

Summertime in the Belgrades

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



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 2

From the Side of the Road

by Esther J. Perne



Four cars, two horses, an empty guitar case (good find for a guitar that didn't have one), two unmatched nightstands, a kid's car with a broken motor - for great fun pushing, a step ladder, diverse picture frames, even more diverse mirrors, a bale of hay, seedlings, fresh-picked corn, berries, many dozens of delicious eggs and much more - just one collection of side-of-the-road discoveries or purchases.

It's shopping time and stopping time on the backroads and byways of the region and since it's also destination time, why not allow extra time and keep alert to what's for sale - or for the taking - along the route.

There are no guidelines to shopping the back roads other than maybe something always looked and longed for is just waiting for a new owner or something never looked nor longed for offers an opportunity too good to pass by.

Once a common roadside commodity, cars are making a private sale comeback but the few-hundred-dollar "winterbeater" style may be gone for good. Those were the days when a car that ran and held its own on ice and snow and was not considered a bit pretty could be purchased off many

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1



be a "free" pile that's worth looking over, too. Maybe free and usually not in the totally good shape category are old tools, sports gear and camp items which just happen to be the decor of choice for furnishing lake area properties. Fishing gear, paddles, even worn-out life jackets, look fine hanging in rustic splendor on camp walls and are not to be overlooked in that pile of free stuff.

Not all finds at the side of the road are material. A sign for a trail, either in-town or remote, can catch the eye and the curiosity for a great hike. Signs for sites - historic, scenic, conservation demonstration areas - lead to interesting informational and educational discoveries. And signs for services may lead to getting something - finally - built or repaired.

It's shopping time and stopping time on the backroads and byways of the region.

a lawn.

Also not too common any more are hand-written signs advertising puppies, kittens or other pets, but there occasionally are so remember that "just looking" rarely works. As one proud puppy-parent couple recently described they got away and down the road for maybe half a mile before turning back to pick out a puppy.

One category of today's leading side-of-the-road sale items is watercraft of all sizes and conditions, including kayaks and canoes. Firewood, including kindling, is another popular roadside sale item. And, the "open" flags are already flying

on farmstands and produce will soon be for sale as well in front of many homes.

Buying vegetables, berries, flowers and eggs from roadside coolers, display racks, tables and bins is a unique experience. If the stands are unattended - and they often are - the transaction will involve an "honor" jar or box for the purchase price to be deposited and even for change to made.

One staple of the summer season are the many lawn sales, yard sales, barn sales and garage sales inviting the backroad traveler to stop and look and often where there has been a sale there will



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26th Maine International Film Festival Celebrates Cinematic Excellence and Maine Talent



Ildikó Enyedi

The Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) proudly announces the full schedule and program for its 26th edition, set to captivate audiences from July 7–16. This year's Festival showcases an exceptional lineup of Maine-made shorts and features alongside renowned international and classic films. Individual tickets and festival passes are on sale at MIFF.org, and printed program guides will soon be available around Central Maine.

The festival welcomes back Ildikó Enyedi, a visionary director and artist known for her remarkable contributions to world cinema, who had her first career retrospective at MIFF in 1999. Enyedi's distinctive storytelling and captivating visuals have garnered critical acclaim and numerous accolades, including the *Caméra d'Or* for Best First Feature at Cannes for "My Twentieth Century." She will be presented with the MIFF Mid-Life Achievement Award at a screening of "On Body and Soul" and a reception at Front & Main on Sunday, July 9.

MIFF is thrilled to showcase the work of Bill Morrison, acclaimed for his unique blending of archival and found film footage with evocative soundscapes to create mesmerizing cinematic experiences. Following the screening of his film "Dawson City: Frozen Time," a reception at OPA will celebrate his contributions to film history. His exhibition "Bill Morrison: Cycles and Loops" will show at the Joan Dignam Schmalz Gallery of Art at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center from Aug. 18–Dec. 31, 2023.

MIFF will present the annual Tourmaline Prizes, awards celebrating the finest Maine-made short and feature films with prizes of \$2,500 and \$5,000 respectively. These prizes aim to foster Maine's filmmaking industry, from thought-provoking documentaries to captivating narratives.

"We're honored to showcase a fantastic slate of films from Maine and around the globe. With 7 feature-length and 16 shorts made in Maine, we are proud to celebrate a bumper crop of production happening in our state," said Mike Perreault, executive director of the Maine Film Center. "Venerated guests Ildikó Enyedi and Bill Morrison will join us in-person, as will the colleagues of dozens of the nearly 100 films we have programmed for audiences this year."

The 26th Maine International Film Festival takes place July 7–16 at the Maine Film Center and Waterville Opera House, both accessed via the Paul J. Schupf Art Center at 93 Main Street, Waterville, Maine. For further information, including the festival schedule, ticketing details, and updates, please visit MIFF.org.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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Town of Fairfield Observed National Trails Day with Opening of Cattail Trail

