

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 7

Trying To Beat The Heat Some Old-Time Tips



A young buck taking a swim. Photo Credit: Dylan Hausthor

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Trying To Beat The Heat

by Esther J. Perne

Living with, accepting, adjusting to those intense heat spells of summer isn't all new. Old-time lake dwellers and Vacationland visitors alike had their ways. What ways?

- Tall trees and long docks - Original camps were often "buried in the trees," especially lofty pines. The trees provided a living space that was private, refreshing and cooling - sometimes too much so. That's when the long docks, longer than the shadows of the tall trees, came in. Walk out on a sunny dock to get warm again.
- Porches - Almost all cabins, camps and lodges had porches, open-sided structures broad enough to hold chairs aplenty, roofed over against the sun (and rain) and angled to catch the breeze.
- Shades, shutters, awnings and curtains - Definitely not just decoration, these were all variations of window covers used to shut out the sun. Some folks followed a routine of opening all their windows at night to let in the cool air and shutting them each morning to keep the cool air inside.
- Ice houses - Many personal camps, lodges and businesses had their own ice houses where a year's worth of ice harvested from the lake was stored.
- Detached kitchens - A fire precaution that also prevented the cook stove from heating the rest of the camp or main building.

- Breezeways - Open-sided, walkways inviting to the breeze, that lead to the detached kitchen, a woodshed, a detached bathroom or toilet facility or a laundry room.
- Hammocks - Fish-net style hammocks provided their own mini air-conditioning from below, were popular outdoor retreats for napping or reading and could even be hung indoors for sleeping on super hot nights.
- Mosquito netting - The protection that allowed going outside to cool off or even to sleep outside without getting attacked by bugs.
- Dress for coolness - Broad-brimmed hats and floppy sunbonnets; Tight braids and upswept hair; Long, loose dresses and skirts and baggy shirts; White, white, white - Light colors reflect heat; Bare feet.
- No exercising after eating - This old wives' tale, now debunked, required dedicated downtime (resting, reading, napping) after eating but was also a great reason to stay quiet during the heat of the day.
- And then? - Swim, bath, immerse. Old-time lake dwellers and Vacationland visitors spent a lot of time in the water.




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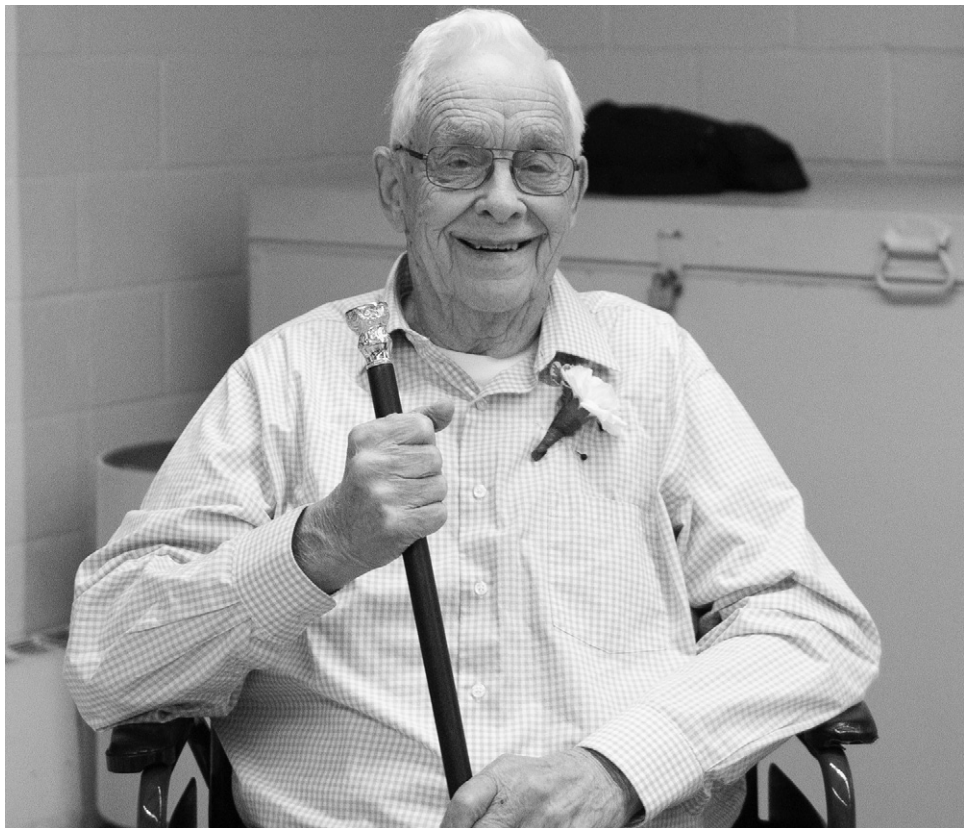
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Rome's Dick LaBelle
Awarded Boston Post Cane

The LaBelle family and residents and guests of the Town of Rome recently celebrated the amazing contributions and 50 plus years of service of resident Dick LaBelle. As Rome's oldest citizen Dick was awarded the prestigious Boston Post Cane.

The tradition of the Boston Post Cane began in 1909 as a publicity stunt of the Boston Post newspaper when 700 ebony and gold canes were given to 700 towns in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island to present to the community's oldest citizen. The Boston Post went out of business in 1956, but many towns, including Rome, have continued the tradition.



Summertime in the Belgrades

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- SALMON LAKE

❖ ASSOCIATION ❖

Stewards of our Belgrade Lakes

Annual Meeting July 29th @ 6:00 pm -
Pleasant Point Park, McGrath Pond.

Rain date July 30th @ 6:00 pm

Program: The Maine Loon Restoration Project

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Colby Summer Scholars at 7 Lakes Alliance

7Lakes Alliance has partnered with Colby College for nearly 20 years to advance the study of the Belgrade Lakes' watershed and to provide valuable research, education, and guidance to our partners and neighbors throughout the watershed.

Colby College has been instrumental in providing environmental interns who work throughout the academic year and summer to support various projects across the watershed. These interns play a crucial role in promoting environmentally sustainable practices to maintain the health and vitality of the lakes. Previously, the focus of the Summer Scholar program has been primarily on water quality with our lake science department.



Abby Clothier

This summer, we are pleased to have our first land conservation Summer Scholar at 7 Lakes Alliance, Abby Clothier, who has been working with our Lands department on a range of projects related to conservation and stewardship of protected lands in our watershed. Her work includes conducting ecological assessments, sustainable trail construction, assisting with land management plans, and visiting our current and future property sites. Abby is assisting with a land conservation project on a 270-acre parcel that was aggressively clearcut. She is helping to develop a restoration and reforestation plan for the site. She is also working on a research project in which she is analyzing development and environmental factors using GIS mapping to analyze parcels with the greatest conservation potential in our watershed. This research will guide our future land acquisition strategies and enhance our targeted approach to conservation efforts.

The results of this project are aligned with our land conservation goals for the future in which we are focused on acquiring land that directly contributes to water quality and ecosystem health. As a nationally accredited land trust, land conservation is an integral part of the work 7 Lakes does to protect our watershed. Conserving land is essential for safeguarding water quality through natural filtration provided by land cover and forests, that minimizes runoff that ultimately can cause algal blooms.

All six of our summer interns, five from Colby and one from Bates, will be presenting their research at our annual Summer Scholar Symposium on July 30th at the 7 Lakes building. We hope you will join us to learn about their work which is having a meaningful impact on our lakes and land.



Annual
Beanhole Bean Supper
at
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Saturday, August 3
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
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Belgrade History Beyond Belgrade

Submitted by BHS member Dianne Dowd

Belgrade has so much rich history that sometimes it flows beyond the town borders. As Town Historian, I have been trying to seek out some of this wayward history. Some Belgrade historical artifacts have found homes in local Maine museums, and some have traveled out of state.

I hope to share some of this lost history and encourage readers to find history for themselves.

