

Summertime in the Belgrades

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



VOLUME 22, NUMBER 5

When a State Turns 200

by Esther J. Perne

When a state turns 200 history steps up, fascinating facts emerge, timelines are charted, fictions flow and anecdotes make headlines.

When a state turns 200 and the big birthday party is postponed a year and a day, the qualities to be celebrated remain undiminished because when a state turns 200 and that state is Maine all it takes is a quick look around, a short drive around, a brief commune with the outdoors to understand why the state is called "the great state of Maine."

The facts and even the fictions, as unique and intriguing and significant as they are, don't do Maine full justice. The fabric of the state does.

The fabric of Maine is the awesome, inspiring geography. Maine was carved by retreating glaciers that graced the state with unique formations - kettle ponds, eskers, cirques, high mountains and mighty rivers, thousands of lakes and a coastline so ragged that straightened it is the 3rd longest in the United States. With time, trees carpeted this diverse land, some so lofty that they were fit for a king and many so intense that a booming timber industry was born.

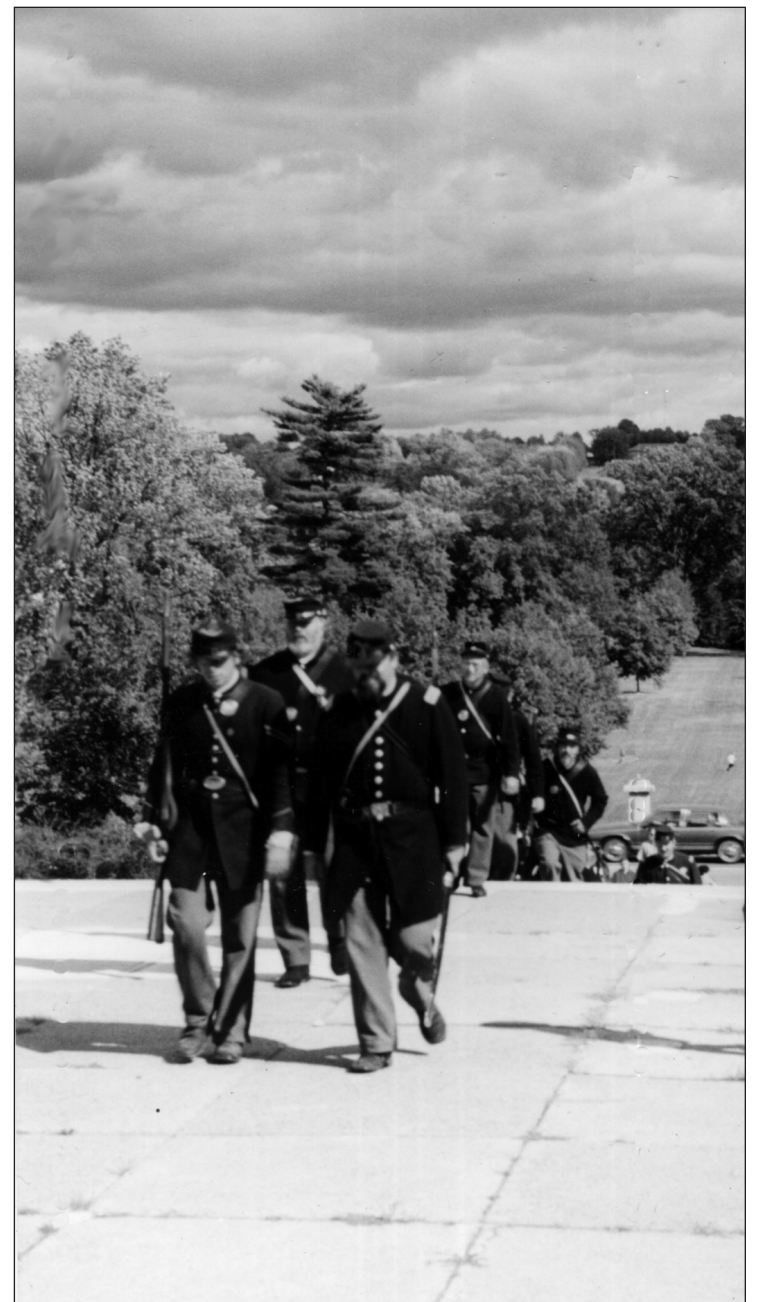
Maine can be credited with many other successful industries, too: fur, apples, pota-

toes, sardines, shoes, wool, textiles, tools, maple syrup, leather, paper, wood products, tourism, retirement - industries that have fueled the diverse economy, brought recognition to the state and made famous the Maine work ethic.

The fabric of Maine is the people - unique, independent, hard-working, appreciative of their state - from the Indian natives to the arrivals from everywhere. Maine people are a roll call of diverse names: Indian names, French names, English names, names from all over the world, old world and new world. There is no need to follow the surnames in a phone book or directory to figure out from where. Instead look at an ordinary Maine road map - a DeLorme most likely - and read the names of rivers and ridges, of hunting grounds and towns, roads and wherever raw land was coaxed into farming or rough waters into fishing ports or a man took a whim to repeat the name of a place he had been to or was from. Yet for all of those names romantic and exotic and from far-removed places,

Maine remains a simple one-syllable state - the only one in the nation.

The fabric of Maine is verbal. Maine is a story-telling state, a tall tales state, a stretching the truth state, where going to town is part business and more socializing. From the hum at the locals' table in a coffee shop



History steps up.

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to the casual Saturday music jams in a neighbor's kitchen, words flow in Maine - words of work and heritage and paying the bills.

The fabric of Maine is survival: weather, hunger, heat, loneliness - live through come what may. Live through a big birthday bash being postponed.

But wait. The fabric of Maine is flexibility. According to Maine State Senator Bill Diamond, head of the Maine Bicentennial Commission the celebration won't miss a step. The parades, the tall ships, the expo, the time capsule will all take place on the same dates plus a day in 2021.

Maine is always ready for a good party, but it doesn't always hold one. There might be a blizzard or a pandemic.

The fabric of Maine is patience. A year and a day? No problem.

Until then the best way to appreciate this 200-year-old state is to walk out the door and gaze at the stars on a clear night - stars that large areas of the world never see; or walk through history along a downtown street on a genuine sidewalk - a walk that in many parts of the world would not be wise; or go to a lake or trail and see and hear from nature what other people only dream.

When a state turns 200 and the party is postponed, the qualities to be celebrated are not diminished.



