

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 11

2022: A Summer of Super Moments

by Esther J. Perne

The summer of 2022: There were super moments for recreation, for celebration, for crowds, for solitude, for walkable towns or country trails and for eating rapidly melting ice cream.

There were super moments when the weather was just right for everything outdoors and moments when the weather wasn't right at all but super times were enjoyed anyway with the return of indoor events.

There were super moments with nature from a tiny hummingbird whirring over a flower to Belgrade's own special moose - Maine's largest animal - lifting its head from a patch of pond lilies.

There were super moments when the voices of excited children (our future) echoed across ball-fields or parks or water - loud, happy, hopeful, reassuring.

And then...there was the moment, THE super moment when the big one tugged on the line:

"I caught this smallmouth bass on Great Pond in between Pine Island and Foster Point on July 9th right after sunset. It was 18 inches and 4.5 lbs. It wasn't Walter (from On Golden Pond) but he was definitely related!

"There was a boat full of my family and extended family. On the second cast I felt a tug and exclaimed "ooooop" followed by a "noo" (false alarm) than a second later a loud "yep" and I had the fish on the hook for real this time! I reeled em in quickly, lifted him up onto the boat in complete elation. Held his tail, thumb in his mouth and took the hook out with ease and the photoshoot commenced before I swiftly lowered him into the water and watched him swim away.

One fine fisherman and the catch of his life live there now." by Dylan Lynch



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

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A Reading of Tom Klingenstein’s New Play *The American Queen*

In 1862, in the middle of Lincoln's first term, the civil war was going badly for the North. Without a few significant victories it was unlikely that Lincoln would win the Republican nomination in 1864. Lurking in the shadows was Lincoln's very ambitious Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon Chase who was himself angling for the nomination. Chase, a three-time widower, had a secret weapon: his beautiful and politically astute daughter, Kate Chase who was then at the center of political and social life in Washington, much to the dismay of Marry Todd Lincoln. Kate, in early 20's, was falling in love with one of Lincoln's secretaries, John Hay. But Hay was poor and Kate needed someone with money who could help finance her father's bid for the Presidency. At the same time that Kate was falling for Hay, she was being pursued by one of the richest men in America, the Governor of Rhode Island, William Sprague. So Kate had a choice: to marry for love or for money. Her father had a similar choice: to encourage Kate to marry Sprague or remain neutral.

This is the subject of new play *The American Queen*, written by Tom Klingenstein. Although the play takes some liberties with the truth, as all drama must, in broad brush strokes it is based on the historical record.

There will be a reading of the play at the 7 Lakes Alliance/Maine Lakes Resource Center, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes at 4:00 o'clock on August 20.



—End of Season Letter—

Dear Readers:

Thank you for making Summertime in the Belgrades so rewarding to publish this welcome 2022 season. Thank you for reading and enjoying our small newspaper that links this diverse area together and seemingly flies off the shelf every week.

It is your readership interest that is our reward for presenting the Belgrade Lakes region's positive, wholesome, family-oriented lifestyle, news and notes and popular columns, especially this year as so many of our beloved seasonal events returned.

Many thanks of the season, too, to our much appreciated advertisers, our columnists, our local groups and our communities for supporting Summertime in the Belgrades.

As 2022 continues on into fall remember that outdoor concerts continue, it's not too late to drive in to a Drive-In, agricultural fairs are scheduled throughout the State and harvest time celebrations and goodies abound. And, yes, there will be indoor events.

Until next summer may you carry with you great summer memories and may you make plans to return.

The Summertime in the Belgrades Staff: Esther, Michael, Gregor, Corey and Ethan



ARTWALK GARDINER will continue in its 16th year on Friday, August 19th, in artists' studios, galleries, shops, and other venues throughout Historic Downtown Gardiner. The event will feature unique works of art including painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, handmade books, jewelry, textiles, live chain stitching, woodwork, and sculpture. Dave Lawlor will perform jazz guitar throughout the evening and there will be an ARTWALK community Exquisite Corpse drawing game for all ages!

First launched in 2005 by Artdogs Studios and a handful of other area artists, the mission of ARTWALK GARDINER is to increase community awareness and appreciation of the visual arts, to encourage interaction and familiarity among local artists and the general public, to provide artists with a supportive network and to foster the creative economy through regular art exhibitions and events in historic downtown Gardiner. Since its inception, ARTWALK GARDINER has drawn hundreds of visitors to Water Street to enjoy these festive evenings.



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Designing Women Fine Art & Craft Announce Their Annual Manchester Show



Designing Women, a non-profit volunteer organization that celebrates and highlights local female artisans and also works to support other local nonprofits, will hold their 15th annual, juried fine art and craft show at Longfellow's Greenhouses, located at 81 Puddledock Road in Manchester, on Saturday, August 27, 2022 from 9:30am through 4:00pm.