The first Belgrade historical artifact I encountered beyond Belgrade was the guide boat, Trixie III, at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. The Trixie III is a wooden Rangeley style fishing boat with three chair seats. It was built by well-known Belgrade boat builder, Ralph Stewart. The craft, Trixie III was built in the late 1920s or early 1930s for John Asher Lambert who owned Camp Liberty. The camp was located at the north end of Great Pond.

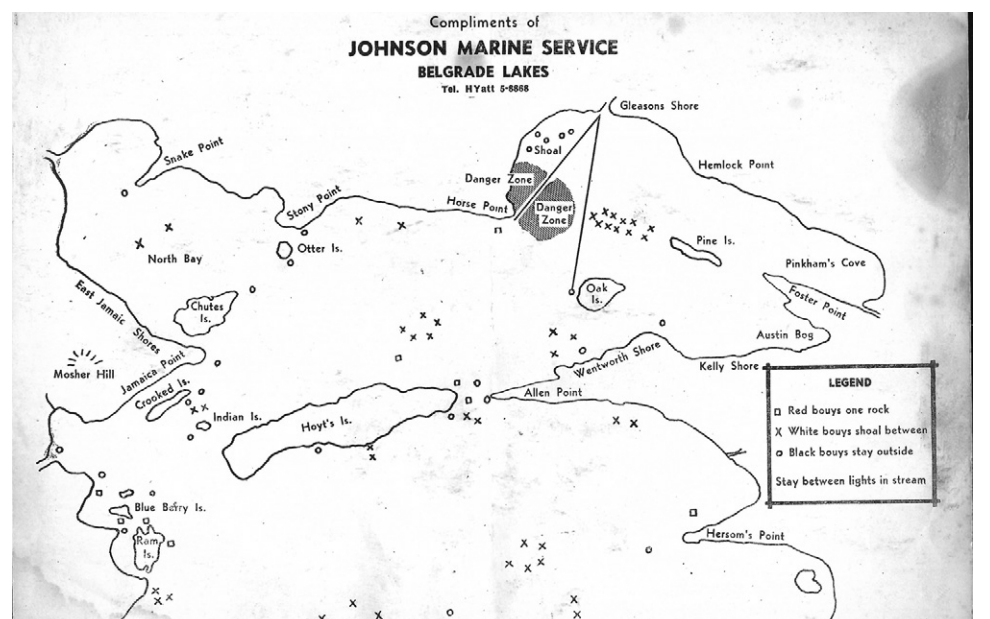
Among the items donated with the Trixie III was a lunch basket and tacked to the cover was a map of Great Pond, compliments of Johnson Marine Service. I recognized this map as the one on display at the Belgrade Historical Society. I knew that the Johnson family was very involved with

boat building and repair in Belgrade Lakes Village, so I checked with fellow member of the society, Rod Johnson to find out more about this map.

Rod's recollection concerning the map, was that his father, Clifford had redrawn an earlier version of the map drawn by Everett Johnson who owned Johnson Marine Service. Karl Johnson, Everett's son, took over his dad's marina in the 1950s, which later became Day's Marina. The maps were often handed out at both locations -Clifford's boat building and repair shop by the dam (now Lakepoint Real Estate), and Karl's Marina (now the Post Office and 7Lake Alliance Annex).

In 1913, one of the earliest boat builders, Ernest Sola had built a 30x50 foot shop for the purpose of building wooden boats. He built at least 3 different boat designs, all of which were used as fishing boats on Great and Long Ponds. Ralph Stewart bought the building from Sola and continued to build wooden boats. Clifford Johnson became an apprentice to Stewart before and after WWII and later became the owner of the shop. As different materials

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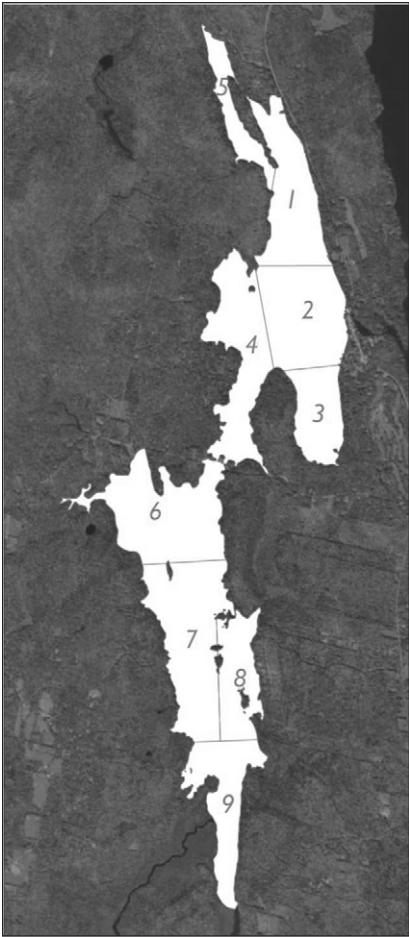




— Take It Outside —

Counting Loons

By Peter Kallin



Long Pond Survey Areas.

The third Saturday in July is the annual loon count in Maine, coordinated by Maine Audubon. See: (<https://www.maineaudubon.org/projects/loons/annual-loon-count/>). This year’s count took place July 20th and was the 41st annual count in this important ongoing citizen-science project dedicated to better understanding one of Maine’s most iconic birds. Every year over 1000 volunteers, of which I am one, attempt to count all the loons on over 300 Maine lakes at the same time. It’s organized like a military operation, and I am the coordinator for the dozen or so volunteers on Long Pond, which is divided into 9 Survey Areas, with a 10th on Ingham Pond. Scott Chapman is my deputy coordinator for Lower Long Pond. Scott is a second-generation counter. His late mother counted loons every year for decades, usually with young Scott in the boat. Early in the morning, all counters head for their assigned section of the lake to be in position to count all the adult loons and loon chicks in their area between 7:00 AM and 7:30 AM. This year the weather was perfect for counting loons: clear and sunny with light winds. This year I had two assistants, Fred Knight and Peter Alter. I picked them up at their respective docks on the way to our Survey Area.

Our assigned area was a cove that has been used for many years by a pair of loons that used to nest on a secluded beach on a small peninsula and often lost their eggs to land-based and avian predators that found the nest and ate the loon eggs before they hatched. Five years ago, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), as part of their ongoing study of loons on Great and Long Pond (more information in Dick Greenan’s loon articles), built and installed a floating raft nest with an avian guard (to prevent predation by eagles, ravens, and blue herons). The nest was moored about 20-feet offshore from the usual nesting site to provide the loons some protection from terrestrial predators such as raccoons, minks, et al. When land-based predators have to cross water to reach the nest, the defensive advantage shifts strongly in the loons favor! For three of the past four years, the loons successfully used this nest but for some reason, were not successful this year. They laid two eggs but eventually abandoned them, possibly due to human interference (fishermen, paddleboards etc.). Bottom line, even with two assistants, we spotted no loons in Lynch Cove this year. As of press time, I had not received results from all of my counters, but it appears likely that chick numbers are significantly down from last year in Long Pond. There have been at least 8 eggs abandoned, or washed into the water, probably due to high lake levels and boat wakes. One nest along the Ingham Stream, lost two eggs due to boat wakes. Under Maine boating laws, this entire stream is supposed to be a no-wake zone as it is less than 400-ft wide along its entire length! Alex Wall and Kathy Wall found three adults and Alex got some nice pictures with a large telephoto lens.

I did have my youngest grandson here this week. We got out fishing a bit and caught quite a few one-to-two-pound bass, I also spotted the Cutler Family from the Fairfield area landing their second pike of the day, They were putting them in the cooler for a fish fry later! Pike are very tasty, although a bit tricky to clean because of the y-bones. My friend Don Kowalsky was at his camp on Great Pond this week with his kids. They

Continued on page 15 ...



Adult loon photo by Alex Wall.



