

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 6

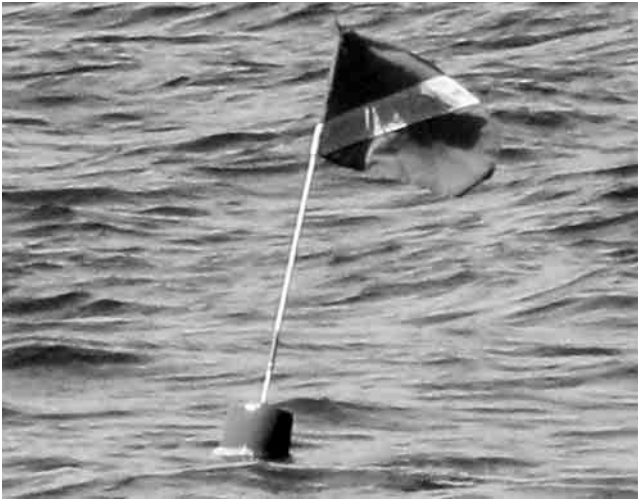
Flag Up! Diver Down!

by Esther J. Perne



Steer clear! That red flag with the white stripe fluttering over the water has a message for boaters and it means stay away - at least 100 yards away. A diver is usually down there somewhere beneath the surface and if there is a dive boat nearby it might not be able to maneuver out of the way of another boat approaching.

In coastal areas the flag can also be the international blue-and-white alpha flag which has the same meaning; diver down, keep away, speed slow and although it applies to federal waters,



being familiar with it is a bonus for safe boating.

The diver down flag is especially important for all boaters to recognize in Maine. With the State's thousands of lakes and ponds, streams, mighty rivers and reportedly the 3rd-longest state coastal shoreline in the country, there's frequent demand for state-of-the-art search and rescue and criminal investigations; increasing demand for underwater conservation initiatives such as checking for invasive plants, harvesting the plants and covering patches of them with benthic barriers; and a growing popularity for diving as an enjoyable

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Continued from page 1
recreational pursuit.

Fortunately to match all that water, Maine has several highly-trained law enforcement dive teams: the Maine State Police, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the county sheriff's departments (Kennebec county has an elite response team) and individual members of some local fire departments. When any of them are on a scene safety precautions are significantly in place and there's no mistaking the stay-away warnings.

But recreationally? Sharing the lakes and waterways is a way of life and while divers may practice safety precautions boaters are not always aware of the signals.

Maine's dive flag laws are few and older and they focus on marine species harvesting while the state boater safety handbook provides only a brief reference to United States Coast Guard requirements on federal waters.


Earlier this summer a potential near-fatal boat/diver crash on North Pond made headlines. The diver was following flag protocol. The boaters had, according to reports, been unaware of the diver flag significance and thought it was a buoy that had broken loose and should be retrieved.

With nobody seriously injured, the takeaway which lingers from the incident is the need for publicity, for education and for reaching as many lake users as possible with the significance of the diver down flag through local media, through

lake associations, through word-of-mouth and perhaps through local or state ordinances, i.e. bring the attention inland.

Education about flags is where much of current lake boating safety began. There are those who remember when, before the current plastic state-maintained buoys, lake hazards were marked by flags installed and maintained by the local fishing guides and although the flags adhered to a system of differing colors as navigation guides, the message was always the same: see a flag, stay away.

The summer of 2020 saw a spike in boating accidents in Maine, including those related to scuba diving, and although causes range from the pandemic to climate change to the overcrowding of resources the reality remains that healthy, wholesome outdoor activities are on the rise and scuba diving is one of them.


Sharing the State's lakes and waterways is a way of life. Sharing them safely is a priority starting with the stay-away message from the red flag with the white stripe - the diver down flag. 

Assessing Your Shoreline After Recent Storm



Storm damage on the shoreline behind 7 Lakes Alliance building.

Many properties experienced significant storm damage in the recent microburst, including shoreline disturbances. Numerous property owners have reached out to 7 Lakes Alliance for advice on best practices for addressing shoreline disturbances and erosion.

This is a good time to take a look at your property and shoreline in an effort to improve the last line of defense to "keep the dirt" out of the lake. 7 Lakes Alliance can help you identify solutions for recent storm disturbance and help protect against the impact of future weather events. For example, planting a shoreline buffer is an effective, low maintenance solution to help reduce soil erosion. Runoff into the lakes carries phosphorus, which is the main fuel for algae. Call 7 Lakes Alliance at 207-495-6039 to schedule an erosion control evaluation, including LakeSmart. 

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Giant Trolls Invade Boothbay

by Gregor Smith



Soren



Roskva

Are you looking for a nice day trip? Why not take a drive down scenic Maine roads to see “Guardians of the Seeds,” an exhibit of five giant trolls that were installed at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay this past spring

Made out of recycled wood, the trolls are the creations of Danish artist Thomas Dambo, who has created dozens of giant, wooden trolls all over the world, including in Florida, Colorado, South Korea, China, Denmark, Puerto Rico, and Belgium.

Dambo and his associates built the heads, hands, and feet in his studio in Denmark and had them shipped to Maine. On site, he, his ten-person crew, and over 150 local volunteers spent two months assembling the trolls and adding finishing touches using local materials. For example, for one of the trolls, he used the roots of fallen trees at the Gardens to make a beard, and for two others, he made fur from the bark of oak trees that had been milled into lumber in Maine sawmills.

The first troll you’ll see, Roskva, is 25 - 30’ tall. He is the only one of the five who stands, but the others are similarly sized, in various postures of repose. Each troll has clue to guide visitors to a cache of “secret seeds” hidden in a grove deep in the Gardens’ woods.

