FRIDAY, JUNE 20–JUNE 26, 2025

Caddying at The Belgrade.....Page 4....



Summertime in the Belgrades

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

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 2

Maine's Governor Reed and His Beloved Lake

'n the Belgrade Lakes region those with camps have somewhat similar lake experiences to share about being at camp on one of the seven ponds in our watershed. Stories passed down around lakeside campfires, a shared lunch of grilled red snappers eaten at a picnic table or enjoying a glass of wine or a cold beer sitting on weather worn Adirondack chairs lakeside. Stories stem from the many relationships with lake neighfamily bors, camp compounds, generations being born into life at camp and those who came to Maine from away for a visit and had to own a piece of it to get back to "their Maine."

One such campfire story

coming from the second lake in our chain of lakes is about John H. Reed, Maine's 67th governor from 1959-1966. If he was alive today, he would surely give you an earful about his memories at Camp Aroostook and all of his lifelong adven-



Governor Reed as Grand Marshall of Smithfield's Sesquicentennial Celebration.

tures on the lake he loved dearly—; North Pond. His father, a successful potato farmer in Ft. Fairfield, bought the property on Lake View Drive in 1920 and a year later John was born. As a young man, he played on a summer baseball team with Smithfield native, and close friend over the years, David Hartford. They played, in the field across from Ketchum's Store, (then Corson's Beach and now a private camp) and he also golfed at Lakewood Golf Course as often as he could.

Other than fishing, another reason John loved being in Smithfield was its proximity to all of the fairs in Maine, especially those with harness racing on the schedule. John loved horses and harness racing. Although admittedly not very good at it, he did jog horses and even raced at the Presque Isle Fair. After moving to Augusta for work from The County, he continued his interest by attending the harness races at Lewiston Raceway.

Even though his hobby of owning and racing horses as a

younger man was not as successful as he would have liked, he never lost his love of the trotters and pacers over the years. During one visit he

Continued on page 2



Join us...and help protect our lakes!



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Belgrade Lakes Association

137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918 207-512-5150 • www.belgradelakesassociation.org July 11-20, 2025

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Continued from page 1

recollected seeing any combination of my grandfather, brothers or cousins jogging horses to train them on the side of Route 8, a very long time ago, now. In letters to me he would frequently mention how well my brother-in-law in NJ or my brothers were doing wherever they were racing and would even name the horses!

I had the opportunity to meet John after learning he had a camp on North Pond from my oldest brother, Gary, a successful harness horseman. As John, the retiree, often did while at camp, he visited Sidney Training Center to check on the harness race horses in Gary's stable. One day in early September 1996 I was arriving for a visit as he was leaving the stable. Gary told me who he was.

There was a mystique about having a retired Maine governor, someone who chose a life of service, and chose to have a little camp on North Pond. I had only seen him as Grand Marshall of Smithfield's 150th Sesquicentennial Celebration, a parade I have etched in my memory. I recently found the picture I have of him sitting atop the back seat of the convertible waving to the crowds of onlookers. At the time I had no idea he was a lake neighbor!

One day, rather than driving by his camp on the way to mine, I threw caution to the wind, pulled in the pine needle covered driveway and knocked on the door. The door opened, we said warm hellos. I introduced myself as we shook hands and was immediately invited in, met Cora,

his lovely wife and was asked to please sit down and ter that his earliest memories were as a two year old in the would I like anything to drink. The rustic camp was furnished with 1950s vintage furniture mixed in with a few antiques. Books were scattered on the coffee table and shelves, and there were stacks of newspapers. Checkered curtains with matching valances hung from the large windows facing the water across from the narrow staircase to



Reed with Jodie Mosher and his daughter Cheryl.

reach the bedrooms upstairs. This was a true camp on North Pond, nothing fancy, where summers were relished for over 60 years at that time, and memories cherished. It was camp, pure and simple.

John shared in an archived North Pond News newslet-

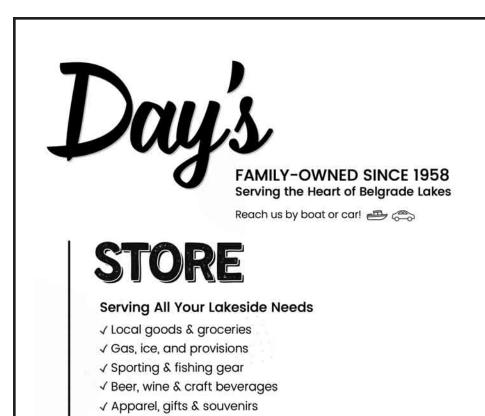
water. His daughter, Ruth, aka Rudy, said she still has the photo of him in the lake at 6 months old. The camp was one of the first one room fishing camps on what is now Lake View Drive. As John's brother and he grew up looking forward to their time at camp fishing with their dad, a strong connection to the lake was forged. John eventually

assumed ownership when his brother lost interest. He felt like the luckiest man alive. He told a lake neighbor he had to choose between a camp on Lake Wesserunsett at one point and the family camp on North Pond. Hands down the choice was North Pond because of the fishing. John was very tall and whenever he had his old, reliable boat out, his head could be seen above the small windshield with his warm smile as he sped by.

After retirement from his life of politics and public service, he and his wife made the journey from their home in Washington D.C. to camp in Smithfield every summer. Once settled in, Cora and John marked their calendar with dates of the small town potluck church suppers, Fairview Grange #342 Wednesday night suppers. They attended Smithfield Baptist Church every

Sunday which has a nice view of North Pond. The next camp over lake neighbors were some of his favorite people to socialize with, be it around the campfire or in their cozy camp living room,

Continued on page 14...





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Summertime in the Belgrades



Table of Contents

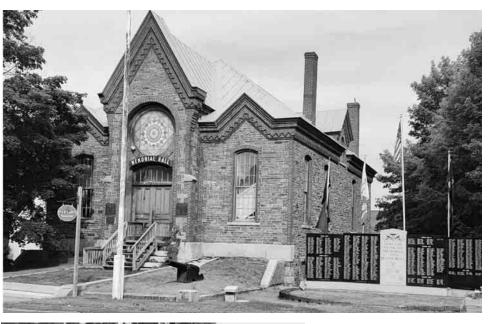
The Governor Who Loved North Pond 1-2
Table of Contents: Summer Enrichments - Bring Them On
Oakland Presents L.B. Hall Band in Concert 3
7 Lakes: Volunteers Identify Invasive Plant Infestation 4
Caddying at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Course 4
Pete Kallin's Take It Outside: Dusk is Best 5
Calendar of Events: Events, Activities, Summer Schedules Starting Up 6
Kennebec Corridor Map7
Take a Foodie Tour: Skowhegan
Take a Foodie Tour: Skowhegan
Belgrades and Beyond Map: RoadsWaters Adventures



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L. B. Hall Band in Concert





The R. B. Hall Memorial Band will present an outdoor concert at Oakland Waterfront Park, Belgrade Avenue, on Sunday, June 22 at 2 PM, with a rain date of 6/29. This is a free performance with donations gratefully accepted to benefit the restoration of Oakland's Memorial Hall. Audience members are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

Designed by architect Thomas Silloway in the

Italian-Gothic style using stone from a local quarry, the hall was completed in 1873 using funds from a local Soldiers Memorial Association for Civil War monuments. A plaque on the front of the building reads

This Building Is Dedicated To The Memory Of The Soldiers And Sailors Who Were Citizens Of This Town, Whose Lives Were Sacrificed For The Preservation Of The Union In The Civil War, 1861 To 1865.