My Fishing Buddy in his Fishing Buddy hat.

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Calendar

- **Thursday 7/25 - Saturday 7/27** - Maine Quilts 2024, work-shops, special exhibits, merchants mall, quilt raffle, 9 am-5 pm, 216-7358, www.mainequilts.org, Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta.
- **Thursday 7/25 - Saturday 7/27** - A Romance in Vienny, annu-al summer play presented by Vienna Historical Society, written by Beverly Wight Smith, 7 pm, Sat matinee 2 pm, \$10 adults, \$5 12 years and under, to restore the Waite House - birthplace of Milton Bradley, performances at Vienna Union Hall.
- **Through Saturday 7/27** - Over the Moon, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.
- **Thursday 7/25 and Friday 7/26** - The Kneading Conference with dozens of workshops and presentations, www.kneading-conference.com, downtown Skowhegan.
- **Friday 7/26 - Saturday 7/28** - Eastern Maine Agility and Dog Show, open to the public, covered arena, concessions, 631-7686, Fairgrounds, Madison Avenue, Skowhegan.
- **Friday 7/26** - Guided Paddle with Master Naturalist Liz Koucky, registration required, 7 Lakes Alliance, 495-6039, Long Pond Boat Launch, Castle Island Road, Mount Vernon.
- **Friday 7/26 and Saturday 7/27** - New England Music Camp, Student Concert, free, 3 pm, Bowl-in-the-Pines, Pond Road, Sidney.
- **Friday 7/26** - Sandy River Ramblers, bluegrass with a Maine flavor, country and rock, air-conditioned hall, 2 and 7 pm, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.
- **Friday 7/26 and Saturday 7/27** - Oakland Oakfest, Friday evening downtown wine and dine, food trucks, parade, corn-hole tournament, Saturday - 9 am-3 pm, kids activities, cruise in car show, food trucks, downtown Oakland.
- Friday 7/26** - Breakin' Strings, Waterville Rocks concert, free, family-friendly, 6 pm, beer garden opens 5:30 pm, (rain loca-tion Waterville Opera House), Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.
- Friday 7/26** - Scolded Dogs, funk/rock, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.
- Friday 7/26** - Humorous Storytelling, Aging: It's not for Sissies, 7 pm, Union Meeting House, Readfield.
- **Saturday 7/27** - Invasive Plant Paddle, 8 am, contact 7 Lakes Alliance, 495-6039, multiple launch points, East Pond.
- **Saturday 7/27** - 15th Annual Paddle Trek, 15-mile paddle from Mt. Vernon Village to Wayne Village, registration closes July 25, 860-4043, join for all or just part, 30 Mile River Watershed Association, Mount Vernon.
- **Saturday 7/27** - New England Music Camp, Musical Theater

Showcase, 1 pm, Alumni Hall, Pond Road, Sidney.

- **Saturday 7/27** - Farmington Summer Fest, Old Tyme Fun, 59th Annual, music all day long, Talent Show, Farmland Festival, the Amazing Summer Fest Race, Food Court, cooling tent, fire truck tours, Children's Parade, 491-5533, downtown Farmington.
- **Saturday 7/27** - The Bread Fair, dozens of vendors and dis-plays, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.
- **Saturday 7/27** - Finding Nemo JR, Lakewood Young Performers Camp, 10 am, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.
- **Saturday 7/27** - 2024 Silent Movie Fest, The Show Must Go On, sponsored by the Augusta Colonial Theater, 3 silent films shot in Maine, live music, 11:30 am-3:15 pm, Johnson Hall Opera House, Water Street, Gardiner.
- **Sunday 7/28** - Ironman 70.3 Triathlon, swim in the Kennebec River, bike, run, partnering with Kennebec Valley YMCA, downtown Augusta.
- **Sunday 7/28** - Maine Open Farm Day, farms open to visitors in all 16 counties, Winterberry Farm in Belgrade will be open with tours and activities, www.realmaine.com, statewide.
- **Sunday 7/28** - Village Green Craft Show, homemade gifts from central Maine and beyond, 9 am-2 pm, rain or shine, 495-3481, Recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Village Green, downtown Belgrade Lakes.
- **Sunday 7/28** - Calypso Soldiers, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.
- Sunday 7/28** - Borderline Express, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.
- Wednesday 7/31 - Saturday 8/3** - Skowhegan River Fest 2024, celebrate life on the river with a full week's schedule of activi-ties, food, music, competitions, golf, films, a parade, moonlight madness, fireworks, and much more, events will be held on the Kennebec River, surrounding venues and downtown Skowhegan.
- **Monday 7/29** - Naturalist Camp, journal, sketch and learn to identify plants, animals and insects, explore local wildlife in its natural environment, ages 6-11, 9 am-noon, \$85, 238-4250, L.C. Bates Museum. Route 201, Hinckley.
- **Monday 7/29** - Master Naturalist: Trees & Moss, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.
- **Monday 7/29** - McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association Annual Meeting, presentation on The Maine Loon Restoration Project by the Look Out for Loons Program, 6 pm, Pleasant Point Park, McGrath Pond Road, Oakland.
- **Monday 7/29** - Western Maine Foothills band, Concerts in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

- **Tuesday 7/30** - Chewonki Natural History Show, Fur, Feathers and Feet with Live Animals, 3-4 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.
- **Tuesday 7/30** - Colby Summer Scholar Presentations, 5 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.
- Tuesday 7/30** - Moosehedz return!, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.
- **Wednesday 7/31** - Community Soccer Day Camp, boys and girls 4-12 years of age, 1-5 hours in the morning, conducted by Coach Jim Evans and staff, sign up at www.evanssoccer.com, Fairfield, Oakland and Norridgewock.
- **Wednesday 7/31** - Invasive Plant ID Workshop, 10-11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.
- **Wednesday 7/31** - Game Day, nearly 300 different games, all ages, minors must be accompanied by an adult, do not have to be Belgrade residents, 10 am-3 pm, North Belgrade Community Center, Route 8, Belgrade.
- **Wednesday 7/31** - Taste of Waterville, the area's largest food and entertainment festival, sponsored by the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, food, beverages, cornhole competition, noon to 11 pm, Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.
- **Wednesday 7/31** - Duke Dog Duo, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.
- **Wednesday 7/31** - Night Sky Tour with John Meader from Northern Stars Planetarium and his telescopes, please register online at www.7lakesalliance.org, Vienna Mountain Road, Vienna.
- **Thursday 8/1** - Volunteer Trail Days, Lambert Trail - Rome, danwoughter@7lakesalliance.org, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.
- **Thursday 8/1 - Sunday 8/4** - Smithfield Leap Year Celebration, events for all ages, fun for the entire family, Leap Year Skate Night at Sunbeam Roller Rink, Learn to Line Dance, fishing derby, Loon Call 5K and much more, smithfieldmaine.us, downtown Smithfield.
- **Thursday 8/1- Saturday 8/3** - Book Sale, The Friends of Lithgow Library, cash or paypal only, to support the mission of the Friends of Lithgow Library, starts 9 am, 626-2415, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta.
- **Thursday 8/1** - Working Class, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.
- **Thursday 8/1** - Steve Jones and Erik Glockler, Village Green Concert Series, 6-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Route 27, downtown Belgrade Lakes.
- **Thursday 8/1 - Sunday 8/4** - Something Rotten, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.