Twelve of northern New England's most talented lady artisans will celebrate the end of summer with an intimate show that will help support Winthrop's Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center. This annual show will feature beautifully handcrafted jewelry, intricate weaving, pottery, clothing, handmade soaps and body care, and much more! Designing Women's Manchester show is a spectacular way to support your community and local artisans, to shop Longfellow's end-of-the-season sales, and help support SACSC. The suggested \$2 door donation and all lunch/refreshment proceeds will be collected and utilized by Winthrop's Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center.

For additional information regarding Designing Women's upcoming Manchester, Maine show, please contact Mary Kay Spencer at The Potter's House at 207-582-7985 or visit Designing Women's website at <http://www.designingwomen.org> or Facebook page.

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

ABOUT THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS AND SUPPORT CENTER – Providing free and confidential services to Kennebec and Somerset counties, The Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center is a non-profit corporation based in Winthrop, Maine. Services include working to lessen the trauma-related suffering of sexual assault and to promote healing by guiding those affected by sexual violence toward survival through support, advocacy, education and community collaboration. For more information, please visit <http://www.silentnomore.org>.

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

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— Take It Outside —

See You Next Year

by Pete Kallin

Suddenly the days are getting a little shorter and I am noticing more swamp red maples beginning to turn red in the wetlands and birches turn yellow high on the hillsides. It is still quite warm during the day, but the nights are growing cooler. Like the birds and squirrels, I am double checking my summer “to do” list and trying to make sure everything gets done. I am amazed at how many things are still on the list. In addition to looking for mushrooms and elderberries when I hike, I find myself keeping my eyes peeled for grouse, deer, and turkey signs. Those seasons are rapidly approaching, and last year’s venison supply is running low in the freezer. Both the loons and the bass and pike in the lakes are chasing large schools of baitfish (mostly landlocked alewives) and trying to build up fat reserves to get through the winter. Check out the screen shot from my fish finder below. The warm surface layer has plenty of oxygen to support the large bass but the deeper water is depleted of oxygen but has enough to support the large schools of small baitfish. You can watch the larger fish dive down to grab some lunch and then return to surface layer to digest their meal. Fishing at the base of the layer, around 20 ft, with anything that looks like a minnow, will yield results.

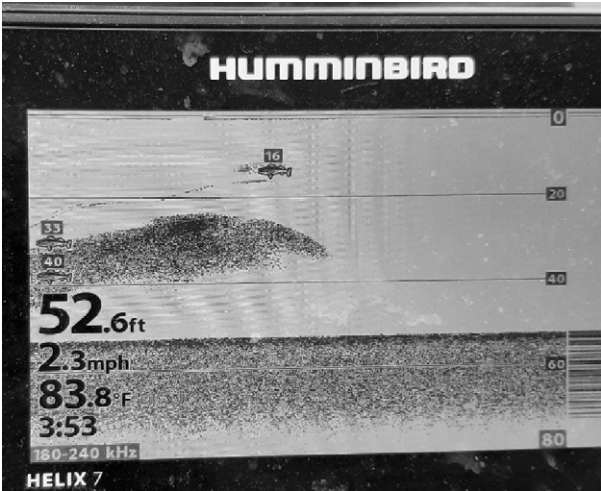
Additionally, the loons with chicks (three currently on Long Pond) are teaching their offspring how to catch their own food. When the chicks are first born, the parents chew up fish and crayfish and basically regurgitate food morsels into their chicks’ eager open mouths. The chicks grow rapidly, and the parents soon simply bring the chicks, still wriggling morsels, which the chicks grab hungrily. After a week or so of this routine, the parents simply drop the food in the water near the chicks and the chicks need to catch their food before it escapes. At the same time, the chicks are learning to dive underwater, which is a major step in evading



Extended Phillips Family from Winslow and Waterville. Grandpa Jason soaking his feet.



Hen-of-the Woods” Mushroom



Bass in the surface layer feeding on alewives below



Enjoy the rest of the summer. See you next year.

airborne predators such as eagles. Soon the chicks are foraging for their own food alongside the parents. Over the next two months or so, the loons will molt, replacing their insulating down with feathers, and begin to learn to fly. Those chicks that learn to fly before the lake freezes over will head to the ocean for the winter and eventually return
Continued on page 11...

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— Calendar —

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

SUMMER THEATER

Lakewood Theater: Thursday 8/18-Saturday 8/27 - "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," 474-7176, Route 201, Madison.