Memorial Hall is now owned by the town of Oakland and has been used for many community activities over the years. The restoration project has been funded in part by a grant from the National Trust for Historical Preservation.

Robert Browne Hall (1858-1907), a Maine native, was a renowned composer of marches and a contemporary of John Philip Sousa. He was the director of the Waterville Military Band for many years and served as music director at Colby College. The R.B. Hall Memorial Band of Oakland was organized in 1969 to perpetuate his music and the unique style of the military band. Hall's cornet is kept by the Reddington Museum in Waterville.

The R.B. Hall Memorial Band performs many of his marches as well as other familiar and traditional music. The band is comprised of local musicians of all ages and welcomes new members. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM at Williams Elementary School in Oakland. Dan Gilbert is director.

Submitted by: Jane Brogan



5, 8

A REAL PROPERTY AND A REAL





Our Lakes Need You: Volunteers Help Identify Aquatic Invasive Threats

hanks to the dedication and sharp eyes of local volunteers, a new infesta- with efforts on North Pond or any of the 7 lakes in our watershed. L tion of an emerging invasive aquatic threat in the Belgrade Lakes watershed has been identified before it has had the opportunity to spread

unchecked. These volunteers had attended a 7 Lakes Alliance invasive aquatic species workshop with training to identify harmful nonnative species and afterwards spotted an early infestation of Curly-Leaf Pondweed, an aggressive invasive plant that threatens the health of native ecosystems. Their discovery underscores the power of community involvement in protecting our lakes.

Unlike other invasive aquatic plants, Curly-Leaf Pondweed grows through the winter and becomes dormant in the summer months. This unusual growth cycle gives it a dangerous head start, choking out native species that are just emerging in late spring. The result: degraded natural habitat, reduced biodiversity and impaired water quality.

7 Lakes Alliance's invasive aquatics team is actively working to remove Curly-Leaf Pondweed from known infestations in the Serpentine between North and East Pond, in North Pond - and now, thanks to local volunteer, Paul Marshall, removal efforts are expanding to a newly discovered outbreak near the entrance to Little Pond (Little North) from North Pond. Please use caution when motoring in North Pond and avoid infested

areas marked by pink marker buoys. Please contact 7 Lake's Invasive Aquatics Monday through Friday and on Sundays from 8-1. Director, Sharon Mann (sharon@7lakesalliance.org) if you would like to help

Early detection is critical.

Once an invasive aquatic species takes hold undetected, it is very expensive

and difficult to manage. Over the past several decades, millions of dollars have been spent in the Belgrade Lakes watershed fighting invasive aquatic plants. With several more aggressive species already present in Maine, the threat is growing - and the need for vigilant monitoring has never been more urgent.

How you can help.

Every Wednesday this summer at 10 am – 11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance offers a free workshop at the 7 Lakes building to teach local volunteers how to identify invasive aquatic plants, such as Curly-Leaf Pondweed (often described as resembling lasagna noodles with its ruffles edges) as well various milfoil species.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors and Adopt-A-Shoreline participants and volunteer paddlers throughout the Belgrade Lakes are often the first line of defense. By learning how to recognize invasive species early, local residents and visitors alike can play a direct role in helping to protect our lakes for today and for future generations.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities or for more information, please visit our website at 7lakesalliance.org or stop by the 7 Lakes Building at 137 Main Street in Belgrade Lakes

5

Caddying at The Belgrade

Submitted by BHS member Rod Johnson



The Belgade

addying at The Belgrade Hotel was no small task, that is, for us nine (9) year olds that got called that memorable day. You may ask why in the world were kids that young caddying to start with. Here is the story.



Giving Back to Members Since 1935.

In July or August of 1956, only a couple of months before the grand old Belgrade (circa 1902-1956) burned to the ground, a large gathering happened at the famous hotel in Belgrade Lakes. Apparently, attendees were invited to golf and many did. When the usual contingent of local boys who caddied fell short of the need, the golf pro sent word through the village that anyone who showed up would get a client (so called). Three or four of us youngsters left the swimming hole at the dam and made a dash for home, all with anticipation of making the big leagues! With a quick explanation to mother, we received dry clothes and then hurried up to the hotel. Arriving breathless, fingers pointed us to the pro-shop under the big porch to announce our arrival to the Pro. We shyly listened intently and were told to wait outside under the Big Pines, always where the older boys hung out while playing mumblypeg. Time went by as the older boys responded to a yell from the Pro, and we sat awaiting the call of our name. In what seemed like an eternity, the last four-some of golfers came to the staging area to tee

Continued on page 7...

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Summertime in the Belgrades

Crepuscular Fishing

By Peter Kallin

ike last year, this has been a cool, wet, and windy transition to summer, with some occasional, very hot days. The fishing has continued to be productive, respecially early in the morning and late in the evening. I love fishing these crepuscular periods when the lake is typically dead calm, and it is easy to spot fish feeding on or near the surface. Surface feeding fish often indicate an insect hatch taking place with some fish (often trout or small bass) sucking the bugs off the surface, creating dimples. Often larger fish will be just below the smaller fish at the surface, eating the smaller fish or the nymphs (insect larvae) just



White zonker fly next to landlocked alewife.

below the surface waiting to emerge. In our lakes, we also get schools of landlocked alewives disturbing the surface while spawning in relatively shallow (less than about 25 feet) coves. Often these schools are being chased by larger fish and you will see occasional large splashes, as a bass or brown trout picks a spawning alewife off. For this situation I like to keep one of my flyrods rigged with a White Zonker, a streamer that nicely mimics the landlocked alewives in the lake. It's usually easy to catch several nice bass or white perch under these conditions. A spinning rod (I prefer an ultralight) rigged with almost anything silver, such as a small jerk bait (such as a Rapala), Mepps spinner, or Weeping Willow spoon is also quite effective.

Last week, I got a text from my friend, Mary Perry, former long-time owner of Winterberry Farm in Belgrade.

Mary was staying at Castle Island Camps and was due to check out early the next morning. Mary wanted to know if I could help her catch a nice bass on the Orvis flyrod her grandfather had given her over 30 years ago. I told her I would pick her up early the next morning for a bit of crepuscular fishing.

The next day I picked her up at Castle Island and we headed to a spot where I had been catching some nice bass lately. There was a small insect hatch underway and Mary began to cast where I pointed. Initially her casting skills were well ahead of her fish catching skills, but with a little coaching she learned to keep her rod tip pointed toward the rising fish, eliminate excess slack in the line, and set the hook when she got a strike. She soon caught a few sunfish and small bass. We then put a larger streamer fly on and she successfully landed a nice smallmouth bass. We got her back in plenty of time for her to get checked out and head for the North Haven ferry where she and her family are now living.

By the time this article is published, the water temperatures will be over 70F in the lakes and the bass will be in the shallows either sitting on their own beds or chasing the sunfish on theirs. It is a fun time for fly fishermen to catch a lot of fish on streamer flies or surface poppers, especially at dawn or dusk. Spinning gear also works well with surface lures, especially at dusk. It can be a great time to teach a youngster how to fish because the action is fast. A worm-baited hook and bobber off the dock is especially effective in getting kids "hooked on fishing."

