



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 19, Issue 7

[bowdoinham.com](http://bowdoinham.com)

November - December 2021

## 2021 Citizen of the Year Speech

The Citizen of the Year award is to recognize an individual that goes above and beyond for the people of the community of Bowdoinham. Bowdoinham's Citizen of the Year is equally ready to lend a hand or lead the charge. Through many years of service to both the causes and citizens of Bowdoinham, they have never asked for, or sought, recognition.

Bowdoinham's Citizen of the Year for 2021 has volunteered for a variety of community organizations and projects over the last ten years and has helped usher meaningful positive changes into the community. This person has been active in the Merrymeeting Arts Center, Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans, Bowdoinham Public Library and the Community Development Advisory Committee.

As chairperson of the Community Development Committee, they went above and beyond to make the Skatepark a reality, even teaching skateboarding electives at Bowdoinham's Community School; and they personally surveyed the town roads to identify needs for high-speed internet in Bowdoinham, and then followed that up by trekking around gathering support for internet subscribers to the extent that they ended up with a broken foot from it!

Other highlights of their efforts over the years include running workshops for Bowdoinham Businesses and writing the Business Spotlight for The Bowdoinham News. When Bowdoinham couldn't have our

annual Open Farm Day event in 2020 and 2021, they created the Guide to Bowdoinham Farmers' Market, Farms and Farm Stands for us. This person regularly writes articles for the Bowdoinham news and volunteers for fundraising events. Among the Library book sale crew, they are known as a "book-moving and sorting extraordinaire".

In appreciation of your many years of dedication to the people of our community, the Select Board of Bowdoinham thanks and recognizes Wendelyn (Wendy) Rose as our

2021 Citizen of the Year. Congratulations Wendy and thank you for all of your service to Bowdoinham!

## Holiday Giving Tree

The giving season is coming quickly and we have already started preparations here at the Town Office. There will be three businesses hosting our giving tree: Three Robbers Pub, Bowdoinham Country Store and the Bowdoinham Hardware Store.

If you would like to help bring some holiday cheer to our fellow residents all you need to do is choose a gift tag from the giving tree starting November 29th. The gift tags will have all the pertinent information that is needed. Unwrapped presents (along with the gift tag attached) need to be brought to the Town Office by Monday, December 20th.

The purpose of this tree is to help any Bowdoinham Family member who may be in need this time of year. Please know that the name(s) are kept strictly confidential. If you have any questions or know someone who may need help this season, please call Tina at the Town Office at 666-5531.

PLEASE NOTE: This holiday season we would like to help out some of our elderly residents. We will be collecting hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, blankets, puzzles, books, cards, and word searches. If you know anyone in need, please let us know.



## 2022 Dog Licenses

The 2022 dog licenses are now available at the Town Office. Fees are \$6.00 for a neutered/spayed dog and \$11.00 for a "fully equipped" dog. Please license your dog(s) annually on or before January 1st. A \$25 late fee will be charged after the grace period.

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# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Merrymeeting Arts Center

by Lee Parker

**M**errymeeting Arts Center (MAC) continued to meet its mission since Covid's impact was felt in our community in March 2020. MAC continued offering Exhibits and Events and Education in line with emerging guidance from Maine CDC, limiting number of participants in the Pottery Studio (Green Building) to 10 and requiring everyone to wear a mask. Please check our website ([merrymeetingartscenter.org](http://merrymeetingartscenter.org)) and follow us on Facebook for upcoming events, exhibits and classes.

The Heron Fund is made possible by the generosity of the Muir Family and donations from MAC friends and supporters. The Fund allows MAC to compensate artists for the classes they teach while ensuring that everyone can participate. Art for Everyone!

### REALITIES – RETOOL – REIGNITE

Covid-19 has forced individuals and businesses alike to take a look at their practices and determine how best to plan for the future given the uncertainties and challenges. It has afforded the MAC Board a unique opportunity to pause, consider, commit to new priorities and move forward with new energy and purpose.

We are currently considering some great plans to fulfil our three priority areas: Exhibits, Events and Education in the coming year. Look forward to exciting news in the January newsletter!

### Celebrate Bowdoinham

Another fabulous Zucchini Race is in the books! Thanks to all of the participants, spectators and the MAC volunteers who made this possible. No two zucchinis are identical and definitely no two zucchini cars are the same. We are amazed at the ingenuity and creativity of the Zucchini Car Makers. Keep up the good work – we will see you at Celebrate 2022!

### TAKE & MAKE!

The "Merrymeeting Take & Make" project, a partnership between the Merrymeeting Arts Center (MAC) and the Bowdoinham Public Library, is funded by The Anonimo Foundation. Each month, a new "Take & Make" kit is distributed, containing supplies and instructions for a single art project. Forty

kits are available, at no charge, to children in Kindergarten through the 5th grade.