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Belgrade Town Manager's Report

Of Mice and Men's title springs from a line in an old Scottish poem that roughly translates to, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray." So it is with this year's Town Meeting.

In lieu of a large gathering marked by spirited debate over Town business, Belgrade residents on July 14 will decide the fate of proposed warrant articles by secret ballot only. This is, of course, in keeping with mandated public health precautions.

Everything about our world has changed. That includes the Town's finances. Most significantly, we will suffer a reduction in state revenue sharing, though we don't yet know the impact. So, we have doubled down on our fiscal conservatism, examining every expenditure beforehand and actively seeking to reduce costs. Most notably, we have frozen all but essential hires and merit pay raises built into the budget (even though our public servants definitely deserve them).

Fortunately, we had a solid plan to begin with. Budget Committee member Tom Dowd challenged me to tap into the Town's healthy undesignated fund and make good public use of tax dollars previously collected but not spent. We've found a fiscally wise way to do that. Rather than raising and appropriate tax dollars for one-time capital purchases and to build capital reserves for future projects, we are instead using \$199,394 in undesignated funds. Additionally, we are using \$91,000 in capital reserves in this budget. Together, that reduces the tax burden by nearly \$300,000. And that's in addition to a \$300,000 reduction in the overall budget.

All of that is to say, the staff, the Budget Committee and the Selectboard worked diligently to reduce the municipal portion of

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Augusta: Maine's Awesome Capitol



In the Bicentennial year and every year a visit to Maine's Capitol is a living history experience. Much from the state's exploration, settlement and statehood is presented and preserved in the three historic focal points of the scenic City of Augusta.

Go to the Capitol Complex and discover the inspiring State House, the spacious Capitol Park, the Governor's Mansion - the Blaine House, and the Maine State Museum, Archives and Library.

If the State House is open be sure to tour. Go to the second floor, to the Hall of Flags with its giant pillars and mosaic floor that took Italian artisans a year and a half to inset. Go to the third floor and visit the Senate and House chambers, stand under the dome and go out on the porch to gaze across Capitol Park toward the Kennebec River. There are many important paintings and statues throughout the State House and grounds including four must-see dioramas by artist Klir Beck that portray common wildlife and seasons of Maine.

Visit the impressive Maine State Museum to take in the range of the state's agricultural, seafaring and industrial development, displays of lifestyles in Maine and educational exhibits on Maine products, produce and creativity. Visit the Blaine House, full of Maine antiques and political memorabilia, to discover where dignitaries meet and the governor lives.

Experience downtown Augusta with a visit to historic Water Street, the signposts of the Museum of the Streets and the parks and trails along the Kennebec River - where the tide turns.

Water Street is rich - an architect's dream - in carefully preserved original storefronts and modern day restaurants and watering holes. A stroll along Water Street, up one side and down the other is the best way to observe the incredible architecture of granite door frames, brick designs and carefully restored upper floors that make this a unique place to live. At the north end of downtown are some of the few preserved former mill worker row hous-

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Summertime in the Belgrades

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 PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918
 Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • ebelnews@earthlink.net
 Layout Design: Michael Breault, 207-578-0226 • mo.breault@gmail.com
 Webmaster : Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com
 www.sumbelnews.com

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—The Luckiest Boy—

Haven't we all heard a few? In the good old State of Maine stories abound of fish being caught—and many of the ones that got away. Many stories may have some truth to them, but as we know, all fishermen are liars except you and me. In this day and age with the cell phone cameras in every top pocket, it's a little harder to exaggerate, though I have noticed the angle of the pic can be used to make something look larger than it is. All you have to do is watch North Woods law on the tube and see what grand efforts people make to try and fool the Maine Game Wardens. Not only do people love to try and stretch the truth about a trout making the minimum length, but also, they love to try and hide fish in order to take more home. Our wardens are sly themselves and have seen it all. Few offenders get off the hook!

Apparently telling fish stories is not a new phenomenon. In researching this a bit, I found several articles that BHS member Sandra Lewis unearthed from old newspaper articles and included in her uncirculated book *Life in Lake Country, Part II*. The following article was found in the *Kennebec Journal* historical records.

This rather improbable story was told to a crowd in a hotel office sometime in 1899. It seems the narrator of the story had recently gone fishing in Great Pond, Belgrade, Maine. He had very good success, but lost the best trout he hooked—at least



Local guide Charlie Brown who lived in the stone house, Belgrade Lakes Village.

Fish Stories

by Rod Johnson

he says it was the best. In breaking away, the trout carried off the leader with 3 flies on it. A few days later while fishing in the same general area he saw a flurry of ripples in the water. Casting his line in the direction of the disturbance caused two large trout to break water. The cast paid off and the fisherman steadily reeled in the confusing catch. A net was placed under one and then the other. Great was the man's surprise at seeing two fish, neither hooked by his recent cast, but were attached to each other by the very leader he had lost several days before. Believe this if you will, but it would have made a better story if there had been 3 fish on the leader, one for each fly. But, the narrator said, this does look very good for Belgrade.

No doubt about it, THAT was a wicked good fish story, and hard to beat. Here's one from 1904 that seemed like it could be a contender. This is from the American Canoe Association, League of American Sportsmen, Maine Chapter.

Mr. A Judah reports the following catch of small mouth bass in Belgrade Lakes, Maine. Friday 75, Saturday 68, Monday 73, Tuesday 72, Wednesday 69, Thursday 64. Mr. Judah says that this is the record on the lakes except his own of last year, which was 105 bass in one day.

In commenting on Mr. Judah's fishing habits, the Editor (*Maine Sportmen*) says: He goes after fish the same as another man would shoot birds, in a

business way. He takes a guide and a boat, starts at sun up and stays till dark. The guide cooks the noon meal and Judah fishes. As you do the fishing there, it would not be worth 10 cents a day 2 years from now. Your number in the fish hog book is 929.

Now, whether this actually happened or not remains to be seen, but we do know that overfishing in the past has occurred. Thank heavens we have limits of amount and size now.

This last entry in the Fish Story is my own recollection. You can decide if there's some fibbing involved or not. It was in the mid 1970's on Great Pond, about midway between Abena Point and the Mill Stream entrance. Ralph and I had built a rather lavish ice fishing shack that was 8 feet by 12 feet. It had some nice amenities like a tin wood stove, bench on one side, open raceway to fish from on the other side, a card table and two fold-up chairs. We fished pretty much every weekend for several hours and usually, unless the weather was totally untenable, we had lots of company stop by. Truth is, the place became party central on Sunday afternoons. We usually set out 5 traps each per regulation and usually got a few white perch and an occasional pickerel. At the time pike had been introduced into the lake and mud puppies were fairly plentiful on the bottom, so the pickerel and cat fish seemed to be getting pushed out. We started to catch occasional mud puppies and pike, more each year.