If you’re an able-bodied adult and you don’t take too many wrong turns on the labyrinth of trails, you can see all the trolls in one hour. Allow a second hour to find the “secret seeds” and return to the visitors center. (The time estimates on the Gardens’ website are quite a bit longer.)

But why rush? There are many treasures, natural and man-made, to behold along the Gardens’ sylvan paths. You can enjoy the experience more, if you follow Pete Kallin’s advice and take a kid along, which will force you to slow down anyway.

If you’re not up to all that walking, you can see Roskva without leaving the central gardens, and the second troll, Lilja, is not far away. Plus, there’s lots to see in the central gardens themselves. They include a butterfly and moth house, a curved wooden arbor covered with climbing ornamental plants, a dahlia garden with more than eighty varieties in almost every color but blue, a “Garden of the Five Senses,” and the Alford Children’s Garden, which has plantings, small buildings, and play areas inspired by popular Maine children’s books. The central gardens have wide, smooth paths on gentle terrain and have plenty of places to sit. One could easily spend an

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Summertime in the Belgrades

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— Calendar —

Somewhere to go, something to do....

Check out the outings listed below....

Wednesday 7/15 through Sunday 7/18 and 7/21-24 - "Bullshot Grummond," 474-7176, Lakewood Summer Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Friday 7/16 and every Friday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot near Better Living Center, Front Street, Farmington.

Friday 7/16 and every Friday in July and August - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, 7/16 Calypso Soldiers, 6-7:30 pm, on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 7/17 - Annual Loon Count, 7-7:30 am, call 495-6039 for loon counter contact information.

Saturday 7/17 - Old Hallowell Day, parade, music, tournaments, foods, kids activities, fireworks, historic downtown Hallowell.

Saturday 7/17 and Sunday 7/18 - The Maine Event Sunray and Saddle Summer Show, covered arena, concessions, free to public, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 7/17 and every Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers'

Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Gristmill, corner of Court and High Streets, Skowhegan.

Saturday 7/17 - The Union Coffeehouse, featuring Simons and Goodwin, plus Open Mic Hour, 7 pm, \$5 donation, bring your own chairs and refreshments, rain location Union Church, Village Green Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Through Sunday 7/18 - The Kneeling Art Photography Project & LumenARRT! Exhibition & Photobook, 1-5 pm, Photos of Mainers from all backgrounds taking a knee in support of anti-racist action in their communities, photographs made as guests take a knee, Castonguay Square, Waterville.

Sunday 7/18 and every Sunday - Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/18 - Free Concert, The Old and the New Band, 9 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/19 - Nature Art Activities, art rubbings and images of local plants and animals, 1-2:30 pm, 238-4250, L.C. Bates Museum, Route 201, Hinckley

Monday 7/19 - 7 Lakes Alliance Live Animals with Chewonki - Scales and Tails, 11 am, , 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/20 and every Tuesday - Early morning paddle

on Great Pond, 7 am, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards available, no fee, The Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/20 - Tinkergarten - Outdoor Playtime, 495-3508, 10 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

Wednesday 7/21 and every Wednesday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 3-6 pm, Somerset Gristmill parking lot, downtown Skowhegan.

Wednesday 7/21 and every Wednesday - Weekly Cruise-In, 377-5550, 5-8 pm, live music, 50/50 raffle, food and ice cream specials, Fast Eddie's, Route 202, Winthrop.

Wednesday 7/21 and every Wednesday - Weekly Cruise-In, 645-2145, 5:30-7:30 pm, Dutch Treat, Route 2, Wilton.

Wednesday 7/21 and every Wednesday in July - Music at the Gazebo, concerts by area youth, 7 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Thursday 7/22 through Wednesday 7/28 - Pittston Fair!!

Thursday 7/22 and every Thursday - Outdoor Storytime 495-3508, 11 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

Thursday 7/22 and every Thursday - Gardiner Classic Car Cruise-In, 592-7019, 3-7 pm, music, demonstrations, giveaways, 50/50, , local foods, www.gardinermain-street.org, Waterfront Park.

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...Continued from page 3

afternoon exploring just that part of the property.

During the summer, the gardens are open daily, 9:00 - 5:00. Admission times are staggered and you will need to reserve tickets in advance. Admission is \$22 for most adults, \$18 for veterans and those aged 65 and older, and free for active-duty service-members and anyone eligible for SNAP/EBT, WIC, Medicaid, or MaineCare.

The cost is \$10 for children 3 - 17 and free for infants. Thanks to L.L.Bean, a major sponsor of the trolls exhibit, all children can enter for free on Wednesdays this July and August. On those days, reservations for children are not required, just for the adults who accompany them. There is also a family rate of \$55 for two adults and two children.

In light traffic, the journey from Belgrade to Boothbay takes an hour and a quarter. Since coastal traffic tie-ups can occur in summer, allow an extra 15 minutes or so. To reserve tickets or get additional information about the Central Maine Botanical Gardens and all their exhibits, go to www.maine-gardens.org or call 207-633-8000.



...Continued from page 10

pails quickly filled and the crowd looked on with envy, Pudge and Russ would pull up stakes and head on home, as the rest rebaited their hooks with worms.

As I looked closely, some of the things I noticed in the picture that brought back memories are as follows: Looking closely through the bridge railing to the lower right, we see a Belgrade built wooden fishing boat sitting peacefully at the dock. The boat was built in the shop not 20 feet away by Ernest Soler, Ralph Stewart or Cliff Johnson, all boat builders during the first half the 20th century. Above the boat you are looking at the windowed sidewall of the old boat shop. Just to the back of the old shop sits a wooden boat on a trailer likely awaiting repair. In the middle sits my parent's 1956 Buick Special. The old shop was torn down in 1972/73 and sat precisely where LakePoint Realty sits now.