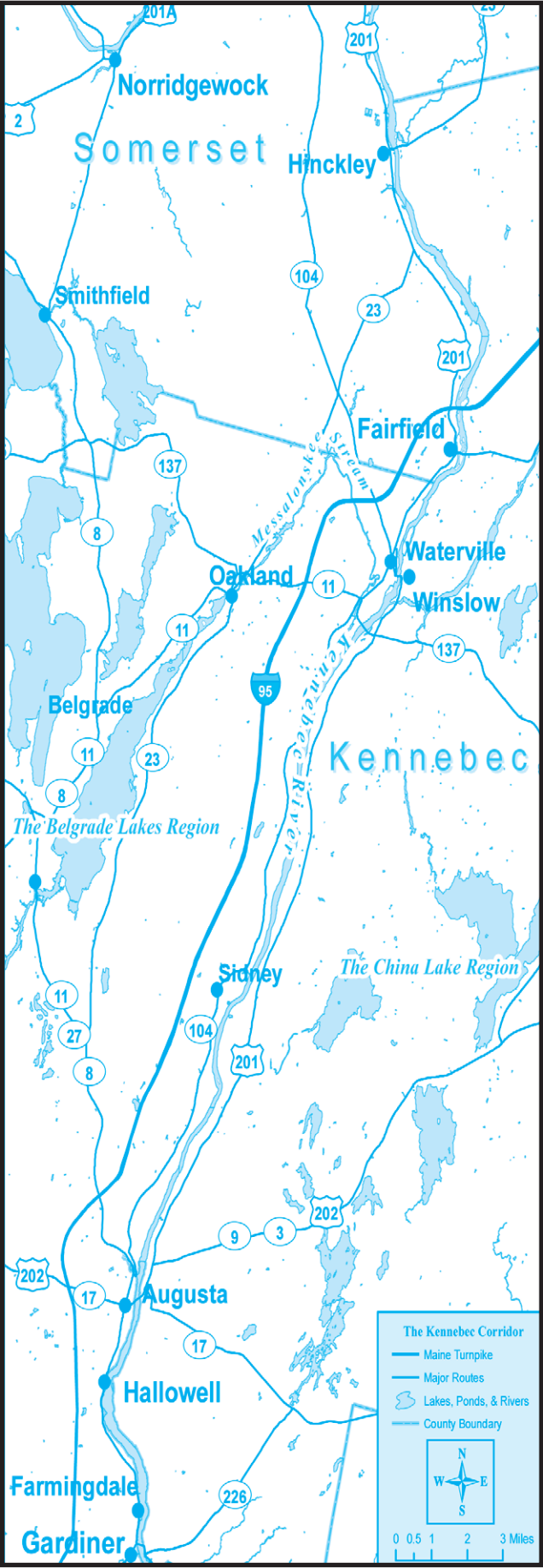
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



Taste of Waterville
July 31 at
Head of Falls

The area's largest food and entertainment festival will be held on Wednesday, July 31 at Head of Falls in Waterville, noon to 10 pm. Highlights will include food trucks, culinary and craft vendor booths, live music, beer and wine gardens, brew tastings, a cornhole tournament with large cash prizes and entertainment.

This year's evening concert opener is The Fossils, with headliner Stolen Mojo. Other performers throughout the day will include Downeast Brass, groups from Snow Pond and Colby Arts, and several local groups. For the brew tasting, brew punch cards can be purchased for \$25 in advance (\$30 at event) are redeemable for 16 2-ounce samples at the 14 breweries represented from 4-7 pm.

Teams for the cornhole tournament can register in advance for \$70, check-in will begin at 4 pm and the tournament starts at 5:15 pm. with prizes of \$1,000 for 1st place, \$600 for 2nd place and \$300 for 3rd place. Admission and golf cart transport at the Taste are free. Taste of Waterville is sponsored by the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce. For more information visit www.tasteofwaterville.com.

Grand Celebration
of Life on the
Kennebec River

When Skowhegan holds River Fest 2024 the week ending August 3, events will focus on a rich heritage. Located where the Kennebec River has been a major transportation corridor for the logging industry and where the mighty waterfalls have fueled electric power, Skowhegan is also the center for outdoor activities and adventures..

In a celebration that spans a week but focuses on Saturday, August 3, highlights on the calendar include:

- Thursday, August 1: Lobster Bake, Golf Tournament, Bicentennial Parade and Maine Outdoor Film Festival Screening.

- Friday, August 2: Kayaking through the Skowhegan Gorge, Moonlight Madness - featuring Axe Throwing, a Makers Market, Live Music, Chainsaw Carving and Bed Races.

- Saturday, August 3: Move More Kids Activities, Inflatable Kayaking through the Skowhegan Gorge, River Days Celebration, Dinner in the Park - Coburn Park and Fireworks at the Great Eddy.

For more details visit runofriver.org/river-fest/schedule/

... continued from page 4

such as aluminum and fiberglass began to be used in the construction of small watercrafts, the demand for wooden boats declined.

Clifford Johnson continued to repair wooden boats and offered fishing boat rentals among other services. The Boat Shop eventually was torn down and burned.

My visit to the Maine Maritime Museum took place a few years ago, so I checked with the museum about the status of the Trixie III prior to writing this article. Currently the Trixie III is NOT on public display but is still in the collection of the Maine Maritime Museum. However, the museum recently opened a special exhibit, *Upta Camp*. This exhibit investigates the history of Maine's sporting and leisure camp tradition. While the exhibit features Rangeley and Moosehead regions, Belgrade's history is very similar. I recently had an opportunity to visit this exhibit and would highly recommend it.

If you are looking for a short-day trip away from Belgrade, the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath is a wonderful place to go. For more information visit their webpage at MaineMaritimeMuseum.org

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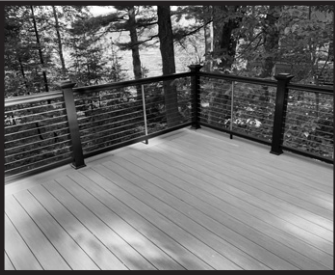
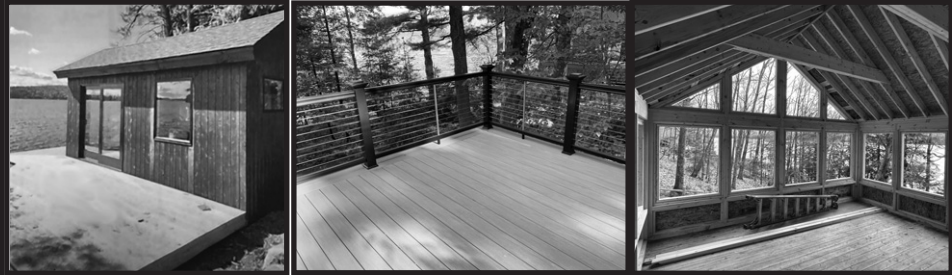