Theater at Monmouth: Friday 8/19-Thursday 8/18 - "Eurydice", "Anthony & Cleopatra", "Amphitryon", "Comedy of Errors", 933-9999, Monmouth. "

THIS WEEK

Through Saturday 8/20 - Skowhegan State Fair, endless food, fun, exhibitions, livestock events, live bands, daily shows, harness racing, pulls, demolition derbies, 2 dollar day August 17, Senior Citizen Day August 18, parking \$5 per car, per day, kids 10 and under free, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Thursday 8/18-Saturday 8/20 - Book Sale, to benefit the mission of the Friends of Lithgow Library, cash only, Thurs 9 am-7:30 pm, Fri 9 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9-11:30 am, 626-2415, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta.

Friday 8/19-Sunday 8/21 - Madison/Anson Days, mardi gras theme, food, music, children's carnival, parade, fireworks, downtown Madison, downtown Anson.

Friday 8/19-Sunday 8/21 - Much Ado About Nothing, free performances of William Shakespeare's much-loved comedy,

Recycled Shakespeare Company, bring a chair or blanket, concessions will be sold and donations gratefully received, front row \$10, Fri 8/19 6:30 pm Mill Island Park, Fairfield, Sat 8/20 6:30 pm Central Hall Commons, Dover-Foxcroft, Sun 8/21 2 pm South Parish Congregational Church, Augusta

Friday 8/19 - Maine Outdoor Film Festival, free admission, doors open 6 pm, films at 7 pm, Riverfront Greenspace, River Park, Water Street, Skowhegan.

Friday 8/19 - Tough End String Band, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 8/20 - Winthrop Sidewalk Art Festival, 34th annual, food, sales, artists, crafters, 1-7 pm, along Main Street, downtown Winthrop.

Saturday 8/20 - The American Queen, presentation of a reading of new Abraham Lincoln-centered drama by Tom Klingenstein, free, 4 pm, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance headquarters, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Saturday 8/20 - Ward Hayden and the Outliers, a musical force to be reckoned with, from heart-wrenching ballads to foot-stomping rock 'n roll, doors open 6 pm, show 7 pm, \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show, www.narrowgaugecinemas.net, Big Sky Stage, Narrow Gauge Cinemas, Front Street, Farmington.

Saturday 8/20 - Mark Mandville and Raianne Richards, transcending traditional folk Americana, 7 pm, The Union Coffeehouse, Village Green, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/21 - The Calypso Soldiers, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 8/21 - Bernd Heinrich, world-renowned naturalist and author tells about "The Birds I've Known," 4 pm, \$20, Union Meeting House, 22 Church Road, Readfield.

Sunday 8/21 - Skowhegan Community Band, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 8/22 - Western Maine Foothills Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 8/23 - Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Thursday 8/25-Sunday 8/28 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Festival, 10 bands, camping, kids academy, extra large audience tent, concessions, a lot of field pickin', Litchfield Fairgrounds, 30 Plains Road, Litchfield.

Thursday 8/25 - Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Annual Cocktail Party, fundraiser for a new boat for education programs, 6 pm, mercedes@watershedfriends.com, YMCA Camp of Maine, Winthrop.

Thursday 8/25 - Gregory Brown Author Talk, The Lowering Days, set in 1980s Maine, 6 pm, 495-3508, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Street, Belgrade.

Thursday 8/25 - The Fossils, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

Thursday 8/25 - Foxcroft Alumni Jazz, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.



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Gaslight Theater Presents Whales of August

by Gregor Smith



The dinner party scene from a recent rehearsal of Gaslight Theater's *The Whales of August*. From left to right are Margaret Matheson as Sarah, William Haley as Maranov, and Linda Duarte as Libby. Photo by Joseph Maranda.

After a successful outdoor run of *I Hate Shakespeare* in July, Gaslight is pleased to present its first indoor production since its COVID-shortened run of John Cariani's *Last Gas* in March 2020. On Friday, August 26, *Whales of August* will open in Hallowell City Hall Auditorium, Gaslight's traditional venue. Until the pandemic intervened, Gaslight, which bills itself as Maine's "oldest continuously operating community theater," had planned to present *Whales of August* two summers ago as part of its celebration of Maine's bicentennial.

The story is set in August 1954 in a seaside cottage on a coastal Maine island. Octogenarian Libby has become blind, irritable, and socially withdrawn. She is in the November of her life, waiting to join her late husband in the hereafter. But for Libby's caregiver, her younger and also widowed sister Sarah, it is still late summer, both in Sarah's mind and on the calendar. Eternally optimistic and romantic, Sarah believes that there are still good days to come and adventures to be had.