For you who guessed the kids in the picture, let's see if you were correct. From left to right, leaning on bridge and facing camera is yours truly, second is Ray Barker, third is Darryl Davis and lastly Howard Downing. Looks like it's time to clean some fish and maybe Mom or Dad will cook them for suppah!





— Take It Outside —

Fishing, Foraging, and Hiking!

by Pete Kallin

Hard to believe this is already the 6th column of the summer. We have finally gotten some cooler weather and a bit of much-needed rain that has both cooled the lakes off a bit and stimulated the growth of wild berries and mushrooms in the woods. Fourth of July saw light rain much of the day but the weather broke just in time for the fireworks. My younger son, Rob, drove up from NH for the long weekend, stopping along the way to buy a new fishing pole after one of his dogs ate his old one. After purchasing his three-day nonresident fishing license, we headed out for some fishing in the rain. Rob wanted to catch a pike with his new pole, so we headed for a few areas that had some nice weed beds where they like to hang out. After tying on a wire leader and a big jointed Rapala lure, we began trolling over the weed beds. Suddenly he had a strike and reeled in a yellow perch that was about the same size as his lure. He laughed and said, "I thought you were going to find me a pike, Dad!" I said, "Don't worry, that's a good sign. Yellow perch are pretty much pike's favorite food. We'll go back over that spot again." On the second pass over the weed bed, his rod bent over and line started streaming out. He said, "Back up, I think I'm stuck on the bottom." As I turned the boat back towards weeds, he realized that the drag on his new reel was set way too low. As he increased the drag, he realized that the "bottom" was moving, and he actually had a fish on. Eventually he landed a pike about 27" long.

I am on the Stewardship Committee of the 7-Lakes Alliance and spent a couple of days last

week hiking some of the local trails to make sure they survived the big storm and were safe to hike. While at French Mountain, I met Raj and his family who were visiting the area from Marietta, Ohio. They had so much fun hiking French that they were headed over to hike Mount Phillip as well. Also at French Mountain, I ran into the extended Greenan Family who are up from South Carolina visiting Grandpa Dick and Grandma Sue, along with Jesse Stevens, a friend of Dick's 15-yr old grandson, Ben. Everyone was having a great time and anticipating a fishing trip on the Kennebec River the next day. Grandpa Dick reported the guys caught over 100 smallmouth bass in a couple of hours as well as a nice catfish. White catfish have become established in the Kennebec and are becoming more prevalent. Catfish are normally very tasty but there are fish consumption advisories against eating fish from that area of the Kennebec so I don't recommend eating them if caught in the Kennebec.

Last week I picked both red and black raspberries, as well as yellow chanterelle mushrooms on some of the 7-Lakes Alliance properties I was visiting. In addition to a lot of gourmet cooking for free, I have been getting some of the berries into the freezer and drying some of the mushrooms for future use.

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. You will be creating memories that will last. Check out the events at the 7-LA web site (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and the sign in front of the MLRC. I am leading a



Rob with 4th of July Yellow perch and a Northern pike caught in the same spot.



Greenans from Chapin, SC.

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Call of the Loon



Last night we had a very successful evening of banding six adult loons in Great Pond by the talented and experienced folks at Biodiversity Institute in Gorham, Maine in addition to our Loon Expert and Consultant, Lee Attix. Last year, we banded seven birds, five in Long Pond and two on Great Pond over a period of two nights, so six birds in one evening was indeed, a very productive evening.

Loons are captured for determination of age, sex, and overall health by assessing weight, leg and beak lengths, blood and feather analyses for heavy metals contaminants and banding for easier recognition on future surveys and to track successful nesting pairs. By first surveying the territories early that morning of the banding, the researchers search for an adult pair with at least one chick. They then return in the dark and approach the territory with a spotlight and a binocular equipped observer. Once the adult(s) and chick are spotted and held in contact 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 scooped 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 the loon has a respiration rate similar to ours and can be quite docile in the arms of the crew but can also in an instant, without warning, kick out those powerful legs in a raucous escape attempt!

It takes about thirty minutes to obtain two vials of blood, three feather samples, and those numerous measurements. During this period the chick(s) is either secured in a blanket lined box or held by a crewmember which is a sobering experience enjoyed by all. Last year, we were able to measure Great Pond's Ram Island chick that was just old and large enough to have his/her own bands!

These evening captures (and release!), measurements and bandings allow the Belgrade Lakes Association and others to not only better assess the health of our loon population and breeding

Table 5. Captured and Banded Loons, 2020.

Territory	Band #	Year	Sex	Age	Left Leg Top	Left Leg Bottom	Right Leg Top	Right Leg Bottom
L Pond, Beaver Cove	0689-09476	2020	M	ATY	Red	Green	Orange	Silver
L Pond, Beaver Cove	0689-09482	2020	F	ATY	Orange	Red	Silver	Orange
L Pond, Ingham Pond	0689-09487	2020	M	ATY	Yellow Stripe	Red	Silver	Orange
L Pond, Ingham Pond	0689-09484	2020	F	ATY	Green	Red Stripe	Orange	Silver
L Pond, Lynch Cove	1238-04764	2020	F	ATY	Green	Orange Stripe	Silver	White Dot
G Pond, Ram Island	1238-04763	2020	M	ATY	Red	Yellow Stripe	White Dot	Silver
G Pond, Ram Island	0968-87783	2020	UNK	HY	Silver		Red Stripe	

2020 Long and Great Pond Banding record



2020 Long Pond Banded Female



2020 Great Pond Banded Chick



A successful Banding experience!

results, but better assess these collective trends so that we do not get flat-footed if and when our loon population becomes further threatened.

