

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 7

Farms: A Heritage and A Privilege

by Esther J. Perne



A Belgrade farm team and Conestoga Wagon were featured in the U.S. Bicentennial.

Look around, drive around. These lands so occupied with new growth trees and lakeside communities were once dominated by farms. Belgrade - and much of central Maine - was a thriving agricultural region with open farmland stretching from lake to lake, and farmers shared their way of life throughout the seasons with the very visible tending and harvesting, nurturing and transporting produce and products. It was almost as though farms were open and available for the public to enjoy.

There still is a time when farms are open and available for the public to enjoy and when farmers share their special way of life - one day, the 4th Sunday in July known as Open Farm Day.

Open Farm Day is a statewide event, started by Maine farmers and supporters in 1989. For more than 30 years this event has raised awareness about farms and their importance to Maine. Open Farm Day is an opportunity to see and learn firsthand the care and the effort required to achieve quality produce and products throughout the year and it is held rain or shine.

This year, on July's 4th Sunday, July 25, over 80 farms in Maine will be hosting Open Farm Day (a list is available on realmaine.com) and they represent an entire spectrum of farming, giving visitors many choices in what type of farm to visit.

Each farm on the Real Maine listing gives information about location and

Continued on page 2

**Mid-Maine Marine Inc.**
885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland, ME 04963
1/2 Mile West of Exit 127 off I-95 • 1-800-649-2628
www.midmainmarine.com

BIG BOAT
BLOW OUT
SALE



BLA ANNUAL RAFFLE
Protect and Preserve

EST. B.L.A. 1908
Belgrade Lakes Association
Maine's Oldest Lake Association

GRAND PRIZE
HEWESCRAFT SPORTSMAN 160
WITH 75HP HONDA OUTBOARD MOTOR
AND EZ LOADER TRAILER



Donated by **Hamlin's Marine**

PLUS MANY OTHER GREAT PRIZES!

- Dock Sections
- Boat Lift
- Gift Certificates
- And More!

SUPPORT OUR LAKES AND WIN AMAZING PRIZES!

DRAWING DATE: AUGUST 9

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE!



SCAN HERE!

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE BLA'S WORK TO KEEP LONG BOND & GREAT BOND CLEAN, HEALTHY, AND BEAUTIFUL

MAINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MIFF
JULY 10-19, 2026
WATERVILLE, MAINE
29



MIFF.ORG

A Project of

Presenting Sponsors






Continued from page 1

main characteristics and many visitors choose a destination accordingly. The list is also divided into Maine's 8 tourism areas. Other information such as hours open, special activities, products for purchase and contact details may also be included.

Open Farms in the extended Belgrade area include locations in Skowhegan, West Gardiner, Temple, Starks, Litchfield, Wilton and Livermore.

Several farms are listed in New Gloucester - for those who want to visit more than one farm. And, one town, Bowdoinham, turns the day into a town-wide celebration with 10 farms and studios to visit and a celebration/food pantry fundraiser in the town park.

Open Farm Day aside, there are many other opportunities to celebrate and enjoy Maine's farming heritage. Farmers' Markets (see list page 16) are available almost every day of the week. Roadside stands are a good and frequent source of fresh produce and eggs. And some farms, such as Water Dance in Belgrade, welcome visitors to walk around the property.

There's also historical exploration. Look around, walk around. There are sunken stone walls on these lands, straight as arrows through stands of trees and bushes, where livestock pastures used to be. There are crooked skeletons of apple trees interspersed among pines and maple in what used to be world renowned orchards. There are huge slabs of granite rimming hidden cellar holes where families lived and worked and survived. And, there are remains of entire farm neighborhoods where drought or poverty or a volcano eruption on the other side of the world rendered farming impossible.

Yes, farms are a heritage and they are a privilege, especially when one day a year certain farms offer to open their properties and share their way of life with the public.



Be cool and visit some farms!

Sunday, July 28
MAINE OPEN FARM DAY
Learn About Farming!
Farms in all 16 counties.



Correction: the cover photo caption for issue 6 should have identified the building as the Mount Vernon Community Center. The plays this weekend are being presented at the Vienna Union Hall.

Day's

FAMILY-OWNED SINCE 1958
Serving the Heart of Belgrade Lakes

Reach us by boat or car!  

STORE

Serving All Your Lakeside Needs

- ✓ Local goods & provisions
- ✓ Deli sandwiches & pizzas
- ✓ Gas, ice, firewood & propane
- ✓ Sporting goods & fishing gear
- ✓ Beer, wine & craft beverages
- ✓ Lakeside merchandise & apparel
- ✓ Meggie O's Fudge & Fresh Donuts

1958 CAFÉ

Lakeside Dining

- ✓ Dine-in for breakfast, lunch & dinner
- ✓ Cocktails & shareables
- ✓ Iced coffee, lemonade & cozy corner seating
- ✓ Relax, recharge & refuel with a lakeside view — plus a few tabletop board games for fun

 207-495-2205
 www.daysstore.com

 /daysstorebelgradelakes
 @daysstore



Home insurance, made to measure.

Belgrade Lakes Region families trust us for a personal approach bringing peace of mind. Our experienced professionals create customized insurance plans designed around your needs, not what's worked for someone else.

Call today to find out how we can help you protect your home & auto, boat, RV and more. Insurance for your business, too, as well as health & life insurance, including Medicare.

Allen 
Insurance | Financial
100% EMPLOYEE-OWNED

51 Main Street, Waterville, Maine 04901
800-439-4311 | AllenIF.com



Table of Contents

Where Would We Be Without Farms..... 1-2

Table of Contents: Interesting News; Awesome Articles..... 3

Oakland Celebrates Summer!..... 3

7 Lakes Alliance: Colby Summer Scholars..... 4

Belgrade Historical Society: Memories of Camp Abena..... 4

Take It Outside with Pete Kallin: Counting Loons..... 5

Calendar of Events: Super Summer Celebrations 6

Supporting a Spirit of Community..... 7

Map of the Belgrades: Great Guide to Sights and Sites..... 8-9

A New Life for a Waterville Landmark..... 10

Notebook: Timely Topics 11

Business Guide: Area Businesses Are the Best 12-13

The Call of the Loon: A Happy Rescue 13

Books with Martha Barkley: The Ripple Effect of Fresh Water..... 14

Real Estate Update: The Guardians of the Lakes 15

Dams Keeper Report: Water Over the Dam..... 15

Weekly Farmers' Markets..... 16

It's Oakfest Time...with a Wild, Wild West Theme

Oakland’s Oakfest, an annual summer celebration of festivities and activities, is scheduled for Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25 with many of the favorite highlights and a few new ones - especially a Cornhole Tournament on Friday evening.

Designed to connect people to local food, arts, music and fun in Oakland, the two-day celebration will be centered on Main Street on Friday and at Williams Elementary School on Saturday.

Friday’s activities include a block party, a parade, the Cornhole Tournament - which will be held behind Sunrise Bagel, food trucks and vendors, a beer garden and music. Registration for cornhole is \$30 per team.

The Community Parade begins at 6 pm (line-up at 5:40 pm), check-in for the Cornhole Tournament is 6:45 pm; bags fly at 7 pm.

On Saturday, the grounds of Williams Elementary School will host a full day of activities including a classic car show, a kids’ section, live music and many food and other vendors. Festivities begin at 9 am.

Oakfest is special, but every day Oakland is always a great destination for its laundramat, its downtown shops, library, churches, history house, food stops and lakeside parks. Beginning in downtown Oakland, the Messalonskee Stream Trail is kid-friendly and traces the sites of over 100 mills where edge tools (scythes and axes) were once made.

Recently the Town of Oakland announced awards to 3 local businesses through an inaugural facade and downtown improvement grant program to support downtown revitalization.

OAKFEST'S CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY, JULY 24TH

Icons: Music, Food Trucks, Beer Garden, Sunrise Bagel

Scan QR code for registration directions

BEHIND SUNRISE BAGEL IN OAKLAND
CHECK IN: 6:30PM - BAGS FLY AT 7:00PM

\$30 PER TEAM **PRIZES FOR TOP 2 TEAMS**

ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME!
MUST BE 16 YEARS OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE

QUESTIONS? CALL THE OAKLAND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • sumbelnews@gmail.com

Layout Design: Michael Breault, 207-578-0226 • mo.breault@gmail.com

Webmaster : Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com

www.belgradelakesnews.com

This publication is copyrighted ©MMXXVI, Cider Mill Press Publications, All Rights Reserved.

McGRATH POND - SALMON LAKE ASSOCIATION

Stewards of our Belgrade Lakes

Join us at:
<https://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org>

7 LAKES BELGRADE LAKES MAINE

Protect what makes the Belgrade Lakes extraordinary.

7 Lakes Alliance conserves the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes for all.

Subscribe to the 7 Lakes Alliance email list to get the latest on land conservation, water quality, and community events directly to your inbox.

Scan to Subscribe
Sign up today: 7lakesalliance.org/newsletters
7 Lakes Alliance • 137 Main St., Belgrade Lakes, ME





Colby Students to Share Research with Belgrade Lakes Community

by Brynne Robbins, 7 Lakes Alliance Outreach Coordinator



Colby students aboard The Compass, practicing boater safety and diving into water quality monitoring requirements.