The play is essentially one long conversation between the two sisters on the minutiae of their lives — a conversation that is often interrupted by visits from their slightly ditsy but caring neighbor Tisha Doughty, from the island's cantankerous, cussing, door-slamming handyman Joshua Brackett, and from suave Russian expatriate Nicholas Maranov, who purports to be a dispossessed nobleman.

Written by David Barry, *Whales of August* debuted in its present form in New York City in 1982. The playwright subsequently adapted his script for the screen. Filmed on Cliff Island in Casco Bay and released in 1987, the movie starred Hollywood legends Bette Davis, Lillian Gish, Vincent Price, and Ann Sothern and garnered Sothern an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actress.

In Gaslight's staging of the play, Margaret Matheson stars as Sarah, Linda Duarte as Libby, Lisa Copenhaver as Tisha, Gregor Smith as Joshua, and William Haley as Maranov. Rebecca Singer and Joseph Maranda direct.

Performances will be held August 26 – 28 and September 2 – 4. The Friday and Saturday performances will start at 7:30; the Sunday shows will be at 2:00. Tickets will cost \$15 for adults and \$13 seniors and students. Although free of sex and violence, the play contains a little profanity, and thus is not suitable for young children (who probably wouldn't be interested in the play anyway).

All performances will take place in Hallowell City Hall at 1 Winthrop Street. To reserve tickets or get additional information, visit www.gaslighttheater.org or call 626-3698.

....Continued from page 15

Anita: We have a deep friendship, if I need anything she is there to help me. I don't even need to ask, she just knows. There is nobody else like her.

5. What is the best part of being friends with each other?

Sherry: We enjoy each other's company. She loves to see pictures of my first granddaughter who is almost a year old now. Everyday she asks if I have a new picture to show her. I love listening and learning the French language from her. I am very fortunate to be able to spend some quality time with Anita. She's one in a million.

Anita: When I see her in my doorway, she brings a big smile to my face because I know she is going to stay and talk with me, or we'll do an activity together.

Watching a friendship like Sherry and Anita's blossom is just one of the many wonderful things about life at Granite Hill Estates. From Eat Fresh, Eat Local meals to engaging programs and quality care, Granite Hill Estates offers something for everyone to enjoy while also providing peace of mind.

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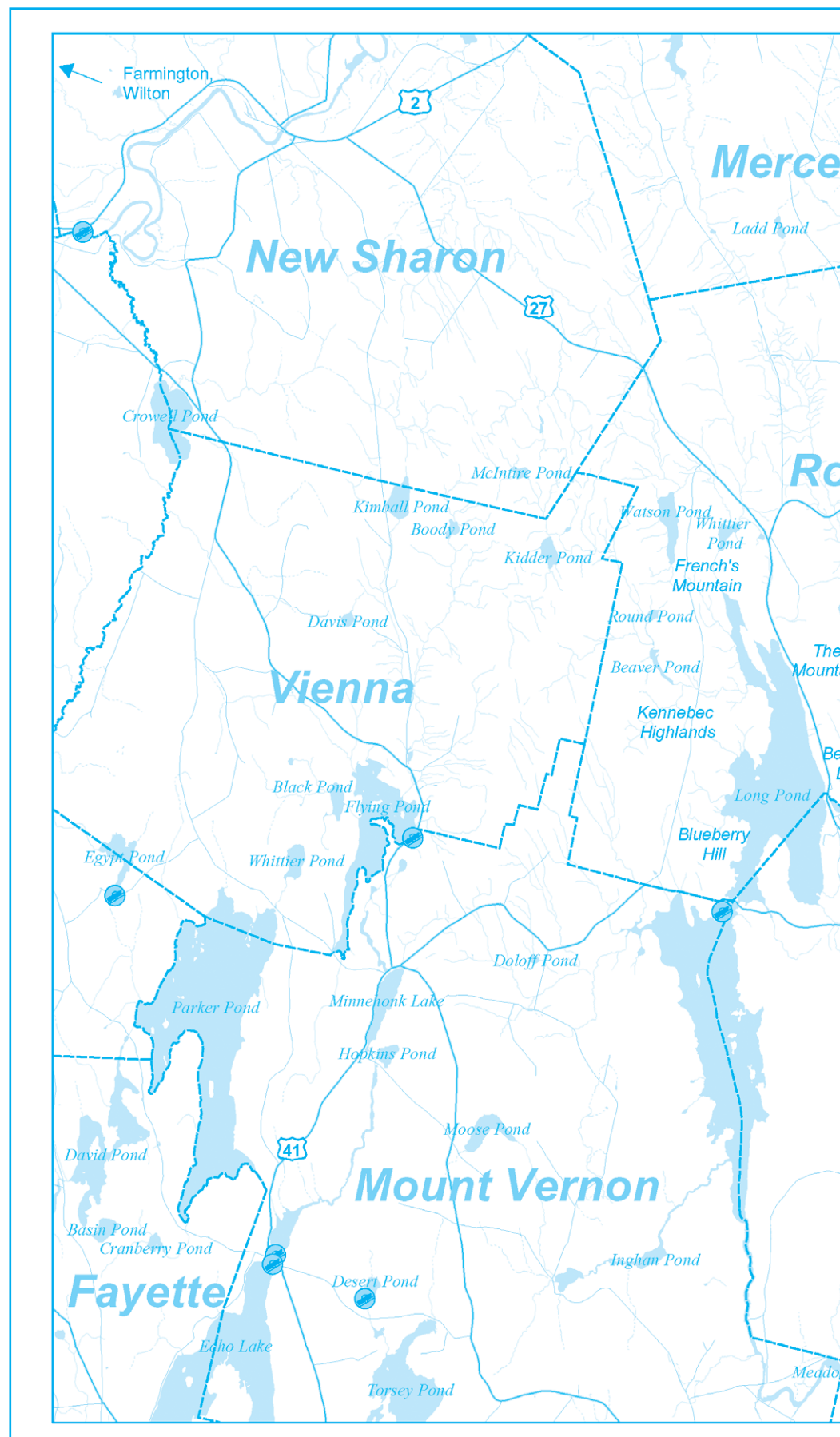
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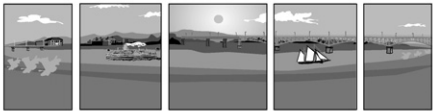
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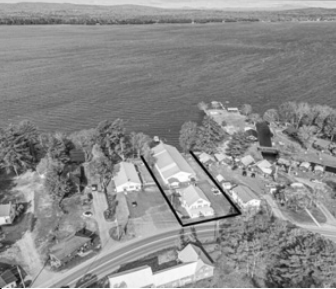
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PRICE IMPROVEMENT | Completely up-dated historic New Englander also know as the Cliff Dunn House circa 1885 in the heart of the village and directly across the street from Minnehonk Lake.

