bookworld Best Book of the Year, pub. 2004.



Designing Women Fine Art & Craft to Hold Annual Manchester Show

Designing Women, a non-profit volunteer organization that celebrates and highlights local female artisans and works to support local nonprofits, will hold their 17th annual, juried fine art and craft show at Longfellow's Greenhouses, located at 81 Puddledock Road in Manchester, on Saturday, August 24, 2024 from 9:30am through 4:00pm. Join twenty-two of northern New England's most talented female artisans for a fantastic celebration of the end of summer! This juried show features newer, traditional and whimsical pieces showcasing the best handcrafted pottery, clothing, fine art, homemade soaps and body care and much more! The suggested \$2 door donation will be collected by Winthrop's Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center. A light lunch will be available and music will be provided by Twisted Strings. Help us support our community and local artisans, and shop Longfellow's end-of-the-season sales!

For additional information regarding Designing Women's upcoming show in Manchester, Maine, please contact Mary Kay Spencer at The Potter's House at 207-713-4248 or visit Designing Women's website at <http://www.designing-women.org> or Facebook and Instagram pages.

About Designing Women – Designing Women is a nonprofit volunteer corporation established by female artisans from New England in 1991 to bridge art and the community by sponsoring shows that benefit local nonprofit services that support women and families.

About the Sexual Assault Crisis Aand Support Center – Providing free and confidential services to Kennebec and Somerset counties, The Sexual Assault

Crisis and Support Center is a non-profit corporation based in Winthrop, Maine. Services include working to lessen the trauma-related suffering of sexual assault and to promote healing by guiding those affected by sexual violence toward survival through support, advocacy, education and community collaboration. For more information, please visit <http://www.silentnomore.org>.

designing women
bridging art and community since 1991

Fine Art and Craft Show

Saturday August 24, 2024
Longfellow's Greenhouse
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— Real Estate Update —

Greater Transparency in Transactions

The recent nationwide settlement involving the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and local real estate organizations represents a significant shift in the real estate industry towards greater transparency in transactions. This settlement mandates that both buyers and sellers must now sign agreements that clearly outline how their real estate agents are compensated, ensuring that all parties are fully aware of the financial aspects of the transaction before they engage in buying or selling a home.

Traditionally, the sellers' listing agents would share their commission with the buyers' agents as a way to incentivize other agents to bring potential buyers to view the property. While this practice will continue, the key change is that the details of such compensation arrangements must now be explicitly agreed upon by both the buyer and the seller in advance.

For real estate brokers in Maine, this settlement doesn't introduce many changes, as the state has long required the signing of buyer representation

agreements. This means that much of what is being introduced nationwide is already standard practice in Maine, emphasizing the state's commitment to transparency and informed transactions.

Key Points:

- **What's Changing?** Buyers and sellers must now sign agreements detailing their agents' compensation before engaging in the transaction, adding a layer of transparency.

- **What Isn't Changing?** The dedication of real estate agents to their clients remains unchanged, as well as the fact that commissions are negotiable and not set by law.

This development is expected to create a more informed and empowered experience for both buyers and sellers in the real estate market, ensuring clarity and transparency in the compensation of real estate agents.



...continued from page 5

ing many interesting events, which are on both their website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and Facebook page, as well as on the sign in front of their building. The Tuesday afternoon (3 PM) live animal talks from Chewonki are especially popular with kids. Try a new trail for a new adventure. Fogg Island can be accessed by water from Long Pond and by land from the parking lot off Spring Hill Rd in Mt Vernon. It's over 500 acres of very interesting, mostly wetland, habitat. There is a mushroom foraging event scheduled there on August 17th.



King grandkids and grandniece and grandnephew headed up French Mountain



The Dams Keeper Report

I like England a lot but I can do without their weather! But it looks like we may have turned a corner despite the forecast for 1.29" of precipitation for the next 10 days. Although, as I pen this week's report, it looks like Hurricane Debbie will be going out west of us, but as of today, that remains to be seen. We did luck out this past ten days with just 0.6" of precipitation so let's see if our luck continues to hold!

The ponds are just above full and pretty much right at our summer objective of 3" above full. Most everyone thinks that our water levels just happen automatically!!! Tell that to the twelve volunteer members of your Dams Committee – they know better!

Messalonskee is 2.16" below full pond with their electricity generation which is still good. Salmon/McGrath continues to hold steady at 1.32 above full. Long Pond is presently 2.86" also above full pond with both gates closed which could be very temporary depending on the whims of Debbie. Finally, Great Pond at 2.4" also above full with Gate 1 opened just today to 6".

Enjoy the Family, your Vacation and these incredible Belgrades. They are hard to beat!

Dick Greenan

Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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