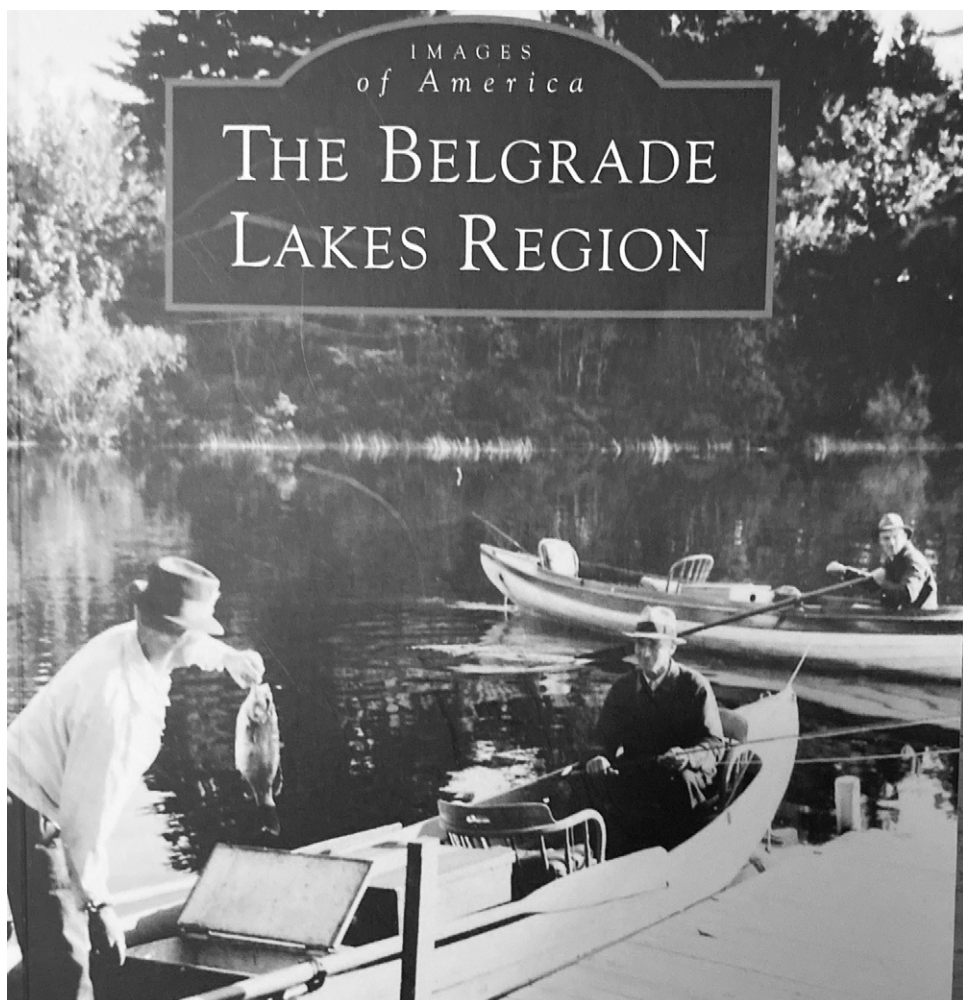
The town of Fairfield is excited to announce the opening of the Cattail Trail, a new trail that runs adjacent to Lawrence High School. The trail hosted its opening in conjunction with National Trail Day on Saturday, June 3. Recognizing the importance of protecting natural resources and inviting the public to participate in the beautification of Fairfield's trails, the event also highlighted three additional trails that create linkages throughout the municipality: the Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC) Campus Trail, the Goodwill-Hinckley Trails, and the Mill Island Trail.

"Fairfield's trail system provides linkages to key areas within the municipality, including our downtown and Mill Island Park," stated Fairfield Town Manager Michelle Flewelling. "We are thrilled to celebrate the seasonal opening of the Cattail Trail and demonstrate our commitment to community development. This event is an opportunity to connect with residents and visitors to showcase the municipality's scenic trails and invite the public to enjoy Fairfield and Hinckley's natural resources."

National Trails Day also recognized the launch of the Fairfield Trails Passbook initiative, which will be open until September 4, 2023. Visitors are encouraged to utilize Fairfield's trail systems throughout the summer. Each trail will have a QR code that will allow users to photograph their visits along the town's trails. Participants who walk and record all four trail site visits will be entered into a drawing for a prize, with the drawing taking place after Labor Day.

"The addition of Cattail Trail into Fairfield's existing hub and spoke trail
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Sidney Historical Society to Host Belgrade Author



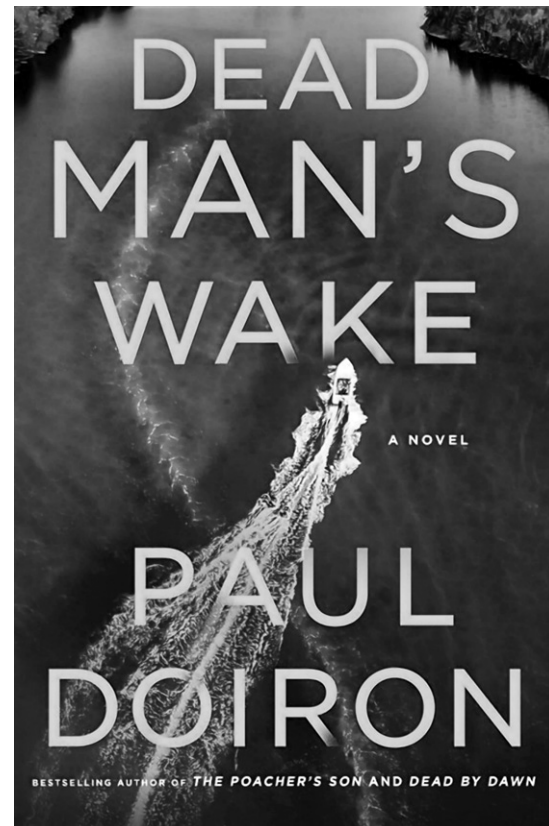
On June 27th at 6:30, the Sidney Historical Society will be hosting Eric Hoogland at the Grange Hall in Sidney. He will be speaking about his new book *The Belgrade Lakes Region*.

Eric is a Waterville native who has spent part of every summer of his life on Long Pond in Belgrade Lakes. He also remembers trips to Bangs Beach on Messalonskee Lake in Sidney. After 35 years as a college professor he retired to Belgrade Lakes in 2013, where he's been active in the Friends of Belgrade Lakes Village, the Belgrade Historical Society (Curator of collections and editor of the newsletter). Also, Belgrade Public Library and the Belgrade Regional Health Center. His numerous publications include a history of the Lebanese immigrant community in Waterville, 1900-1940 and recently *The Belgrade Lakes Region* (Arcadia Publications, 2023, Images of America Series).