Six Colby students have been putting their chemistry, physics, and math backgrounds to use this summer, working alongside 7 Lakes Alliance's water quality team. Splitting their time between water quality monitoring on

the lake and analyzing samples in the lab, Colby Summer Scholars gain invaluable field experience researching everything from algae to sediment to large-scale modeling. Save the date: Colby student research presentations will be held at the 7 Lakes Alliance building on Wednesday, July 29 at 5 PM.

Hailing from across the US and Romania, these students are united in their excitement to explore the Belgrade Lakes region. Dede Tindall ('28, biochemistry and economics, from MD), who trains on Messalonskee Lake with the Colby Women's Crew Team alongside fellow intern Alena Rossi, is especially looking forward to taking samples and conducting research from a boat. Rossi ('28, math and physics, from CO) is studying the emergence of *Gloeotrichia* algae on Great and Long Ponds. Bianca Hulub ('28, ecology, from Romania) is eager to apply her robotics background in computer modeling to work on large scale data science.

Several Colby summer research students were introduced to limnology (the study of freshwater aquatic ecosystems) by Colby chemistry professor Whitney King. Ian Schnabel ('29, chemistry, from MN) has taken two courses with Professor King, including Aqueous Chemistry, and Sjoen Munk ('28, chemistry, from NE), has been working as a research assistant for Professor King, which inspired him to pursue summer research at 7 Lakes. Similarly, Max Johnson ('28, math, from MA), was inspired by King's class to combine his math skills with his love for the outdoors. 7 Lakes has a tradition of partnering with Colby College for research, laboratory testing, and student engagement. For instance, last year, Colby students worked to sample trees in a recently conserved 172-acre parcel of land on Long Pond, helping to identify it as an ecologically valuable old-growth forest.



Belgrade History Beyond Belgrade

Submitted by BHS member Dianne Dowd

Among the letters, I found in the attic of our old farmhouse was a booklet, "The Abenague". The booklet dated 1926 is a souvenir for the campers of Camp Abena, Belgrade Lakes. It was written by the campers and describes their time at the camp and has individual pictures of all the senior campers. This volume is marked No. 4 and is the final issue of the summer of 1926. There is a detailed description of the farewell dinner, therefore this volume was probably sent to the camper's homes after the end of camp.

I later learned Camp Abena (pronounced A-bey-na) was established in 1907 by founders, Hortense, and her sister, Rilla Hersom. At the time Abena was established, it was only the second girls camp in the state. Miss Hortense Hersom was born in Belgrade, Maine and had become a school teacher. She taught in Farmington, Me, Boston, Massachusetts and at the Sidwell Friends School in Washington D.C. In the early 1900s, outdoor camps for boys became popular, and many parents sent their sons to camp to learn outdoor skills. Miss Hersom was encouraged to establish a camp for girls. As Camp Merryweather for boys had already established in Belgrade in 1900, an ideal place for a girl's camp would be on the 100-acre peninsula on Great Pond in Belgrade that was in the Hersom family. Miss Hersom along with her sisters, Rilla, a registered nurse, and Dora H. Lambert and her husband, Avery E Lambert, a professor at Middlebury, Vermont successfully opened a camp for young ladies to learn outdoor skills. The camp was named Camp Abena in honor of the Eastern Wabanaki Indians, "people of the dawn," a tribe of the Algonkins

who once lived in the area.

"The Abenague" has many details of what life was like at Camp Abena in 1926. There were tennis matches, canoe trips, musical events, dramatic plays, and pageants. All the girls wore the same camp uniform of khaki



ABENAGUE STAFF OF CAMP GIRLS

bloomers with a white middie blouse and black tie. Sunday uniforms were white bloomers with white blouse and a gold tie. All the girls wore Bass Camping shoes which had to be ordered from Hanold Outfitting Co of Standish, Me. and fitted at camp on opening day.

My favorite part of "The Abenague" is the fifty-five individual pictures of the senior girls. The pictures are arranged alphabetically and gives the girl's name and how many years she has attended Camp Abena. Many of the girls had been attending for two to six years. Almost all the girls sport short hair styles as bobbed hair was the fashion during the 1920s. There is also a

four-stanza poem to commemorate each girl. My favorite poem is the one written for Elizabeth Scull as follows:

The opportune moment we seize
To exclaim, That girl's sure the bee's knees!"
For because she is a Scull
O'er the waves gentle hull,
She embarks on all ventures with ease.

Elizabeth Scull is the girl seated on the ground in the picture and was the Editor-in Chief of "The Abenague."





— Take It Outside —



Long Pond Survey Areas.

from Beaver Brook Estates, doing Sector 4. As you can see by the picture to the right, they were both excited and having fun during their first-time survey. The weather was excellent for counting loons: partly sunny with light winds out of the west. This year I was assisted by Peter Alter from Fawn Point, whom I picked up at his dock on the way to our Survey Area.

Our assigned area was a cove that was used for many years by a pair of loons that used to nest on a secluded beach on a small peninsula and often lost their eggs to land-based and avian predators that found the nest and ate the loon eggs before they hatched. Seven years ago, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), as part of their ongoing study of loons on Great and Long Pond (more information in Dick Greenan’s loon articles), built and installed a floating raft nest with an avian guard (to prevent predation by eagles, ravens, and blue herons). The nest is moored about 15-feet offshore from the usual nesting site to provide the loons some protection from terrestrial predators such as raccoons, minks, et al. When land-based predators have to cross water to reach the nest, the defensive advantage shifts strongly in the loons favor! For four of the past five years, the loons have successfully used



Beaver Cove chick with parents.



Peter Alter pointing to raft of loons entering our area.

Counting Loons

By Peter Kallin

this nest. A chick was born near the end of June but died over a week ago. As we approached our area from the north, we spotted four loons entering our sector, a group of three who were looking into the water for food, and a 4th that was likely one of the cove parents about 30-ft from the trio that periodically rose up out of the water and flapped its wings at the others. We continued through our sector and found the male parent (orange and green bands on leg) still feeding near the nest. We completed our sector and relocated the feeding raft of loons near the western shore and an additional loon had joined them. When I returned, I contacted Jason and Sarah Toner, who had surveyed Beaver Cove to see if they had a good picture of the chick I could use for this article. They apologized profusely and said they were both so excited to locate the parents and chick that they forgot to take pictures. The picture to the left was actually taken by Dick Greenan the day before the count but it is the same chick. As of press time, I had not received results from all of my counters, but it appears likely that chick numbers will be down a bit from last year in Long Pond but adult loons should be roughly the same as last year.



Sara and Rick Barry, first time loon counters.

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 hosting many interesting events, including Thursday afternoon (3-4 PM) presentations by Chewonki (Jul 30: Flippers and Fins). More info is available at the 7 Lakes website. Pick up the latest map of the local trails from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps for most of the trails can be downloaded from their web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailssystem>.



LONG POND



ROME - Long Pond – 1671162 Welcome to Wildewood Estates, a lakeside community with a shared sandy beach on pristine Long Pond! This beautiful 4-bedroom, 2_-bath home on a quiet 1.78-acre lot offers one-level living at its finest with an open living area, half bath, primary suite, and laundry on the first floor. Three bedrooms and a full bath on the second floor are ideal for family and guests. Highlights include a stunning custom kitchen and 12x16 three-season sunroom surrounded by sun-dappled woods. Nearby, the Kennebec Highlands offers miles of scenic trails, with shopping, dining, and golf close by in Belgrade Lakes village. Whether seasonal or year-round, this home offers comfort, privacy, and access to the best of lake-area living. Schedule your showing today! **\$619,000**



207-872-7650
www.cbplourde.com

COLDWELL BANKER
PLOURDE
REAL ESTATE

143 Silver Street, Waterville ME 04901

 Each office is independently owned & operated. 



Calendar

Thursday 7/23 - Saturday 7/25 - “A Miracle for Micky,” and “Too Hot to Hustle,” annual summer plays presented by Vienna Historical Society, 7 pm Thursday-Saturday, Sat mati-
nee 2 pm, \$12, to restore the Waite House - birthplace of Milton Bradley, food concession, performances at Vienna Union Hall.

Thursday 7/23 - Sunday 7/26 - Maine Quilts 2026 exhibit, over 500 quilts on display, lectures, demonstrations, workshops, 9 am-5 pm, Civic Center, Route 27, Augusta.

Through Saturday 7/25 - “A Texas Carol,” 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Through Friday 7/24 - The Kneading Conference with dozens of workshops and presentations, www.kneadingconference.com, downtown Skowhegan.

Friday 7/24 - Sunday 7/26 - Eastern Maine Agility and Dog Show, open to the public, covered arena, concessions, 631-7686, Fairgrounds, Madison Avenue, Skowhegan.

Friday 7/24 - Sunday 7/26 - Ironman 70.3 Augusta, 1.2 mile swim down the Kennebec River, 56 mile bike ride, 13.1 mile run, Ironman Village near the KVYMCA, Augusta.