Recently, I stopped off for a quick hike at French Mountain after a rain event to check on the effectiveness of some of the erosion control work the 7 Lakes Stewardship

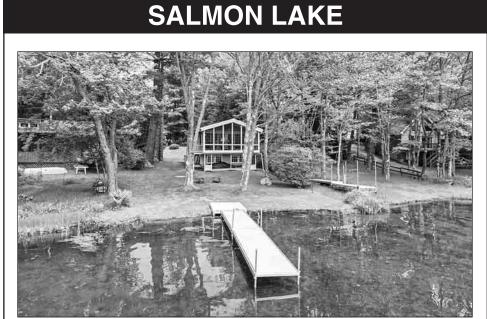


Mary Perry with nice smallmouth caught on her flyrod

Continued on page 10 ...

Celebrate the release of **Hazel Says No** with writer **Jessica Berger Gross**





June 11th at 6pm **Beth Isreal Congregation** Waterville, ME With Oliver & Friends Bookshop and the Waterville Public Library

June 26th at 6:30pm Readfield Community Library Readfield. ME In conversation with Deborah Spark Salmon Lake - 1626338 Escape to this idyllic 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath cottage nestled in a guiet cove on beautiful Salmon Lake. Perfectly positioned to capture stunning lake views, this property offers the tranquility of lakeside living with all the comforts of home. The open main floor plan is bright and welcoming, ideal for entertaining or relaxing with family and friends. Enjoy your morning coffee or evening sunsets from the beautiful sun porch overlooking the water. Additional features include a generator hookup with an external generator, plus a shed and a separate storage building for all your outdoor gear. Whether you're looking for a peaceful retreat or a place to make lasting memories, this lakeside gem is not to be missed. \$449,000



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— Calendar —

Through Sunday 6/22 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival, 873-6539, great bands, food, camping Litchfield Fairgrounds, 30 Plains Road Litchfield.

Through Sunday 6/22 - "Footloose," The Musical, Lakewood Summer Theater, 474-7176, Theater Road, Route 201, Madison.

Through Sunday 6/22 - Pittston Fair, "Maine's Friendliest Fair," midway, strawberry pageant, exhibition hall, many children's activities, historical museum, \$8 age 13 and older, pittstonfair.com, Route 194, Pittston.

Friday 6/20 - 11th Annual Tee-Off for Transportation, Mark K. Johnston Memorial Golf Tournament, to support public transportation in Kennebec and Somerset Counties, Lakewood Golf Course, Madison.

Friday 6/20 through Sunday 6/22 and Friday 6/27 through Sunday 6/29 - A Bench in the Shade, ACAT -Aqua City Actors Theatre, \$15 adults, \$12 students and seniors, 7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, The Playhouse At Waterville Station, 17 Railroad Square, Waterville.

Friday 6/20 - Community Bike Ride, intermediate mountain bike ride, bikes provided for those who register at skowheganoutdoors.com, Maine Street Skowhegan, 10 am-1 pm, Quarry Road Trails, Waterville.

Friday 6/20 - Pat Pepin & the Boneheads, Free Johnson Hall Opera House Series Concert, food vendors, children's activities, 6 pm, www.gardinerainestreet.org, Gardiner Landing, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 6/20 - "Comfort is an Old Barn: Stories from the Heart of Maine," by Amy Calder, 6:30 pm, Margaret Chase Smith Library, Skowhegan.

Friday 6/20 through Sunday 6/22 - Maine Horse Association Downeast Horse Congress Horse Show, covered arena, concessions, free, 451-3798, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 6/21 and Sunday 6/22 - Garage Sale, Winthrop Lions Club, to donate 624-2971, will pick up in Kennebec County, Sale on Route 202 across from Transfer Station, Winthrop. **Saturday 6/21 -** High Peaks Outdoor Heritage Festival, bringing outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists and families together, regional vendors, recreational demonstrations, 8 am-6 pm, featuring the Maine Moose Lottery 1 pm, 778-4215, 265-6138, Fairgrounds, Farmington.

Saturday 6/21 - 1st Annual Summer Solstice Party, North Pond Association, open to the public, free pizza and ice cream, learn how to protect North Pond with shoreline buffers, LakeSmart, grant projects and more, buy cool NPA Merch, 11 am-2 pm, Fairview Grange, Smithfield.

Saturday 6/21 - Waterville Wonderfest, free family event, bounce house, balloons, magic show, free popcorn, raffle, learn about local resources supporting children and families, 1-3 pm, Castonguay Square, Waterville.

Saturday 6/21 - Church supper, Baptist Church, Smithfield.

Sunday 6/22 - Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification workshop, 8 am-1 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 6/22 - Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market 8 am-1 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 6/22 - Summer Solstice Mindfulness Hike, 495-6039, meet at Quill Hill Trailhead, Rome.

Sunday 6/22 - Tails and Tunes Celebration, Kennebec Valley Humane Society, to benefit healing and hope and a second chance, featuring Maine singer Julia Gagnon and special guest Bella Ann, food trucks, beverage vendors, dog-friendly and family-friendly, 4 pm, \$50 admission, under 12 years of age free, 62-3491, Leighton Road, Augusta.



Join us for an unforgettable evening of dancing, elegance, and community spirit! Saturday, June 28th, 2025 6:00pm-10:00pm Location: Belgrade Center for All Seasons 207-495-3481 Tickets available at CFAS \$40/ticket or \$75 for a couple **Tuesday 6/24 -** The Blenders, stunning harmonies, great tunes, Rock on the River concert series, 7-8:30 pm, Bandstand, Hallowell.

Wednesday 6/25 through Saturday 6/28 - Monmouth Fair, "a little fair with a lotta pull!" midway, exhibition hall, bicycle giveaways, pulling contest, stage show every night, free parking, admission 12 and under free, 13 and over \$7, Wednesday seniors free, *www.monmouthfair.com*, Academy Road, off Route 202, Monmouth.

Wednesday 6/25 - Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification workshop, 10-11:30 am, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 6/25 - "Working Class," Waterfront Wednesday Concert, 6 pm, Mill Park, Augusta.

Thursday 6/26 - Waterville Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Thursday 6/26 - "Hazel Says No" writer Jessica Berger Gross in conversation with Deborah Spark, 6:30 pm, Readfield Community Library, Readfield.

Thursday 6/26 - Art in the Park: pride crafting, free and open to the public, 3-5 pm, *www.watervillecreates.org*, Castonquay Square, Front and Main St, downtown Waterville.

Thursday 6/26 - Owls of Maine: Chewonki Animal Presentation, 3-4 pm, please RSVP 495-3039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 6/26 - Cruise-In Night, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

Thursday 6/26 - Laura Hudson Project, free outdoor concert, 6-8 pm, Village Green, Belgrade Lakes.



Saturday 6/21 - Readfield Home and Garden Tour, to benefit the Captain John Smith Hall, nine sites to visit, \$25 in advance at Longfellows Greenhouses or call 441-1348, \$30 day of, \$15 lunch by reservation, Readfield Union Meeting House Commons, Church Street, Readfield.