If you have a particular question regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your

inquiry to: info@blmaine.org and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email.

Dick Greenan, Chairman,
BLA Loon Preservation Project



...Continued from page 5

hike on the Mountain on the 16th and there is a Chewonki program for kids on the 19th featuring live animals. More info at the 7-LA website. Pick up a map of the local trails from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps can be downloaded from 7-Lakes Alliance web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>

Images below and left: Red and black raspberries and yellow chanterelles near Great Meadow Stream.



Nice Kennebec River White catfish caught by Jesse Stevens of Chapin SC.



Raj and daughter, Rania from Ohio at French Mountain



Still More at MIFF24

by Gregor Smith



Beans

While the screens will soon go dark on the 24th annual Maine International Film Festival, there's still more to see. During the final three days, two fictional features and one quasi-documentary will be premiered; six features that debuted earlier in the week will be shown again; the Maine Student Film and Video Festival will present its awards; and the Kneeling Art Photography Project will finish its run.

This year's sole Canadian feature will have its New England debut at the Waterville Opera House on Friday, July 16, at 7:00. The film is set during the Oka Crisis, a 78-day uprising from July to September 1990, which was triggered by a plan to expand a golf course and build townhouses on land near Montreal that included a Mohawk burial ground. According to MIFF's website, "Twelve-year-old Beans is on the edge: torn between innocent childhood and delinquent adolescence; and between Native and Settler culture... She must grow up fast to become the tough Mohawk warrior she needs to be..." *Beans* will be shown again Saturday at 3:00 in Railroad Square's Cinema 1.

After taking a hiatus in 2020 due to the pandemic, the Maine Student Film & Video Festival will be back for its 43rd year. Since MIFF began, the student festival has been held during MIFF at Railroad Square or the Opera House, usually on MIFF's second Saturday. This year, it will take place Saturday at noon in Railroad Square's Cinema 1. Admission is free.

The student festival features short films, no more than 10 minutes each, made by Mainers from kindergarten through Grade 12. Films are judged according to the age group of their creators (Grades K-6, Grades 7-8, and Grades 9-12) and by category (Narrative, Documentary, and Creative). Winners receive filmmaking gear, scholarships, or a \$500 grand prize. For more information, visit mainestudentfilm.org.

On Saturday at 7:00, the Opera House will give the world premiere of *The Last Election and Other Love Stories*. This new film comes from the makers of *American Thief*, which had its world premiere at MIFF last year. That film culminates on Election Night 2016. This time, the cast and crew goes to Times Square for Election Day 2020 to make, what the MIFF site calls "a documentary, a podcast, and a flash ethnography about the United States on that day." In *The Last Election*, Khadim Diop and Xisko Monroe, the two lead actors from *American Thief*, are citizen journalists creating a podcast called "The Last Election." For 24 hours starting at sunrise on Election Day, they interview people on the street, asking each person the same three questions, including, "Could this be the last election?" Like *Beans*, *The Last Election* will have a second screening the next afternoon at 3:00 in Cinema 1.

The festival's closing weekend will also offer a second (or third!) chance to see six features and two shorts compilations, all of which were described in last week's issue. These screenings take place at Railroad Square in either Cinemas 1 or Cinema 2 (RR1 & RR2). The titles, days, times (all p.m.), and locations are *Kansas City* (Fri., 3:00, RR1), *The Loneliness of the Bones* (Fri., 3:30, RR2), *Missing in Brooks County* (Fri., 7:00, RR1), *The Big Scary S Word* (Fri., 7:30, RR2), *Maine Shorts I* (Sat., 3:30, RR2), *Sapelo* (Sat., 7:00, RR1), *Maine Shorts II* (Sat., 7:30, RR1), and *Bread in the Bones* (Sun., 3:30, RR2). In addition, you can watch *Sapelo*, *Missing in Brooks County*, the two Maine shorts collections, and also Transitions Shorts and From Away Shorts, online through MIFF's website, www.miff.org, until 11:45 p.m. Sunday.

MIFF's Closing Night feature is *Cryptozoo*, which MIFF's site calls an "incredibly animated indie film [that] appears to have taken some acid." The story takes place either on another world or an alternate version of our own, where various imaginary and mythological creatures are real and where their human guardians are beginning to question whether the zoo that they are building is the the best way to keep "cryptids" safe from a military that wants to use them as weapons. Perhaps it is better for these creatures to remain hidden and unknown? The film's sole screening will be at 7:00 on Sunday at the Opera House. For this screening, admission is \$12; for the other MIFF screenings, it's \$10.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, be sure to check out the Kneeling Art Photography Project in Colby's new "Arts Collaborative" at 18 Main Street, across from the new Lockwood Hotel. The exhibit, which is open daily during MIFF from 1:00 to 5:00, shows photos of diverse Mainers working for racial justice. You can also have your picture taken as you literally take a knee in support. Admission is free.

This exhibit in the former Waterville Hardware building will be the first time that the building has been open to the public since renovations were completed this spring. Colby College bought the structure six years ago, one of six downtown properties that it acquired between 2015 and 2018. The arts collaborative has exhibition and performance space on the first floor, studios for visiting artists on the second and third floors, and offices for the Lunder Institute for American Art on the fourth floor. Colby plans to hold a formal grand opening in the fall; the details are yet to be determined.