Friday 7/24 - Sunday 7/26 - Quest, performed by Gaslight Theater, by donation, Friday and Saturday at 7 pm, Sunday at 2 pm, Vaughn Homestead, Hallowell.

Friday 7/24 - New England Music Camp, Student Concert, free, 3 pm, Bowl-in-the-Pines, Pond Road, Sidney.

Friday 7/24 - Jeff Beam, multi-instrumentalist songwriter, air-conditioned hall, 2 and 7 pm, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

Friday 7/24 and Saturday 7/25 - Oakland Oakfest, theme Wild, Wild West, Friday evening downtown dance, food trucks, parade, cornhole tournament, Saturday 9 am-3 pm, kids activities, cruise in car show, food trucks, downtown Oakland.

Friday 7/24 - The Brothers Comatose, Waterville Rocks concert, free, family-friendly, 6 pm, beer garden opens 5:30 pm, (rain location Waterville Opera House), Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Friday 7/24 - Yard Source, Johnson Hall Free Summer Waterfront Concert series, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 7/25 - 17th Annual Paddle Trek, 15-mile paddle from

Mt. Vernon Village to Wayne Village, registration required 860-4043, join for all or just part, 30 Mile River Watershed Association, Mount Vernon.

Saturday 7/25 - Loon Call 5K & Fun Run, registration 7:15 am, races start 8 am, course goes along the shore of North Pond starting and ending at the Baptist Church, assortment of prizes, , \$5 entry fee, Smith Baptist Church, 25 Lakeview Drive, Smithfield.

Saturday 7/25 - Colby College Community Day 12-4 pm, art-making, storytelling, outdoor games, free for all ages, free shuttle from downtown, Colby College, 5600 Mayflower Hill Drive, Waterville.

Saturday 7/25 - Rome Ball Field Fundraiser, potluck supper to support the renovation of the community baseball diamond, 4:30-6 pm, by donation, Rome Town Office, Mercer Road, Rome.

Saturday 7/25 - Church supper, baked beans, casseroles, entertainment by Vintage Steel band, 5:30 pm, suggested donation \$10, Smithfield Baptist Church, 25 Lake View Drive, Smithfield.

Saturday 7/25 - New England Music Camp POPS Concert, 7:30-10 pm, \$10-25, Bowl in the Pines, Pond Road, Sidney.

Saturday 7/25 - Farmington Summer Fest, live musical entertainment, talent show, food court, fire truck tours, children’s activities, 491-5533, downtown Farmington.

Saturday 7/25 - The Maine Artisan Bread Fair, workshops. displays, dozens of vendors, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Sunday 7/26 - Village Green Artisan Fair, summer craft series, 9 am-2 pm, free to public, Village Green, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Saturday 7/25 - “Frozen Jr.,” Lakewood Young Performers Camp, 10 am, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Saturday 7/25 - North Pond Association Annual Meeting, 2-5 pm, Fairview Grange, Village Road, Smithfield.

Sunday 7/26 - Belgrade Lakes Farmers’ Market, local produce, flowers, baked goods, 8 am-1 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance parking lot, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/26 - Maine Open Farm Day, farms open to visitors in all 16 counties, tours and activities, www.realmaine.com, statewide.

Sunday 7/26 - Explore Hidden Gems of Mount Vernon, nine intriguing sites, self-guided tour, 10 am-4 pm, \$25 in advance, \$30 day of, box lunches available for purchase, [https:// mtvernonhiddengems.eventbrite.com/](https://mtvernonhiddengems.eventbrite.com/)

Sunday 7/26 - Bella Ann, young singer/songwriter with amazing repertoire, Concerts at Norcross Point series, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 7/26 - Barbara Demo, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/27 - Western Maine Foothills band, Concerts in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 7/28 - The Song Pirates, Oosoola Park Music Series, food and ice cream trucks, 5-7 pm, Ferry Road, Route 2, Norridgewock.

Tuesday 7/28 - Smoked Salmon, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Wednesday 7/29 - House and Garden Tour, 10 am, \$10, Vaughn Homestead, Hallowell.

Wednesday 7/29 - Invasive Aquatic Plant ID Workshop, 1-2 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/29 - Colby Student Research Presentations, 5-7 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/29 - Duke Dog Band, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Waterfront Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Wednesday 7/29 - New England Music Camp, Music Series, Chamber Music, free and open to the public, 7 pm, Loudon Hill Center, 330 Water Street, Hallowell.

Thursday 7/30 - Chewonki: Fins and Flippers, 3-4 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/30 - Vegetable Print Banners, Art in the Park, 3-5 pm, free, all ages, rain or shine, Castonguay Square, Main Street, Waterville.

Thursday 7/30 - Waterville Farmers’ Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Thursday 7/30 - Classic Car Cruise-In, vendors, DJ music, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

Continued on page 15....

Buy your \$20 ticket NOW for a chance to win our \$5,000 SUMMER GIVEAWAY

Entering is simple! Just scan the QR Code to support Messalonskee Lake conservation

SCAN TO BUY NOW!

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN! WINNER WILL BE DRAWN ON AUGUST 30TH! In partnership with Maine Raffle by TechResolv

To purchase tickets and see full a list of rules, visit <https://dash.maineraffle.com/raffle/friends-of-messalonskee-lake-friends-of-messalonskee-summer-giveaway> STATE LAW REQUIRES DEBIT CARDS ONLY FOR ONLINE PURCHASES

Daily through August 31 –
– self-paced Story Stroll on the walking trail around the Belgrade Regional Health Center, 4 Clement Way, Belgrade (off Rt 27).
“Animal Hide and Seek” by Dahlov Ipcar. Sponsored by the Belgrade Library Trustees.
Free.

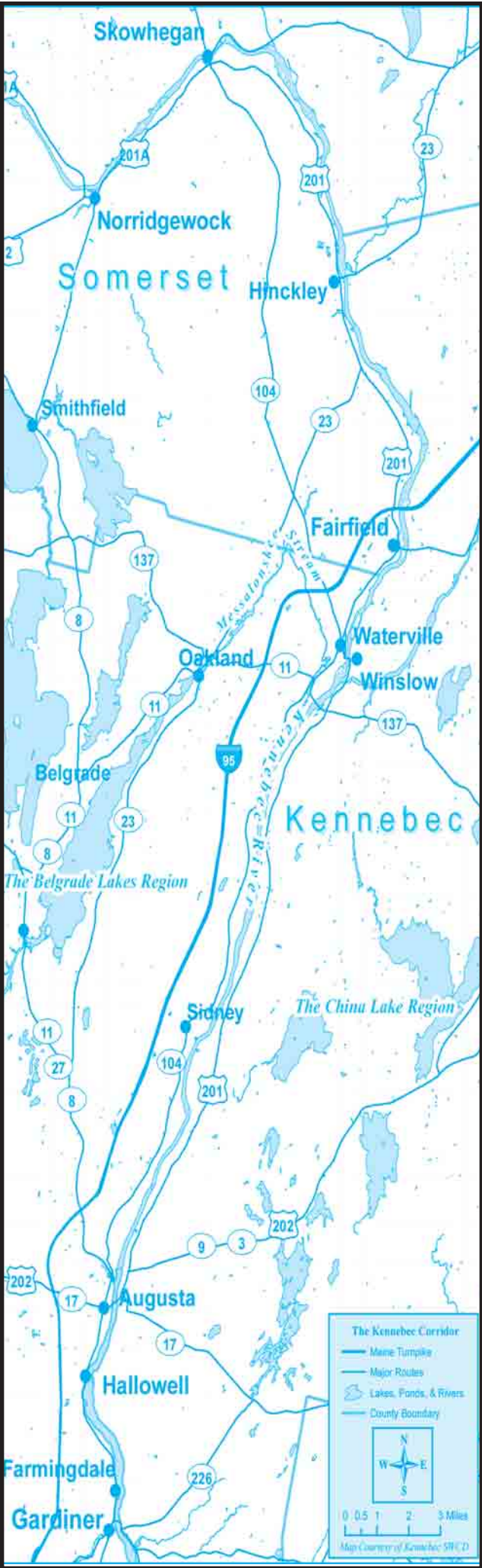
Kevin Couture Photography
HS Seniors - Weddings - Families
Aerial images via drone
www.kevincouturephotography.com
Also find me on Facebook
207-474-0754 207-858-5382
kever1999@yahoo.com

GENERATORS of MAINE INC.
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
www.generatorsofmaine.com 207-495-2285
dan@generatorsofmaine.com
Professional Service At Fair Prices

KOHLER
IN POWER. SINCE 1920.



—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



Best Kept Secret - II

By Shannon Sprague



The Union Church of Belgrade Lakes through the leadership of the Missions and Outreach Committee is committed to serving our community by supporting the Belgrade Center for All Seasons. This is a gathering space in the center of the community, where neighbors of all ages come together to enjoy recreation, build relationships and support one another. Although an obvious benefit of the church’s contributions is providing the material offerings, the true intention behind each and every act of service is to help foster and nurture a welcoming environment where everyone feels welcome!