All proceeds go towards a new outdoor pickleball court!

Ages 21+ * Music * Refreshments/Cash Bar * Raffles Formal attire encouraged but not required.

1 Center Drive, Belgrade Lakes

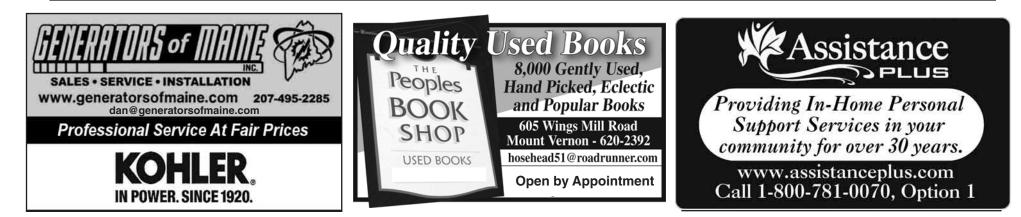
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor —



The Downtown Skowhegan Food Tour



Take your tastebuds on a tour of Skowhegan! As part of Skowhegan River Days, we're launching a guided Downtown Skowhegan Food Tour to celebrate the incredible flavors our local food and beverage businesses have to offer.

You'll visit six amazing spots—Joe's Flat Iron Café, The Miller's Table at Maine Grains, Crooked Face Creamery, The Maine Meal, The Bankery, and Unwined—sampling delicious bites and hearing the stories behind each business. Plus, enjoy a scenic stroll through downtown with stops to admire our vibrant public murals.

Tours will leave from Joe's Flat Iron Café. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your tour time for check-in.

Please Note:

• All ages are welcome on the tour.

• Alcoholic samples (offered by Unwined) will be served to guests 21+ only with valid ID. There will be mocktail options available.

• We are unable to accommodate specific allergies or dietary restrictions.

Tours run on June 27, July 11, and August 8, at 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM each day. Space is limited to 15 guests per tour—don't miss your chance to taste the town! \$75.00 per person.

More information and to register visit: https://give.mainstreetskowhegan.org/campaigns/39173bites-sites-the-downtown-skowhegan-food-tour

... continued from page 4

off. The Pro called for all four of us and we shyly met our clients, who actually had to show us how to carry a golf bag. In most cases, the bags dragged the ground and none of us knew a putter from a 6iron. Our clients were forgiving and did not expect much, as long as we carried on through all 9 holes. There were no golf carts or bag dollies used that day, if ever, at The Belgrade.

HATHAWAY MILL ANTIQUES









The pay that day I do not recall, but likely 2 or 3

dollars. My only other job that summer was mowing grass weekly at Gilman's Camps, now called Village Camps. Old Elmer Greene was the caretaker there and he gave me 6 dollars for the day, and I thought I was rich!

We all went home that day with stories to tell our parents while at the supper table. We complained about sore, raw shoulders from the bag straps. We boasted for the next week and talked of making the big-bucks next summer. In October that year, the whole town young and old stood where the Sunset Grill is now, and watched the inferno that mowed down The Belgrade to mere ashes. It was not for trying as before the fire was over 21 firetrucks responded from around Central Maine. The southwest wind that evening made sure nothing was left standing. The fire had started on the windward end and proceeded until the turret you see in the photo toppled to the ground. It was the end of an era, never to be replaced.

Author's Note: The Belgrade Historical Society will be submitting articles in all 11issues of Summertime in the Belgrades. Writing will be shared by member Rod Johnson and Belgrade Historian Dianne Dowd. Thank You