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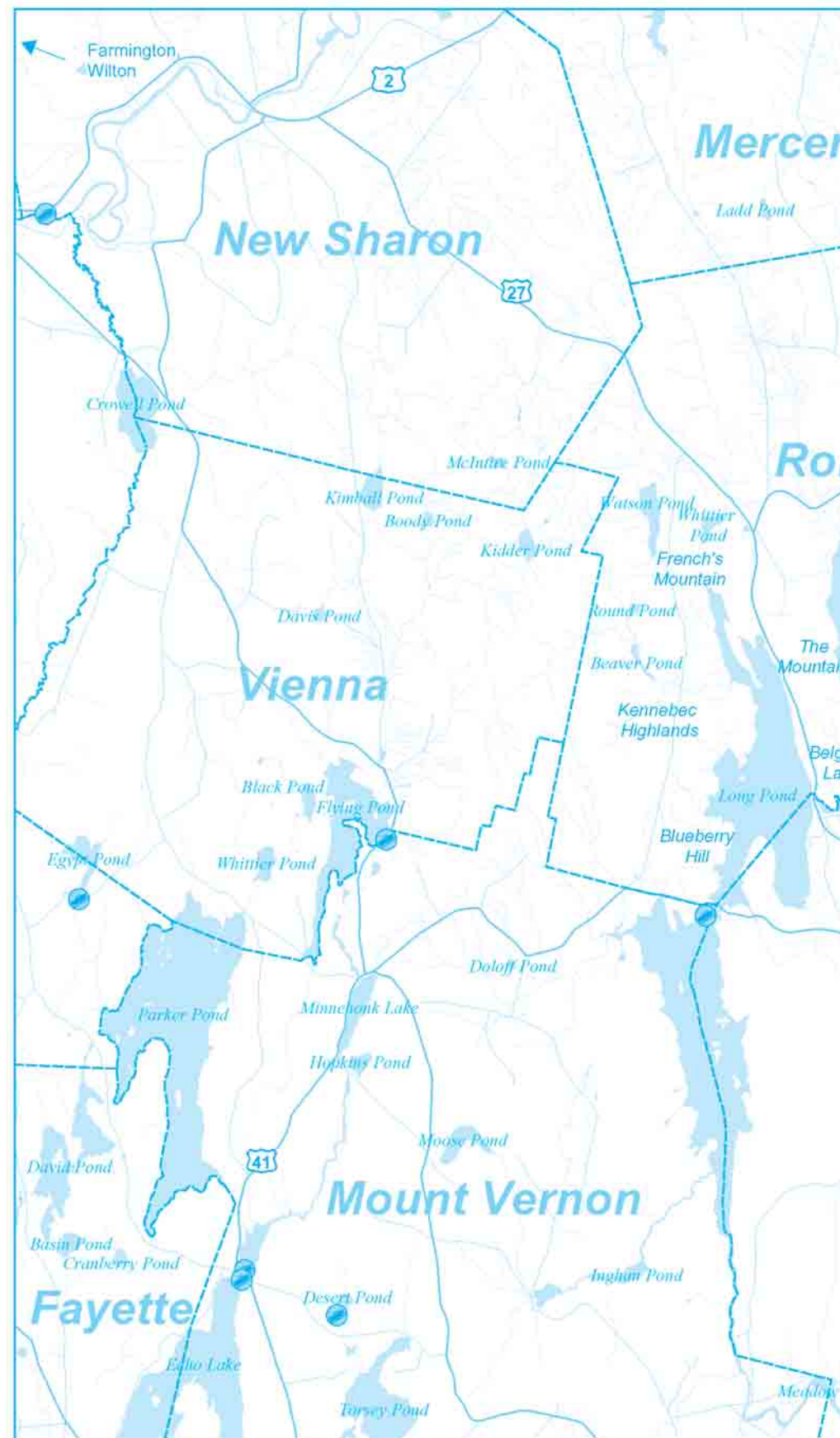