One Sunday afternoon as a nor'easter was threatening, the company bailed out earlier than usual. Ralph and I decided to pull the traps and then settle in for a snifter or two while playing a game of cribbage, then head home. During the game we decided to leave one trap set in the raceway until next week when we returned. Just before leaving we put a fresh shiner on the hook and lowered it down to the bottom, set the flag etc. The following weekend when we returned, our flag was up and the reel was empty of line. As we slowly pulled the line in it was clear that we had a heavy though lethargic fish on the line. When the fish was hauled to the top it was a large pike. The odd thing was the remains of a mud puppy still evident in the pike's toothy jaw. As we attempted to get the hook out we realized that the mud puppy had taken our shiner and sometime after, the pike had eaten the mud puppy. The pike turned out to weigh close to 10 pounds, which at that time was unheard of. Seems to me that Maurice Childs caught one nearly 30 pounds a few years back.

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— Take It Outside —

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by Pete Kallin



One of many nice largemouth caught.



Looking up at Roundtop Mountain.



Pickerel frog that decided to try to hide by my foot.



Shallow pool at mouth of the Brook.



Sean getting kayaking lessons from mom, Devon.

Last week, we finally got some much-needed rain. On one of the hot days before the rains came, I decided to hike into one of the remote ponds in the Kennebec Highlands to do a bit of fishing. I grabbed an ultralight spinning rod, a handful of lures, and a landing net that fit in my pack. I started off on the Sanders Hill Trail and then bushwhacked to my destination, arriving after a roughly 1/2-hour hike. This pond is fished by a few ice fishermen every year but rarely gets visited by anglers once they have to hike to get there. I followed fresh moose tracks to get to the water's edge, started fishing and began catching nice fish on almost every cast. In the next hour and a half, I caught over 40 largemouth bass that averaged almost 3 pounds (largest about 4, smallest about a pound) and a couple of nice chain pickerel. It was a beautiful day and the surface water temperature was almost 80 degrees, so I just took off my shoes and waded in. Over time, I worked my way around to where the Beaver Brook was coming in at about 64 degrees F where I have caught some nice trout in the past. The pool at the mouth of the brook is less than a foot deep so I switched to a small floating Rapala lure. With nearly every cast a nice fish made a beeline for my lure and struck with a big splash. After catching and releasing about 10 fish from the shallow pool, I stopped for a light lunch and headed back to Sanders Hill along the brook. A few years ago, I would have caught quite a few trout in this pond but now it has been taken over by largemouth bass and the trout are probably all gone. It's sad because I would much rather be catching trout, but the bass fishing was awesome and a lot of fun. Lots of beautiful scenery, wildlife, and wildflowers, including a pickerel frog that tried to hide next to my foot rather than jumping into the pond with all the hungry bass and pickerel. I plan to bring a couple of my grandkids back later this summer. There are several remote ponds nearby where this adventure can be replicated. Get out and explore with your kids and/or grandkids.

As COVID-19 travel restrictions are being relaxed, more visitors are able to come to the area. Among the visitors are Dick Greenan's son, Jason, and his family, including grandsons Ben (14) and Sean (8). The family is getting in a lot of relaxing recreation including kayaking, water skiing, fishing, and hiking.

This area offers some great outdoor recreation, whether you like to hike, bike, birdwatch, fish, sail, or paddle a canoe or kayak. I encourage all parents and grandparents to take advantage of opportunities to get your kids and grandkids (or even parents and grandparents) out on the lake for fishing or swimming or up in the hills for some hiking. All the experts agree that outside is the safest place you can be these days. Just be considerate of others and get out safely. Pick up a map of the local trails at Day's Store or from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps can be downloaded from the 7-Lakes web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsys->

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Seven Movies for Seven Nights

By Gregor Smith



MIFF23 Thursday July 16 night showing, *The Last Shift*.

The Maine International Film Festival is well underway, with three nights down and seven more to go. MIFF will present a different movie on each of the seven nights at the Skowhegan Drive-In on Route 201, just south of downtown. All screenings start at 8:45.

All seven films are premieres of some sort (World, U.S., North American, East Coast, etc.) and all but one are new, i.e. completed in 2019 or 2020. The film descriptions below were taken from the MIFF website and then edited and shortened. Admission to each film costs \$10 per person. You can buy tickets at the box office at the drive-in, but it's better to purchase in advance at www.miff.org, where you can also get fuller descriptions for all of these films and see previews of some.

Friday, July 10 will see the Northeast premiere of *Instinct*, Holland's nominee for Best Foreign Language Film at this year's Oscars. In this tense, erotic thriller, experienced psychologist Nicoline (Carice van Houten, *Game Of Thrones*) starts a new job at a prison, where she meets serial sex offender Idris (Marwan Kenzari, *Aladdin*), who, after five years of treatment, is up for probation. His therapists are enthusiastic about his progress, but Nicoline does not trust him. As Idris tries to persuade Nicoline that he really has changed, a sexually charged dynamic develops between the two.

On Saturday, MIFF's Centerpiece Film will be the world premiere of *American Thief*, in which Tonacruz (Xisko Maximo Monroe) and Diop (Khadim Diop) are teenage hackers. Diop wants to make society aware of overreaching government surveillance programs, while Tonacruz wants to avenge his father's murder. As Tonacruz connects to Internet criminals on the Deep Web, Paul Hunter (Ben Becher), a disgruntled and possibly askew video blogger, rants about political conspiracies. Both Paul and Tonacruz are contacted by a mysterious, unnamed person who claims to have what they all need to expose the truth. With the 2016 presidential election as its backdrop, *American Thief* reaches a stunning climax on election evening.

The next night will bring the North American premiere of *Queen Lear*.



MIFF23 Saturday night showing, *American Thief*.

Sixteen years ago, a handful of peasant women from the mountains of southern Turkey formed a theater group. They acted out their own life stories, transforming their lives in the process. In this funny and sweet, modest and profound documentary, a female-led crew follows the actors as they travel to remote, mountain villages to perform an adaptation of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, which delicately becomes *Queen Lear* in their hands.