Mercel

Ladd Pond

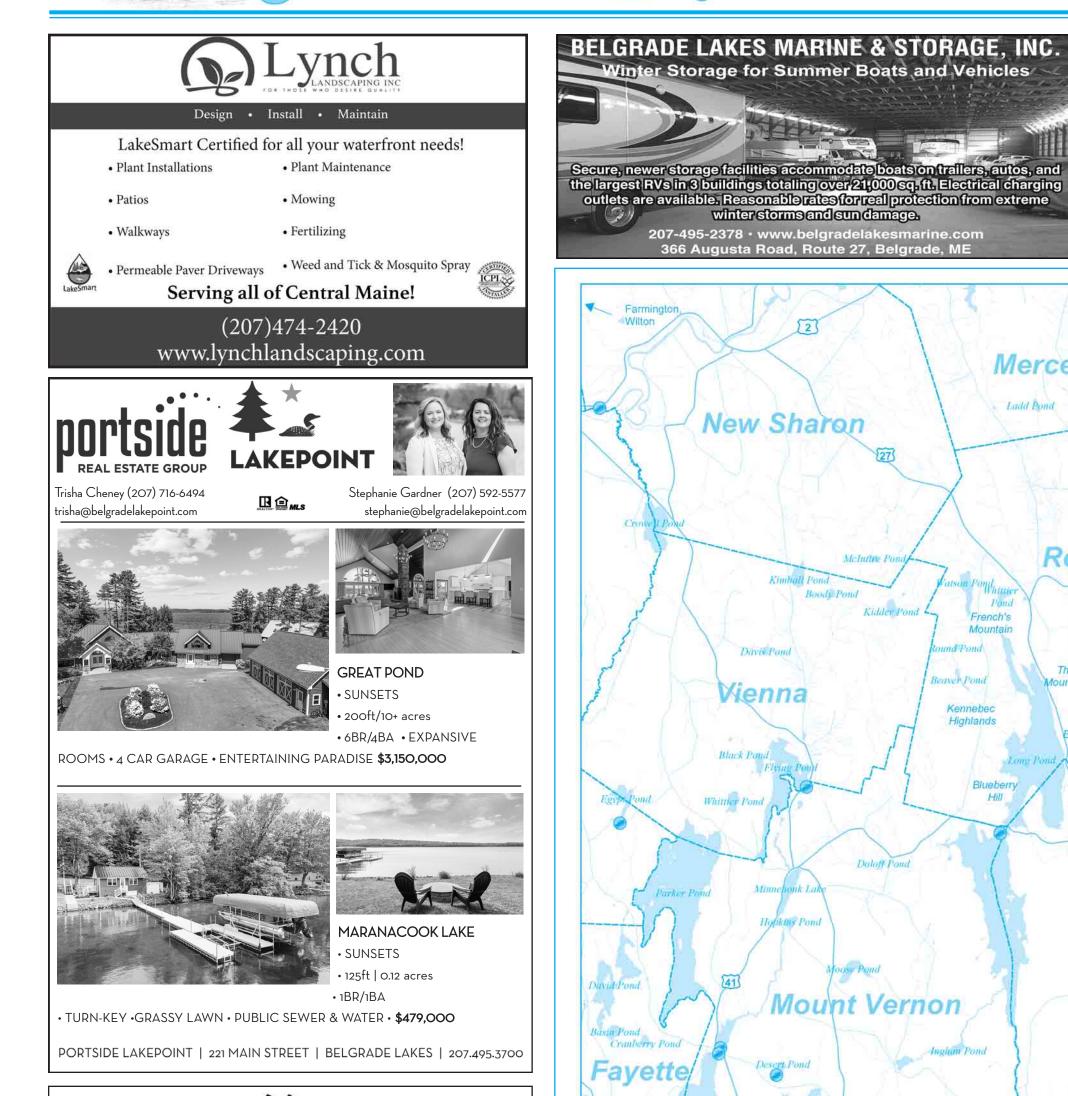
Whitti

French's Mountain

Blueberry Hill

Ro

The







8

Lost your glasses in the lake? **OH NO!!!**

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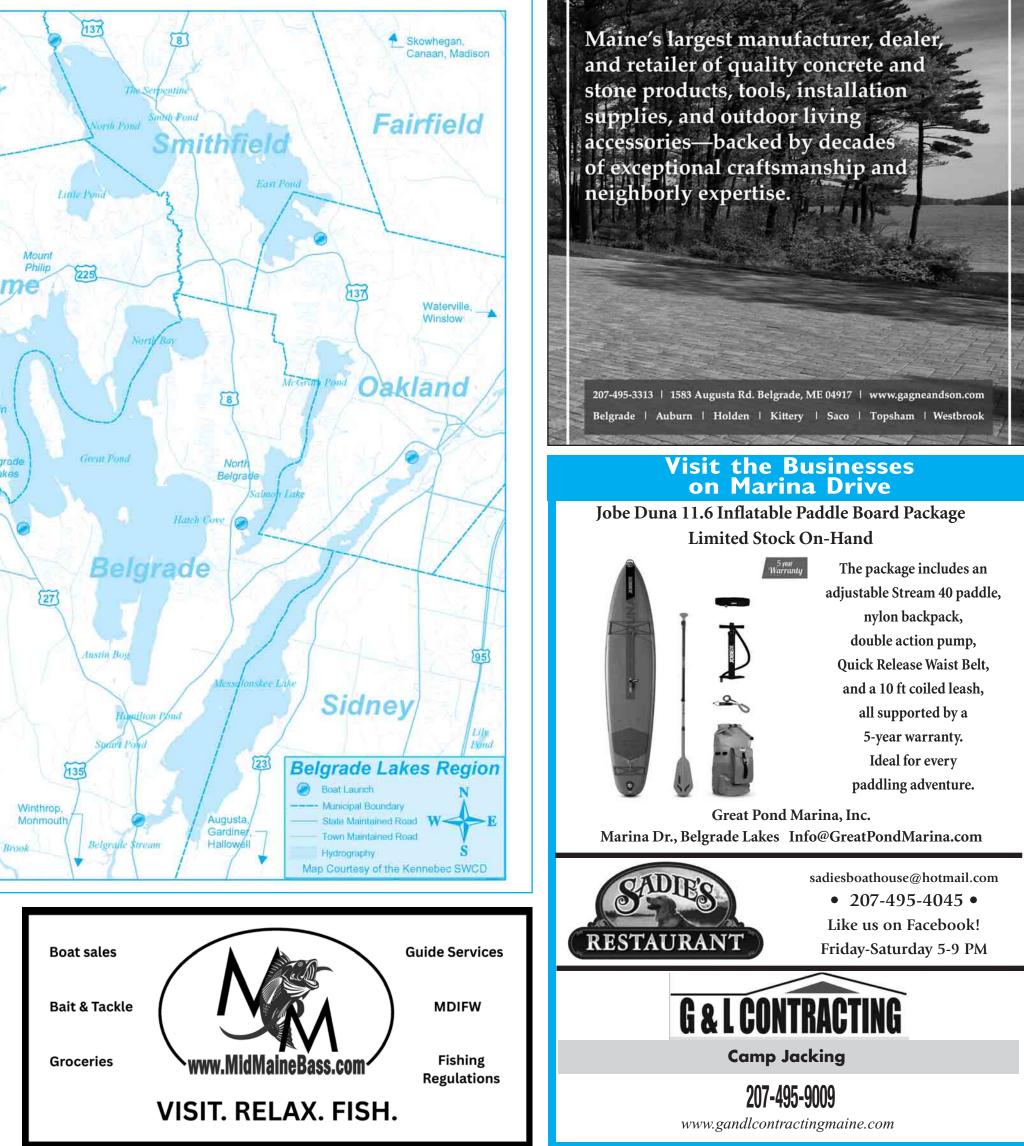


ummertime in the Belgrades





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60x30 two-story garage. Ideal for seasonal fun or year-round living. Gerber Lane delivers! MLS # 1625539 \$989.000



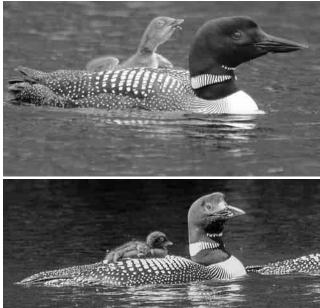
Beautiful 4BR, 3BA custom Colonial in charming Wayne, Maine. Set on a quiet, wooded lot near lakes and ponds, this 2,595 sq ft home features a granite kitchen, spacious primary suite with cedar walk-in closet. screened porch, and first-floor laundry. Includes a heated 3-bay garage. Explore the Matterport tour! MLS# 1618271 \$750,000

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Belgrade's Pickle Ball June 28

he Pickleball/Basketball Court Fundraising Committee is planning a fabulous Pickle Ball for Saturday, June 28th at 6 pm at the Center For All Seasons, in Belgrade. This will be our big fundraiser for the season to raise money for the construction of an outdoor court at the Recreation Center. The Committee has always appreciated the support of our local business community, and once again, we are asking for help as we work to achieve our fundraising goal.

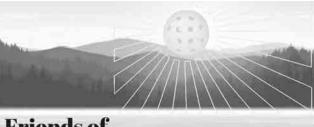
The Pickle Ball will be an event for adults 21 and older since we will be serving beer and wine. DJ Jamie will be there to spin the dancing tunes from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Tickets to attend are \$40 for one and \$75 for two and can be purchased in advance at the Recreation Center or on the night of the event Donations are needed for a silent auction, gift certificates or physical items and can be dropped off at the Town Office or the Belgrade Center for All Seasons

Notebook

2025 Loon Count: **Remote Pond Surveys**

• In order to gain a better understanding of where loons are and what they're doing in the northern part of the state, Maine Audubon is

...Continued from page 5



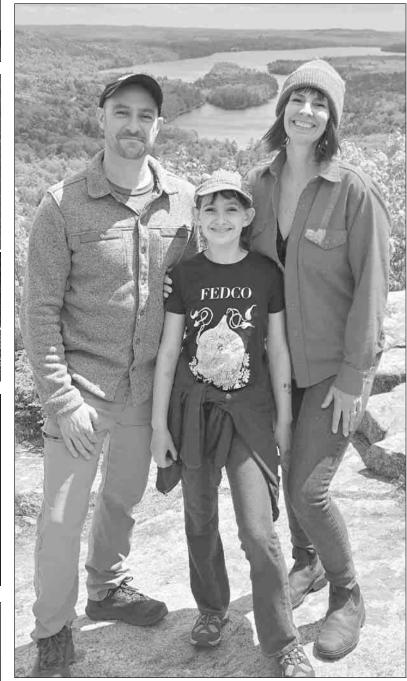
Friends of Belgrade Pickleball

Friends of Belgrade Pickleball



introducing Extended Duration Surveys as part of the 42nd Annual Loon Count, Saturday, July 20, this summer. This is a pilot program for select remote and unsurveyed lakes. Volunteers will need to canoe, kayak or hike into these areas. One-hour lake surveys need to be done between July 19 and 26. Contact Phil Keefe at pkeefe@maineaudubon.org

Continued on page 11...