MLS - 1530037

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PRICE IMPROVEMENT | Investors take notice, Turn-key duplex and 6,250 building on North Pond that is known as the Sunbeam Roller Rink with 75' of waterfront on North Pond. This bright and sunny duplex has so much to offer, with modern updates though-out.

MLS - 1521000

\$795,000



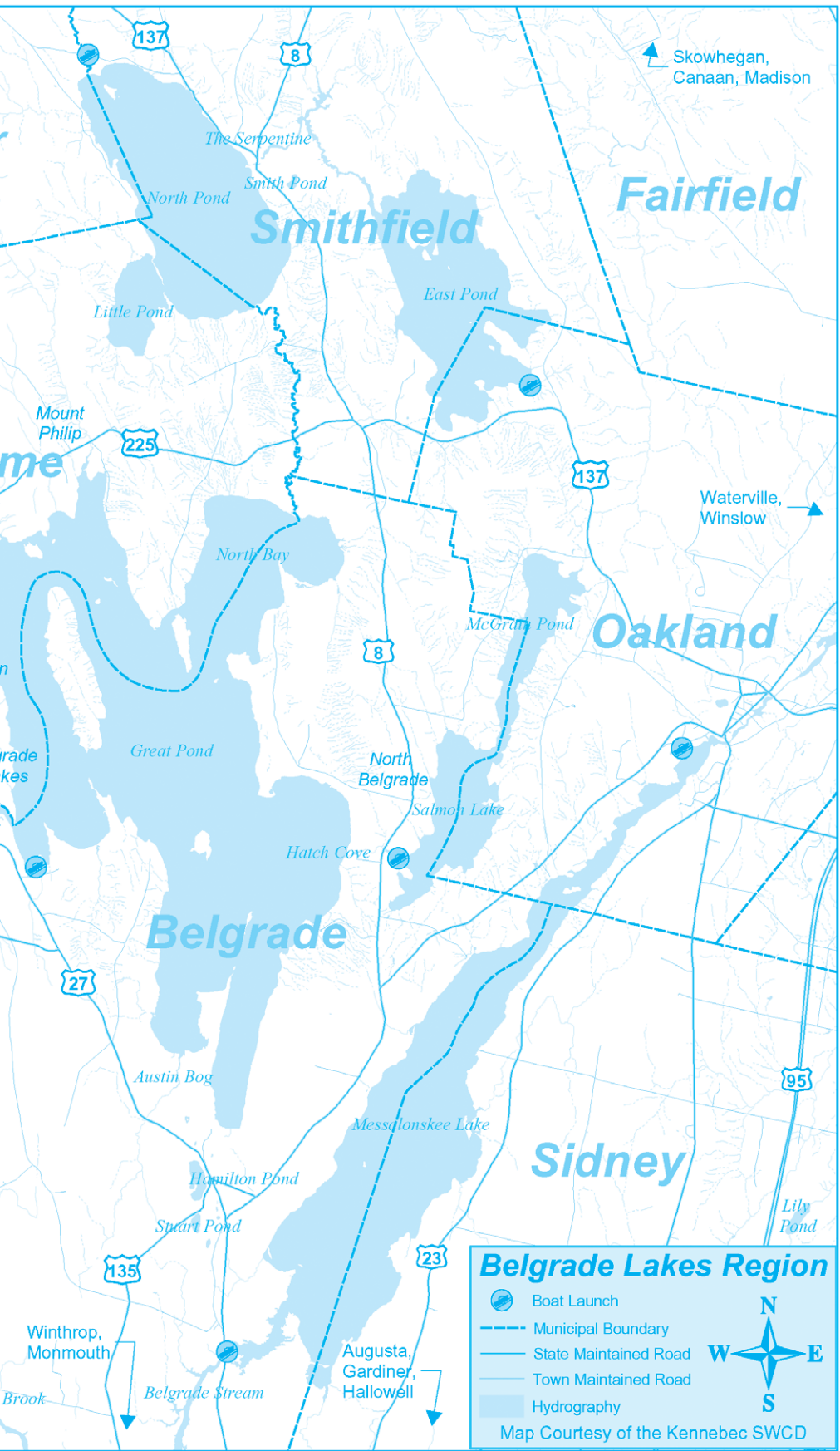
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Call of the Loon