Some of the projects that the church and its members have been involved in include; providing accessible swings and picnic tables for play and gathering spaces, made lifeguard chairs available for increased safety at the pool, donated a Gaga pit (if you’ve never played, it’s a blast), a ball pit to have some fun and connection, funded art classes for homeschooled children in hopes of enriching their learning and creative experiences. A recent donation included some polywood benches for the Center and the beach locations where folks can gather, sit and enjoy each other’s company. The church has also helped with some improvements at the North Belgrade Center which serves as a gathering place for our community seniors and is home to the Belgrade Food Pantry.

One of the church’s most meaningful missions is to support the Campership Scholarship Fund which provides financial assistance (free or reduced rate) so that all children within the community have the same opportunity to attend camp regardless of their family’s financial circumstances. The most important aspect of this assistance is the hope that even more children can enjoy the fun, friend-

ships and personal growth that summer camp has to offer! The church and Center have a common goal to make all things and all experiences accessible to all of our neighboring communities!

The church community is very excited to once again participate in the annual camper cookout scheduled for August 12th this year, where volunteers get a chance to wear silly hats, while serving cookout food like hot dogs and hamburgers with all the fixin’s complete with ice cream. Although the food may be delicious, the blessing of this experience is time shared in community together. Campers and volunteers laugh, have fun, share stories and create lasting summer memories that will last beyond their time together.

Supporting the Belgrade Center for All Seasons is ultimately about much more than funding projects. It is about investing in relationships, nurturing a spirit of belonging, and joining together in the shared purpose of serving our neighbors. Through this partnership, the church and the Center continue to strengthen the fabric of the Belgrade community—one act of generosity, one family, and one relationship at a time. More information about Union Church projects and ways to get involved are available on their website unionchurchmaine.org.

HATHAWAY MILL ANTIQUES

10,000 Sq. Ft. Showroom
Offering Quality Period Antiques
to Mid-Century Modern

Open Wed. - Sun. 10am-5pm Closed Mon. & Tues.

hathawaymillantiques.com
10 Water Street, Waterville
207-877-0250

Like & Follow us on Facebook & Instagram!

Banking solutions that fit your life.

Helping Mainers reach their personal and business financial goals for over 150 years.

92 Main Street | Fairfield, Maine

Lynn Andrews
AVP Community Banker

Chris DeMerchant
VP Commercial Lender

Skowhegan SAVINGS
800.303.9511 • Skowhegan.com

WHITE WILLOW

RETREAT FOR DOGS

BOARDING • DAYCARE

A safe and healthy home away from home.

WhiteWillowRetreat.com
1761 AUGUSTA ROAD BELGRADE, ME
207-495-3596

Ellen Wells

Certified Luxury Property Specialist

COLDWELL BANKER **PLOURDE REAL ESTATE**
143 Silver St Waterville cbplourde.com
207-649-1471 ewells@cbplourde.com





Lynch
LANDSCAPING INC.
FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE QUALITY

Design • Install • Maintain

LakeSmart Certified for all your waterfront needs!

- Plant Installations
- Plant Maintenance
- Patios
- Mowing
- Walkways
- Fertilizing
- Permeable Paver Driveways
- Weed and Tick & Mosquito Spray



Serving all of Central Maine!

(207)474-2420
www.lynchlandscaping.com

BELGRADE LAKES MARINE & STORAGE, INC.
Winter Storage for Summer Boats and Vehicles



Secure, newer storage facilities accommodate boats on trailers, autos, and the largest RVs in 3 buildings totaling over 21,000 sq. ft. Electrical charging outlets are available. Reasonable rates for real protection from extreme winter storms and sun damage.

207-495-2378 • www.belgradelakesmarine.com
366 Augusta Road, Route 27, Belgrade, ME



portside
REAL ESTATE GROUP



LAKEPOINT



Trisha Cheney (207) 716-6494
trisha@belgradelakepoint.com



Stephanie Gardner (207) 592-5577
stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com

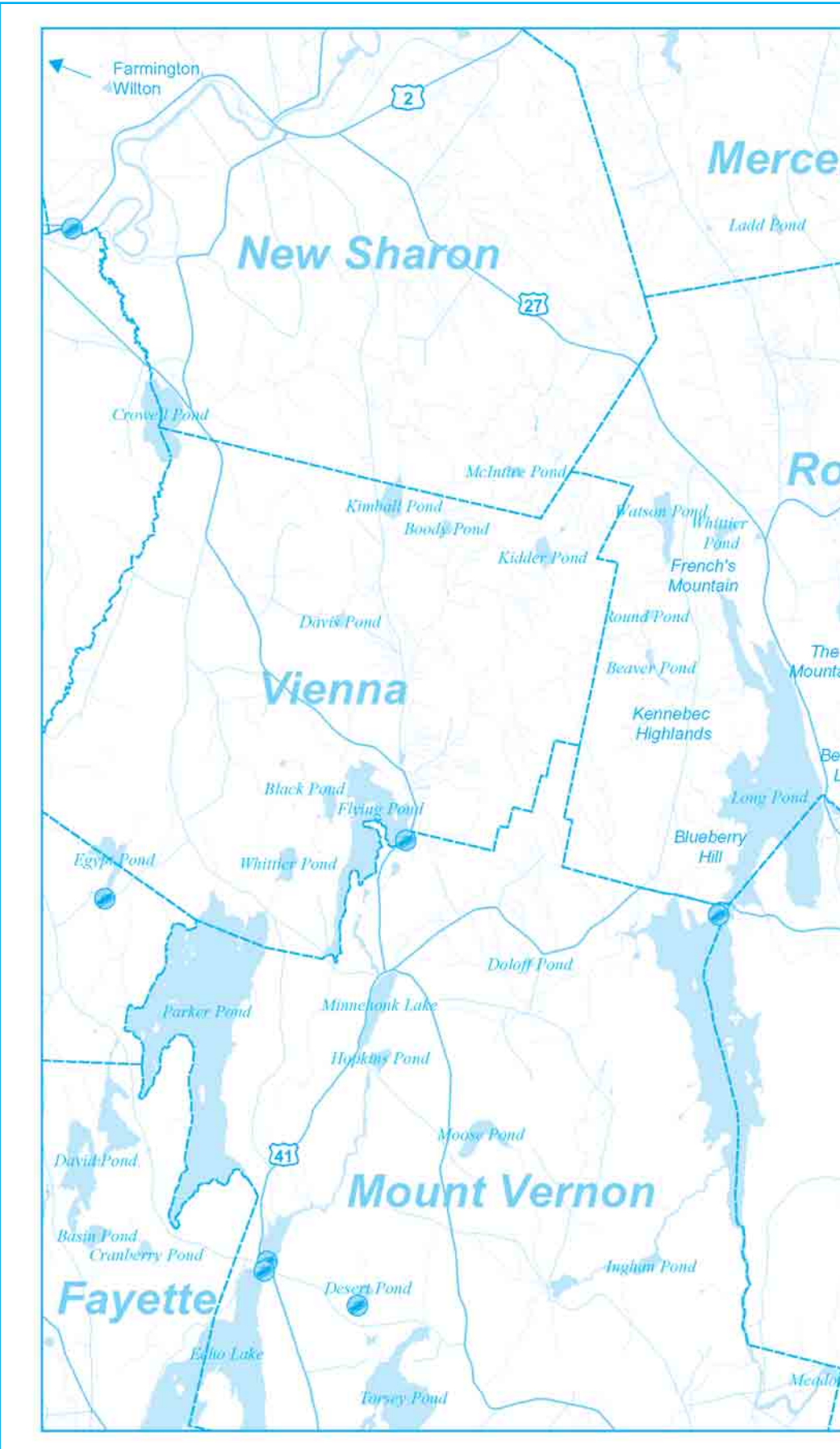


85 Tilton Point Trail, Oakland | MLS#: 1671620 | \$325,000
• McGrath Pond (110 feet) | 0.36 Acres • Antique 1945 Seasonal Camp • 1 Bathroom | Screened Porch • Wood Burning Fireplace • Storage Shed • Year-Round Road Access



147 Dolloff Woods Road, Fayette | MLS# 1664680 | \$1,695,000
• Parker Pond (440 feet) • 0.52 Acre • Year-Round Home • 4 Bedrooms • 3 Full Bathrooms • Unfinished Daylight Walk-Out Basement • Private Attached Oversized 1-Bay Garage and Boat Port • Shed

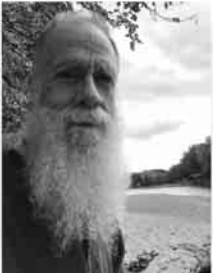
PORTSIDE LAKEPOINT | 221 MAIN STREET | BELGRADE LAKES | 207.495.3700





MICHAEL BREAU
Creative solutions for all your Mac needs

Macintosh and iOS support, based in Western Maine, working onsite throughout Maine



If you have Macs, iOS devices, software or network problems, or any ideas you would like to implement using Macintosh computers, give me a call and we can discuss if I can help...

207-578-0226 • www.michaelbreault.net



Sunrise Bagel

NEW LOCATION
50 MAIN ST. OAKLAND, ME
(207) 716-1014

WE ALSO DELIVER WITH DOORDASH!

ARTISAN SOURDOUGH BAGELS AND SWEETS MADE FRESH DAILY!