Committee did recently. When I got to the top, I spotted a young family off to the side, closely examining some of the spring wildflowers, especially the lady slippers that were in peak bloom. It was the Sullivan Family from Smithfield, frequent visitors to 7 Lakes trails. Josh and Lucy both work at FedCo Seeds, which specializes in raising seeds, bulbs, and trees adapted to our region of Maine. As you can see by her t-shirt in the photo below, daughter Ellie helps out with advertising. By the time we finished our conversation, Josh had become a 7 Lakes Stewardship volunteer, a welcome addition to the team.

Check the 7LA Website (https://www.7lakesalliance.org/) and FaceBook site for upcoming events. Our Thursday afternoon (3 to 4 PM) Chewonki presentations begin on June 26th (Owls of Maine). We will also be offering regular expeditions on our new education boat on Tuesday mornings at 9 AM and Invasive Plant Workshops on Sunday mornings during the Farmers' Market. 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.

For your jacking and leveling needs, including sill repair, call Eric Lancaster "Over 25 years experience." 207-634-2821 Insured



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Josh, Ellie, and Lucy Sullivan from Smithfield atop French Mountain.

ummertime in the Belgrades

...Continued from page 10

RSU 18 Summer Meals Program

• Free meals for children 18 years of age and younger will be offered weekdays June 23 to August 8th at six sites in RSU 18, including Oakland, China, Rome Sidney and Belgrade. Meals must be consumed on the site and are not served on weekends or the 4th of July.

Augusta: Colonial Theater 3rd **Annual Silent Film Festival**

• Dog Day Afternoon is the theme of the 3rd Annual 9134 Silent Film Festival presented by the Augusta Colonial Theater on August 9. Seven classic movies starring all the great furry friends of the silent film era will be presented along with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. Admission is \$25. The event is scheduled from 12 to 4 pm and will take place art Johnson Hall Opera House, Water Street, Gardiner. www.augustacolonialtheater.com

Belgrade: July 4 Book Sale

• The Friends of the Belgrade Public Library will

Belgrade Lakes. The sale will be held 9 am to 1 pm and will offer a large selection of gently used books of all subjects and genres and for all ages. For information call 649-4238

Oakland: Educational and **Ecological Tour of Messalonskee**

• Mid-Maine Regional Adult Community Education is offering a beautiful three-hour educational and ecological tour to the farthest reaches of Messalonskee Lake aboard the Snowdrifter II - a 25' Godfrey Sanpan Limited Edition Luxury Cruiser. Next session is July 11. Register soon at adulted@aos92.org. 873-5754, 465-

Waterville: MIFF to Honor Actor Clive Owen

 Academy Award-nominated actor Clive Owen will be the recipient of the 2025 Mid-Life Achievement Award at the 28th annual Maine International Film Festival (MIFF), held July 11-20 in Waterville. Owen has performed in a variety of films and television series and first received international acclaim for his role in Croupier in 1998 which will be shown at MIFF along with two other films Owen is known for, Children of Men



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ANTIQUES

12

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*

ARCHITECTS

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

ARTS

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

High Peaks Artisan Guild, art gallery, books and antiques, open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am-5 pm, other times by chance or appointment, 245 Main Street, Kingfield, 340-1045, *highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com*

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

AUTOMOBLE STORAGE

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

BAKERIES

Main Street Bake Shop, located at Balloons & Things, 174 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3864 Sunrise Bagel, 50 Main Street, Oakland, 716-1014, *sunrisebagelme.com*

BANKING

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

Skowhegan Savings, Augusta, Waterville, Farmington, Skowhegan and 7 more central Maine Branches, 1-800-303-9511, *www.skowhegan.com*

BOAT COVERS

Covers It All Upholstery & Canvas, 1042 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, 465-7847, *www.coversitallupholstery.com*, *coversitallupholstery@outlook.com*

BOAT LIFTS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 22 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Damariscotta, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville, Machias, Portland, Rochester, NH, Rockland, Skowhegan, (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2378, *www.belgradelakesmarine.com* **Great Pond Marina**, 25 Marina Drive (off Rte. 27), Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, *www.greatpondmarina.com* **Mid-Maine Marine Inc.**, 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, 465-2146 or 800-649-2628, *www.midmainemarine.com*

BOOKS

Oliver and Friends Bookshop, 150 Main Street, Waterville, 707-2123, www.oliverandfriendsbookshop.com 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

BUILDING MATERIALS

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CAMP JACKING AND LEVELING

Eric Lancaster, Norridgewock, 634-2821, ejlancaster77@gmail.com Webster Camp Jacking and Leveling, 32 Webster Way, Belgrade, 313-8439

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, 50 Elm Street, Waterville, 873-3315, www.midmainechamber.com

COMPUTER CONSULTANTS

Macintosh Solutions Consultant Michael Breault, 24 WelchRoad, Wilton, 578-0226, www.michaelbreault.net

DINING

1958 Cafe @ Day's Store, dine in lakeside breakfast, lunch, dinner, 182 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2205, *www.daysstore.com*

Alden Camps, lunch or dinner by reservation, Saturday-Wednesday space permitting, 3 Alden Camps Cove, Oakland, 465-7703, www.aldencamps.com

H.J. Blake's for Goodness Sake's, fresh, homemade, tasty tak out, signature lobster rolls, hot dogs, burgers, scenic outdoor seating, 945 West Road, Belgrade, 465-2280

Riverfront Barbecue & Grille and Gin Mill Lounge, world class barbecue, seafood, pasta and vegetarian entrees, full service dining, catering, bulk take out, 300 Water Street, Augusta, 622-8899, *www.riverfrontbbq.com*

Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant at Great Pond Marina, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes,

ELDER CARE

Assistance Plus, home care services, personal care, homemaking, companionship, 1-800-781-0070, www.assistanceplus.com

EXCAVATING

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

EYE CARE

Maine Eye Doctors, 25 First Park Drive, Suite A, Oakland, 820-2020, *www.maineeyedoctors.com*

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

FILMS

Maine Film Center, Maine International Film Festival, 861-8138, miff.org, miff@mainefilmcenter.org

FIREWOOD

J & M Logging, Inc. 853 Civic Center Drive, (Rte. 27), Augusta, 622-6353, *www.jmlogginginc.com*

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GENERATORS

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

GROCERIES & PROVISIONS Day's Store, 8 am-8 pm, 182 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes Village, 495-2205, www.daysstore.com

HOME CARE

Assistance Plus, home care services, personal care, homemaking, companionship, 1-800-781-0070, *www.assistanceplus.com*

INSURANCE

Allen Insurance and Financial, 51 Main Street, Waterville, 1-800-244-9046, *AllenIF.com/Waterville*

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

1-800-HAMMOND, www.HammondLumber.com

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 Inc., 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, 465-2146 or 800 649-2628, *www.midmainemarine.com*