Kits will continue to be distributed through the end of this year. Due to their popularity MAC is considering options for continuing this project next year. Sixty-two kits were passed out at Celebrate Bowdoinham bringing the total distributed to 420 through the end of October.



### OPEN STUDIO

November hours will be 9-11 on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8. December hours are TBD. Come try your hand at hand building using Dry-Air clay and take home your creation when you leave. Please note: we will limit the number of participants to 10 (at a time) and everyone must wear a mask (available at the door).

### Local Myths

MAC was excited to be able to exhibit its 12 sculptures that are part of MAC's Local Myths collection (courtesy of the Muir family). This year we were fortunate, due to the generosity of a Maine collector, to be able to reunite 3 of the 4 sculptures that also belong to this series of Local Myths. These carvings are about two feet in height and composed of a variety of hardwoods. Each sculpture is a hybrid creature, part human and part animal, represents a month of the year, the solstices and the equinox.

After the sculptures were completed Bryce Muir wrote a story for each sculpture, described as a "different act of imagination" set in the same place: Merrymeeting Bay.

Merrymeeting Arts Center encourages art, education and community celebrating the cultural heritage and natural environment of Merrymeeting Bay. Inspired and guided by the eclectic values of the life and spirit of Bryce Muir, the Center joyfully promotes egalitarianism, whimsy, environmental consciousness, and diversity through its artists, programs and projects. The center is located in Bowdoinham, Maine at 9 Main Street adjacent to Mailly Park and the Cathance River boat launch. For more information on the Merrymeeting Arts Center, its history and current doings, please visit [www.merrymeetingartscenter.org](http://www.merrymeetingartscenter.org), email us at [merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com) or leave us a message at 207-370-5002.

## Santa Comes to Town & Tree Lighting

When: Friday, December 3rd, 5:30pm

Where: At Bowdoinham Fire Station

After a short ride around the village, the Fire Department will be bringing Santa to the Fire Station at 6pm to light the Christmas Tree and sing holiday carols.

## Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Tuesday, November 23rd, 8am-6pm (or until pies are gone) Why spend hours in the kitchen when you can get homemade pies for Thanksgiving and support the Fire Department at the same time?!?! Only \$8 per pie.

To donate a pie, please contact Firefighter Ken Chase at 417-0965.

## Wreath Making Workshop

The Bowdoinham Library is sponsoring a wreath-making workshop like we did in the past. This year it will take place on Saturday, November 27 from 10 am to 3 pm. We will be making wreaths in the Book drop-off room in the FHC Building (the room across from the Food Pantry). Come make your own wreath and decorate it to the max. The cost is \$15 per wreath. This price includes the wire, greens, bow and other decorations.

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## Keep and Eye out for Clogged culverts

**A**s we get into the Fall please keep your culverts in mind! Clogged culverts can result in flooding or even a road collapse! Please do not shovel snow or deposit yard trimmings and other debris that would disrupt the flow of water or otherwise obstruct the way.

When culverts are clogged water gets redirected, eroding the surrounding structures, like roads or driveways, eventually causing a collapse.

Ensuring culverts are clear of snow and debris will prevent flooding and enable Public Works to direct resources to the clearing of roadways and other priority maintenance activities during weather related operations. If a drain is still clogged after clearing surface debris or if you have questions or concerns about a culvert near your property, please contact Public Works at (207)666-3503 or [pworks@bowdoinham.com](mailto:pworks@bowdoinham.com)



*A road washout in Ellsworth, ME caused by a clogged culvert left residents stranded for several hours. Photo by Steve Fuller, 2015, The Ellsworth American*

## Reduced Exemption Value on Tax Bill

**A**s you may have noticed the Homestead and Veteran exemptions have been reduced on your tax bill. Instead of receiving the full exemption amount, Bowdoinham can only offer 91% of the exemption amount. The highest the Board of Assessors could declare for the Town's FY2022 certified ratio was 91%. The certified ratio is determined by Maine Revenue Service through analysis of assessed values and sales data. Due to the increase property sales over the last year, we expect the Town's certified ratio to continue to decrease, which means the exemption amount will also decrease.

To address this the Select Board had contracted with RJD Appraisal in 2019 to update the Town's property cards over a four-year period, so that the Town could conduct a re-evaluation in year five to bring

## Advertise in The Bowdoinham News

The Bowdoinham News is published six times per year (January, March, May, July, September and November) by the Bowdoinham Department of Community and Economic Development. It is mailed directly to all households in Bowdoinham and placed on our website. For more information, contact Jenn Curtis, Director of Planning & Development at [planning@bowdoinham.com](mailto:planning@bowdoinham.com).

the Town back to 100%. By State Law, the Town has to be between 70-110%. Given the accelerated price of home sales the Select Board is looking at accelerating the Town's re-evaluation process. To do this the Town would need to budget \$25,000 for two quarters of the property card updates for next year.