On Monday, you can watch the North American premiere of *White Riot*. In a country deeply divided about immigration, where racism is rampant, a generation rebels to change the world for the better. This film could be about the U.S. today, but director Rubika Shah's inspirational and incendiary documentary actually details events that took place in the United Kingdom in 1976, when Rock Against Racism was founded in collaboration with musically and politically terrific punk bands including The Clash, Steel Pulse, and Tom Robinson to form the biggest — and certainly the most energetic and musically charged — civil rights movement in British history.

Tuesday takes us to *The 11th Green*. After the death of his father from a heart attack, journalist Jeremy Rudd (Campbell Scott of *Amazing Spider Man*

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- Conservation Too -

Stormwater Runoff – What to Do With It

By Dale Finseth

It is a reoccurring topic – Stormwater and Stormwater Runoff

It is that time of year when we often experience a ferocious amount of rainfall in a short period of time. Sometimes it includes some severe hail. It can cause substantial erosion and occasionally might cause failure of some of the erosion control practices that we have just installed.

We've discussed stormwater runoff before. "Stormwater" is just that – the rainfall or melting snow that then runs across the landscape in liquid form. Here are some of the areas to pay attention to:



The ditch next to your driveway will have a lot of water in it during and soon after a rainstorm. The culvert beneath your driveway may run full. Water runs downhill and sometimes, during or after a large rainstorm, nature can generate a rather large runoff. We need to prepare for those cases. There are some things you can do to help!

Pay attention about where the water flows during a rainstorm. Where does it flow off of the roadway and parking areas? Where does it flow off of your roof or deck area? Do you have other impervious areas that channel and concentrate the water like pathways or storage areas? Even the slope of a lawn area can concentrate the stormwater flow.

One inch of rain on a single square foot of pavement, sidewalk or roof = 0.6234 gallons of water.

During a large rainstorm where we may get 4-6 inches of rainfall and you have a 500 square foot paved parking area, you would have about 1560 gallons of water running off of your parking area. That is about twenty-five 55-gallon drums of water with no place to go but the dis-

charge area of your parking lot. Those impervious areas channel to the lowest point and cascade into the lake from a concentrated runoff area. An impervious surface doesn't soak up the rain but carries it off to another location. For every inch of rain that falls on those surfaces, your property needs to deal with tens of thousands of gallons of water. Depending upon how your structures are designed, that concentration of water can do a lot of damage. Now consider your property. How much impervious surface do you have? And how is the runoff managed?

What can a property owner do to mitigate the damage? Direct stormwater into vegetated areas or rain gardens. Install filtration steps in any area where the pathway may get steep. The water from parking areas can be sheeted off the edges and into areas that do not erode the soils.

Take the opportunity now to use some of those BMP's [Best Management Practices]. You need to manage your yard and property to protect it and water quality. Control the water runoff. Look for places that have been damaged in past storms. It will happen again unless you do something.

And don't forget a good buffer planting. If well established, it does a good job of intercepting water runoff and filtering it before it gets to the lake. The objective is to filter it, so it doesn't concentrate and transport soil, chemicals, or other toxics into the water.

Remember, there is a lot to do in order to protect water quality.

For information about any of our conservation projects please contact Dale Finseth at 622-7847, x 3 or check our website at www.kcswwd.org



...Town Manager's Report continued from page 2

the property tax rate. As a reminder, about two-thirds of your property taxes support the local school system and about 8 percent supports county government. The Town collects all those tax dollars, but we keep only about one-fourth of what is raised, redistributing the rest to the schools and the county.

Great thought went into the Town budget, which was widely distributed in the annual report (available at townofbelgrade.com/townreport). All involved agreed that blowing up that budget and putting new articles on the July 14 ballot would only confuse voters. Instead, we are making a request and a promise.

We ask that you support the budget; we believe it to be a solid financial plan. We also vow to work like the dickens to reduce costs to meet revenue.

That is not to say we will unquestionably achieve that. 2020 has taught us no one knows what the future holds. But we are thoroughly committed to living within our means, appreciating you may be struggling to do the same in your household.

Questions about the budget? Please contact me at 207-495-2258 or townmanager@townof-belgrade.com. I'm happy to talk with you.

-- Anthony Wilson, Belgrade Town Manager



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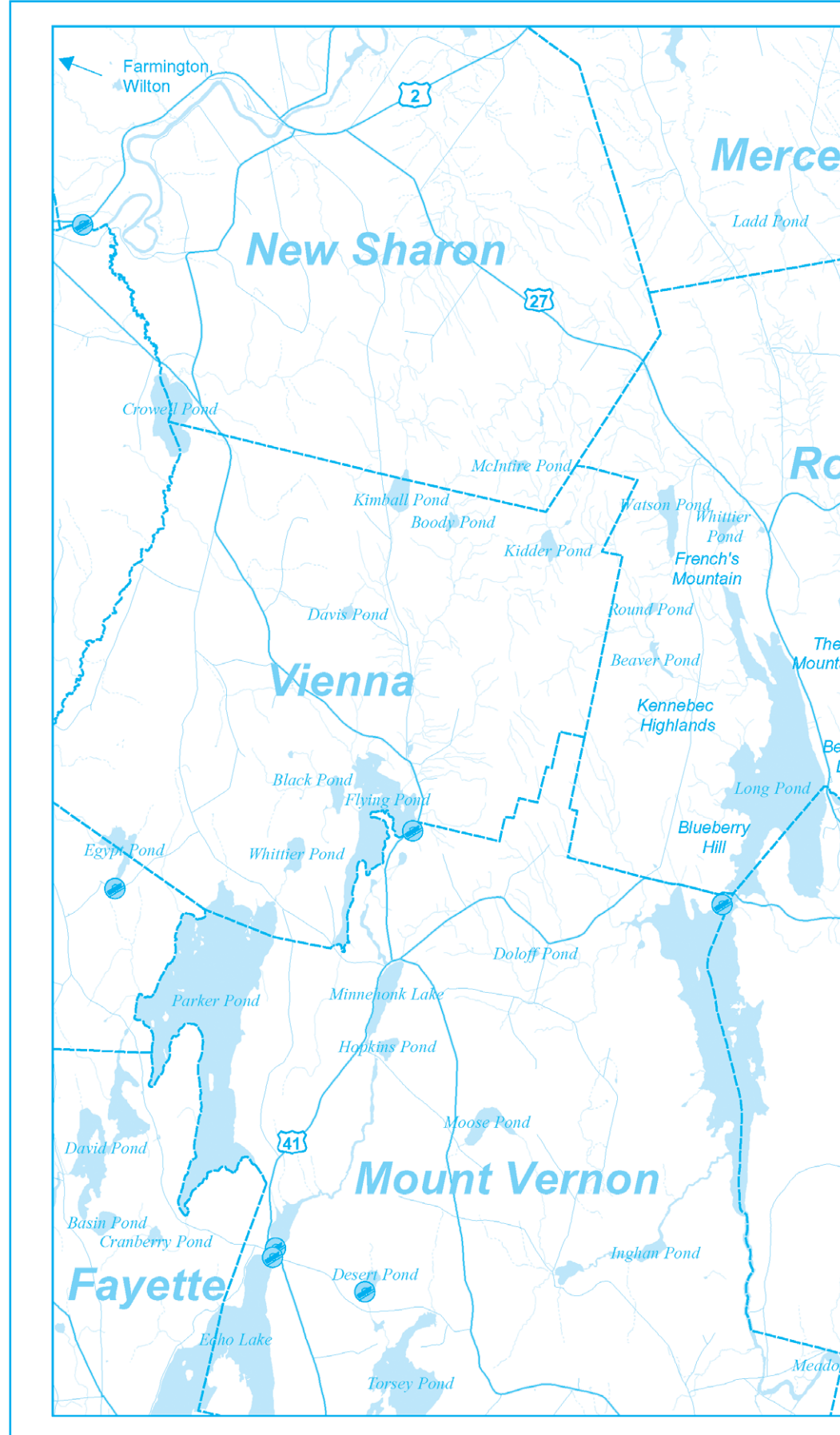