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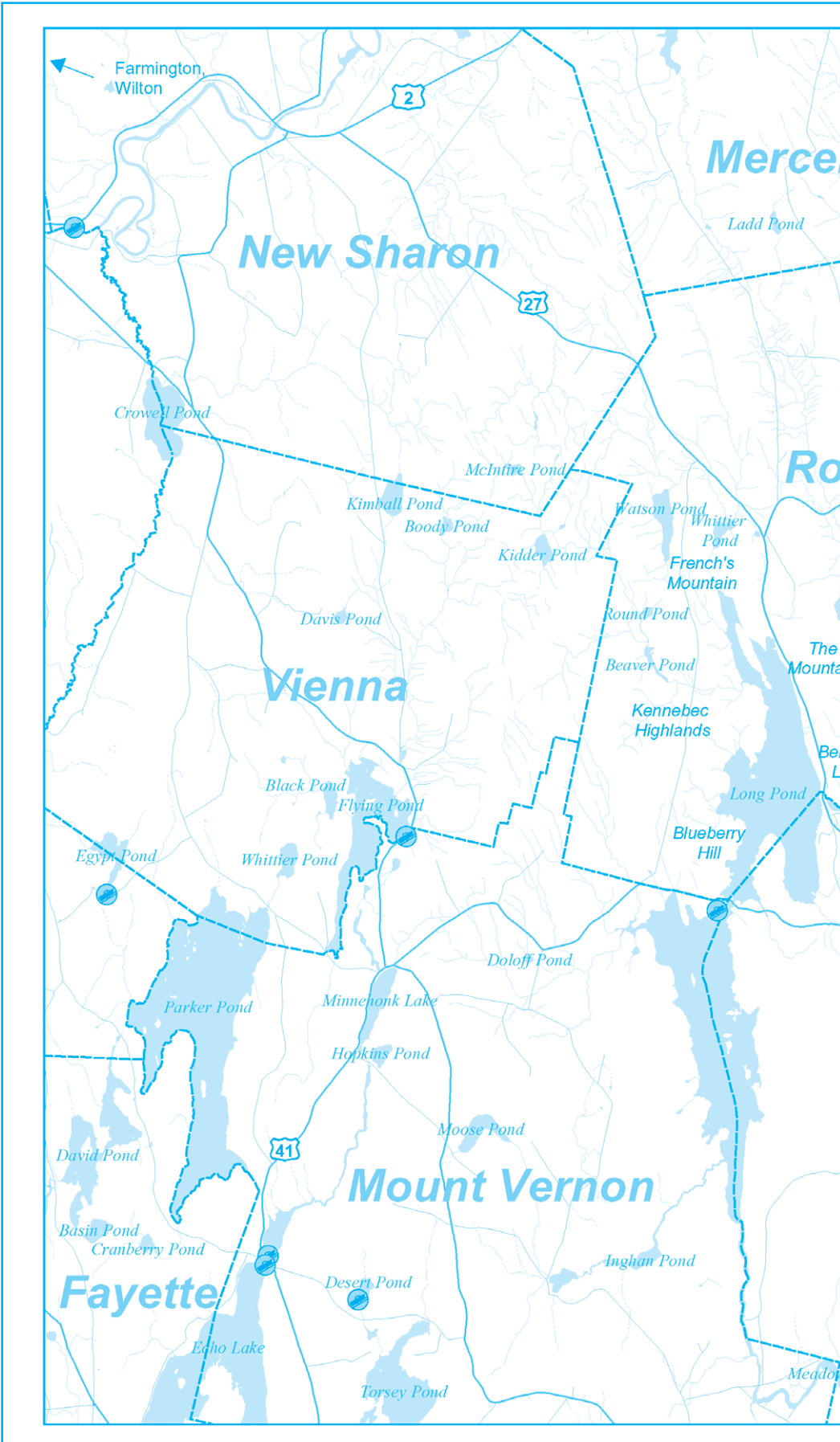
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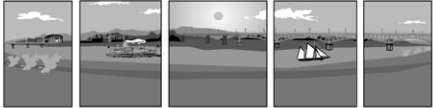
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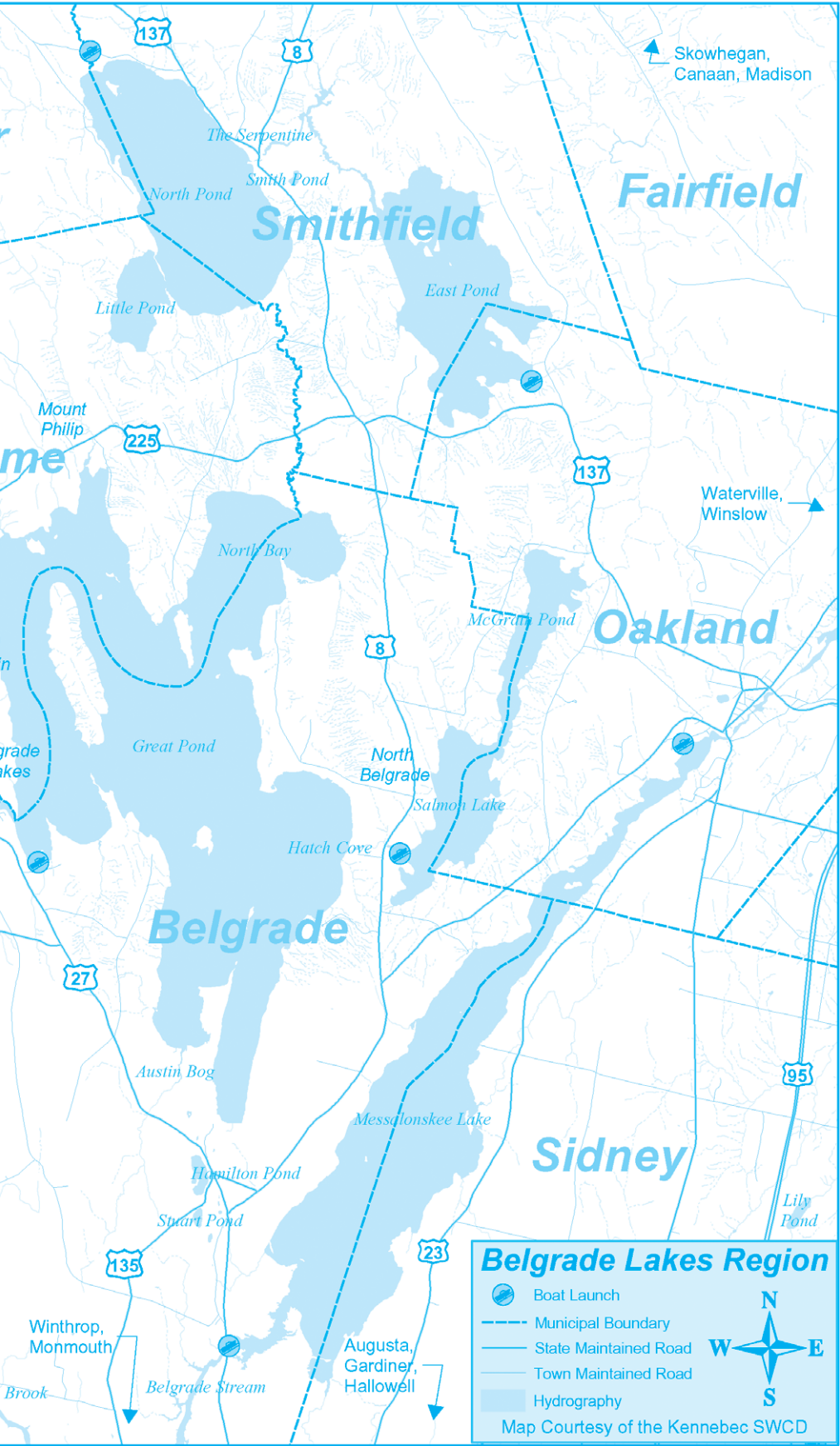
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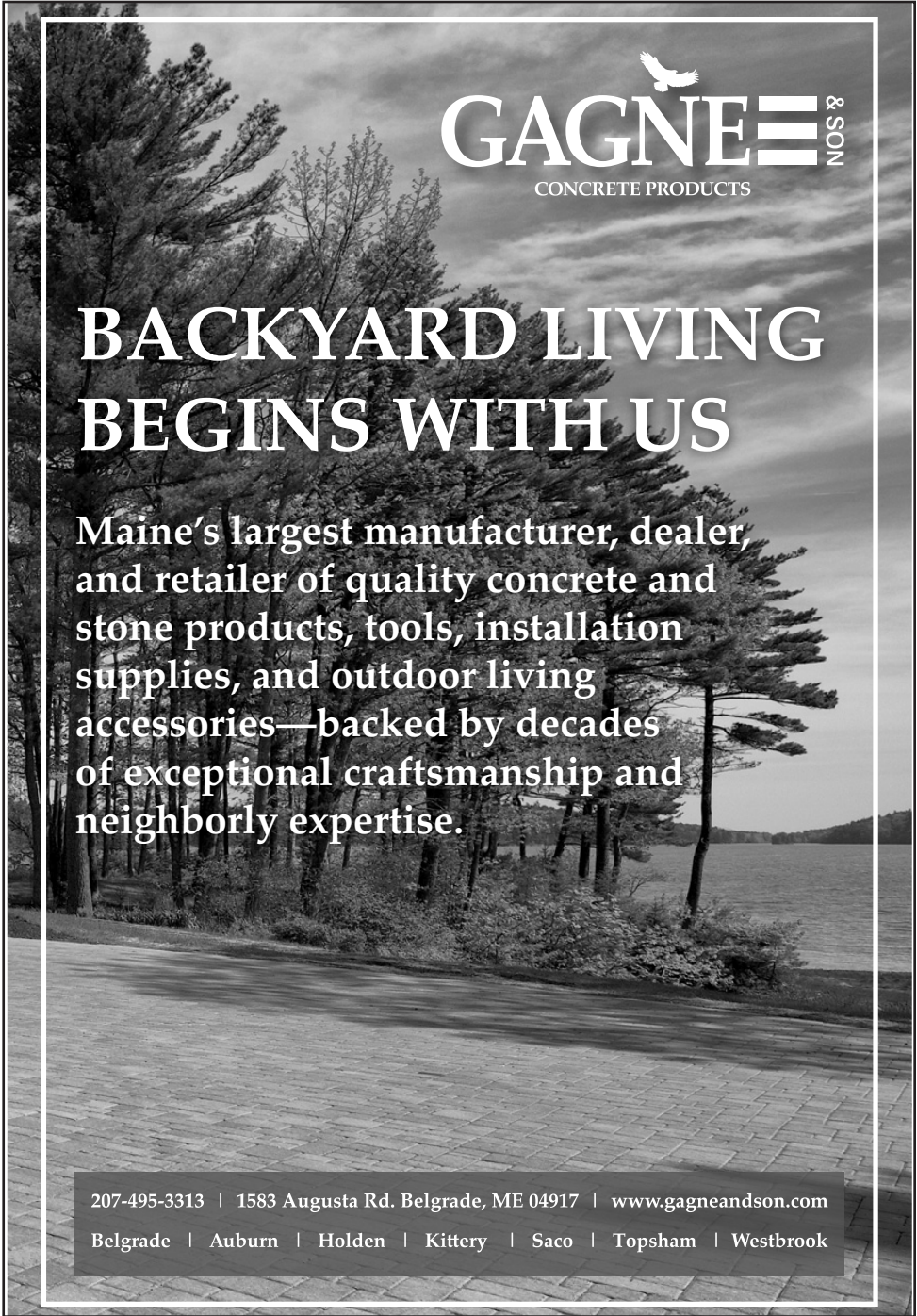
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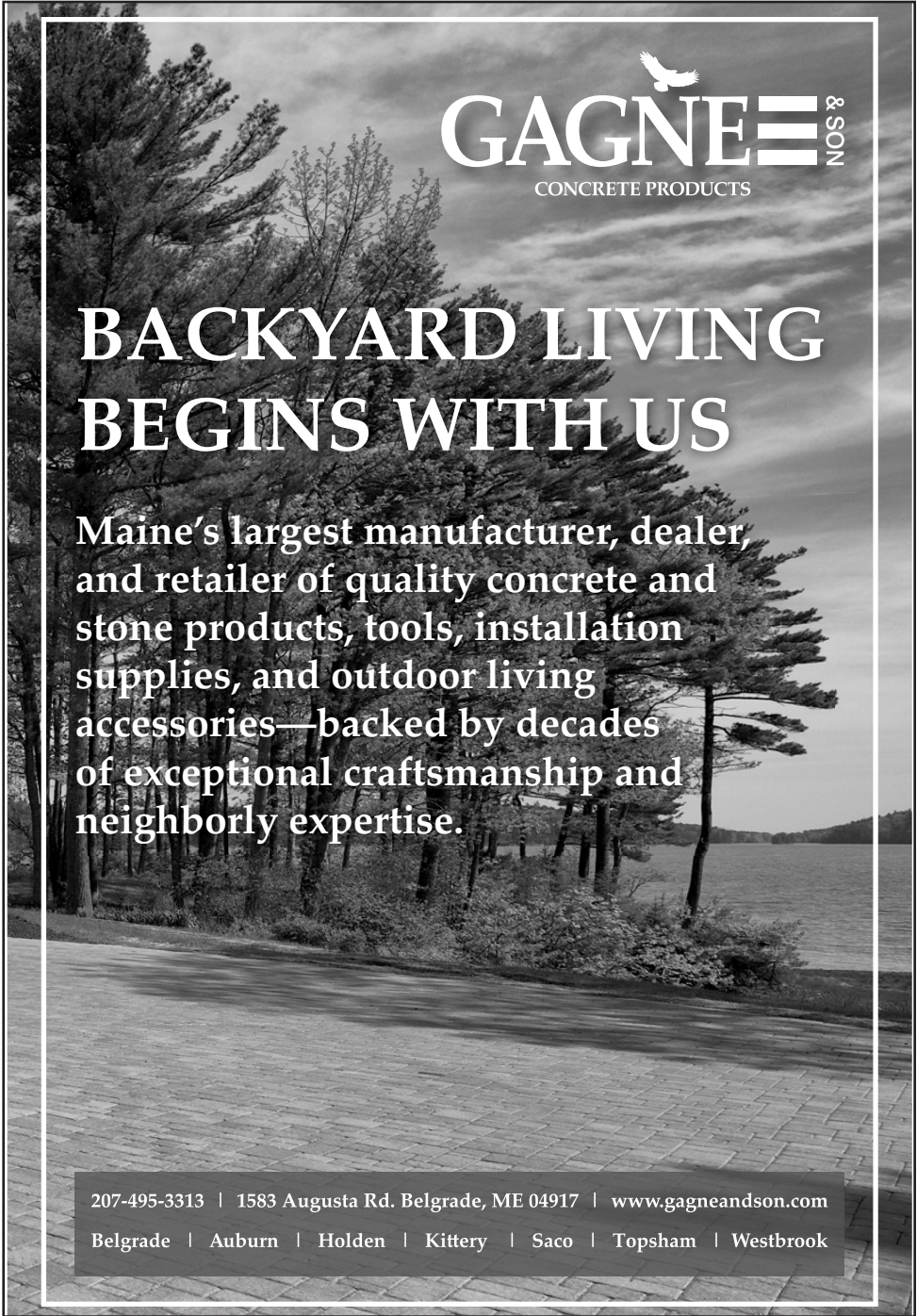
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Oakland Celebrates OakFest July 26-28