Author Doiron Will be in Belgrade, the Setting of His New Book, June 29

Mystery writer Paul Doiron's new Mike Bowditch thriller, "Dead Man's Wake," is set in Belgrade, and to celebrate, Belgrade Public Library and Oliver & Friends Bookshop are co-hosting the author on Thursday, June 29.

The event is free and open to the public and will be two days after the book's release.



It is from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive, Belgrade, just south of the village. The evening begins with a catered meet and greet, after which Doiron will read from "Dead Man's Wake." He will discuss the book in a conversation with Maureen Milliken, chair of the Belgrade Library Trustees and a Maine mystery writer, then answer questions from the audience. The night wraps up with a book signing. Doiron's books will be available for sale by Oliver & Friends.

"Dead Man's Wake" is Doiron's 14th featuring Game Warden Mike Bowditch. On the

even of their engagement party, Mike and Stacey Stevens witness a speedboat accident on a pitch-dark Great Pond. Terror grips the Lakes Region when it's discovered it was no accident, but a double murder. As suspects abound on Golden Pond, Mike realizes he's up against an enemy more dangerous than any he has faced.

Doiron, of Camden, is a registered Maine Guide, and his books are set throughout Maine. They've won the Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award, the Maine Literary Award for Crime Fiction and the New England Society Book Award.

Catering is sponsored by Lakehome Real Estate Group, of Belgrade Lakes. For information about the event, call Oliver & Friends at 207-707-2123.

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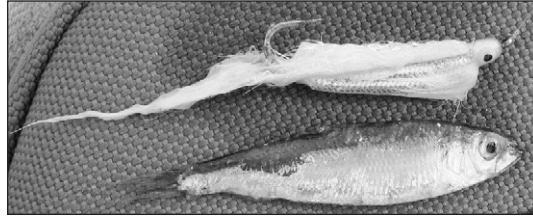


— Take It Outside —

Crepuscular Fishing

by Pete Kallin

Like last year, this has been a cool, wet, and windy transition to summer, with some occasional very hot days. The fishing has continued to be productive, especially early in the morning and late in the evening. I love fishing these crepuscular periods when the lake is typically dead calm, and it is easy to spot fish feeding on or near the surface. Surface feeding fish often indicate an insect hatch taking place with some fish (often trout or small bass) sucking the bugs off the surface, creating dimples. Often larger fish will be just below the smaller fish at the surface, eating the smaller fish or the nymphs (insect larvae) just below the surface waiting to emerge. In our lakes, we also get schools of landlocked alewives disturbing the surface while spawning in relatively shallow (less than about 25 feet) coves. Often these schools are being chased by larger fish and you will see occasional large splashes as a bass or brown trout picks one off. For this situation I like to keep one of my flyrods rigged with a White Zonker, a streamer that nicely mimics the landlocked alewives in the lake. It's usually easy to catch several nice bass or white perch under these conditions. A spinning rod (I prefer an ultralight) rigged with almost anything silver, such as a small jerk bait (such as a Rapala), Mepps spinner, or Weeping Willow spoon is also quite effective. I was recently surprised to catch a nice splake in Long Pond. A splake is a hybrid between a male brook trout (often called a speckled trout, especially in Canada) and a female lake trout (typically called Togue in Maine). Fisheries biologists like them because they grow faster than either of their parent species. Splake are not stocked in Long Pond, but some are stocked in Messalonskee Lake. With the very high flows we had last month, some of them likely were able to swim upstream over the Wings Mill Dam into Long Pond.



White zonker fly next to landlocked alewife.



Long Pond Splake

By the time this article is published, the water temperatures will be over 70°F in the lakes and the bass will be in the shallows either sitting on their own beds or chasing the sunfish on theirs. It is a fun time for fly fishermen to catch a lot of fish on streamer flies or surface poppers, especially at dawn or dusk. Spinning gear also works well with surface lures, especially at dusk. It can be a great time to teach a youngster how to fish because the action is fast. A worm-baited hook and bobber off the dock is especially effective in getting kids "hooked on fishing." My friends, Chris and Andy Cook of Rome, have grandkids near and far that have a way of showing up "Cook's Camp" throughout the year to hike, swim, fish, and otherwise enjoy the lake with their cousins. Check out some of the pictures below to see these kids "Taking it Outside." As I pointed out last week, kids who spend a lot of time outside tend to be healthier and sleep better at night!



L: Learning to fish from the Cook Dock. R: Assorted Cook cousins atop French Mountain.

was headed up, I met Emily Shea, of Winthrop finishing a hike with her son, Henry, and her friend from Colorado, Ginni Bradbury, holding her dog, Oliver Clark. Emily says she loves to bring her out-of-town friends to French Mountain to get a spectacular view of Maine with a nice, short hike.

Check the 7LA Website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and FaceBook site for upcoming events. Upcoming programs include a buffer planting workshop (June 20) presentation on invasive plants (June 22), and a presentation by Chewonki (July 5th) on "Animal Adaptations." I encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of recreational opportunities this area offers. Do

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.

Friday 7/23 - Summer Ritual Market at the Waterfront, an eclectic market featuring local artisans and vendors, 10 am-4 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

Saturday 6/24 - FREE Boater's Safety Course, hosted by the North Pond Association in conjunction with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, designed to help boaters understand how to maintain and operate a boat, become familiar with Maine boating laws and learn how to respond to common emergencies on the water, lunch provided 9 am-3 pm, northpondmaine@gmail.com, Grange Hall, downtown Smithfield.