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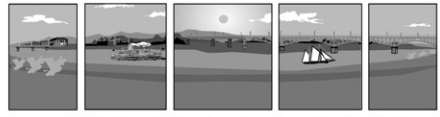
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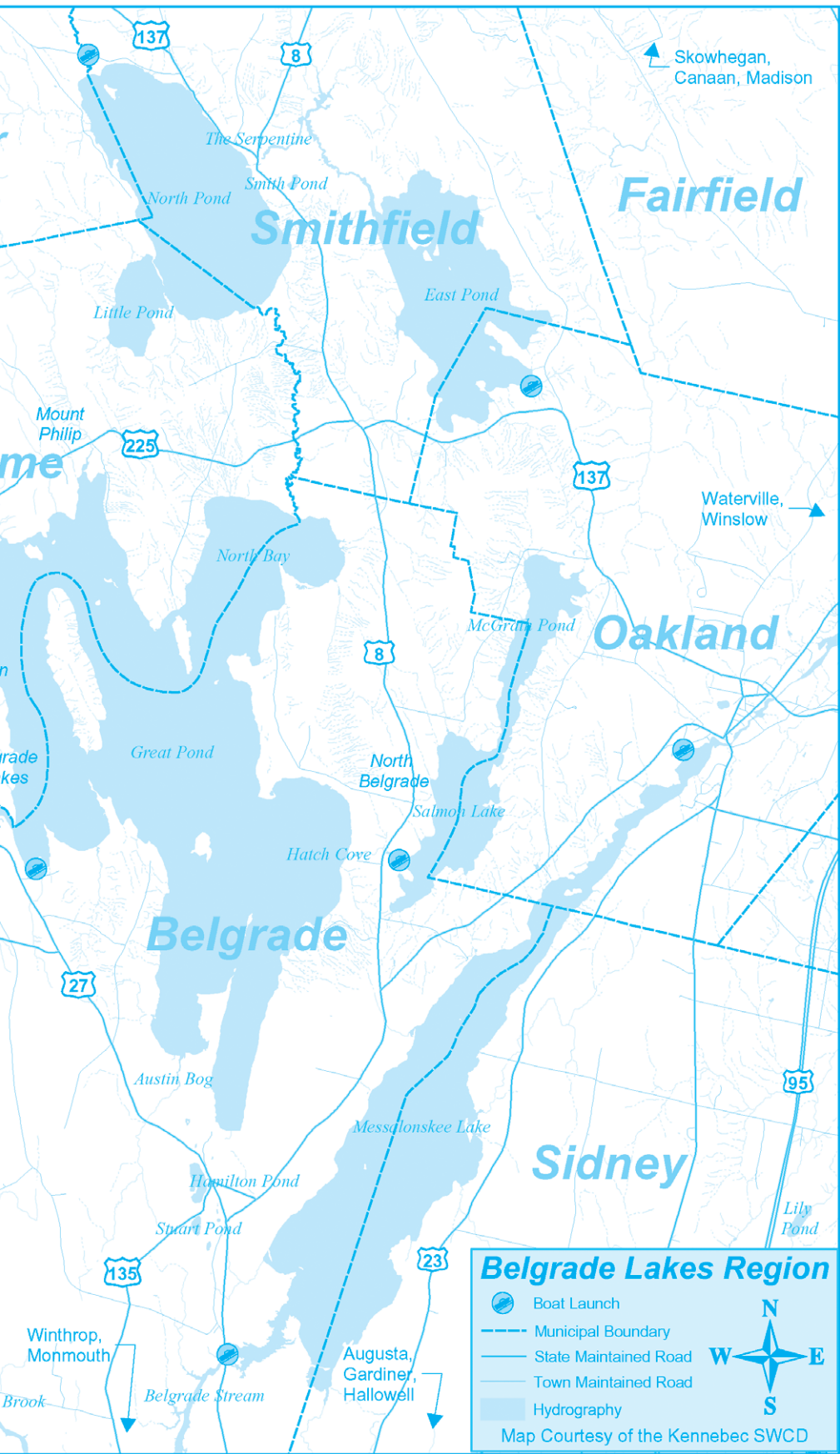
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...Continued from page 3

es in New England; at the south end is the start of a popular rail trail.

Across the Kennebec standing guard over it all as it has since 1754 is Olde Fort Western - an opportunity to walk through fascinating pre-Bicentennial history or look back at Water Street where the friendly restaurants and watering holes are waiting.

In the Bicentennial year and every year a visit to Maine's Capitol is a living history experience.

Notebook

July 9 Deadline To Request Absentee Ballots

• Maine's primary election is coming up on Tuesday, July 14 and all voters are being strongly encouraged to vote absentee with a mail-in ballot. To request a ballot call your municipal office or the Secretary of State's office at 724-7650. The deadline for requests is 5 pm on Thursday, July 9.