Additionally, the Board is considering budgeting for the re-evaluation next year (FY23) so that we can claim a certified ratio of 100%. Otherwise, we could be looking at a certified ratio around 80% for FY22-23 and budgeting for the re-evaluation the following year (FY23-24). See example below.

2022 Real Estate Tax Bill

Current Billing Information	
Land	50,800
Building	130,900
Assessment	181,700
Exemption	22,750
Taxable	158,950
Rate Per \$1000	16.970
<b>Total Due</b>	<b>2,697.38</b>

Exemption Amounts:  
 Homestead Exemption  
 $25,000 (\text{full value}) \times 0.91 (\text{certified ratio}) = 22,750 \times 16.97 (\text{mill rate}) = \$386.07 (\text{Tax Reduction})$   
 Veteran Exemption  
 $6,000 (\text{full value}) \times 0.91 (\text{certified ratio}) = 5,460 \times 16.97 (\text{mill rate}) = \$92.66 (\text{Tax Reduction})$



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# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## News from the Bowdoinham Food Pantry

by Hannah Burroughs, volunteer

Hello, Bowdoinham! The Board was impressed by the number of strong applicants who submitted their formal interest for the Director position. This role requires someone to wear a lot of hats, from volunteer communications to food acquisition to understanding and facilitating all aspects of our operations.

In September, the Board landed with Bowdoinham's own Jennifer Stonebraker, and as of October, she is already putting on all of those hats! In fact, much of what I'm about to write to you comes from her first installment of "Shelf Notes," a newsletter with snazzy graphics (she has a rich background in the arts and art education) that she's creating for BFP volunteers. She introduces herself this way: "I am so pleased to be taking on the role of Director here at the Bowdoinham Food

Pantry--what an incredible place and amazing group of people! I live here in town with my family and our menagerie of animals--goats, ponies, chickens, pup, bunny, and gold fish. Community and service are a huge part of our lives."

Jennifer also uses "Shelf Notes" as a place to share monthly data about visits to the Pantry. She shares that in the month of September, "48 households were served, including 73 adults and 31 children, in 80 visits. 3908 pounds of food were collected, donated, and purchased." What does this tell us? That the Pantry is well stocked, well used, and well supported by our community.



Jennifer brings energy, vision, organization, and warmth to the job. Welcome, Jennifer! In Board news, Treasurer David Zellinger and Chair Sally Cluchey were both reappointed for their second three year terms. The Board will also be looking to add several new members over the course of the next few months.

As always, to contact the Bowdoinham Food Pantry, email [bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com](mailto:bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com), call 751-7779, or find us on Facebook. Donations can be made on our website at [www.bowdoinhamfoodpantry.org](http://www.bowdoinhamfoodpantry.org). This month, the Pantry would especially appreciate: ground coffee, soups (not veggie), mac & cheese, pasta sauce, kitchen garbage bags, sanitary napkins, berry boxes.

## Victorian Christmas and Memory Tree

### Nazarene News

by Marilyn Davis

As we enter into the Holiday Season, we would like to invite you to come into the Church on Sat/Sun Dec. 4 & 5, from noon to 4pm, and any Sunday during December from 12:15pm-1:15pm. While viewing the beautiful Victorian decorations that trim this 1890 church, it is always a chance for a family to share in some of the history of Bowdoinham, so that this story can be passed down to the younger citizens of our Town. The Memory Tree will also be up for anyone wishing to place a name on a candle in remembrance of their loved one. Church of the Nazarene, 7 School St. Wishing you all a blessed Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

## Heating Assistance

Winter is right around the corner and the heating assistance program needs your help. This program is funded entirely from private and business donations as well as fundraising efforts, since it began in 2008. Please consider making a donation, to help your neighbors stay warm this winter. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Town Office at 13 School Street. For more information, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531.

## BCDI Annual Meeting

Please join BCDI for our Annual Meeting on Monday, December 13th at 6pm! All are welcome! The program will include a summary on the activities of the past year, as well as conversations about the directions BCDI will take in the year ahead.

The meeting will be virtual, so BYO drinks and snacks! Here, too, is the Zoom link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88593747208>. Please feel free to let us know if you would like to attend the meeting and we will send the ZOOM link to you directly. Also, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have a question, comment, or idea you would like to share, or if you would like to request any specific information about the organization. Send your thoughts, inquiries, and RSVPs to [bcdi.maine@gmail.com](mailto:bcdi.maine@gmail.com).

We are looking forward to seeing you on December 13th!