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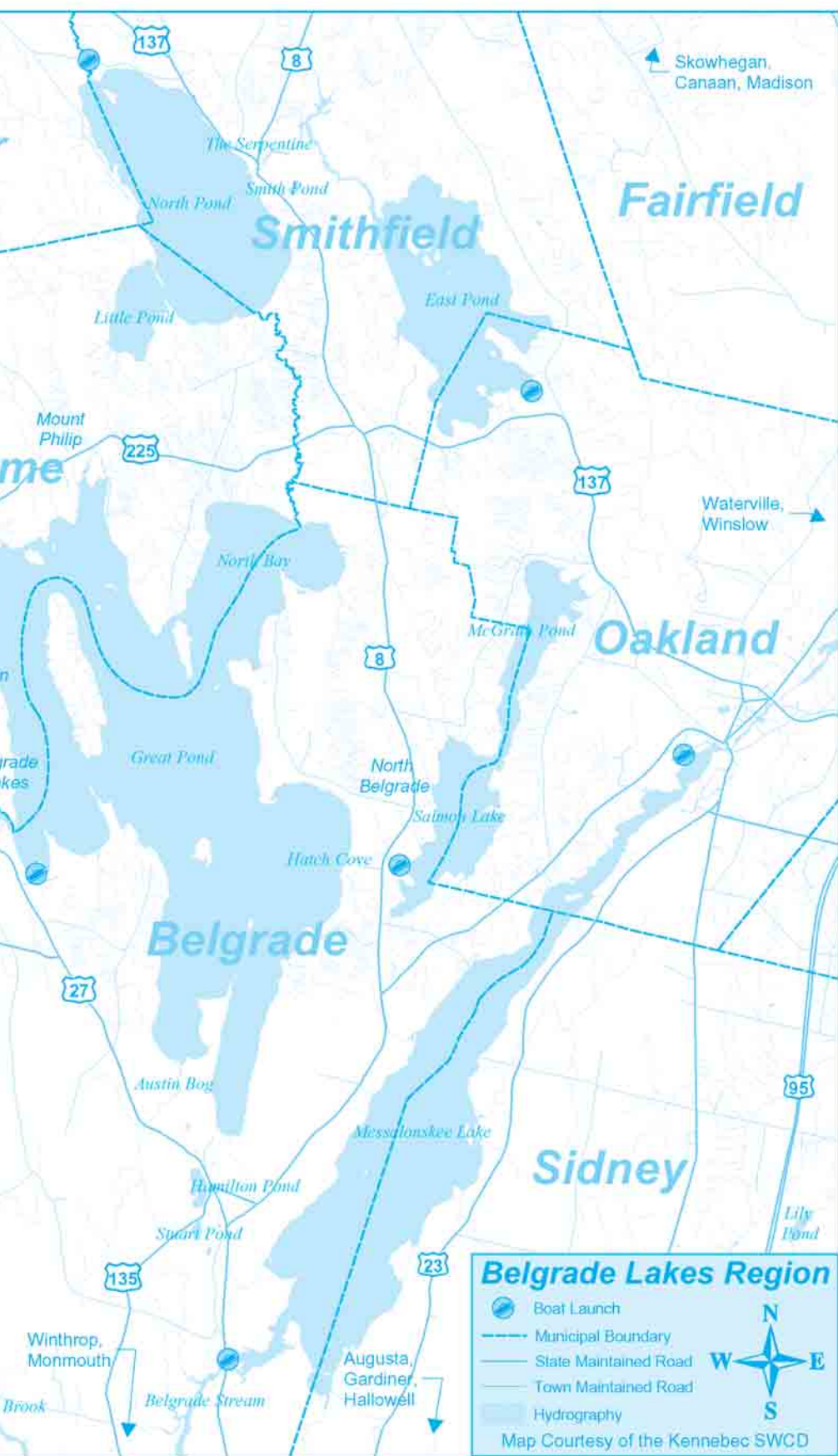
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—The Luckiest Boy—

Fishin' off the Bridge

by Rod Johnson



The attached old picture prompted this recollection. It was perhaps 1957, give or take a year when the shot was taken. Most likely one of our parents with an old Brownie camera did the job. As many of you may have guessed or recognized, the bridge is our one and only in Belgrade Lakes. And—you may also recognize one or more of the kids showing off their catch. I'll identify them at the end of the story after you've had a chance to ponder.

Up through the 50's, 60's and beyond, the white perch populations in the seven-lake chain were bountiful. Every Spring the "perch run" as we called it, both in Long Pond and Great Pond's Mill Stream, created a fishermen's delight. There were so many little perch mixed with their parents and grand parents of the humpback sizes, that people from the village and beyond came daily to catch a bucket full to enjoy at the table. After a long winter some free fresh fish from the lake was very desirable. As I recall, there was no size or quantity limit on the perch, unlike some of their brethren like salmon and trout. As much as

we kids loved to join the catching of fish, we intermingled with the others and carried on our cottage industry of selling worms. The local bait dealer Cass French bought worms from us on a regular basis for a penny each and in later years uncle Al Johnson bought worms, crawfish, frogs and hellgrammites when he couldn't pick enough himself.

On the Long Pond side of the bridge not shown here, the now Peninsula Park was just a spit of eroded dirt and rocks, created as a berm with the spoilage when the dam was built. That area would be crowded around the perimeter with "worm dunkers," a nickname given to the perch seekers as a whole, no demeaning intended. In amongst the crowd, a couple of old codgers who guided most of their lives named Russell Morrill and Pudge Farnham, would mingle long enough to flick their Grey Ghost or Mickey Finn streamers into the frothing water rushing over the dam as Great Pond emptied into Long. The experienced elders' hand tied deer hair flies would soon get rises from the larger humpback perch. As their

Continued on page 4...

...Continued from page 4

Thursday 7/22 and every Thursday - Art in the Park, new theme every week, 3-5 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Thursday 7/22 and every Thursday - Waterville Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, Front Street, Waterville.

Thursday 7/22 and every Thursday - Music on the Village Green hosted by Chris Poulson, 7/22 Ryan Michaud performing, 6:30-8 pm, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/22 and every Thursday through 8/26 - Oakland Waterfront Park free concerts, 6-8 pm, Waterfront Park, Old Belgrade Road, Oakland.

Thursday 7/22 - 7 Lakes Alliance Night Hike, 7:30, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 495-6039, French Mountain,

Watson Pond Road, Rome.

Thursday 7/22 through Thursday 8/19 - Age of Bees, 933-9999, The Theater At Monmouth.

Friday 7/23 - The Maine Film Center and Railroad Square Cinema resume regular year-round programming with Summer of Soul and Roadrunner: A Film About Anthony Bourdain. mainefilmcenter.org

Friday 7/23 - Waterville Rocks Free Concert, Spencer Albee, 5:30 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Saturday 7/24 - Old Time Toys, roll a hoop, play Graces, make a top game, try toys from 100 years ago, 10 am, 238-4250, L.C. Bates Museum, Route 201, Hinckley.