@SUNRISEBAGELME WWW.SUNRISEBAGELME.COM



Call Us For Boat Tops, Covers & Interiors

Keep You
and
Your Boat
Clean & Dry



Repairs &
Alterations
Welcome!

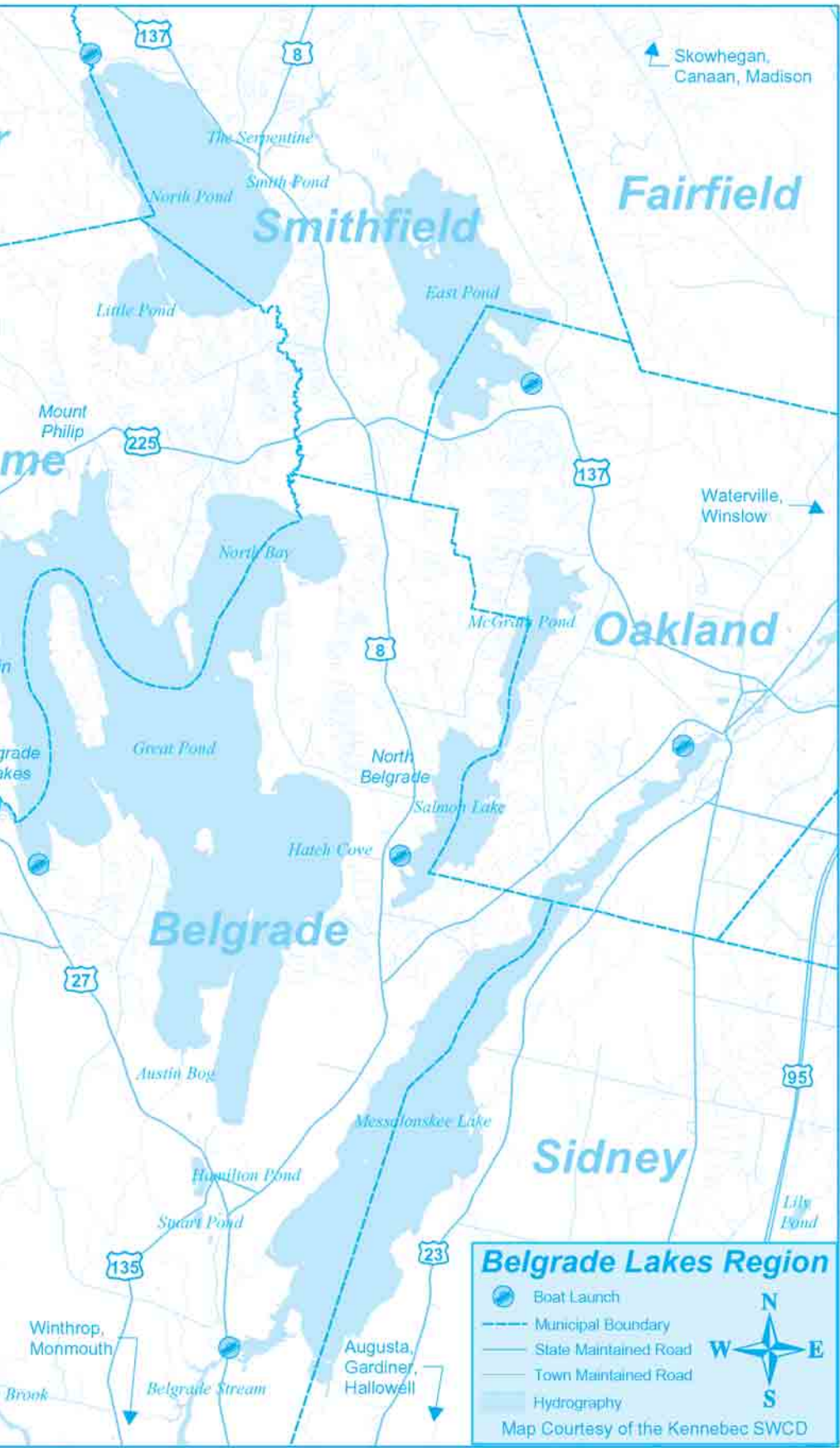
Pontoon Boats Too!

Protect the Interior

COVERS IT ALL UPHOLSTERY
Central Maine's Largest Upholstery Service & CANVAS

Tops, Covers & Interiors for Cars, Trucks & Boats

1 1/2 Miles West Exit 127, I-95, KMD, Oakland 465 - 7847



GAGNE & SON
CONCRETE PRODUCTS

The best room in your house doesn't have a roof.

Patios, fire pits, furniture, walkways, outdoor kitchens, and more.

Everything you need to create a space your friends will talk about and your neighbors will envy.

Shop Online
GagneAndSon.com

Everyone Notices A Great Patio Setup

Auburn Belgrade Holden Kittery Saco Topsham Westbrook

Visit the Businesses on Marina Drive

Great Pond Marina, Inc.



Fuel Dock Open Daily 9-4
Non-Ethanol 89 Octane
Mooring Chain & Supplies



sadiesboathouse@hotmail.com
• 207-495-4045 •
Like us on Facebook!
Friday-Saturday 5-9 PM

G & L CONTRACTING

Camp Jacking

207-495-9009

www.gandlcontractingmaine.com

2026 CENTRAL MAINE

ATV
GLOW RIDE

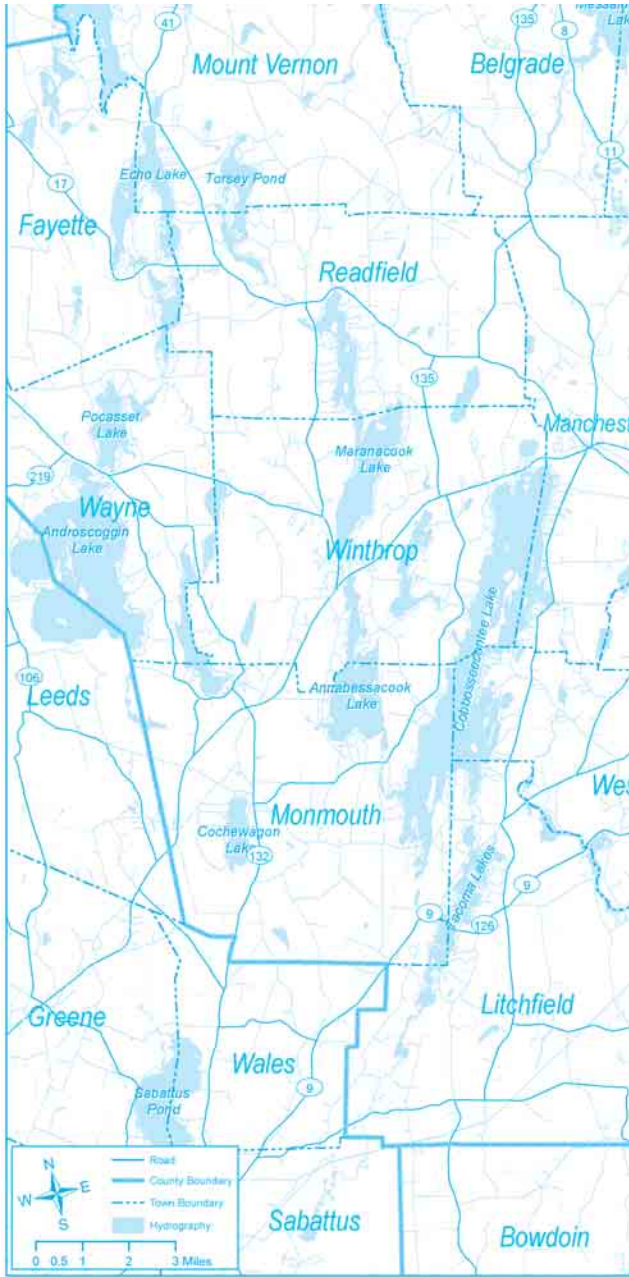
400 machines lighting up Waterville to Fairfield

AUGUST 15
7:00 PM

CHECK IN
Walmart, 80 Waterville Commons Dr., Waterville
2:00 - 6:30 PM



Winthrop Area Watershed



Sacred Heart Reborn: A New Life for an Old Church

by Gregor Smith



Jonathan Godbout dreams big. To him, the former Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the corner of Gilman and Pleasant Streets in Waterville is a community gathering space, offering concerts and classes and selling food.

The history of Sacred Heart began in 1905, when the diocese decided to create a separate parish in Waterville

for English speakers, who were vastly outnumbered by francophones at the former St. Francis de Sales Church on Elm Street. Construction on Sacred Heart began early in the summer of 1907 and by January 1908 the basement of the new church was closed in and the first services were held. The entire structure as we know it today would not be completed until the spring of 1930 when the first service was held there on Easter.

For the next 76 years the building would serve the faithful, but by the early 2000s enrollment had declined to the point that the diocese chose to close the church. In 2022 neighboring building supply company Ware Butler purchased the campus which included the church, the rectory and the 2-story parish office building.