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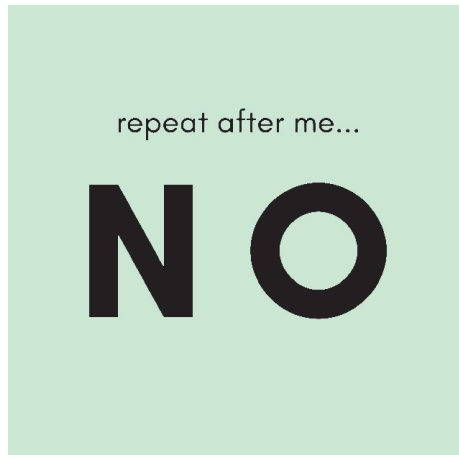
## Morning Joe

By Jo Werther

One of my favorite comedians says, "I just finished writing a book about codependency. It's called, 'Hey, I Was Just Trying To Be Nice!'" Haha. Groan. Whether or not we label it "codependency," the struggle to say no and set boundaries is really no laughing matter.

I myself have never been a big fan of labels. Sometimes labels can be useful. If I receive a diagnosis of strep throat, it tells the doctor what medication is the right one to treat it. But labels can also be unnecessarily limiting. And they can make us feel even worse about ourselves. Unlike strep throat, which is simply medical, a "diagnosis" of codependency is usually tangled up with our thoughts and feelings, our hearts and souls... and with

## Covid and Winter and Boundaries: Oh My!



everything we've ever learned about how we're supposed to treat other people.

There is nothing "wrong" with you if you struggle with saying no and setting boundaries.

The goal is to balance self-care and caring for others; to walk the line where they meet; and to adjust as needed. It's like sitting on a see-saw with another person and trying to find that moment when your feet and their feet are off the ground at the same time. It's challenging. Because things are always changing. It's easier said than done. But it's

definitely doable if you take it one situation and one day at a time.

With the holidays right around the corner and the ongoing pandemic to boot, now is a great time to practice new ways of saying no and setting boundaries. The next time you're about to say yes when you really want to say no, try one of these statements instead:

"I'd rather not do that right now."

"I'm not comfortable making that commitment at the moment."

"I'd love to find another time to do that with/for you."

"No, thank you."

"No," is a complete sentence.

If you tend to get tangled up in a web of trying to be "nice," worrying what others think, over-committing your time, feeling taken advantage of, putting yourself last, and feeling resentful... there's never been a better time to give "no" a try. Self-care is the greatest gift: to yourself and to everyone else too. Keep seeking connection, stay safe, and remember to breathe. Happy Holidays!

### The Sagadahoc County Hazard Mitigation Plan

is being updated. There will be a Hazard Mitigation Plan Overview presented by Grainne R. Shaw, Deputy Director, Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency. December 6, 2021 from 6:00PM – 7:30 PM in the Kendall Rm at the Town Office

Questions? Something you'd like me to address next time? Email me at: [jo@jowerther.com](mailto:jo@jowerther.com)

## Loans for Bowdoinham Businesses

~ Are you a small business owner?

~Do you have limited capital for growth?

~BCDI's loan program can help!



*We're a group of Bowdoinham neighbors who have come together to help fund local businesses. Since 2011 Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative has coordinated and administered over \$100,000 in loans from Bowdoinham residents to small businesses in town. The funds for these loans come from your Bowdoinham neighbors; it's Neighbors Investing in Neighbors!*

*Loan amounts range from \$500 up to \$20,000. To find out more about applying for a loan, or becoming an investor, contact BCDI online or by email.*

[www.bcdimaine.org](http://www.bcdimaine.org)

[bcdi.maine@gmail.com](mailto:bcdi.maine@gmail.com)

## Farmers' Markets

The Bowdoinham Farmers' Market will be offering two special holiday markets again this year: Saturday, November 20th will be the Thanksgiving Market at Maily Waterfront Park and Saturday, December 18th will be the Solstice Market at Town Hall. Both Markets will be from 8:30 to noon. Please visit the Bowdoinham Farmers' Market Facebook page (or Town website) for more information as the events get closer.



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## The Bowdoinham Public Library is here to help you get through the winter months!

Following up on the Nov. 6 book sale we are pleased to announce a series of free classes, (both in-person and online) to help people master their electronic devices - cell phones, tablets and computers. We have partnered with the National Digital Equity Center and have trained some local volunteers to facilitate free classes on all sorts of computer skills. From the basics to the not-so-basic, please go to the website for the National Digital Equity Center and search for the classes offered by Bowdoinham Public Library. Here is just a sampling of what we are offering this month:

### Introduction to Google Drive & Google Docs

November 16, 17, 18 - 1:00-2:00pm  
Or  
December 1, 8, 15 - 6:00-7:00pm

### Cloud-based Backup Solutions

November 16, 5:00-6:00pm

### Using Software & Devices for Better Health

(Online Class) December 1, 1:00-2:00pm

### Online Games- Finding & Playing Good Games for 55+

(Online Class) November 30, 6:00-7:00pm

### iPad/ iPhone Basics

December 7, 8, 9, 10:00-11:00 am

### Android Basics

December 20, 21, 22, 3:00-4:00pm

If you are having difficulty enrolling or registering for these free classes, come to the library and we will be happy to help walk you through it. There are classes for every level so please don't be shy- come in and we will get you started on learning these new skills.