Is This Molting or is THIS Permanent?

Loons keep their gray winter plumage from late October through early March. When they molt back into their summer breeding plumage, loons also molt out their flight feathers from the previous year. Thus, they are completely flightless for about a month while on their wintering territory.

Your local Belgrade Lakes Association is well into their fourth year of their Loon Preservation Project to develop a responsible comprehensive plan in order to support our loon population in the very best sustainable manner but this effort requires your support. Please support the Loon Preservation Project at your earliest opportunity via www.blamaine.org.

Although this is our final "Call of the Loon" column for the year, if you have a particular question regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@blamaine.org and we will try to answer your question via email until we see you next summer. Have a great balance of your summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon"!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



Practicing for the great fall exodus!

L.Pond Beaver Cove Male
 Banded 2020

"Well it's December 11th and I best get a move on if I want to see the gang down in Rockland!"

I'm just trying to hold his head steady while I take the picture!
 (Just kidding!)

A Long Pond adult loon in his/her mid-September molting

Great Pond adult loon in winter non-breeding plumage.

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Take it Outside continued from page 5....
to the lake.

The local hiking trails remain quite busy. My wife and I recently hiked a bit at Mt Phillip using the trail from the new parking lot and were rewarded with the first "Hen-of-the Woods" (Maitake), a very tasty fall mushroom that showed up a couple of weeks earlier than usual. It has been a very dry summer and the usual summer mushrooms have been scarce. Hopefully fall will be a bit wetter and the mushroom crop better. Many families are taking the opportunity to visit grandparents for a bit before returning to school for the fall semester, including one of my kids who lives in Maine along with our youngest grandson, who came to escape the heat and jump in the lake last weekend before the thunderstorms arrived. I recently met the Phillips Family from Winslow and Waterville enjoying a last week at the lake for the summer. Grandpa

Jason rents a camp on Timber Point every year at this time so the kids and grandkids can get out to enjoy the lake before work and school interfere. They fished from Timber Point up to Day's Store, where they tied up at the new docks to eat takeout lunch from Day's. The kids caught more fish from the dock than they did from the boat. Everyone had a great time and plan to be back next year.

It is hard to believe that this is the final issue of "Summertime in the Belgrades" for this year. I hope this column has inspired some of you to get out and explore the outdoor recreation opportunities the region has to offer, and I hope you took a kid or two along. Until next year, I encourage everyone to "Take it Outside." For those of you who will be around for the winter, I encourage you to join me on the local trails on snowshoes or skis. Carpe skiem! 