Godbout, an economics major who graduated from Colby College in 2008, did not plan to become a savior of old buildings. He was living in Cincinnati, Ohio with his wife, who was working on her PhD when he learned of a program through which one could buy distressed buildings cheaply. For a mere \$1500 he bought a 4-story, 10,500 square foot building erected in 1850. He converted it into a restaurant and seven apartments. "That was my first foray into real estate development," he said.

Godbout did not have any prior experience with Sacred Heart Church, but he had heard a lot about it. After making a presentation for Dirigo Labs in Waterville in August 2024 on his redevelopment of the Cincinnati building and his use of historic tax credits to achieve that goal, he was approached by the Central Maine Growth Council to look at the Sacred Heart property. Ware Butler, ready to move on, was purchased in July 2025 by Hammond Lumber, who did not want the church property. Godbout became the owner in December.

While the timing of the overall project depends on when the money becomes available, Godbout would like to establish the "co-housing element in the rectory" by the end of 2026. The cash generated by renting the space could finance other aspects of the project. Most of the offices in the office building are already rented — built in 1997, it is by far the newest building on the property and will not require any work.

He also plans to have the chapel available by the end of the year. The chapel, right of the chancel, could become a coffee shop or a yoga studio.

The sanctuary would be the last space to be finished. He hopes to complete the fundraising by the end of 2027 and have the sanctuary open in 2028.

Besides grants and donations, he acknowledges that "a lot of elbow grease" will be needed to realize his vision. He and his partners work on the property every Friday afternoon and would welcome community volunteers. "We'd like to do some community clean-up days, really get people involved," he said. "We really would like this to be a place that everyone feels like the community owns."

For more information, visit www.ticoniccommons.org.

Quality Used Books

THE Peoples BOOK SHOP
USED BOOKS

8,000 Gently Used, Hand Picked, Eclectic and Popular Books

605 Wings Mill Road
Mount Vernon - 620-2392

hosehead51@roadrunner.com

Open by Appointment

John Blouin
207.446.7708
jblouin@laerrealty.com
JohnBlouinRealtor@gmail.com

Woodbury Pond \$429,000 MLS# 1654574
Custom Chalet in Woodbury Shores with shared waterfront access. 2BR, 2BA with cathedral ceilings, heat pumps, porch, loft space, and year-round or vacation living.

Albion, ME \$589,000 MLS# 1656111
Brand-new 3BR, 2BA home on 3.54 acres with radiant heat, cathedral ceilings, primary suite, bonus space and easy access to trails, lakes and outdoor recreation.

103 Water St., Ste. 202 | Hallowell, ME 04347 | 207.622.2220

Call Us For Boat Tops, Covers & Interiors

Keep You and Your Boat Clean & Dry

Protect the Interior

Repairs & Alterations Welcome!

Pontoon Boats Too!

COVERS IT ALL & UPHOLSTERY
Central Maine's Largest Upholstery Service
& CANVAS

Tops, Covers & Interiors for Cars, Trucks & Boats

1 1/2 Miles West Exit 127, I-95, KMD, Oakland 465 - 7847

Fresh Apples, Vegetables and More
Come Celebrate Maine's Fall Harvest with Us!
9-5 Daily,
104 Back Rd, Fairfield, ME
mainecider@gmail.com
207-453-7656



Notebook

Colby College Museum’s Community Day July 25

• Free for all ages, on Saturday, July 25, Colby College Museum of Art’s Community Day offers artists, music, food and a free shuttle running between the museum and the downtown Paul J. Schupf Art Center running on the hour and half hour from 10 am to 3 pm. This year, Community Day celebrates the exhibition “Imagine an Archipelago: Art from Cuba, Guam, the Phillippines, Puerto Rico, and Their Diasporas.” Local partner organizations, businesses, community groups and artists will join participants in art making, storytelling, performance, outdoor games and more.

Augusta: Babysitter’s Training Course

• The American Red Cross Babysitter’s Training Course will be held on Sunday, August 2, 12-4 pm at the Kennebec Valley YMCA on Union Street. The course will help participants develop leadership skills, learn how to develop a babysitting business, keep themselves and others safe and learn about basic childcare and first aid. It is designed to provide 11-16 year olds who are planning to babysit with the knowledge and skills to safely and responsibly care for children and infants. 622-9622

Belgrade Public Library: Summer Programs

- Search and Rescue, the Frogtown Puppeteers and Chewonki are among the presentations scheduled at the Belgrade Public Library on Depot Street in July and August. Adult programs, 6 pm, include:
 - Wednesday, July 22: Search and Rescue with Captain Josh Bubier, Maine Warden Service
 - Wednesday, August 5: Missing Hikers on the Appalachian Trail with Maureen Milliken
 - Wednesday, August 19: Community Read Book Discussion: “Heartwood” by Amity Gaige
 - Programs for kids, 2 pm, are as follows:
 - Monday, July 27: Frogtown Puppeteers - The Legend of Banana Kid
 - Tuesday, August 4: Chewonki presents Animal Adaptations
- For more information call 495-3508.

Smithfield: 5K, Church Supper and Vintage Steel

• The Loon Call 5K & Fun Run, a church supper and a performance by Vintage Steel, a steel pan/drum band based in Augusta are on the agenda at the Smithfield Baptist Church on Saturday, July 25. The races are in the morning - registration 7:15 am and racetime 8 am, cost \$5 to enter and offer an assortment of prizes, many loon-themed and some baked goods. Water and fruit will be provided and EMTs will be on site. The church supper is at 5:30 pm, suggests a donation of \$10 and includes baked beans, casseroles, salads, rolls and biscuits, pies and beverages. The address is 25 Lake View Drive.



Heather Jorge
Serving Central Maine

RADIANT CLEANING SERVICES

207-480-0855
Heather.jorge89@gmail.com



ACME LAND SURVEYING, LLC
Professional Land Surveyors – Professional Foresters
Property Surveys, Subdivisions, Topographic Surveys, MLIs,
Elevation Certificates/LOMAS, ALTA/ACS Surveys,
Deed Research, Wetland Delineation, Forest Management

108 Fairbanks Rd., Suite 5
Farmington, ME 04938
Website: www.acmelandsurveying.com

Tel. (207) 778-4081
Toll Free (800) 778-4081
Email: info@acmelandsurveying.com

For your jacking and leveling needs, including sill repair, call Eric Lancaster

"Over 25 years experience."

207-634-2821

Insured



ALDEN CAMPS
SWIM-FISH-FUN
OAKLAND-MAINE

- Lakeside Cottages • Boats & Motors
- Full American Plan
- Dining on the porch by reservation

3 Alden Camps Cove
Oakland, Me 04963
(207-465-7703)

E-mail: info@aldencamps.com • Website: www.aldencamps.com



NB
EARTHWORK & FORESTRY

(207)-458-3193
nbeearthwork@gmail.com

Camp Road Grading and Repair

- Camp Road Grading
- Gravel Driveway Repair
- Camp Road Maintenance Programs

Fully Insured & D.E.P Certified in shoreland zone work



WINTHROP WORKSPACE

(207) 395-5019
www.winthropworkspace.com
linda@winthropworkspace.com

"Come work with us"

A welcoming coworking space in downtown Winthrop.
Fast Wi-Fi. Conference room.
Sit/Stand desks.
Day Pass, 5-Day, 10-Day & Unlimited Plans
Downtown Winthrop
117 Main St, Suite 1D

Advertise with

Summertime in the Belgrades!

207-495-3777;
sumbelnews@gmail.com

The Vienna Historical Society Presents...

A Miracle for Micky
Playwright Beverly Wight Smith

&

Too Hot to Hustle
Sketch writer Annette Smith

JULY 23-25, 2026
Thurs, Fri, Sat at 7PM
Sat Matinee 2pm
Admission: \$12

At The Vienna Union Hall !

THIS BAKERY IS SO DIFFERENT

Main Street Bake Shop



HOMEMADE 3 GENERATION RECIPES • DYE FREE INGREDIENTS

ORDER ONLINE
www.balloonssweetsandmore.com
OR
Call (207) 495-3864



Ray Linck
TRIM
SHOE
FARMINGTON, MAINE
207-446-3758
WWW.FARRIERMAINE.COM



Oliver & Friends BOOKSHOP

Tuesday: 11 am - 4 pm
Wednesday - Friday:
10 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 12 pm - 5 pm

207-707-2123

www.oliverandfriendsbookshop.com
150 Main Street, Unit 101, Waterville



-Business Directory-

ANTIQUES

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 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

AUTOMOBILE 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

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.watervilleupholstery.com

BOAT LIFTS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Gorham, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 1-866-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 (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, 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

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Gorham, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

CAMP JACKING AND LEVELING

Eric Lancaster, Norridgewock, 634-2821, ejlancaster77@gmail.com

CAMP ROAD GRADING AND REPAIR

NB Earthwork & Forestry, D.E.P. certified in shoreland zone work, Sidney, 458-3193, nbeearthwork@gmail.com

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 Welch Road, Wilton, 578-0226, www.michaelbreault.net

CLEANING SERVICES

Radiant Cleaning Services, serving central Maine, 480-0855, Heatherjorge89@gmail.com