Maine Preservation Honor Awards Due 7/31

• The annual Maine Preservation Honor Awards celebrate excellence in historic preservation leadership, rehabilitation and craft. Anyone who knows of a preservation project that deserves to be celebrated or a preservation champion who should be recognized should contact info@mainepreservation.org. Submissions must be received by July 31, 2020.

Upcoming Events Currently Scheduled

• The following events are currently on the calendar. Please call ahead to confirm schedules.

Lakewood Theater opens August 6 for its 120th season with the play "Opening Night." Shows will be held on August 6-9 and 12-15. 474-7176

Skowhegan State Fair, scheduled for August 13-22, will announce plans on July 13. Options include a scaled-down version. 474-2947

...MIFF continued from page 6

2) is summoned to the exclusive California golf resort where his father lived. Though estranged from his father for two decades, he is now forced to learn about the man's secretive legacy in classified aerospace programs. While his romantic attraction to his father's former assistant Laurie (Agnes Bruckner of *Murder By Numbers*) challenges his judgment, he is further tested when his father's protégé Jacobsen (Currie Graham), a charming but shifty intelligence operative, offers him several astonishing reels of film purporting to document the U.S. Government's interactions with extraterrestrials five decades earlier.

On Wednesday, MIFF will premiere the digital restoration of *Latcho Drom*, the one "rediscovery," or classic film, in this year's festival. Theatrically released in 1993 and distributed in the United States by Waterville's own Shadow Distribution, *Latcho Drom* ("Safe Journey") is a documentary, but not in the conventional sense, as it contains little dialogue and no interviews. Rather, it is the story of the Roma, the people more commonly and pejoratively called "gypsies," told entirely through music and dance. With one spectacularly staged visual sequence and jaw-dropping performance after another, the film literally follows the trail of the Roma through India, Egypt, Turkey, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, France, and Spain.

On Thursday, July 16, the festival concludes

The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18 at the Waterville Country Club. 873-3315

The August Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival is scheduled for August 27--30 at the Litchfield Fairgrounds with a line-up of 10 bands. 873-6539

7 Lakes Alliance YCC In The Field

• The 7 Lakes Alliance Youth Conservation Corps has begun project work with a smaller crew that is adhering to public health guidelines. The YCC provides valuable summer work experience for young people while protecting the local watershed with erosion-control projects. Landowners interested in water quality protection projects should contact 931-7710.

North Pond Association "Buff Up"

• On Saturday, July 11, 9-11 am, the North Pond Association is offering its 6th annual Are You Buff Enough? - How To Become LakeSmart-er Workshop. LakeSmart is a homeowner education and reward program encouraging lake-friendly landscaping and other lake-friendly practices and projects. The workshop will be hosted by Lauren Pickford, the Youth Conservation Corps Director for 7 Lakes Alliance. The Keynote Speaker will be Charlie Baeder, the 7 Lakes Alliance DEP 319 Grant Projects Director. There will be free Buffer Plants for participants to pick up at the Fairview Grange in Smithfield, 12 noon-4 pm. Pre-registration required. 362-1023. NPA will also be selling Christmas ornaments, NPA's only fundraiser, at the Grange for \$15.

with the Northeastern premiere of *The Last Shift*, which is certainly an appropriate title for a closing night feature. In the film, white, Midwestern everyman Stanley (Richard Jenkins, nominated for Oscars for *The Shape Of Water* and *The Visitor*) is retiring after 38 reasonably proud years working in fast food. When asked to train his replacement Jevon (Shane Paul McGhie), an aspiring black journalist on probation, Stanley discovers uncomfortable truths about himself and the society in which he lives. Warm and unflashy, *The Last Shift* is a smart, quiet film that refuses pat answers and deeply engages the viewer.

Besides the films shown at the drive-in, MIFF will also present two other features, both documentaries, exclusively online. They are *Actually, Iconic: Richard Estes*, which profiles the seminal "photorealist" painter and Portland resident of that name, and *Represent*, which follows three Midwestern women of different ages, races, income levels, and political affiliations who each try to break into politics by running for office in their hometowns. You can watch both films, along with the eight Maine Shorts and ten Shorts from Away, at any time during the festival at www.miff.org. The two compilations of shorts, which come to nearly 70 minutes and just over two hours, respectively, were described in articles in previous issues of *Summertime*.



Dining

Augusta

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

Belgrade

• **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, 462-2280

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

Waterville

• **Pete's Pig**, barbecue, catering, carry out, limited dining, 35 Water Street, Waterville, www.petespig.com, 616-0969

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The Small Garden Guide

Farmers Across State Face Labor Shortage

The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce in Waterville is working with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) and the Maine Department of Labor (DOL) to launch Farming-For-Me (#FarmingForME) to assist the farming agricultural community in the use of the Maine JobLink labor exchange..

Farms that need employees should:

1. Register for an account and post openings on DOL's Maine JobLink
2. Promote openings on social media plat-

forms using #FarmingForMe Resource Guide for suggested messages and sharable graphics.

3. Visit DACF's Farm Labor Link Network for additional resources on hiring incentive programs, job posting guidance, legal resources and more.

For more information contact: Yvette Meunier, Farm Labor Link Network Coordinator, yvette.meunier@maine.gov or Julie Kramer, Maine JobLink Manager, joblink@maine.gov

Farmers' Market in Belgrade Lakes Open Every Sunday



Belgrade Lakes Farmers' market is open for the season on Sundays, 8 am to 1 pm through mid-September.

Located at the 7 Lakes Alliance property on Main Street in Belgrade Lakes, the market layout will be designed for customers and vendors to be safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. The market will be following guidelines established by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, including:

- All vendors are required to wear face coverings - customers are asked to do likewise.
- Booths will be spaced to allow plenty of space for social distancing.
- Extra measures will be take to keep booths, hands and products clean.
- Appropriate social distancing of other customers and vendors is requested.

The Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market asks

for your patience. If you have any questions you can visit the website - www.belgradelakesmarket.com or call the market manager at 397-4214.