Saturday 6/24-Sunday 6/25 - MHA Downeast Horse Congress Horse Show, 850-1773, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 6/24 - 4th Annual Summer BBQ, live music with Working Class, chicken BBQ, 3-6 pm, \$15, ELKS Club, Route 27, Civic Center Drive, Augusta.

Saturday 6/24 - Kingfield POPS Festival, Maine's premier outdoor summer concert, featuring the Bangor Symphony

Orchestra, 4:30-10 pm, music, food, fireworks, Kennedy Farm, 127 Salem Road, Kingfield.

Sunday 6/25 and the last Sunday of every month - Belgrade Summer Craft Fair, unique Maine made treasures, Maine Crime Writers will have a table at the June fair to fundraise for the Friends of Belgrade Public Library, 9 am -2 pm, the Village Green, Route 27, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 6/25 through Sunday 8/7 - Atlantic Music Festival, Colby College, Waterville.

Sunday 6/25 - Rare Cancer Walk in support of Candice Parent, Messalonskee High School Track, 10 am-1 pm, rain or shine, \$25, concessions available, noonefightsaloneCBP@gmail.com, Oakland.

Sunday 6/25 - Neighbors Driving Neighbors Readfield Launch, learn about the mission, how to volunteer, how to register as a rider, light refreshments will be served, 2-4 pm, Town Office, Readfield.

Tuesday 6/27 - Chewonki Animal Adaptations presentation, 3-4 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 6/28 - Invasive aquatic plant ID workshop, 10-11:30 am, weekly all summer, register at tinyurl.com/2s3h8maz, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 6/29 - Invasive aquatic plant ID & Adopt-A-Shoreline workshop, 10-11:30 am, weekly all summer, <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/>, Fairview Grange, 826 Village Road, Smithfield.

Thursday 6/29 - An Evening with Paul Doiron, author of "Dead Man's Wake," set in Belgrade, 6-8 pm, Center for All Seasons, Belgrade Lakes.



Village Green Concert Series

Belgrade Lakes, Maine

Summer 2023

Every Thursday 6:00-8:00

- July 6th// Archie and Friends
- July 13// Pat Colwell and The Soul Sensations
- July 20// Denny Breau
- July 27// The Fossils
- Aug 3// Bob Colwell Trio
- Aug 10// Midnight Breakfast
- Aug 17// The Maniacs
- Aug 24// Frenzie
- Aug 31// The Magnie Fam-Family
- Sept 7// Chris Poulson and The Social Club

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An Evening With Paul Doiron



Scan the QR code to pre-order **Dead Man's Wake** the next installment of the Mike Bowditch saga - set right here in Belgrade! Books will also be sold at the event.



Date:
June 29, 2023

Time:
6 pm - 8 pm

Location:
Center for All Seasons
1 Center Drive, Belgrade, ME

The evening starts at 6 pm with a catered meet and greet. Paul will then read a passage from *Dead Man's Wake*, discuss his writing and take audience questions. We'll end the night with a book signing. We've also got door prizes including copies of *Dead Man's Wake*!

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Augusta: SummerFun Concerts @ Mill Park, the former Waterfront Wednesdays, at 6 pm.

- 6/21 - Rob Burnell
- 6/28 - Borderline Express
- 7/5 - Crystal Vision (Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band)
- 7/12 - Tickle
- 7/19 - Sharon Hood & Dixon Road
- 7/26 - Duke Dog Duo
- 8/2 - Ellis Falls
- 8/9 - Block Party w. DJ Matt James

Waterville: Waterville Rocks, presented by Waterville Creates and the Waterville Opera House, Head of Falls; Fridays - Beer Garden opens at 6 pm, music begins at 7 pm. In case of rain, the show will be held inside the Waterville Opera House.

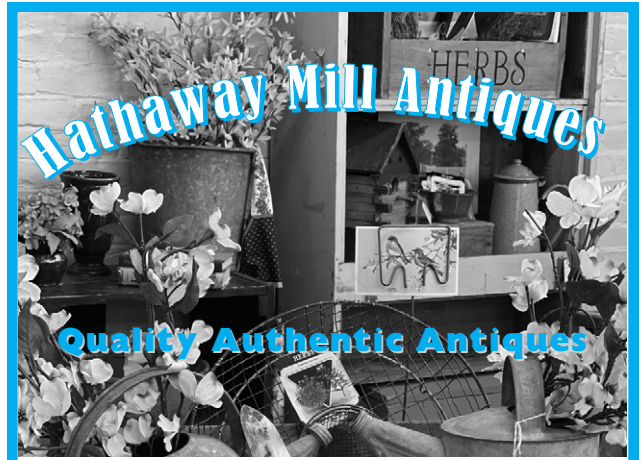
- 7/7 - The Weight Band w/ Chris Ross, Opening Night of the 26th annual Maine International Film Festival
- 7/21 - Dustbowl Revival
- 7/28 - Will Evans Trio
- 8/4 - Griffin Willian Sherry

Gardiner: Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Summer Concerts, every Friday Night June 23-August 25, 6-7:30 pm except 8:30 on 6/23 and 8/25 when the show is followed by fireworks.