DINING

1958 Cafe @ Day's Store, dine-in lakeside breakfast, lunch, dinner, 182 Main Street. Belgrade Lakes, 495-2205, www.daysstore.com
Alden Camps, dinner by reservation 7 days a week, 5:30-7, Friday night lobster bake, 5:30-7, 3 Alden Camps Cove, Oakland, 465-7703, www.aldencamps.com
H.J. Blake's for Goodness Sake's, fresh, homemade, tasty take-out, signature lobster rolls, hot dogs, burgers, scenic outdoor seating, 945 West Road, Belgrade, 465-2280
Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant at Great Pond Marina, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273
Sunrise Bagel, 50 Main Street, Oakland, 716-1014, sunrisebagelme.com

DOCKS

G&L Contracting, installation only, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-9009, 215-7951, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com
Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Gorham, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

DOG CARE AND BOARDING

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

FARRIER SERVICE

Ray Linck Farrier Service, Farmington, 446-3758, www.farriermaine.com

FILMS

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

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

FLOORING

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 866-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

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

INSURANCE

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

KITCHENS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 866-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
Friends of Messalonskee, Snow Pond/Messalonskee Lake, PO Box 532, Oakland, ME 04963, 618-8723, www.friendsofmessalonskee.com
McGrath Pond - Salmon Lake Association, Stewards of Our Belgrade Lakes, <https://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org>

LAND AND LAKE CONSERVATION

7 Lakes Alliance, PO Box 250, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, (207) 495-6039, www.7lakesalliance.org

LANDSCAPING

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



LODGING

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

MAILBOAT RIDES

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

PATIO SETUPS

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

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

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Dockside Physical Therapy, 212 Depot Road, Belgrade, 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, cbplourde.com

Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-147, cbplourde.com

John Blouin, Laer Realty Maine, 103 Water Street, Suite 202, Hallowell, 446-7708, <https://www.laerrealty.com/agents/118618-john-blouin>

Liz Fontaine, Lakehome Group Real Estate, 75 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2500, lakehomegroup.com

Dan McCarron, Portside/Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, 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

ROAD REPAIRS

NB Earthworks & Forestry, gravel roads and driveways, DEP certified, Sidney, 458-3193, nbeearthwork@gmail.com

SURVEYING

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

WINDOWS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 34 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Corinth, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Gorham, Greenville, Greenville-Lily Bay Road, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Machias, Madison, Mexico, Old Town, Palmyra, Portland, Rochester, N.H., Rockland, Skowhegan, Waterville, West Enfield, 1-800-HAMMOND, www.hammondlumber.com

WORKSPACE/TECH COACH

Winthrop Workspace, shared office space, classes, workshops, support, 117 Main Street, Suite 10, Winthrop, 395-5019, www.winthropworkspace.com



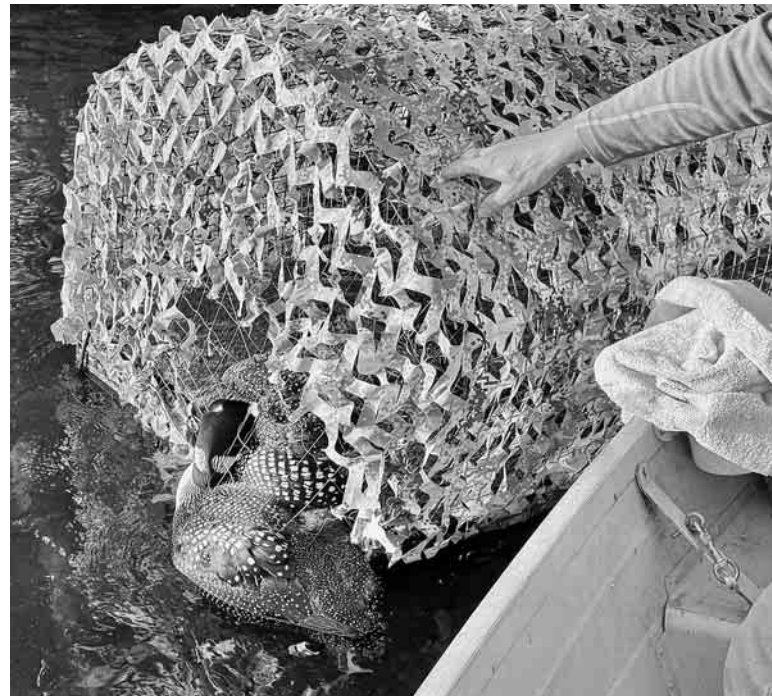
Call of the Loon

A Successful Rescue

All of us have heard stories of attempted rescue of wild animals. Most of these do not have a happy ending. This one, I'm happy to say, does. On June 20th, we received a call from neighbor Chris, with a report of a loon in distress. Apparently, the female of the pair had decided it was time for the male to vacate the nest, as clearly it was her turn to sit on the eggs. The breeding pair typically take three-hour shifts during the day with the female solely on night duty.

Many floating nests like the one in Lynch cove have a camouflage covering which protects against sun, eagles, and inquisitive humans. It is not sufficient to the task of keeping a loon from poking holes for handy entrance and exits. This female had already chewed loon-sized holes in both sides. On this day she had decided to chew another, larger hole in the back of the nest. Unfortunately, she got caught up in the netting that was meant to protect the nest from the myriads of predators.

With the help of our neighbor Chris, we were able to free the loon, but discovered she still had some nylon thread wrapped around her beak and wing. She was not having any of our clumsy attempts to free her of those strings.



2025 Banded Long Pond Lynch Cove female trying to break into 'her' nest!



for her breakfast.

This example of a community coming together for the sake of our precious wildlife is precisely why we live here in Belgrade Lakes. The loons are here because we care enough to work to ensure our lakes are clean and healthy. It takes a Village to raise a child, and it takes community to care about the miracle of wildlife we are surrounded by.



2025 Banded Long Pond female returning to the scene of the crime!

Preservation Project for 8 years, every year gives us more vital information about not only the loons, but the health and ability of our lakes to support wildlife. If our loons disappear, how long will it be before our lakes die. Remember, healthy loons are a mark of a healthy lake.

A huge thanks to our volunteers, our Colby College interns, and Lee Attix. A huge Thanks for the many folks who, in their own way, care enough to work to keep our lakes clear and clean.

From a Friend of the Loons



Fast forward a couple of days. Armed with our Colby interns, Alie, Katie and Julia, a very resourceful kayaker from the Village, we were able to gently corner her in the weeds of the emergency spillway by the Village dam. It took all hands to hold her still so that we could free her. This was done in just a couple of minutes. She exploded towards the lake, splashing and preening, stretching and without a single backwards glance, dove

The loon project is a long term study of our loons, how they live and die, how they survive and succeed in raising their young. The BLA has been sponsoring the Loon



The Ripple Effect: The Fate of Fresh Water in the Twenty-First Century

by Martha F. Barkley

How fun to find another book by Alex Prud'Homme at my local library during April Earth Month. Years ago he coauthored with his relative Julia Child the New York Times bestseller My Life in France. I immediately recalled Julia's time spent on the coast of Maine with her future husband and his twin brother as shared in the France book I read years ago.

The Child twin brothers felled trees and built a family vacation home. Yes, Julia helped do the hard work even before marrying Paul Child. Maine is where they were engaged and Maine is where they vacationed most summers. Even after Paul died, Julia Child spent summers on the coast.

Good writing is memorable and Alex certainly does his best again in this very environmental, scientific book, The Ripple Effect. Very little about power from Maine rivers, but more about water quality within its pages of research.

"Beneath the dark green fir trees, wide ocher fields, and rolling purple-blue mountains of western Maine lie deep aquifers filled with billions of gallons of pristine water."

Fifty percent of this natural water wonder "runs off into lakes and rivers." Belgrade Lakes benefits bountifully from these abundant aquifers. As I swim in Great Pond and Salmon Lake I can feel the surge of cooler spring waters bubbling through the bottom sands, often covered by leaves.

Our Maine Geological Survey reveals in its careful mapping "over thirteen hundred square miles of aquifers," as Maine continues to rank tops or next to top in natural drinkable water "highest quality in the nation."

Poland Spring Water Company history since 1845 is explained and also the bottling plant town of Hollis thirty miles away.

The 1980 Swiss Perrier purchase of Poland Springs is covered in its numerous controversies. Further 2004 and the H2O groundswell movement is related.

Kim Jeffrey of Nestle flew to Portland from Connecticut, unleashing "a PR offensive." The back and forth litigation and the change in Maine's population is summarized. Read page 299 for better understanding than I can review here.

What I discovered at the library was yet another book, The Secret War of Julia Child, a novel by Diana R. Chambers. Just wandering the shelves in Menlo Park, CA brought me closer to Julia Child and her story: Her California early life, her WWII spy work in Asia and meeting her future husband and SUMMERS in Maine. I do hope some day we have a book just about Julia and Paul Child's love of Maine. You can still catch a little of that in My Life in France, illustrations of Maine coastal area included.

Yes, the novel by Chambers deals with Julia first ignoring her spy partner Paul Child, in her strong personality way, but the love story develops as they travel Asia extensively.