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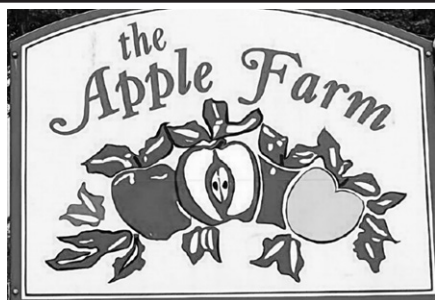
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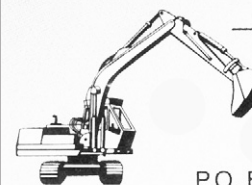
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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

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

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

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The Dams Keeper Report

Well, this is our final Dams Keeper Report for the season. Whoever said that “Summer in Maine is nothing but two weeks of bad sledding” isn’t too far off the mark! It seems like summer should be getting longer with all of that global warming, but here we are regardless.

As of this writing, all of our ponds are well into their summer mode, just trying to maintain the levels we have. Great and Long Ponds are both exactly 1.44” below full with our friends over on Salmon/McGrath right now at 2.30”, also below full. And our neighbors across town on Messalonskee are still right at 3.6” below full. With the exception of the hydro dam in Oakland and the 1 CFS mandate for Salmon, all of the

other dam gates are completely shut down and, with only 1.08” of precipitation forecasted for the next ten days, should remain so until the Fall-Winter Drawdown beginning in mid-October.

The 2021-22 Fall Lake Drawdown will be calling for Great and Long Ponds to be drawn down to 1.5’- 2.0’ and Salmon down to 1.0’-1.5’ by November 1st. Weather permitting, the draw-downs usually commencer that Tuesday after the October 12th weekend. You can access the 2021-22 Winter/Fall Drawdown Schedule this fall on your Town’s website or the BLA website @ https://belgradelakesassociation.org/Portals/0/21_22%20Fall%20Drawdown%20Winter%20Storage.pdf.

Enjoy what’s left of The Summer of 2022 and your vacation! I hope it’s been a memorable one. It has been for us. Thank you and see you next Summer!

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



???Was Summer Back???

by Anthony Wilson - 7 Lakes Alliance Communication Director



Photo by Armand R. Douroux Photography

Was it just me? Or was summer BACK? Part of that feeling, for me, came from the time I spent on and around the water as part of my new post with 7 Lakes Alliance. With an insider’s view, I’m even more impressed by the yeoman’s work this small nonprofit performs to conserve the region’s waters and the lands. To wit:

- Our Youth Conservation Corps have completed about 100 projects to stymie erosion and prevent dirt from carrying phosphorus into streams and lakes. These young people spread mountains of mulch, planted a figurative forest of lakeshore vegetation, and fortified shorelines with riches of riprap. Outstanding!
 - Using clean water grants, 7 Lakes has facilitated the rebuilding of three miles of town and camp gravel roads, some of them within 200 feet of the lake, along with some bridge and culvert improvements. That work is minimizing erosion into North Pond, Great Pond, McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake. Progress!
 - The herbicide treatment in Great Meadow Stream did the trick. The milfoil has been beaten back, allowing native aquatic flora and fauna to flourish. That doesn’t mean milfoil is defeated. But the treatment gives our divers a puncher’s chance as they continue to pull the weeds manually. And the divers have prevented the spread of curly-leaf pondweed in the Serpentine stream between East and North ponds. Hallelujah!
 - Our educational and recreational programming was plentiful, diverse and well-executed, thanks in large measure to Colby College super-interns Margo Kenyon and Tamra Benson. Their creativity and resourcefulness resulted in oodles of opportunity for enlightenment. Phenomenal!
 - North Pond’s watershed-based management plan is in the works. The data gathered will shed light on the sources of the lake’s algal blooms, and how that might best be mitigated. Erosion-control recommendations from the plan may be eligible for more clean water grants. Onward!
 - 7 Lakes is fortunate to have a generous donor matching the money collected during our annual summer appeal, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. We appreciate the generosity of all of our benefactors who give of their time, talents and treasures. Thankful!
 - Lastly, you have an incredible squad working on behalf of the lakes. The 7 Lakes team is wicked smaht (did I pronounce that right, y’all?), uber-passionate, well-springs of goodwill, impressive in their expertise and efforts, pillars of credibility, and indefatigable. In a word, they are: Marvelous!
- The work of conservation does not end with the summer; it stretches into the fall, then winter, then spring. After which, we anticipate seeing you again next summer. Excelsior!





Landslide: A Novel by Susan Conley

by Martha F. Barkley

The afternoon had the yellow, glassy light that we get in late August in Maine, and the heat felt loose around my body so it was still possible to pretend summer wouldn't be overshadowed by fall."

If teens are in your family, you may find the constant tension with parents a release somehow in reading this novel by a Maine native who works in Portland at the Stonecoast Writing Program where she founded the Telling Room for youth.

I kept reading because island life interests me and the hospital care in Canada after a fishing boat explosion kept me wondering whether the patient would survive and return to his family back on the island in Maine.