- 6/23 - The Mallet Brothers
- 6/30 - Blistered Fingers
- 7/7 - Moosehedz
- 7/14 - Muddy Ruckus
- 7/21 - Pat Colwell & the Soul Sensations
- 7/28 - Pat Pepin Band
- 8/4 - The Oren Robinson Band
- 8/11 - The Half Moon Jug Band
- 8/18 - Juke Joint Devils
- 8/25 - Give Your Voice All-Stars

Skowhegan: Concerts in the Park, Coburn Park, Sundays, 5-6:15 pm

- 7/2 - Kennebec Performing Arts
- 7/9 - Brian Richmond
- 7/16 - Country Comfort
- 7/23 - Merry-Go-Roundup
- 7/30 - Bob Lovelace
- 8/6 - Barbie's Sing-A-Long
- 8/14 - Borderline Express
- 8/20 - Skowhegan Community Band
- 8/27 - Sunday Project



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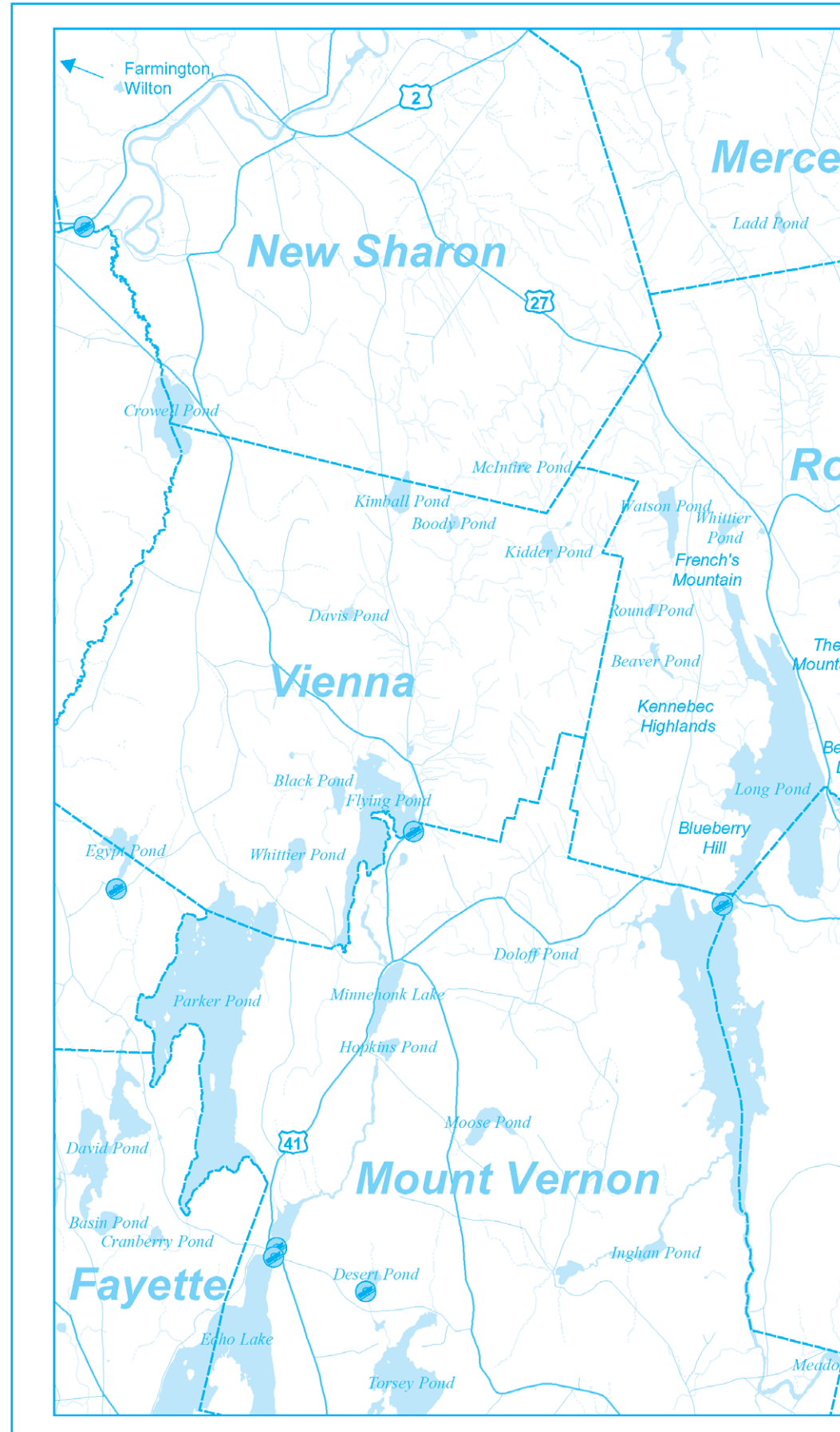
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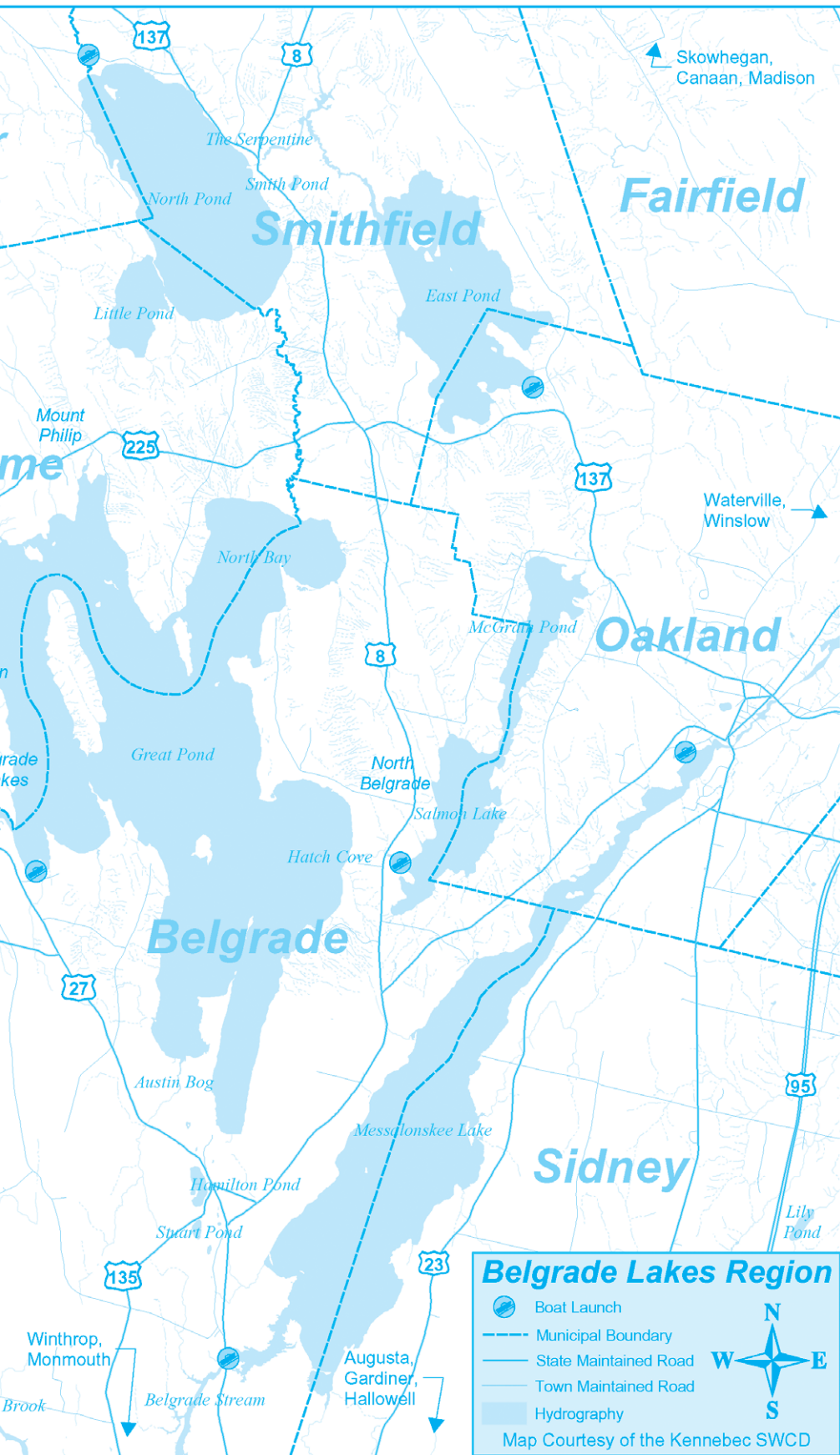
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Call of the Loon