Sunday 7/25 - Open Farm Days, farms throughout the state open to visitors, 287-7620, www.openfarmdays.org





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Notebook

Oakland Library Book & Bake Sale July 20-23

• The Oakland Public Library, 18 Church Street, is holding a Book & Bake Sale Tuesday, July 20 through Friday, July 23. The event offers old and newer books, children's books and breads, cookies and other baked goods. Library hours are Tuesday 10 am-7 pm, Wednesday-Friday 10 am-6 pm. 465-7533

L.C. Bates Museum Offers July Outdoor Programs

• The "largest natural history museum north of Boston" will be reopening soon; currently the trails and outdoor spaces are available for all to discover and enjoy, Kid's Science Kits may be picked up by calling ahead and an Earth and Space Program Series has been scheduled through the end of July:

July 19 - Nature Art Activities, 1-2:30 pm
July 24 - Old Time Toys, 10 am
July 26 - Nature Journaling, 1-2:30 pm
July 29 - Pond Study, 10 am

For more information call 238-4250

Waterville Rocks With Free Friday Concerts

• A free, family friendly outdoor concert series at

Head of Falls in downtown Waterville is offering the following schedule:

7/23 - Spencer Albee
7/30 - TheWolff Sisters
8/6 - Casey Abrams
8/13 - The Big Takeover

Activities start at 5:30 pm, music at 6 pm

Coffeehouse Comeback in Belgrade Lakes

• The first Union Coffeehouse since the COVID pandemic started is planned for Saturday, July 17 at 7 pm on the Belgrade Lakes Village Green. The headline entertainment is Simons and Goodwin with all forms of Americana music including soft rock, country, blues, pop standards and traditional and contemporary folk. A one hour Open Mic will follow. Bring your own chairs or blankets and refreshments, too. Rain venue is the Union Church. A \$5 donation is requested.

Railroad Square Cinema Resumes Year-Round

• Starting Friday, July 23, Waterville's Railroad Square Cinema will resume regular year-round programming with Summer Of Soul (or When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised) and Roadrunner: A Film About Anthony Bourdain. For tickets and show times contact mainefilmcenter.org



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872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
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The Dams Keeper Report

What a week of BAD weather we've had! A cold and rainy 4th was not what the Chamber of Commerce was talking about a month ago! And who was the fool suggesting rain dances because we were in a drought? (Oh, Oh, that was me!) And you would think that with all of this precipitation our ponds would be over flowing, which they are surprisingly NOT! During the past ten days, the rain gauge at the Wings Mill Dam recorded just 1.34" of rain which did not represent the deluge the Village received in that microburst event, showing just how localized that storm was.

As I write this weekly's column, the 'experts' are now forecasting 1.63" of precipitation for the next ten days which if it happens should bring all of our ponds up to two to three inches ABOVE full pond which will seem like a flood but should not float anyone's dock nor interfere with our nesting birds.

Even with all of this rain, our water levels are not going up as drastically as we would have expected which demonstrates just how low our water table is. Salmon/McGrath reported that

they are now just 1" below full pond with their one gate opened just enough for the mandated 1cfs. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are now down 6.36" below full pond with their gates intermittently opened for electricity generation. Long Pond is presently just 1/2" below full with Great Pond actually 1/2" above at full pond. But again, that's all going to change with the incoming rains.

Enjoy the family, your vacation and keep those umbrellas and sweaters handy!

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams
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Maine Quilts 250 Years of Comfort and Community by Laureen A. LaBar

by Martha F. Barkley

Essays within this lovely, colorful collection of quilts are by Lynne Z. Bassett and Pamela Weeks.

Quite a find for me to purchase this book on Main Street in Waterville because both Harriet Beecher Stowe and Martha Ballard are referenced in the index. Who knew that sunbonnets were sometimes quilted? I did not, but Stowe mentions these quilted hats in her work of many books beyond Uncle Tom's Cabin.

"Martha Ballard of Hallowell noted quilting several times in her diary, generally in the fall, after the garden work was largely done for the year. In the year or two before their weddings, her daughters made several quilts, sometimes inviting friends to help...Martha Ballard called some 'bed quilts,' but others just 'quilts'."

This large volume full of fabulous color and black and white photos, coffee table size, 242 pages, was published by Down East Books because the 2020 pandemic cancelled a very special quilt show. "The Maine State Museum has, at this writing, over 180 Maine quilts, a collection that is still growing...History curator Lauren LaBar has long studied Maine quilts. She conceived and organized this exhibition, the first major exhibit of Maine quilts ever produced."

Local Mount Vernon quilter Nanna Bradley Whittier is within these shiny pages for her "stenciled spread". Isn't that something! South Salon quilter from "the Paul Family embroidered a wool quilt" pictured in this special collection. Both of these works of art were discovered during recent estate sales in bottom drawers of old furniture. What artists we have among our families.

I attended a wonderful quilt show not too long ago (before pandemic shut downs) at the Augusta Convention Center. It was especially good to consult an expert there about my family's Sunbonnet Sue created by grandma around 90 plus years ago. She managed to make many quilts with help from friends in the front parlor on grandpa's constructed wooden frame.

Uncle Bob drew the quilt designs in pencil. When grandma saw some stitching not up to her standards, she would invite that particular friend to the kitchen to help with refreshments. Stitch perfection for grandma.

I inquired about my Sunbonnet Sue embroidery band on each bonnet. My Mom learned her stitches and practiced a different one on each bonnet. She was only twelve years old and the colorful stitchery is beautiful to this day. The expert in Augusta told me that this was an original idea for Sunbonnet Sue. I came away loving this quilt even more since using it on my childhood bed to placing it carefully at the foot of our double Queen size bed to this day. Sometimes I hang it on our quilt rack to give the fabric and fine stitching a rest.