Hey everybody! It's "Christmas in July" in Oakland. That's the theme of this year's OakFest, July 26-28. The highlights are:

Friday night: Street Dance; Main Street will be closed; live music, food and drink.

Saturday: "ShineOn Oakland Day" in memory of Cassidy Charette; Open Air Market; live music on the stage; Children's Section; Classic Car Show. Sunday: a day at Waterfront Park?

JULY 26TH

FRIDAY EVENING-MAIN STREET

5:00PM-11:00PM-FOOD TRUCKS

5:00PM-11:00PM-AMERICAN LEGION BEER TENT

5:30PM-6:00PM-HIGHLAND BAG PIPERS

6:00PM-6:45PM-CHRISTMAS IN JULY PARADE

6:00PM-8:00PM-RJ-THE DJ RICHARD JANDREAU

8:00PM-11:00PM-ROY HUDSON BAND-

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JULY 27th

SATURDAY-SHINE ON OAKLAND DAY

WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

9:00AM-2:00PM-CLASSIC CAR CRUISE

9:00AM-3:00PM-OPEN AIR MARKET-CRAFTERS AND VENDORS

9:00AM-3:00PM- FOOD TRUCKS

9:00AM-3:00PM- MAINE'S BEST CHILDREN'S SECTION

10:00AM-3:00PM-SHINE ON OAKLAND STAGE-VARIOUS BANDS

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JULY 28th

SUNDAY-A DAY AT WATERFRONT PARK

9:00AM-CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE-LED BY ERIC SEEKINS

1:00PM-3:00PM-WILL MCPHERSON

2:30PM-5:00PM-HEROS ON WHEELS FOOD TRUCK

3:00PM-5:00PM-ELVIS IN CONCERT(DON BOUDREAU)

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Notebook

Belgrade Lakes Association

• Members are invited to join the Belgrade Lakes Association on Saturday, July 27, 6-8 pm, for food, drinks and live music by The Shack. It's an opportunity to become a member at the event which will be held at the 7 Lakes Alliance Building, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes. RSVP to info@BLAmaine.org

Skowhegan History House Museum

• The Skowhegan History House Museum & Research Center, 66 Elm Street, is open for its 87th season. Visitors are welcome to view the new exhibition highlighting the museum's founder "Living Legacy: Louise Helen Coburn (1856-1949)" and to take a tour of the historic house. The History House is open Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm, through September. For more information visit skowheganhistory-house.org or call 474-6632.