Are Adult Loons Identical?



Our second week surveying our loon populations on Great and Long Ponds has been both rewarding – and, well, educational!

When you see two adult loons together, have you ever asked yourself which one is the male, and which one the female? Mistakenly, like many, I've always considered the adult with that big forehead brow was the male.

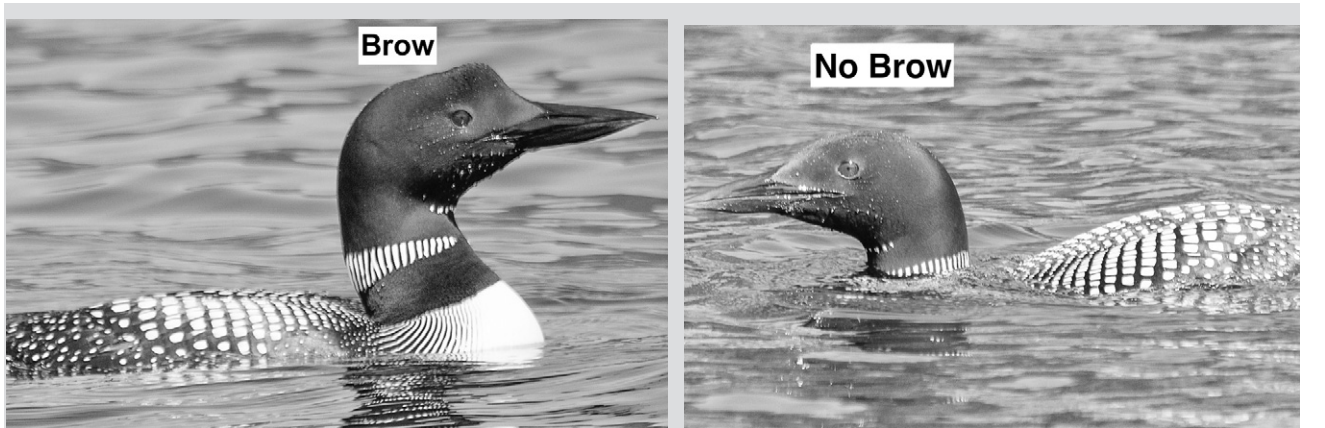
I assume that everyone is going to choose the adult on the left, but it maybe the male and it maybe not. The Brow is actually a posturing mannerism by ruffling his or her feathers. In fact, the bird on the left could very well be the female.

When you see two adults in profile, the larger of the two is 'generally' the male but not always and the only way to definitely determine sex is by a blood and feather analysis.

I have trouble believing this as well but in reviewing numerous banded loon photos and with sex confirmation, I grudgingly have to concur and it hurts!

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

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



Which one is the Male?



A 2023 Long Pond breeding pair



What loons look like with Ruffled Feathers



Dining

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• **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

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• **Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant** at Great Pond Marine, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive,

Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273

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Weekly Farmers' Markets

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

Wednesday - Fairfield Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, 81 Main Street, Nazarene Church Parking Lot, 81 Main Street.

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

Friday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot near Better Living Center, Front Street.

Saturday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 9 am-12

noon, in front of Court House, Main Street.

Saturday - Hallowell Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, Steven's Commons.

Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Grist Mill.

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

Sunday - Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Take it Outside continued from page 5....