Grandma and her friends were able to make quilts for everyone in our family, including every grandchild. My favorites went to my nephew, Bow tie design, and my sister, Texas Star. Canton, Ohio quilts in our family are precious like the Maine quilters creations collected in this very special quilt book.

Go to the chapter which may interest you and your family:

- 1 Tradition and Colonial Ties
- 2 A Time of Revolution
- 3 Antebellum Album Quilts
- 4 Community and Union in the Civil War
- 5 Cottons Galore
- 6 That's Just Crazy
- 7 The Twentieth Century: Community and Change
- 8 Maine Quilts Today"

I must admit that I am personally fascinated by the new machine-stitched quilts with photo like images of almost anything. The new technologies offer a new kind of quilt art. "Twenty-first-century quilters in Maine are creating works that quilters before them could not have dreamed of...As they have done for 250 years in Maine, quilts continue to offer comfort and community".

The Angel Oak quilt was such an accurate photo-type reproduction at the Cobblestone presentation in Charleston, S.C. several years ago, that I had to return to the show the next day in Mount Pleasant and take photos. Embroidery threads on the ancient branches provided dark shadows. What a lovely depiction of an old-growth tree. Better yet, on most quilts, look at the back design of swirls and small stitches, all for beauty and comforting warmth.



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AUGUSTA-Spacious Cape Cod style home in the popular Mayfair neighborhood. This home has been updated and well maintained. Plenty of natural light, a newer kitchen & BA, 3 BR & plenty of living space on 3 levels. Enjoy the FR w/cathedral ceiling & French doors to the nice backyard to enjoy. Large front to back LR, DR & full BA on 1st floor. 2 car attached garage w/storage above. Located in a neighborhood where you can walk or ride a bike, yet close to shopping and the Interstate highway for convenience. Newer roof & flooring. **MLS #1499301 \$225,000**



HALLOWELL-Updated in town Hallowell home w/extensive renovations. Elevated roofline and transom windows fill the upstairs w/natural light. Wooden floors. Highly efficient natural gas furnace, updated kitchen w/butcher block counter top. Close to downtown Hallowell, restaurants and shopping, Vaughn Woods, the rail trail. Great deck to enjoy the sunshine. New garage in the back. Well-kept and efficient home. **MLS #1499851 \$219,900**



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7 Lakes Alliance Summer Celebration At Pine Tree Camp Brings Belgrade Lakes Watershed Together



7 Lakes Alliance co-chairman of the board Lynn Mattson and Jodie Mosher-Towle, president of North Pond Association.

7Lakes Alliance would like to thank the supporters who braved Tropical Storm Elsa on Friday evening to be together for their Summer Celebration for the Belgrade Lakes. According to 7 Lakes President and CEO, Laura Rose Day, "This wonderful turnout in the middle of a major deluge is a testament to the commitment and love we all share for our watershed." She noted that the staff at the spacious facility of Pine Tree Camp did an outstanding job keeping everyone safe, dry and well fed.

Dr. Whitney King of Colby College and Dr. Danielle Wain, 7 Lakes Science Director and Co-Head with Dr. King of the 7 Lakes Alliance-Colby College Water Quality Initiative gave a brief update on water quality, including their vision for enhanced monitoring capabilities throughout the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. They noted that a generous donor had recently purchased new state-of-the-art equipment that was measuring phosphorus levels coming into all the Belgrade Lakes from local tributaries. Dr. King noted that "Unlike volunteers, this "robotic" equipment works 24/7 in very inclement weather conditions."

A stunning solo canoe, hand built and generously donated by Russ Sabia of Long Pond, was successfully auctioned off with the help of 7 Lakes Alliance volunteer Matt Day and will be featured in the upcoming (Sept/Oct issue) issue of Wooden Boat magazine. Proceeds from the auction will be used to support the lakes and lands of the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

This event was made possible with the generous support of co-sponsors, Golden Pond Wealth Management and Lakepoint Real Estate.

7 Lakes Alliance works to conserve the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes for all. Their partners include citizen stewards, local businesses, lake associations, local, state and federal governments, and Colby College. To learn more about programs, get involved or donate, please call 207-495-6039 or visit 7lakesalliance.org

– Real Estate Update –

Imaginings

Imagine a front yard stretching down to a lake or off to a view or out to a hedge on a tree-lined street. Imagine a door where it's ok for children to go in and out - and ok to always slam - because it opens on a yard where it's peaceful to play. Image where the heavy duty role of parent involves putting a worm on a hook or holding a small hand to cross a road where most vehicles will politely stop anyway.

Sound simplistic? It is and that's the beauty - besides the real natural beauty - of the region. Backward, simple, old-fashioned, family-friendly and relatively safe are in abundance.

Imagine a trip to a post office where it becomes obvious that the traffic tie-up is less about mail and more about conversation and where receipts are still hand written. Image when the big outing of the day is for ice cream and the line-up is a fashion show in recreational garb from riding boots to bare feet (remember the line-up is outdoors).

Imagine driving down a country road or driveway and braking for turkeys and deer or when an entire major roadway has come to a halt so ducklings and goslings can waddle across. Imagine thinking ownership means me alone until the birds chirp and fireflies flicker across fields at night.

Imagine having to go to another property to pick up something and the owner won't be there but says just walk in, the door's unlocked (this practice is not advisable but old habits are hard to break) and imagine stopping at a roadside stand to buy eggs or corn and the unattended money can is full of cash.

These are the days for making bids, watching the interest rate, following the for-sale signs and having a spread sheet full of financial options. These are the days also for imagining the way life could be...and it is.

Celebrating 25 Years



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