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Belgrade Needs Volunteers For Kids' Meals Program

Needed desperately: volunteers to hand out free kids' breakfasts and lunches for RSU 18 at the North Belgrade Community Center from 9 am-11 am each weekday. 495-2258

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www.hathawaymillantiques.com

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

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

ARTS

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

AUTOMOBILE STORAGE

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Road, Belgrade, (Rte. 27), 495-2378,
www.belgradelakesmarine.com

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Maine State Credit Union 200 Capitol Street, Augusta,
623-1851, www.mainestatecu.org
Skowhegan Savings Bank, 450 Civic Center Drive,
Route 27, Augusta, 1-800-303-9511,
623-2300, www.skowsavings.com

BEVERAGES

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

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Skowhegan, 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

Castle Island Camps, Long Pond, 441 Castle Island
Road, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3312,
www.castleislandcamps.com
Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),
Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

BOAT SALES AND SERVICES

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

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www.belgradelakesmarine.com
Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),
Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213,
www.greatpondmarina.com
Mid-Maine Marine, 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive,
Oakland, 465-2146, www.midmainemarine.com

BOOKS

Children's Book Cellar, 52 Main Street, Waterville,
872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
Oliver and Friends, Bookshop and Reading Room, 87
Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 707-2123

BUILDERS

G&L Contracting, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes,
215-7951, 495-2325, 233-7408,
gandlcontractingmaine.com
Horne Construction, Seavey Corner Road, Mount
Vernon, 293-2382, 242-6111
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DINING

See Directory on page 11

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G&L Contracting, installation only, 116 Lakeshore
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Assistance Plus, 1604 Benton Avenue, Benton, 453-4708,
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465-3249, www.maine-lyeldercare.com

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

FARMSTANDS

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

FINANCIAL PLANNING

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

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Maine International Film Festival, July 7-16,
Skowhegan Drive-In Theater, 201 Waterville Road (Rte.
201), Skowhegan, ticket reservations - 861-8138, miff.org

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622-6353, www.jmlogginginc.com

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

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Assistance Plus, 1604 Benton Avenue, Benton, 453-4708,
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Maine-ly Elder Care, 28 Center Street, Oakland,
465-3249, www.maine-lyeldercare.com

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

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

LAND AND LAKE CONSERVATION

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

LANDSCAPING

G&L Contracting, Belgrade Lakes, 215-7951, 495-2325, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com

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

Paradis Landscape Construction, Sidney, 547-4867, jrparadis@paradislandscape.com

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REALTORS

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

Amy Bernatchez, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 143 Silver Street, Waterville, 314-2353, abernatchez@cbplourde.com

LakeHome Group, 75 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2500, www.lakehomegroup.com

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

Gail Rizzo, Lakepoint Real Estate, 242-8199, gail@gailrizzo.com

Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate, 730-2331, pldcamp@msn.com

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

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

Sprague & Curtis Real Estate, 75 Western Avenue, Augusta, 623-1123, www.spragueandcurtis.com



The Dams Keeper Report

Hallelujah!!! Finally, we received some measurable precipitation here in the Belgrades! As this issue is penned we had just received 2.71" of rain in the past four days and are forecasted for another 1.07" for the next 10 days. We really need it!

As a result of this precip, Great Pond is today, 0.48" ABOVE full pond with Long Pond down just 0.72 below below full and I expect Long Pond will also be up above full within the next day or so due to its relatively steep watershed. Salmon/McGrath has also fortunately come up and is now just 5" below full. And as a reminder, Great Pond and Long Pond dams have been completely shut down for well over a month now so your Dams Committee is in the "preserve the water levels at all cost" mode.

As previously reported, the 'permanent' repair on Wings Mill will start promptly on the 15th of

this month and due to the very nature of the work being done, I mistakenly assumed that we would lose some of our precious water during the demolition and construction but, such is not the case. The contractor, Kavestone LLC, has assured us that "we will be using an inflatable cofferdam to temporarily hold back the water. So rest assured, the water levels will be maintained!" We're in good hands!

Due to the recent cooler air temperatures and the rain, the water temperature on upper Long Pond had dropped down to 74F just recently but today, as I write this, we have fortunately come up to 77F. Still refreshing but most delightful! This is what a perfect summer is all about – a late afternoon/evening shower to cool things down and replenish our lands and lakes and, to ensure that "Summer in Maine Vacation" that everyone talks about!

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

Dick Greenan

Secretary, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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SCHOOLS

St. Michael School, grades pre-K 3-year-old through 8th, 56 Sewell Street, Augusta, 623-3491, www.smsmaine.org

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Cayer Security Services, Inc, 208 College Avenue, Waterville, 453-9177, www.cayersecurity.com

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

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Paradis Landscape Construction, Tree Service, 3675 Middle Road, Sidney, 547-4867

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or
ebelnews@earthlink.net**



Subject: Water Village by Earl H. Smith

by Martha F. Barkley

"The History of Waterville" is on the cover of our very own Belgrade Village historian's book, a splendid read for the bicentennial year of Maine's statehood. Although the pandemic has cancelled many of the gatherings to celebrate this momentous event in 2020, reading our unique Maine history can easily consume our leisure summer days.

"The land where the Kennebec River drops to greet two of her tributaries was the perfect place to build a village. The native people had known it for 10,000 years, before the English came and took it over. In but a century, the invaders harnessed the feeder stream called Messalonskee and lined its banks with mills of every kind. The natives had named the place Teconnet for the big river falls nearby..."

I bought this history last Fall in Waterville on Main Street to take home to South Carolina for a winter read. I rapidly discovered that the first fifteen pages give a brief history of Maine before its statehood beginning in 1498 until 1802. Yes, there are many fine histories out there on our beloved state that was once part of Massachusetts, but I am always thrilled to find a good historic summary. Earl Smith kept my attention in his brevity.

The Eastern Wabanaki trading partners were willing to share their land with Sebastian Cabot wanting fish and fur for Europe. Of course the French explorers disagreed in 1534 when Jacques Cartier traveled the St. Lawrence.

The Popham Colony was attempted in 1607 and failed. I am always amazed to find the 1607 Jamestown success story in comparison with the exceptionally cold winter's difficulties for these brave early English colonists.

"[T]he Indians of the Kennebec and the Penobscot began a devastating border war of their own. After two years of raids and killing, neither side won. Instead, the English simply assumed all the land and promptly assembled a Plymouth Council settlement tract fifteen miles wide, spanning the banks of the Kennebec from Topsham to Cornville."

The newly established Massachusetts government took advantage of the Wabanaki fur trade with "hard drink" and refusing to trade anymore guns. In 1676 the Harspswell and Arrowsic trading posts were devastated by the Wabanakis.