BOAT STORAGE

Belgrade Lakes Marine and Storage, Inc, 366 Augusta Road

495-4045, 242-1273

DOCKS

G&L Contracting, installation only, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-9009, 215-7951, 233-7408, *gandlcontractingmaine.com*

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DOG CARE

White Willow Retreat for Dogs, boarding and daycare, 24/7 services year round, 495-3596, *www.whitewillowretreat.com*

1-800-HAMMOND, www.HammondLumber.com

LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great Pond, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 512-5150, *www.belgradelakesassociation.org*

McGrath Pond - Salmon Lake Association, Stewards of Our Belgrade Lakes, https://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org

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

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LODGING

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

MAILBOAT RIDES

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

PATIO SETUPS

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

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

PHYSICAL THERAPY Dockside Physical Therapy, 212 Depot Road, 660-2546

PIANO LESSONS

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

REALTORS

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

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

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

Call of the Loon





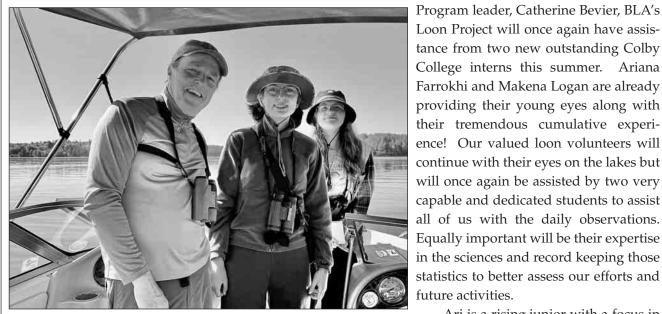
This is possibly our earliest active loon nest of 2025. This nesting Great Pond loon was observed on May 30th. Unfortunately, a huge snapping turtle moved right in next door!

As you may or not know, our local Belgrade Lakes Association is into their seventh year of their Loon Preservation Project to develop a responsible comprehensive plan in order to support our loon population in the very best sustainable manner.

Although our surveys began in earnest May 15 th

on Long Pond and May 16th on Great Pond. As of this writing, we have confirmed eleven active nests so with an estimated 27-28 day gestation period, we should be looking at our first chicks of the season between June 8-14th. With an early ice out (April 10th on Great, April 13th on Long Pond), we would expect to have some early nesters and we did. Our loons typically nest around Memorial Day with our first chicks as early as Father's Day on June 15th this year, up until around the 4th of July. But, with any luck, we should have at least a few chicks on Long and Great Ponds the week before! Break out the cigars!

Thanks to our loon consultant and mentor, Lee Attix, and Colby College's Professor of Biology and



L-R, Loon Mentor Lee Attix, Intern Ariana Farrokhi, Makena Logan

Environmental Computation and has most recently worked as a Seabird Island Research Assistant on Outer Green Island with the Maine Audubon Seabird Institute. Makena is also a rising junior with a major in Biology and Environmental Policy with an interest in conservation and birds, and has most recently worked at the Roaring Brook Nature Center Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Canton, CT. Both of our new interns come with a great deal of experience; particularly with data analysis, modeling, and visualization tools to help tackle these environmental challenges with better informed decisions as a result. Together they are a great asset in crunching our last six years of collected loon data to better get a handle on where we are and what's in store over the next few



years at the very least. These are unique qualities that separate these interns and substantially raises the bar with our Loon Preservation Project.

Ari is a rising junior with a focus in

Please join us in welcoming Ari and Makena! We are very fortunate to have these two individuals on the Team!

WINDOWS

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WORKSPACE/TECH COACH

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



Ari and Makena out on a Long Pond Loon Survey. Keep an eye out for the surveying team flying their new Loon Banner this Summer!! After a week of finals their classroom training began on May 27th immediately followed by field work with our loons on both Great and Long Ponds. Amongst the many objectives this summer, right up there on top is why our twenty-two loon territories on both Great and Long Ponds only produced one chick from Long Pond and four chicks from Great Pond that we

assumed made the Great Fly-off last fall. We have a more than adequate adult loon population, but we just do not have the necessary chick production and longevity. More on this subject as the summer progresses. Stay Tuned!

If you have a particular questions regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: *info@blamaine.org* and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Have a great spring and summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon"! *Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project*

Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs and Hermit Bill by Ron Joseph

Summertime in the Belgrades

ermit Bill is not the only hermit featured in this Lwildlife nature book full of Maine memories by a biologist. Yes, he knows what he is telling you from the wilds of Maine and written during Covid shut down.

I kept hiding this library book away because of the first rather frightening photos I glanced at of Hermit Bill and the two other guys. Memories of The Stranger in the Woods back in 2017 haunted me and the numerous camps in this area that were robbed every winter by Knight, finally caught after almost three decades.

The hermits shared by Ron Joseph are true survivors in the wild with many skills to make it happen, not stealing from Pine Tree Children's Camp huge freezers of food and propane tanks from small cottages year after year as young Knight committed crime after crime.

Wondering how these true hermits could make it through each winter for a lifetime is explained..."Ron grew up...in the mill town of Waterville, spent months on his grandparents working farm along the Sandy River, and fished and hunted in the North Woods..."

The author was lucky enough to be called out of class in Oakland high school due to a dead moose

near the school grounds that needed immediate attention. With the warden's careful directions, Ron helped chain saw the enormous animal into finally "small sirloin, chuck, shank, and round steaks" using pocketknives. What a day at school with outdoor education and good food to take home by those who needed it most.

So you can see that this author knows his wildlife facts from his youth and later professionally. And he is our local authority as well! Steeped in the French Canadian/Lebanese/Jewish communities in Waterville and the North Woods, languages and cultures mix to add knowledge of survival.

I especially enjoyed his chapter about the Mitchells of Waterville and basketball teams. Not only George Mitchell of international political fame, but the

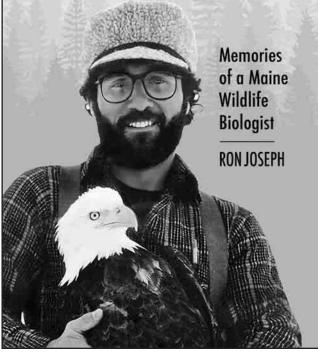
...continued from page 2

after supper in the evenings.

John loved receiving my hot off the press issues of North Pond News in his Washington D.C. mailbox. I would receive a note in the mail stating it was "the best one yet" with each issue. He would always mention a particular article or bit of lake news to comment on or ask me about. He participated in Ice Out prediction in spring 2011 and after he received his prize in the mail he wrote back, "I can't believe I won a prize in the "Ice Out Derby!" I am happy to have the NPA bumper sticker and will put it on my car. I was at the lake one time when the ice went out. It all seemed to go fast around noon and it soon was all over. Glad you and the boys could see it...I am looking forward to going to the lake." He often timed his camp time around when the North Pond Association served up a lobster feed at their annual meeting and there are photos of him with the lobster bib in place!

by Martha F. Barkley

Bald Eagles, Bear Cubs and Hermit Bill



other Mitchells too...

Paul Doiron writes the foreword and we know Doiron from his visit to Belgrade with the murder mystery about Great Pond in 2023. "Joseph's forty stories are told with the compassion and appreciation of a man who truly loves Maine, its people and its wonders."