Sleeping off a long day at the lake!



Ginni Bradbury and her friend Emily Shea.

like they used to in "the good old days" and take a kid fishing, or on a hike, or paddling in a canoe. It's how memories are made. Or take a parent, so they can become a kid again.

...Continued from page 4

system symbolizes a commitment to the natural environment, stewardship of recreational resources, and growing the town as a vibrant and walkable community," states Central Maine Growth Council Director of Planning, Innovation, and Economic Development Garvan Donegan. "Residents and visitors of all ages will have the ability to enjoy the waterfront while being connected to a variety of local resources and services, such as Memorial Park and Mill Island Park."

The American Hiking Society's National Trail Day highlights a national movement to create more inclusive and accessible trail networks. The Economic and Community Development Committee of Fairfield spearheaded the event and were present at the Cattail Trail to assist walkers on their journeys from 10 AM-12 PM. The Cattail Trail is located adjacent to Lawrence High School, and the opening event took place from 10 AM-2 PM on June 3. Attendees are encouraged to explore the trail system and learn more about the Fairfield Trails Passbook initiative.

About the Fairfield Economic and Community Development Committee (FECDC)

The Economic and Community Development Advisory Committee is a "citizens" committee with open membership to all Fairfield residents, business owners, and educators who have a vested interest in community development. Meetings are open to the public, and the committee typically meets monthly at the Fairfield Community Center; go to Fairfield's online calendar of events for a meeting schedule.

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

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872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
Oliver and Friends, Bookshop, 87 Main Street, Belgrade
Lakes, 707-2123
Peoples Book Shop, 605 Wings Mill Rd., Mount Vernon,
620-2392, hosehead51@roadrunner.com

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gandlcontractingmaine.com
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See Directory on page 11

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great
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McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA),
Belgrade and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
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Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, www.belgradelakepoint.com

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

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

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

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RESTAURANTS

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Granite Hill Estates, 60 Balsam Drive, Hallowell, 626-7786, 1-888-321-1119, www.granitehillestates.com

STORAGE

Fieldstone Storage, by appointment only, 270 Summer Street, Oakland, 314-5523, FieldStoneStorage.com

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WINE AND SPIRITS

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



The Dams Keeper Report

As of this writing, we are happy to report that all of our pond water levels are in great shape if you like water! Actually, a little bit higher than we would like no thanks to these unrelenting showers! It hasn't been exactly Chamber of Commerce weather but enough is enough. I wish the showers took place at night while I was sleeping, but noooooo. Great Pond's Village dam is currently 3.24" above full pond with one gate opened just 6". Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is right at 2.88", also above full pond with one gate opened up one foot. Salmon/McGrath is now 1" above full pond with its calibrated valve set to the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are actually down 2.52" below full which is just a fact of life with their electricity generation needs. Although NOAA and the 'experts' are still calling for a summer of 26% less precipitation, we'll remain vigilant in our "save the water" mode with all of our gates being

closed when at all possible.

Precipitation for the past 10 days was a whopping 2.48" and we are looking at still 1.49" for the next 10 days, which is still way above average. FYI, our normal weekly precipitation during the summer is supposed to be 0.875. Although the long-term forecast is calling for an average 20% less precipitation which is slightly better than what they forecasted for the past four years, all remains good news for our farmers, wells, gardens and of course, our lakes. We'll take what we can get – as if we have a choice!

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

Enjoy your summer! It should be beautiful. But I'd keep the umbrellas handy if I were you!

Welcome back!

Dick

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams

Committee



7 Lakes Monitors Results of Great Meadow Stream Treatment, Remediates Remaining Infestations



© alexander wall

Photo by 7 Lakes Alliance board member Alex Wall

No invasive milfoil was found this spring in Great Meadow Stream after last summer's herbicide treatment. 7 Lakes Alliance continues to monitor the treatment area, as regrowth has been observed in similar treatment areas, including Annabessacook Lake in nearby Cobbossee watershed.

The Surface Use Restriction prohibiting motorcraft from entering Great Meadow Stream will continue in 2023. Paddle craft are welcome (and encouraged) to experience the beauty of Great Meadow Stream, which provides habitat to a variety of waterfowl, rare plants and other wildlife.

Three small streams in the north of Great Pond – Rome Trout Brook (aka Turner's Brook), Robbins Mill Stream, and Swann's Brook – still have small infestations of invasive variable-leaf milfoil. The 7 Lakes' crew continues to manually remove and cover invasive plants in these areas.

No herbicide treatments are planned for 2023 at this time.



Changes?
Updates?
New contact information?
Please let us know... mo.breault@gmail.com
or sumbelnews@gmail.com



A Long Journey by Mavis J. Longfellow

by Martha F. Barkley

"From the twelve original greenhouses...twenty-one-greenhouse range it now is. The hard work and dedication of the Longfellows, and of their willing and capable employees, and of course the many happy customers...as they enjoy a visit to Longfellow's in Manchester, on the road with the funny name--Puddleduck Road!"

How good to finally have this 2020 book in my hands, borrowed from a friend at Old South Church. How often do you pass the flowery display at Longfellows Greenhouse in Manchester? We do and we admire its beauty every time.

Mavis Longfellow published this collection of her writings when she was in her 90s and busy emailing family and friends. Now that is quite an accomplishment in my estimation. She wrote letters and essays and poems her entire life and shares richly "some things learned along the road" of her abundant life in Maine.

A letter on Widowhood is addressed to "Barbara", my friend at Old South. It is a helpful two page letter of wisdom. Read it for yourself because Longfellow knows her stuff from experience. I noticed Emily gave this thoughtful book to Nana, personally addressed in November 2020.