Storytime for pre-schoolers is back! Tuesday mornings at 10 am we will share a story and a game or project. Please join us!

Check the website, and the library's Facebook page for upcoming fundraisers and events!

Wreath Making Workshop on Saturday, November 27, and the Holiday Festival featuring "Treasures from the Library Attic" the first two weekends in December.

Meanwhile, borrowing the books you want just got a little easier. Our library now is a regular stop on the state's van delivery service to facilitate Interlibrary loans. Let us know what books you want and we'll get them for you, faster, cheaper and more efficiently than before.

Live story time on Tuesday mornings for preschoolers, three monthly book groups, museum passes, new books. Hope there is something to bring you through our doors.

## Light Decorating Contest

Join us in decorating for our Holiday Lights Contest! It's a perfect year to go look at holiday lights. We'll be offering prizes for: best decorations, best lights, and Facebook favorite.

To register to join, please email Jenn Curtis at [planning@bowdoinham.com](mailto:planning@bowdoinham.com) by November 24th and have decorations up by December 1st.

Voting will take place for the month

of December; winners will be announced in January. To vote, you can: get a "ballot" online, or pick one up at the Town Office or Library, or you can vote online.

We hope you will join the fun and help us light up Bowdoinham!

Sponsored by Thomas Agency

For more information, visit [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) or contact Jenn Curtis at [planning@bowdoinham.com](mailto:planning@bowdoinham.com).

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## Opportunities to Get Involved in the Comprehensive Planning Process: Participate in the November 16, 2021 community input meeting and/or join the committee

In an article in the spring, I wrote about the whole very involved process to fulfill the state's requirement for all municipalities to update their Comprehensive Plan every 10 years. Bowdoinham's current Comprehensive Plan was accepted at Town Meeting in 2014 and continues to guide many community activities and informs land use planning and other decisions through 2024.

One of the most important steps in the plan is to gain broad community input into the vision for the future of Bowdoinham. Thanks to the people at Celebrate Bowdoinham who took the time to stop at our table, look at the map of Bowdoinham, think about our future, jot down a few thoughts, and spend time talking to committee members Peggy Christian and me, Joanne Joy. Your input is so valuable to the planning process.

Next steps for more community engagement and input include the following:

- The Comprehensive Planning Committee in a time without COVID would have convened people in person during the spring of 2021. After lots of discussion at meetings, the decision was made to wait until fall of 2021 with the hopes of fewer cases of COVID and more safety for in-person meetings.

- Then we started the search for a facilitator to help us with the process. Again, lots of discussion, requests for facilitators to submit their plan for gathering input, their

experience working with Comprehensive Planning processes, etc.

- Guess what – we decided that we really would prefer Craig Freshley of Good Group Decisions from Brunswick, who worked with Bowdoinham to identify and develop the Vision Statement for the 2014 plan. You can read the current vision on page 4 of the Plan found here <https://www.bowdoinham.com/town-document/comprehensive-plan>

We have a date for a  
Community Input Meeting!  
Save the Date: November 16, 2021  
at 6:30-8:30 PM.  
All members of the public are invited!

Also, this is a shameless pitch for more members. This is also a great time to join the Comprehensive Planning Committee. It is important to include the voices 1) of young families, 2) of new community members, 3) of families who have been community members for generations, 4) for people who work or worship in town or in other communities, 5) work at home, 6) volunteer, 7) are retired, 8) from all parts of town, and 9) anyone I may have accidentally omitted. You can sit in on a couple of meetings without making a long term commitment. We would be happy to include many perspectives and voices.

Our meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, 6:30-8:00. We may be meeting in person by the time you read this, a quick check of the [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) website will provide more information. Jennifer Curtis, our new Director of Planning and Development will be supporting/leading this process. We can have up to 17 members, and currently have 10 with at least one application pending.

Learn more, share more, and add your voice to the Comprehensive Plan.

Joanne Joy, Chair

Other Members: David Asmussen, Co-Chair; Allen Acker, Laura Arnold, Peggy Christian, Tom Deforeest, Robert Schott, William Stanton, Jan Marks, Patrick Thompson

## Please come join us at the American Legion Post 132

55 Carding Machine Rd

On Sunday November 28th from 9 to 3  
Come support over 30 local crafters and get your holiday shopping done in one place. From tumblers, to horseshoe crafts, handmade candles, to home decor, we have a little bit of everything for you.

We also will have a 50/50 raffle to be drawn at the end of the day!