Wars continued, involving the French and broken agreements with chiefs of the Saco, Androscoggin, Penobscot and Kennebec. Many years of wars and many agreements broken finally brought about the building of Fort Western, fifteen miles up the river at the fall line.

Please check out this brief history of our area before statehood. I've only touched on the beginning of Smith's history of Waterville. Perhaps you have already read his two companion novels about The Dam Committee, local Belgrade stories within each. My favorite of Earl Smith's was reviewed several summers ago in this weekly, Head of Falls, a touching novel about Waterville young people and Colby College.

I also found Mayflower Hill a good read about Colby College's beginnings. Go drive Main Street and see the Colby College renovations and additions.

Take time during these unusual days to bring the pleasure of reading back into your life, now that we all need to stay home and not roam around in crowds anymore for awhile.



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CHINA- Extravagant lake front home on China Lake. This 5 BR, 2.5 BA home has everything you could imagine. Brand new granite kitchen w/custom cabinetry, master suite w/stone laden walk in shower, Brazilian tiger-wood flooring, custom armoire cabinetry. Massive LR w/floor to ceiling custom windows from Durathem Window. Extensive decks are a great place for family and friends to get together and enjoy the beautiful weather. Movie theater on the 4th floor w/plenty of seating for the whole family and also has a wet bar for entertaining. **This listing ALSO includes a 3 BR, 1 BA year round cottage. This home is a must see!**
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MLS #1458277 \$529,000

PITTSTON-Lovely 2 BR 2 1/2BA log home on 2+/- acres. Beautiful granite kitchen w/hardwood floors. Tiled bathroom floors w/double basin sinks w/granite top in master bath. Large loft area w/lovely views of outside. 2nd BR upstairs w/connected office or study. Full BA on 2nd level close to bedroom. Wrap around covered porch. Unfinished basement with walk out access. Close to Wiscasset. Great location!
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MANCHESTER -Nice one floor ranch style home w/2-3 BR in popular Manchester. Large kitchen/dining room w/appliances. Big FR/LR overlooking backyard. Den or office also. Detached one car garage with carport. Paved drive. Has been used as an office in the past but would make a lovely home. Big backyard. **MLS #1458629 \$195,000**

AUGUSTA - Well kept efficient home in a fantastic neighborhood. Two bedrooms, one bath, formal dining room. Great deck and private backyard. 1 car garage. Full basement. House gets great sun all day long.
MLS #1458829 \$134,900

...Continued from page 5

tem . And make sure you take a kid along on your next outdoor adventure. Also, please check the 7-LA FaceBook page for details on some interesting events scheduled this summer (<https://www.facebook.com/7lakesalliance/>).



Fishing tips from dad, Jason.



Ben with Long Pond smallie.



Greenan family hiking The Mountain with Grandma Sue.



— Real Estate Update —

Buy A Second Home First



Photo courtesy Lakepoint Real Estate

Rent somewhere away? Not sure about purchasing where the work is? Long for a base that is a constant? Crave the independence and power of ownership? Want to own where those vacation dreams are?

Maybe it's time to purchase a second home first - a property affordable and leavable, more spacious or more outdoorsy than where that other life is.

Second homes are where families relax more and grow together, where memories are made, where the world can become smaller, slower, safer. Second homes are also where futures can be plotted - renovations, additions, retirement, return on investment.

Go ahead. Live the away life, the fast pace, the long hours, the crowded drive, the high cost of rent or financing but live it knowing that the second home is waiting.

Maybe it's time to buy that second home first.



Two Online-Only Movies at MIFF



Besides the films shown at the drive-in, MIFF will also present two other features, *Actually, Iconic: Richard Estes* and *Represent*, exclusively online. Both are documentaries with Maine connections, and *Actually, Iconic* is a world premiere. Both will be available for viewing on demand throughout the festival, starting on July 7, at 7:00 p.m. Admired by artists ranging from Salvador Dali to Chuck Close, Richard Estes is a humble icon of modern art. Despite having avoided media attention throughout his long career, he has been called the "king of photorealism," a movement he helped launch in the late 1960s. His break with abstract, non-representational art transformed modern painting. He is also a Maine resident, and, in 2014, the Portland Museum of Art presented a major retrospective of his work. Now, at 87, he is ready to reveal the techniques and inspiration behind his art. In *Actually, Iconic: Richard Estes*, filmmaker Olympia Stone surveys Estes' masterpieces and gains unprecedented access to the artist, including glimpses into his personal life, from his isolation as a child, always being a little "strange," to his coming out in the early 1960s in New York City, and the "total wipeout" of the AIDS epidemic on his intimate and personal friendships. Stone creates a delicate portrait which does more than just explore Estes' lifetime of creative output; it humanizes it. Viewers will also see New York City through the artist's eye, capturing the refreshing and also nostalgic flavor of the city and its angle on a famous era. *Represent* is the first feature by Hillary Bachelder, who grew up in Farmingdale, had a short presented in the Maine Student Film & Video Festival at MIFF in 2008, and has been a MIFF volunteer. *Represent* follows three Midwestern women of different ages, races, income levels, support systems, and political parties as they fight to reshape politics in their towns: Myya, 22, attempts to spark a youth movement and unseat the incumbent mayor of Detroit; Bryn, 33, a farmer and working mother in Granville, Ohio, runs for township trustee, but is running against the only woman who currently holds the office; and Julie, 47, has to balance her identities as a Korean immigrant, woman of color,

and Republican candidate for State Representative in a liberal Chicago suburb. Through the nuances of local politics, *Represent* elevates both the systemic failings and unsung heroes at the heart of our "smallest" elections. MIFF's showing of *Represent* is the film's East Coast premiere. *Represent* will debut nationwide on the PBS documentary series *Independent Lens* in October.



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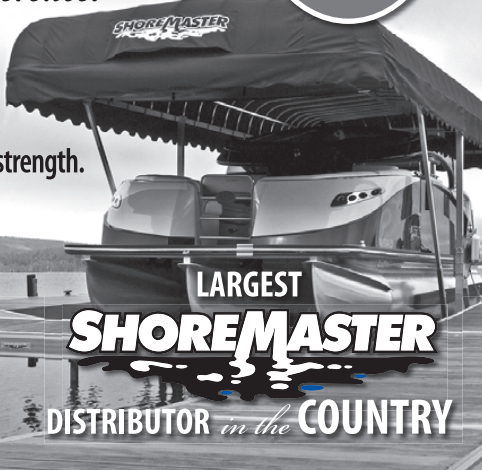
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