Theater at Monmouth

• The Summer of 2024 plays, rotating through August 11, include: Much Ado About Nothing, The School for Husbands, Souvenir and Shakespeare's Will. Performances are evenings Wednesday-Sunday and matinees on Wednesday-Thursday and Saturday-Sunday. For dates, times and performances call 933-9999 or visit www.theateratmonmouth.org

Mercer Chicken BBQ

• The town of Mercer will be holding a chicken BBQ on Saturday, August 10 from 12 noon to 2 pm. Tickets are required. The regular Old Home Day celebration is being postponed due to building repairs.

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Call of the Loon

The Process of Banding



BLA Board Member and Loon Project Volunteer Blaine Horrocks holding an adult while Lucas selects a flight feather for clipping that will help determine gender.

As I write this week's column, we had a loon banding season scheduled for last night with loon expert Lee Attix, two of Biodiversity Research Institute's renowned biologists along with our two Colby College interns, only to be thwarted by numerous scattered thunderstorms - again! UGH!!! At lot of preparation goes into a banding. First and foremost, we need at least six unbanded adult parents along with their chicks confirmed in the territory earlier that day, light and variable winds, complete darkness with no full moon or if so, cloud cover, availability of our Biodiversity Research Institute's biologists who hold the required permits for such work, along with our own loon expert Lee Attix. So, there is a lot of logistics that go into a night of banding but the rewards are immeasurable!

Loons are captured for determination of age, sex, and overall health by assessing weight, leg and beak lengths, blood and feather analy-



Yours truly holding a chick while its father is being banded, etc. See the video of the chick on the BLA's homepage: blamaine.org.

ses for heavy metals contaminants and banding for easier recognition on future surveys and to track successful nesting pairs. If all goes to plan, our banding team returns in the dark and approaches the territory with a spotlight and a binocular equipped observer. Once the adult(s) and chick are spotted and held in sight with the spotlight, they are carefully and very slowly approached while calling the birds in with a chick call. While following the light and call, the adults generally swim right up to the boat. Once alongside, they are picked up with a large net and secured by other crew whose responsibilities are to secure that head and deadly beak with a towel and tucking under the arm pit of the volunteer holding the loon in his/her lap. Remarkably, these loons have a respiration rate similar to ours and can be quite docile in the arms of the crew but can also in an instant, and without warning, kick out those powerful legs and wings in a raucous escape attempt!

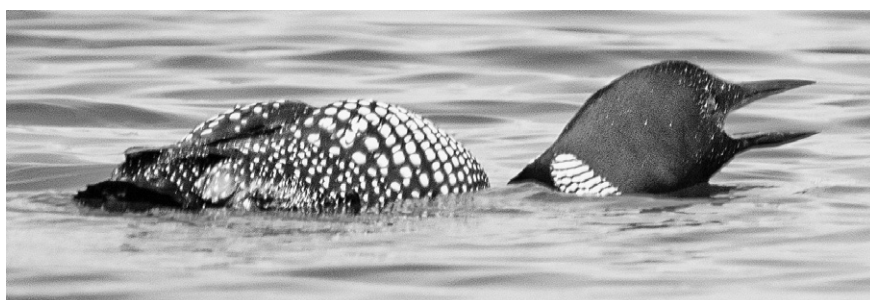


It wouldn't take much of a boat wake to wash out this loon's nest. Let's remember, they were here before us.

It takes about thirty minutes to obtain two vials of blood, three feather samples, and the numerous measurements. During this period the chick(s) is either secured in a blanket lined box or held by a crew member which is a sobering experience enjoyed by all.

And, as if having to cancel and reschedule a night of banding wasn't enough to deal with, Jodie and Barlow, our two Colby College interns, discovered that the two eggs previously observed being expertly incubated by the parents two days ago were now as of this morning - floating in the water!!!! Yes, floating in the water!!!! That's a first for me. Which begs the question, why were they floating and not on the bottom as eggs have been found in the past? That will require further study but for the time being, with the adult pair swimming nearby, the interns were advised to relocate the eggs back on the nest, fall back and observe the parent's behavior. Stay tuned for next week's edition of the Summertime to see how the two eggs fared.

Another obvious concern is how did these eggs end up in the lake from a relatively level natural hummock nest? A large boat wake in this site was unlikely but not impossible. The 200 ft No Wake Zone is there for a myriad of reasons and we are hopeful that more and more folks wake up to that fact of life (no pun intended).



A very upset adult tremoloing most likely due to an intruding loon.

In 2022, we lost 8 eggs that were either abandoned or flooded out, last year we lost 5 eggs and this year we have already lost 8 eggs and were not quite done. Please help us in keeping our loon nesting sites secret, quiet and above all, observe the 200 ft, No Wake Zone.

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 either in this column or via email.





This Other Eden by Paul Harding

by Martha F. Barkley

Pulitzer Prize Winner Paul Harding begins this historic novel by describing the great flood on an island just near-by on the Kennebec River near Gardiner/Richmond. Malaga Island and its notorious history is named Apple Island in this story. Apple trees planted by hardworking residents grow and life goes on among Penobscots and Irish and blacks and whites.

Living is not easy but the survivors of mainland shunning find togetherness on this island not too far from shore. A summer school teacher begins working with kids and he finds many knowledgeable in the Bible and Shakespeare...even some Latin, too, among this mixed group.

When Charles Darwin’s son, Major Leonard Darwin, spouts his eugenics in London, local Massachusetts doctors take note. They visit Apple Island with the school teacher in tow.

“Get that damned ice picker away from his head. Violet gathered Scotty close and cradled his head against her bosom.”

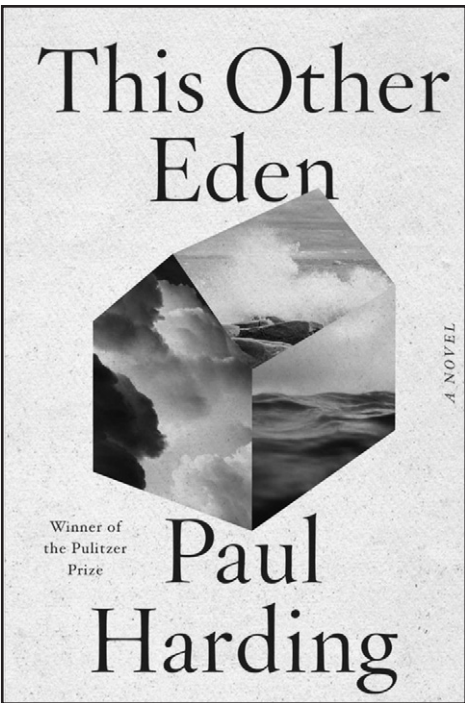
“The doctor stopped and picked the calipers up and wiped them clean...”
The invasive doctors went about their business while Matthew Donald, their caring school teacher, observed in horror.

“The doctor continued measuring Eha, murmuring to the intern, Mulatto; high-grade imbecile, or moron...”

The school teacher wanted the visitors to know that some Apple Island residents could recite Hamlet even though pictures of current people and places were strange to them.

Photos were taken for medical documents and many later misused for cheap post cards with cheap captions for jokes. Sounds like today’s misuse of AI or other media mishandling of actual news?