What a gem of a gift, a good book. How often do you buy a book for a gift or give a favorite read to a friend? I always threaten my friends with books and a book report to be solicited later. Barbara "got me back" with this wonder of a long life starting on "A Small Farm, a Small School, and a Small Town."

"Wedding Bells" brings us to the Longfellow part of the author's very blessed life.

I jump chapters to "Sweet Springtime."

"Springtime in Maine is especially welcome after a long cold winter...Being in the greenhouse business, preparing young flowers and vegetable seedlings...Crows complain of real or imagined injustices...Canada geese are honking their V-flights...Spring peepers in their nearby mud-bottomed ponds...How sweet it is to be here in the country, in Maine, when it is waking from the bonds of winter."

Enjoy this read and I hope Barbara, my friend, likes this book report of a loan that took weeks and weeks of waiting. Now that is another story.



Union Church Presents the Anne R. Myers Memorial Organ Recital



The Union Church of Belgrade Lakes will present the Anne R. Myers Memorial Organ Recital at 67 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, on June 29 at 7 PM featuring the acclaimed organist, Dr. Tom Mueller.

The Union Church is proud to bring Dr. Mueller to Maine in memory of Anne R. Myers, a long-time member of the church and an active contributor to its music programs. A former resident of Waterville and a graduate of the University of Maine Augusta,

Mueller was the accompanist at the Union Church from 2002 to 2005. An award-winning organist, he placed first in the 2014 Schoenstein Competition in Hymn-Playing, held in conjunction with the national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Boston, Massachusetts. Additionally, he was honored by The Diapason as a member of the inaugural "20 Under 30" list of influential figures in the world of organ and church music in 2015. He maintains an active concert schedule, and performs across the United States and Europe. He has received numerous commissions for new choral and liturgical works, and performances of his compositions have been broadcast on national radio and television. Mueller serves as Professor of Music, University Organist, and Music Department Chair at Concordia University in Irvine, California. He also serves as Associate Organist at St. James' Church in Los Angeles, where he accompanies the acclaimed Choir of St. James under the direction of James Buonemani.

The recital will start at 7 PM at the Union Church. Admission will be \$10 per person. Proceeds will benefit the Belgrade Central School music program. Seating is limited so tickets may be reserved by emailing unionchurchmaine@gmail.com.

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— Real Estate Update —

How Selling is Trending

We are early in the year as far as real estate sales are concerned, but we can start to see how things are trending. Understanding what the current market looks like is a vital piece of pricing and marketing homes heading into the summer months.

So far in 2023, 66 homes have changed hands in the Belgrade Lakes Region, with 25 of those being waterfront homes. That is an overall decline of 30% from the number of sales in 2022, although waterfront property sales are equal to last year. Higher mortgage interest rates and lower inventory has led to the decline in year-round residential homes. We continue to see demand for waterfront properties. Because of this waterfront demand and tighter inventory, the median sales prices continue to rise.

The median sales price in the region so far in 2023 is \$504,000, a 30% increase from 2022 sales price.

By comparison, the National Association of Realtors reported a decline of unit volume of 20%, while posting a modest increase of 1% for median sales prices in the Northeast US. Maine has been resilient to the price declines that are taking place nationally. Historically, Maine has lagged behind National and Northeast trends, so it is fair to predict that price increases will continue into the summer months, but likely at a slower rate.

As we move through Spring into Summer, potential buyers are adjusting to the increased mortgage rates and continue to actively search for their next home, or lakefront home. The Belgrade Lakes Region has enjoyed very strong demand for

homes for the past 3 years and there are not enough homes for sale in the area. There are signs that the price increases will stabilize, but additional inventory will be needed to achieve this. Its hard to see a scenario of prices declining over the next few months or the remainder of the year. We are on the right path to see a better balance of buyers and sellers and more homes on the market will help with this trend.

Summer is upon us in the Belgrade Lakes Region, which is the peak of the real estate market. To understand our market and navigate buying or selling, you should always partner with a LOCAL real estate expert. Now is a terrific time to start! Happy Summer!!



Town of Oakland Creates New Tax Increment Finance District

Encompassing 37.27 acres, the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development has approved a newly designated Downtown Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district within the Town of Oakland. The new district will allow the municipality to stimulate investment, encourage business expansion and retention, attract new businesses, and boost beautification initiatives while supporting the Town's growing vibrancy.

"This newly created TIF district will make a lasting impact in the Town of Oakland by making the downtown more investable, safer, more pedestrian-friendly, and directly aligns with the town's vision of supporting business development and retention,"

said Oakland Town Manager Ella Bowman. "I want to thank the municipal staff and town council who have worked to help advance this initiative, the Oakland Downtown Redevelopment committee for their dedication to this initiative, who was a key driver behind the project, and all the residents and community groups who voiced their support."

Plans for TIF funding realized from the district will be utilized to support infrastructure, business growth, facade improvements, marketing the downtown, expanding and improving area trail connections, and more. Funding will also be leveraged to secure additional investment and incentivize business recruitment and retention in the district.

"Oakland is driving impact and support for residents, businesses, and remote rural workers through this project, incentivizing investment, cultivating new business attraction, and ultimately contributing to the overall economic well-being of the town and region," said Central Maine Growth Council Director of Planning, Innovation, and Economic Development Garvan Donegan. "This newly approved TIF district will create the necessary conditions to support economic development along Main Street and downtown revitalization in the Town of Oakland as a whole."




You're invited to the

Neighbors Driving Neighbors Readfield Launch

Sunday, June 25, 2-4 pm
Readfield Town Office

Please join us to celebrate NDN's expansion to include Readfield in our service area. Stop by to learn about NDN's mission, how to become a volunteer driver or how to register as a rider.

Light refreshments will be served.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Neighbors Driving Neighbors | 207-860-0677 | neighborsdrivingneighbors.org



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