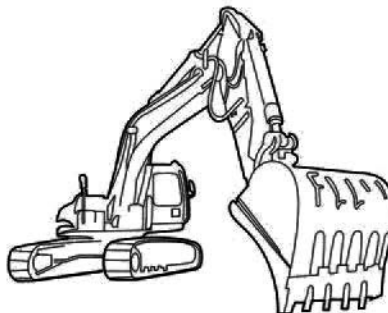
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# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Bowdoinham Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

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In September, we all watched the fascinating process of painting our “Green Bridge” also known as the “Brooklyn Bridge”. I think of what it must have been like the last time it was painted. The inspector said they expect 25 - 30 years out of this paint job

The first Bridge across the Cathance River there at the landing was built in 1805. “It was to be 12 feet high above the water across the channel. It was a toll bridge: the tolls being a foot passenger - 2¢; a horse and rider - 6¢; a two wheel carriage for pleasure - 10¢; a four wheeled carriage with two horses - 25¢; sleigh or sled drawn by one beast - 6¢; sheep or swine, each - 1¢, etc.” This bridge was replaced in 1826, and made a free bridge in 1828.

parts, 144 feet in length. It had been built in Troy, NY in 1866. By 1931 it was the only such bridge in New England.

By the early 1950s, as it was approaching 100 years of age, having lasted 55 years in its Bowdoinham location, and surviving two floods, it was declared unsafe. At that time it was the only cast iron bridge left in the United States. A temporary military pontoon bridge took its place. When the Cast Iron Bridge was taken down, bidders from around the country wanted it as “cast iron was worth its weight in gold.”

The new bridge, Bowdoinham’s present Green or Brooklyn Bridge, a 156 foot steel truss bridge, was finished in 1953. It cost \$145,000. The contractor was Herbert

Callahan of Auburn.

Talking with the inspector at the current painting site, I learned that our Green Bridge would again be green; the gray and white coats having been different primers. They expect the paint to last from 25 to 30 years. David and I remember one previous paint job since we arrived in Bowdoinham in

1973.

Bowdoinham’s Green Bridge has been declared worthy of being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. BHS would love some help in doing the paperwork to make that happen

Adams, Silas, History of the Town of Bowdoinham, Maine 1762-1912 . 1912

Edition reprinted 1985 with added pictures and a separate Index.

## The Cast Iron Bridge: looking from Brooklyn toward Bham Village.



The Bay, the Land, the People: Bowdoinham 1762-2012. 2012

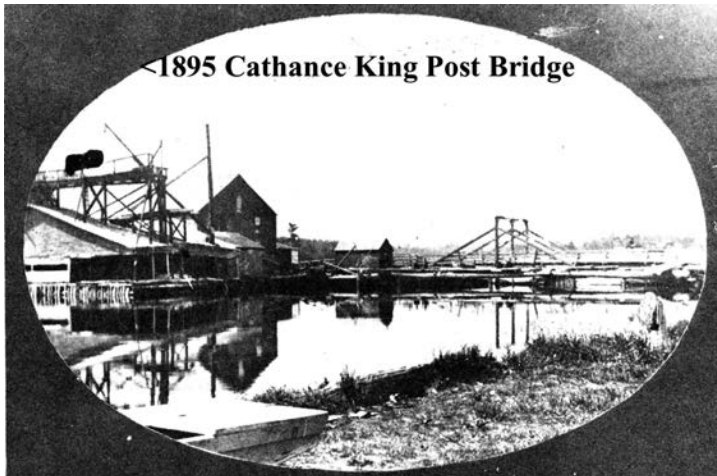
Portland Press Herald “Bowdoinham, Once a Seaport, is 170 Years Old.” October 1, 1931

It’s Still That Time of Year!

Please join or renew your  
MEMBERSHIP in  
BOWDOINHAM  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
If you haven’t already.

Family - \$15.00;  
Individual - \$10.00

These membership moneys help us actually run BHS. Stationary, printer ink, and other products for the BHS Research Center, purchases of Bowdoinham-related artifacts, such as the Daybook with records the building of the Union Church (Town Hall) in 1823. Thanks for Your Support!!



1895 Cathance King Post Bridge

When millwright James Madison Kendall arrived in Bowdoinham in 1865, he put into operation a unique tide mill, under the Cathance Bridge, a wooden king post span, which he built to replace the previous bridge. This mill provided the power for the Kendall Plaster and Grain Mills and Sagadahoc Fertilizer Company for well over 40 years

These bridges over the Cathance were all wooden structures. By 1890 a better bridge was needed, and the town began to look for one. Berlin, Connecticut, aspiring to a more modern bridge, advertised one for sale. John Rideout, master ship builder, was charged with inspecting and negotiating for the bridge. An agreement was made, for \$3885.52 and the bridge taken apart , loaded on a flatbed train car, and shipped to Bowdoinham, where John Rideout was instrumental in helping to erect it. It was a cast iron bridge with some wrought iron