One student was a gifted still life artist even though chalk was his only



expression. How great that he was provided a stimulating place to move where his artistic talents were developed. All because of a caring summer school teacher.

The good, the bad and the ugly are all revealed in this historic novel. Maybe some of you saw the Malaga Island Exhibition at our Augusta State Museum before Covid? It took place 100 years after the island residents were forcefully removed. Relatives of island dwellers live in the Belgrade area and know this sad development in Maine history.

“None of the islanders or their ancestors had ever paid taxes or had a bank account...They’d just lived on the island for more than a century, neither much helped nor hindered by the people on the main.” Official documents issued to the islanders to leave meant nothing to them. Some stuffed the government eviction notice under a rock where an ancient Sears catalogue was kept.

Supposedly the island was cleared by the government and cemetery moved in order to develop a resort. Too many residents were placed in inappropriate places like homes for imbeciles, etc. A very unfortunate Maine tale based on gov-

ernment encroachment and mishandling of an integrated society that worked in spite of its poverty.

The art work of individuals on the island was part of the Augusta Exhibition. I wish a few of these intricate drawings were included in this novel of island history. Perhaps I will now do an internet search. Always something new to learn and then go swimming in the lake.



Lake Associations of the Belgrades:
2024 Annual Meetings

- East Pond Association (EP), towns: Smithfield/Oakland, www.eastpond.org, founded 1946, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/20, 10 am, Brickett Point, East Pond Road, Oakland.
- North Pond Association (NP), towns: Smithfield/Rome/Mercer, www.northpondmaine.org, founded 1985, 2024 Annual Meeting 8/11, 6-8:30 pm, Pine Tree Camp, Rome.
- McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association (MP/SL), towns: Belgrade/Oakland, Box 576, Belgrade, 04917, 465-3983, www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org, founded 1989, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/29, 6 pm, Pleasant Point Park, Oakland.
- Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) for Great Pond and Long Pond, towns: Belgrade/Rome/Mount Vernon, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 04918, 512-5150, www.belgradelakesassociation.org, founded 1909, 2024 Annual Meeting 8/11, 4-6 pm, Belgrade Lakes Golf Course.
- Friends of Messalonskee, towns: Oakland/Belgrade/Sidney, PO Box 532, Oakland, 04963, 618-8723, www.friendsofmessalonskee.com, founded 1990, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/17, 6-8 pm, Lakeside Lodge at Bangs Beach, 28 Marigold Dr, Sidney.



Belgrade Lakes Association
MEMBER EVENT

Join us for food, drinks, and LIVE MUSIC by The Shack!

Saturday, July 27
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
at the 7 Lakes Alliance Building
137 Main St., Belgrade Lakes

If you’re not already a member,
you can join at the event!

RSVP to info@BLAmaine.org



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– Real Estate Update –

"That night it was still, and in the moonlight the loons began as I had heard them before, first the wild, excited calling of a group of birds, dashing across the water, then the answers from other groups until the entire expanse of lake was full of their music. We sat around until long after dark and listened." - Sigurd F. Olson

Here in the Belgrade Lakes Region, the loons hold a special place in our hearts. They grace our lakes with their presence, their melancholic wails a familiar soundtrack to anyone who has experienced the serene beauty of Maine's waters.

Walk into any store, restaurant, or camp and you'll find décor adorned with the iconic loon motif. From company logos to Maine license plates, the loon is a beloved symbol that symbolizes our deep affection for these birds.

This year, we are proud to introduce the First Annual Loon Festival on

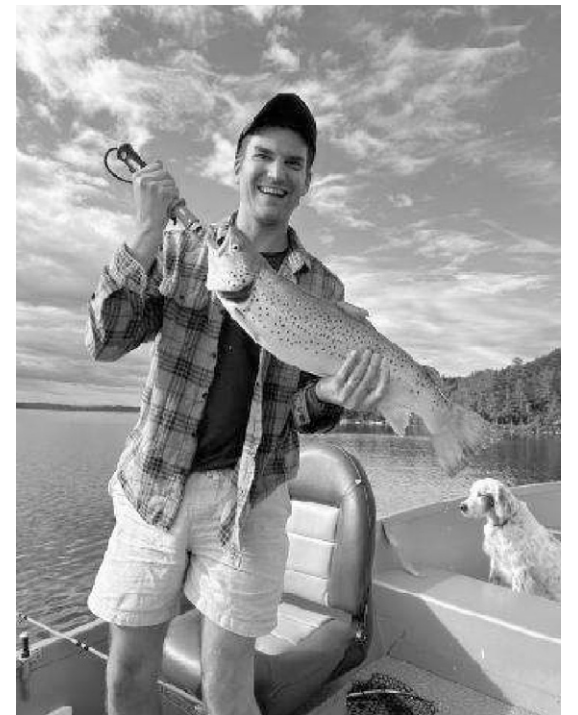
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caught a lot of fish including the nice 8-pound brown trout pictured below.

Take advantage of the rest of the summer and get out on the lakes or hike or bike in the hills. And take a kid along. Or a parent or grandparent. You will be creating memories that will last. 7-Lakes Alliance is hosting many interesting events, including hikes and paddles. More info is available at the 7-LA website. The Tuesday afternoon (3 PM) live animal talks from Chewonki are especially popular with kids. Pick up a map of the local trails from the 7 Lakes Alliance. Individual trail maps for most of the trails can be downloaded from their web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>.



Above: Cutler Family from Fairfield area with pike.



Right: Young Don Kowalsky with nice 8 pound brown trout.



The Dams Keeper Report

As of this writing, it's been another roller coaster of a week with the daily scattered thunderstorms. I guess we shouldn't complain but it would be much preferred if they were only at night! In reality, we actually fared fairly well with the meager 0.9" of precipitation we did get over the past ten days. I know! There's no way we only got 0.9" with what seemed like gully washers every other day but that's what our two rain gauges 'say'! The forecast is for just 0.47" for the next ten days so, if they are right, we are in for some more sunshine and hopefully less humidity.

The good news is that we are still holding our own and our ponds remain in excellent shape despite the afternoon challenges. In addition to the gulley washers, our computerized data loggers at the Village and Wings Mill Dams have both been down for a few days due most likely to the lightning storms. But they are back up and running and the Village dam, as of this writing, is exactly 3" above full pond with both gates completely closed. Long Pond, at the Wings Mill Dam, is 3.18" also above full with both gates also completely shut down. Upper Long Pond, nine miles north of the Wings Mill Dam is right at two inches above full so Long Pond, looks great as well. Snow Pond is 1.44" below the top of their spillway, which is well within the summer range considering our electricity requirements with all of this heat and humidity. Salmon and McGrath remain in great shape at 3" above full pond with the 1 cfs. calibrated valve still opened 15 turns. Good going Cam & Co.

I met a long time resident from lower Long Pond early this week who told me that “you must be getting a lot of complaints about the water levels don’t you?” With a quizzical look, I responded, “not really, our seasoned veterans on the Dams Committee give it their all despite what Mother Nature hands them and still maintain acceptable water levels, 24/7!” Which is the truth! They are the best in the field!

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 the family, your vacation and you have permission to put the umbrellas and rain gear back in the closet!

Dick Greenan

Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee

First Annual LOON Festival

August 3rd, a day dedicated to celebrating these magnificent creatures. The village will come alive with a series of events and activities honoring the loon. The festivities include the Belgrade Fire Department's Bean Hole Supper, an evening of food and community spirit.

Following the supper, head to Lakepoint Real Estate's waterfront for the highlight of the evening – the Loon Calling Contest. It promises to be a lively and entertaining affair, where participants compete to mimic the loon's distinctive calls in a display of skill and humor.

Join us in the heart of Belgrade Lakes Village on August 3rd as we come together to celebrate the Common Loon. It's a day not to be missed, filled with fun, food, and a deep appreciation for these enchanting birds."



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