"Everyone knows everyone in the village. This isn't meant to sound sentimental. Everyone knows where you're going in your boat, and how your daughter did in the middle-school play, and if your marriage is off the rails."

Maybe that sounds too familiar? How about, "We're running out of good places in America...Montana. Ruined. Too many people. Idaho ruined too. California and Seattle. Done. But I still get energy in Maine..."

Now that grabbed me, because energy sounds good to me, dear reader.

The wife and her two sons crossed the border from Maine to Canada to visit

their dad/husband. Separation for months is painful for all. Conversation strained. Reality of infection still present weeks later.

"In the sweet, early years on the island, the town hadn't laid underwater cable yet, and we had no electricity. We used kerosene lamps and made clearings for the gardens and built the woodpile up and fixed the house...We weren't worried about rising ocean levels or warming water. There were fish, and there was none of the anxiety I have now or shame that I'm not doing enough to help stop the warming..."

I had to laugh when I read that the mother attempted text language out loud with another adult trying to be up to date, I guess: LOL and AKT. Who talks this way?

Colby College loaned me this new 2021 title through our Belgrade Public Library inter-library loan. Belgrade Library Director Jared made this happen for me. Support our local library and keep returning books in the outside book deposit for processing. Our monthly book group enjoys meeting in the cool air conditioning and Barbara's Zoom screen keeps others participating, too. Join the eager readers! See you at the library.



Sherry and Anita, friends for the ages. See article on page 15.



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— Real Estate Update — Summer Great, Market Strong

How was the summer of 2022 in the Belgrade Lakes Region? I think we can sum up the summer in

a couple of words...WELCOME BACK!

Throughout the village and the community, there was a sense of normalcy again. We will always remember the dreaded "Covid Years" and what that did to our businesses, events, visitors and residents alike. There were many events through the summer that returned after some time away. These events reminded us of why we love to visit and live here: 4th of July parade and fireworks, Wine Tastings at Day's Store, the Beanhole Supper and Loon Calling contest and our lake association meetings, live and in person. It was so nice to see our friends and neighbors out and about enjoying the lakes and village

once again!

How was the real estate market? It's still too early to conclude on our selling season as we still have strong selling months ahead, but the statistics show, so far so good. The first two quarters of 2022 in the Belgrade Lakes Region is slightly down on the number of homes sold compared to 2021, but only down by 3%. The average price for residential homes in our area is up over 20% from the same time last year, waterfront prices increased over 40%. Waterfront volume is down roughly the same as homes sold, the average residential home in the region sold for just under \$400,000, while the average waterfront home sold for over \$600,000. The numbers don't lie, it remains a strong real estate market locally. As we have discussed throughout the sum-

mer, there are many factors that drive the real estate market including inventory, mortgage rates and inflation. July and into August have shown signs of the market normalizing. If consumer confidence remains strong, the Belgrade Lakes Region will remain a destination for primary home and vacation home buyers.

It has been a great summer sharing stories and statistics through this article. From real estate tips, conservation efforts, sales statistics, local events, and even Millie the Moose! We have had a fun and busy summer and I look forward to sharing more stories next summer.

Thanks for reading, have a great winter and see you next year!" 

A Friendship for the Ages

One of the best parts about life at Granite Hill Estates are the friendships made. Friendships of all sorts blossom within the community, some between residents, others between associates and the most endearing ones, between associates and residents. From sharing stories and unique experiences to life lessons and important moments, watching a friendship blossom between a resident and an associate is so special. We were lucky enough to interview friends Sherry, a Granite Hill Estate associate, and Anita, a Granite Hill Estate resident, who share an amazing bond! Read all about their unique connection in the interview below!

1. When did you first meet?

Sherry: April of 2019 when I started working at Granite Hill Estates.

Anita: In 2019 when Sherry first started working at Granite Hill Estates.

2. How did you meet?

Sherry: When I first started working in Programming at Granite Hill Estates.

Anita: When Sherry would do different programs like crafts and Bingo!

3. What is one of the best memories that you've shared together?

Sherry: My most fond memories with Anita are spending time making animals out of clay. We both have so much fun trying to sculpt each portion of

the body. Lots of laughs go along with making them. When we are finished, she likes to choose a family member to give them to.

Anita: We have done so many things together, so I really don't just have one, but I really enjoy making animals out of model clay with her. I share them with my family.

4. What first drew you to become friends?

Sherry: My first reaction the day I met her was, oh my goodness she reminds me of both my grandmothers combined. She is French like my mom's mother and looks a lot like my dad's mother with some of her fun traits. She is such a pleasure to be around.

Continued on page 7..



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