Endangered species and their restoration are evident in this zoologist's long career, practicing here in our marvelous Maine woods and mountains and lakes. Thank goodness his talent stayed here where he grew to love wildlife from its beginnings. Beautiful Belgrade captured him and kept him close.

"As the sole English speaker in the bunkroom, I was warmly welcomed by twenty Quebecois loggers. The lumberjacks were keen on practicing their English with me, and as a twenty-five year old, I was eager to learn French and forestry from them. Our late afternoon conversational language lessons were an enjoyable way to combat cabin fever." Learning in the deep woods at its best!

Read this book of stories from our Belgrade Library and learn from a local expert what is precious around our Belgrade Lakes.

Even a 75 ton North American right whale is covered in a Campobello Island story and the next

chapter "Return of the Great Whites." Just read chapter titles and follow your interest: "The Lighthouse Keeper," maybe? "A Date with Bear Cubs" OR "Eagle Freaks."

Yep, gotta check this book out or maybe buy your own copy like I did to give to a friend.

Renee helped me at the new Oliver and Friends Bookshop on Main Street in Waterville. She had four authors visiting over the summer!!!! I bought "Cranky" children's book by Maine winning literary author Phuc Tran...great story about building bridges and not walls. Also an EBWhite collection of essays...stop writing I tell myself and start reading.

5

just the kind of man he was.

My small town students had never been more attentive when he arrived in September 1996 and they welcomed him with questions and got thoughtful, entertaining at times, answers. They heard history from a person whose childhood they could relate to, who set goals, became part of their state's history, part of world history as an ambassador. I submitted a short article for the Morning Sentinel and he was tickled by the mention of his visit when he received the clipping in the mail.

You never know what is going to become a campfire story at camp. I am hoping my former students remember that classroom visit as much as I do. I bet his friends and neighbors around his beloved North Pond shared many stories over the many years he spent at Camp Aroostook. Perhaps they retell some of it around the campfire...Just like you!

Always a member, he knew how important participation was for the sake of the lake.

Rudy, her husband and extended family members are still enjoying life at Camp Aroostook, only now it is more comfortable with a mini split, a more spacious updated kitchen, a few pieces of more comfortable furniture have been replaced the vintage furniture and it is insulated for winter visits. Rudy told me if the updates had been done when he was alive, he would have chosen to live there year round, in the place he loved so dearly. She and her sister, Cheryl, thoughtfully gifted me his harness horse cufflinks and tie clip as a memento of our friendship.

During my initial visit to Camp Aroostook, John and wife Cora were about to find out that I did not just drop in to say hello. I had started a new teaching job in a small, rural town and knowing he was from a small town, I thought my 8th graders could use some words of wisdom from a former small town, farm boy with big dreams, and many achievements. He was very gracious and without hesitation put a date in his calendar. That was



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– Real Estate Update –

Maybe, Just Maybe This is YOUR Year!

Whether it's a good time to buy a lakehouse in Maine depends on several factors, both market-driven and personal. Here's a break-down to help you assess:

Why It Might Be a Good Time this Summer

1. Inventory Has Risen Slightly

• After historically tight supply post-2020, there's been a modest increase in lakefront listings in some parts of Maine. More choices = more negotiating power.

2. Interest Rates Are Stabilizing

• Mortgage rates have come down slightly from their 2023/early 2024 highs. If this trend continues, locking in a rate now before fur ther cuts could be strategic.

3. Demand Has Plateaued

• The frenzied "COVID boom" of remote workers buying second homes has cooled. Buyer competition is less aggressive now, espe cially for seasonal homes.

4. Local Markets Vary

• Some lakes (e.g. Great Pond, Long Pond and Cobbossee) are hold ing strong in value, while other areas have softened slightly, espe cially on smaller lakes and more remote areas.

While prices remain elevated from pre-2020 levels, locally, prices have leveled out or even declined on certain lakes. You may not get a 'deal' unless a seller is highly motivated, but you can certainly find your family lake retreat easier than the past few years.

The Bottom Line

If you find a well-priced property on a healthy lake in a community you love and plan to use it long-term (not flip it), yes, now can be a good time.

If you're hoping for a deep discount or short-term investment gains, you might want to wait or broaden your search inland.

Where do you start? Find a local real estate professional, one who knows the ins and outs of buying lake property.



The Dams Keeper Report



Belgrade Lakes Village Dam Photo by Alexander Wall

As of this writing, we are happy to report that all of our pond water levels are in great shape if you like water! Actually, a little bit higher than we would like no thanks to these unrelenting showers! It hasn't been exactly Chamber of Commerce weather but enough is enough. I wish the showers took place at night while I was sleeping, but noooooo. We feel so sorry for those who look forward to their weekends off only to be inundated with another rainy weekend! Sorry!!!

Great Pond's Village dam is currently 1.92" above full pond with one gate opened 3'. Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is right at 2.64", also above

So we'll take what we can get – as if we have a choice!

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.

Enjoy your summer! It should be beautiful once it gets here! Personally, I'd keep the GoreTex handy if I were you!

Welcome back!

Dick

Dick Greenan Belgrade Lakes Inter-lakes Dams Committee



full pond with gates opened up 18" and 3'. With the Village Dam opened 3', upper Long Pond is holding high at 5" above. Salmon/McGrath is 1.8" above full pond with its calibrated valve set to the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are actually down 3.24" below full which is remarkable with all of the water we are sending their way! Although NOAA and the 'experts' are still calling for a summer of 21-30% less precipitation, we remain vigilant in our "save the water" mode with all our gates being closed when at all possible. Although at present, our gates are still open as we are trying to stabilize all of our ponds at 3" above full pond. If you recall, at 3" above full, the water level shouldn't float off any one's dock and more importantly, not flood out any of our native hummock style loon nests.

Precipitation for the past 10 days was a whopping 2.21" and as of this writing, we are looking at a paltry .23" for the next 10 days, which is more like the aforementioned Chamber of Commerce weather we like! FYI, our normal monthly precipitation during the summer is supposed to be 3.5".



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Whether you fish, swim, or boat, your lake dock is the foundation of your waterfront activities. This year, take your waterfront experience to the next level—with a ShoreMaster dock system from Hammond Lumber Company. ShoreMaster's Infinity Dock System features superior modern craftsmanship and an exclusive assembly system to give you exceptional stability and a dock system that will grow and adjust with you, so you can start with one set-up and make changes and additions as needed.

Your Hammond sales representative will walk you through ShoreMaster's many options and accessories and match you with the right equipment for your waterfront. ShoreMaster aluminum dock systems are lightweight, durable, and easy to install yourself. But if you prefer, Hammond Lumber Company will set you up with an experienced local installer and deliver your new ShoreMaster dock system statewide.

Enjoy life on the water to the fullest, with a ShoreMaster dock system from Hammond Lumber Company.



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112 BUKER ROAD, LITCHFIELD MLS#1622661

\$1,250,000

Once a beloved retreat, 112 Buker Rd offers 2.5 acres of privacy and 653 feet of waterfront on pristine Buker Pond. This historic home blends charm and space with five bedrooms, sun-filled living areas, a chapel, and room to gather. Enjoy the private dock, boathouse, and access to over four miles of interconnected lakes. With a three-car garage and easy access to nearby villages and recreation, this is lakeside living with history, heart, and endless potential.

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