## The Cast Iron Bridge c 1912

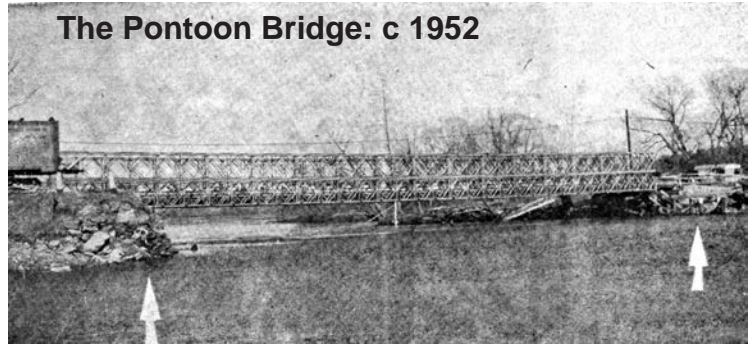




Couldn't resist this photo of the  
Cast Iron Bridge



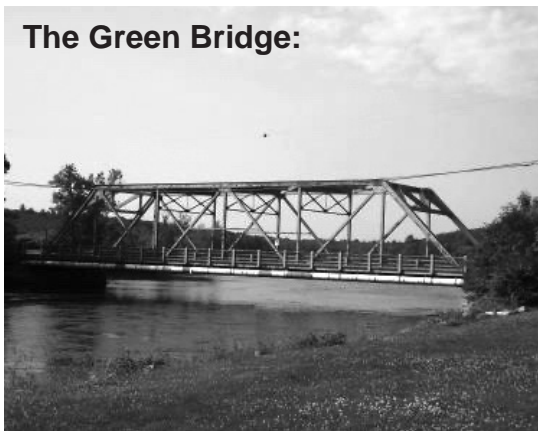
The Pontoon Bridge: c 1952



The Green Bridge: 1968  
Bowdoinham  
Barbecue Parade



The Green Bridge:



## Friends of Merrymeeting Bay 2021 – 2022 Zoom Speaker Series

7:00 PM LOG IN LINK POSTED AT  
[WWW.FOMB.ORG](http://WWW.FOMB.ORG) PRIOR TO EACH PROGRAM.

DECEMBER 08 King Philip's War: Impacts on Merrymeeting Bay  
Bruce Bourque, Archaeologist, Director, Merrymeeting Bay Pioneer Project

JANUARY 12 Don't Be a Nuisance! (FOMB v CMP)  
William Most, Attorney at Law

FEBRUARY 09 Restoring the Lower Androscoggin  
Steve Heinz, Trout Unlimited, Maine Chapter

MARCH 09 Are Dogs Really Our Best Friends & Love Muffins?  
Marc Bekoff, Ecologist, Evolutionary Biologist & Ethologist

APRIL 13 American Shad  
Nate Gray, Fisheries Biologist, Maine Department of Marine Resources

MAY 11 To Bee or Not To Bee  
Piti Theatre Company

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Contact Ed Friedman, 666-3372 or [edfomb@comcast.net](mailto:edfomb@comcast.net) for more information.

[www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org](http://www.friendsofmerrymeetingbay.org)

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# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Notes from Merrymeeting Hall



To help out or inquire about using Merrymeeting Hall, please contact Betsy Steen - [baviewess@comcast.net](mailto:baviewess@comcast.net), 737-9460 Lara Ashouwak, - [lashouwak1@gmail.com](mailto:lashouwak1@gmail.com), 666-8161 Tom DeForeest - 666-3061 [tdeforeest@comcast.net](mailto:tdeforeest@comcast.net)

A Picture is worth 1000 words, so here goes Bowdoinham Historical Society's wonderful new space on Merrymeeting Hall's lower level

Thanks to Tom DeForeest!

Warm in Winter, Cool in Summer, Very Accessible (Back Door), Bright & Cheerful, Great Work Space!

Today, October 1st, the Friday Ladies began bringing down the Historical Society Materials. Thought we have just started, soon the back part of Merrymeeting Hall's main floor will again be cleared of shelves and screens and other BHS stuff! That will make it much more pleasant for gatherings and



activities. Yea!

In fact, by the time you read this in November, The BHS Rideout Research Room and Archive should be fully set up and ready for researchers. We are

always there on Friday morning and by appointment.

[baviewess@comcast.net](mailto:baviewess@comcast.net)

Masks Required.

## Cemetery News

*By Elaine Diaz*

**S**orry to say we've had no major clean-ups the past few months. However, smaller endeavors continue. Sam Tome with family, friends, and neighbors has upgraded the fencing at the Pratt Cemetery on the Wildes Road and installed a flat stone marker for Thomas Reed Pratt (1835-1904) and his wife Judith (1838-1916).