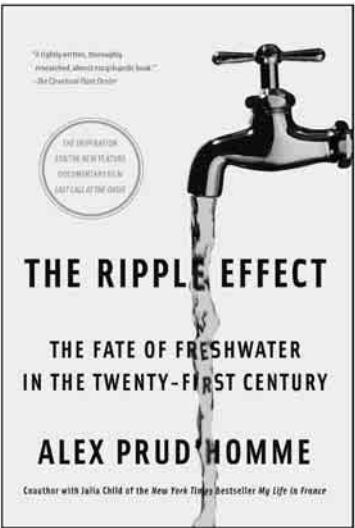
Maybe you, dear reader, order books from Amazon or do inter-library loans like I do, but take time to wander the library shelves. I found Maine memories bounced back in my discoveries of these gems and recalling one from a long ago read.

Apparently the York Harbor Inn on the coast celebrated Julia Child's 100th in 2012 and I completely missed it. Perhaps you ventured to the coast to celebrate her life and French recipes at the popular inn?

The Ripple Effect non fiction by a favorite author was a "book" ripple effect for me personally to a biographical

Life in France AND The Secret War of Julia Child novel.

Take a reality journey through a library or a bookstore or a used bookstore and allow the titles to speak to your memories and curiosities. It is better than scrolling on the screen, believe me: just try it this summer.





ROME BALL FIELD FUNDRAISER

JULY 25th
4:30 - 6:00

By Donation at the Rome Town Office
Mercer Road

POTLUCK SUPPER TO SUPPORT THE
RENOVATION OF THE COMMUNITY
BASEBALL DIAMOND



MLS#1671589 20 Central Avenue, Waterville \$330K
This charming 2-bedroom, 2-bath residence has been immaculately cared for and offers the perfect combination of in-town convenience and peaceful privacy. Surrounded by beautiful mature pine trees, the property provides a secluded setting while remaining just minutes from shopping, hospitals, schools, and recreational opportunities.



MLS# 1671530 24 Smith Street, Augusta \$495K
Beautifully maintained home with a gorgeous back yard located on a quiet dead-end street in Augusta! This property has a welcoming feeling the minute you step inside and is convenient to I-95 and all other amenities. A full farmer's porch frames the front of the house, complemented by nice landscaping. Inside there is plenty of room for everyone to spread out and feel at home with 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths.



MLS# 1659415 51 Tracy Cove Circle, Rome \$850K
Long Pond Lakefront Property on over 2 acres with 100 feet of private waterfront. This lovely custom-built charmer has it all! Situated on a quiet lot in a sought after area. This perfect home awaits you. It is near the Kennebec Highlands hiking trails and only 2 miles from quaint Belgrade Lakes Village. Take your boat to the village! It offers easy access to Augusta, Waterville or Farmington. An award-winning golf course is also minutes away.



MLS# 1633546 27 Peabody Road, Eustis \$365K
This four-season, three-bedroom, two-bath home is just 10 miles from Sugarloaf Mountain. Enjoy a day of skiing then relax in your own home just minutes later. Come explore what the Kingfield/Eustis area offers. This home has been well maintained and includes an on demand generator-no need to lose power during those winter storms that bring snow to the mountains. And best of all if you snow-mobile, you can access the trails directly from the backyard.



For more information call or visit
Lakehomegroup.com
info@lakehomegroup.com

75 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918



— Real Estate Update — The Guardians of the Lakes

Every summer around this time neighbors gather in community centers or fire stations. It is officially lake association meeting season.

While these annual meetings are a great chance to catch up, they are also the operational backbone of Maine's environmental protection. Across the state, 130 active lake associations, including 15 in Kennebec County alone, serve as the front line for our lake health.

Maine's tradition of organized lake care runs deep. The Belgrade Lakes Association (protecting Great Pond and Long Pond) is widely recognized as the oldest in the state, tracing its roots back to 1908.

Over 115 years ago, those early stewards realized a simple truth that still drives us today: a lake cannot protect itself.

When you enjoy a swim in a crystal-clear cove, you are enjoying the efforts of volunteer labor. At this year's meetings, associations are organizing the vital programs that keep our waters healthy:

- Invasive Species Defense: Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) spend weekends checking boat trailers for invasive plants like milfoil, stopping ecological disasters at the launch.
- The "LakeSmart" Initiative: Volunteers help shoreline homeowners plant natural buffers of native shrubs, stopping polluted stormwater runoff from entering the lake.
- Scientific Monitoring: Local volunteers regularly measure water clarity and chemistry, feeding critical data to the state to track long-term lake health.

The ultimate theme of any lake association meeting is membership strength. These groups are entirely volunteer-driven and rely on dues and donations to fund water testing, run erosion-control projects, and protect our watersheds.

A healthy lake sustains wildlife, boosts property values, and keeps Maine's outdoor heritage alive. If you enjoy the water, joining your local association is the best way to pay it forward.

To find your local group, visit mainelakes.org.

Dan McCarron

...Continued from page 6

- Thursday 7/30** - Caffeinations and Versifications, coffee shop style open mic poetry night, read original or favorite or just listen, Squadrons of Butterflies installation reception, 6-8 pm, 314-4730 to sign up, Schupf Center, 93 Main Street, Waterville.
- Thursday 7/30** - Rivertown, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

- Thursday 7/30** - Invite the Wild, Village Green Concert Series, 6-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Route 27, downtown Belgrade Lakes.
- Thursday 7/30** - New England Music Camp Faculty Recital, 7:30-9 pm, Alumni Hall, Pond Road, Sidney.



The Dams Keeper Report

Because we are obviously in the dams business, I was once again reminded of an old phrase which we just don't hear much of anymore and if I recall, it was a very common reply from my Mom for just about everything! "That's water over the dam, honey"!!! So that got me laughing as we are always up to our ears in this dam business!! Merriam-Webster's definition of this expression is "something that is beyond recall (happens a lot now-a-days) or reconsideration". Another version of this old expression is "Honey, that's water under the bridge" which Merriam-Webster "refers to events or situations that are in the past and consequently no longer to be regarded as important or as a source of concern." I tried "That's water over the dam, honey" on my better half again this Monday which elicited her typical "are you feeling OK?" in addition to THAT look. Oh, for the good ole' days when we could still get away with these old quips! I guess maybe I should spend more time on social media for some fresh fodder but I just can't!

Well, all of our pond water levels are continuing to drop due to just not having enough real rain. As I pen this week's column, precipitation for the past 10 days was a very meager .03" with 1.08" forecasted for the next 10 days if we in fact, actually get it! The forecast has consisted of mostly typical summer afternoon thunderstorms which, depending on exactly where you live, could mean a deluge or zip! So, I guess we should be thankful for this incredible weather, but our farmers, gardeners and lake levels are unfortunately feeling the brunt.

The water level at Great Pond's Village dam has now dropped down to .48" but still above full pond with the main gate obviously still closed – Thank you Craig! Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is, for the first time this season, below full pond at 0.48" down with both gates still closed (these are not typos, both dams are 0.48!). Salmon/McGrath is, because of the mandated 1 cfs. 24/7 flow, pretty much still at full pond at just 0.12" below full. Messalonskee, aka. Snow Pond, is 2.64" also, below full pond. We are starting to pay the price for this beautiful Chamber of Commerce weather and clear water due to the lack of run-off!

If you have a particular question regarding our Dams and/or water levels, please email your inquiry to: dickgreenan@outlook.com and we will try to

answer your question either in this column or via email.

Enjoy the Family, your vacation and this incredibly beautiful weather and please stay safe!

Dick Greenan Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee

What you build today
deserves a strong tomorrow.
Plan for it.

Forbes

2026

BEST-IN-STATE
WEALTH
MANAGEMENT TEAMS

SHOOK RESEARCH

GOLDEN POND
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

207-873-2200

goldenpondwealth.com

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor.
Member FINRA/SIPC.





SHOREMASTER

Hammond Lumber Company

34 LOCATIONS ACROSS MAINE & NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES

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.





WWW.HAMMONDLUMBER.COM



67 S SANDY COVE ROAD, BELGRADE



LYNDEE WALDBAUER
lyndeewaldbauer@portsidereg.com
207-835-1848

HOLLY LAWRENCE
hollylawrence@portsidereg.com
207-660-1707



www.belgradelakepoint.com



Weekly Summer Farmers' Markets

Fresh vegetables and fruits, breads, meats, baked goods, produce, preserves, ice cream, eggs and dairy products, flowers and friendliness, advice and information and sometimes children's activities and entertainment....take a scenic destination drive or stroll and visit a farmers' market almost any day of the week.

Early in the season check ahead on market details if possible; most summer farmers' markets open around Memorial Day or early June and some may have slightly shifted their hours.

Friday - Farmington Sandy River Farmers' Market, 9 am-2 pm, Narrow Gauge Cinema parking lot, Front Street.

Saturday - Hallowell Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, Stevens Commons, Winthrop Street.

Saturday - New Sharon Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Routes 2 and 27.

Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Maine Grains, Court and High Streets.

Saturday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, in front of Court House, Main Street.

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

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

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

Wednesday - Fairfield Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, parking lot, 81 Main Street.

Wednesday - Gardiner Farmers' Market, 3-6 pm, The Common, Route 201

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

Thursday - Winthrop Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, downtown municipal parking lot, Main Street.