We have not had luck finding any burial plots on the East side of the Abagadasset River yet. However, Susan Tuttle with Ian Jerolmack and his son Hugo were able to walk from Stonecipher Farm on the River Road to the Abby River and cross it and find the McFadden Yard! This could be more easily reached by going down the Old Dump Road from the Carding Machine Road, which ends a little before this cemetery. We are looking into developing a ROW. This plot, though known, has never been surveyed, and being in the Dinsmore Falls area where there was a mill is quite historic. The stones are mostly slate, which remain very clean and readable over time. Following a some of them: Love, wife of Stephen Weston Esq., July 8, 1848, age 58. Martha Preble and Joseph Preble 1850. Elias Robbins August 18, 1894, age 91. Lucinda, wife of Elias Robbins, May 1860, age 59. Charlotte McFadden, December 26, 1879, age 54. Rebecca, daughter of William and

Betsy Dinsmore, May 10, 1848, age 5 years, "Adieu, adieu dear child. I give thee up to God. Susan says the old bridge foundation is visible nearby. Some of the stones are down. A great project for next summer!

We have two new members on the committee. Linda Williams rejoined us at the October meeting and is willing to be the secretary. She has long been involved with the cemeteries via the Bowdoinham Historical Society. Also, Patrick O'Hanlon is joining us in November.

We recently heard from Wendy Scully who visited the Mustard Cemetery last month. She had not seen it for twenty years and wanted to tell us how impressed she is with the improvements in the cemetery's condition. She is a descendant of the Cornish family and would like more information on that family and the Mustard Tavern, where they worked. I'll be sending her anything I can find. If anyone reading this has any information on either, I would love to hear it.

It's now deer hunting season, so we won't be out in the woods. We will be working on documentation, upgrading policies, and contacting volunteers and keepers over the winter months. Happy Holidays, All! See you in the Spring.

## FREE PASSES

available to Bowdoinham Public Library  
Card Holders:

Maine Botanical Gardens  
Maine State Parks  
Peacock Beach  
Children's Museum & Theater of Maine  
Portland Museum of Art

*A Bowdoinham Public Library Card  
is clearly a ticket to adventure and discovery!*

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**Did you know.....**

## TOURTELOTTE EXCAVATION

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Land clearing  
Reclaims fields**

**Call Doug if you are interested in any of these!**

**Doug's cell – 729-2445  
Office – 666-5941**

## Bowdoinham Municipal Directory

### Town Office

13 School St  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008  
Phone: 666-5531  
Fax: 666-5532  
Website: bowdoinham.com  
Hours:

Monday: 8:30am-00pm  
Tuesday: 8:30am-4:00pm  
Wednesday: 9:00am-6:00pm  
Thursday: 8:30am-4:00pm  
Friday: 8:30am-4:00pm

### Recycling

121 Pond Rd  
666-3228

Website: bowdoinham.com/SWR

Recycling Hours:

Tuesday: Noon-6:00pm  
Thursday: 8:00am-4:00pm  
Saturday: 8:00am-4:00pm

Trash Pick Up:

Thursday Mornings  
(or the following Saturday morning  
when Thursday is a Holiday)

### Bowdoinham Public Library

13a School St  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008  
Phone: 666-8405  
Website: bowdoinhamlibrary.org  
Hours:

Tuesday: 10:00am-2:00pm  
Wednesday: 2:00pm-6:00pm  
Friday: 2:00pm-6:00pm  
Saturday: 10:00am-2:00pm

### AnimalControl

522-8816

### Fire & Rescue

666-3505 (non-emergencies)

### Public Works

666-3505

### Sagadahoc Sheriff Dept.

443-8201

### Water District

(Payments Due Quarterly)  
737-4721

# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

## Community Calendar

### November

11<sup>th</sup>

Veteran's Day - *Office Closed*

16<sup>th</sup>

Public Forum for Community Input  
at Community School

20<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving Farmers Market

24<sup>th</sup>

Deadline to enter Holiday Light  
Contest

25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

Thanksgiving - *Office Closed*

27<sup>th</sup>

Alternate Curbside Trash Pick  
Up Day (due to holiday)

### December

3<sup>rd</sup>

Christmas Tree Lighting at Fire Dept.

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>

Guild Show and Sale at Town Hall

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>

Victorian Christmas at Nazarene

18<sup>th</sup>

Solstice Farmers Market at Town Hall

24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve - *Office Closed*

31<sup>st</sup>

New Years Eve - *Office Closed*

## Town Board and Committee Meetings

*All meetings are open to the public.  
For more information please visit:  
[www.bowdoinham.com/calendar](http://www.bowdoinham.com/calendar)*

### Select Board

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of Month at 5:30pm

### Planning Board

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of Month at 7:00pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. in Nov. and Dec. this year

### Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Month at 2:30pm

### Comprehensive Planning Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

### Community Development Advisory Committee

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

### Cemetery Advisory Committee

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month at 4:30pm

### Solid Waste Committee

Every other Wednesday at 5:30pm

**Town of Bowdoinham  
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