



# THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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May 2012

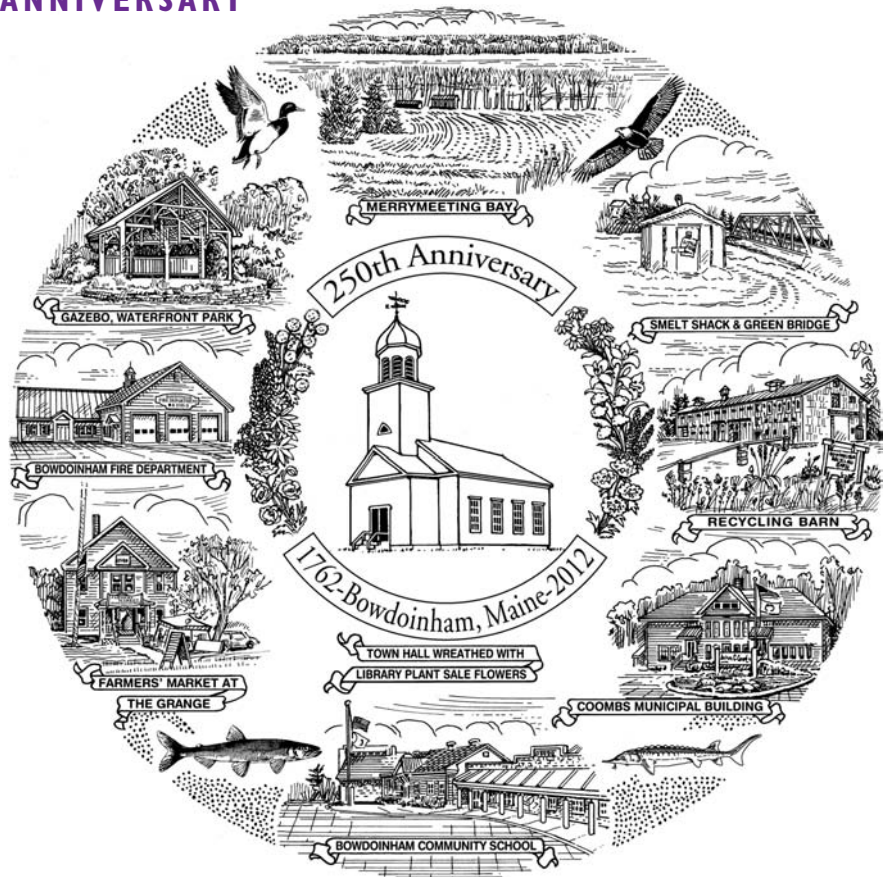
## 250TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

### BOWDOINHAM'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

by Frank Connors

Identified and recognized by the earliest European explorers of the Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay as "fair and beautiful land," Bowdoinham was settled as early as 1710, and permanently occupied after conflicts with its earlier, Indian inhabitants ended in the area in 1724. The first of these new settlers came from France, and from York and Kittery in the District of Maine. As originally incorporated, Bowdoinham included all or sections of the present day towns of Richmond, Topsham and Bowdoin.

Incorporated September 18, 1762, Bowdoinham residents have always benefited from the Town's unique resources. Lumber, shingle, lath and kindling wood mills dotted the town's abundant water frontage by 1800. Shipbuilding commenced here before the American Revolution and was a booming industry by 1850. More than 150 "deep water" ship's masters called this town their home port, and their commerce gave the little village at Cathance Landing a truly cosmopolitan flair. Bowdoinham had harnessed tide-water power for industry nearly 100 years ago; and independent-minded farmers, since the earliest days, have raised blue-ribbon vegetables, apples, hay, sheep and beef on the town's fertile fields. Her sons and daughters have since distinguished themselves as businessmen, scholars, farmers, journalists, inventors, artists, and civic and military leaders. Today, the Town of Bowdoinham invites you to join them in celebrating its 250th Anniversary of this fair, noble and colonial town.



250th Anniversary Commemorative Plate

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## New Payment Options Coming Soon to the Town Office

The Town of Bowdoinham will soon be accepting credit cards and debit cards at the Town Office for payment. In addition, the Town will accept credit cards, debit cards and electronic checks through the Town's website ([www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com)) and by telephone for property taxes and other services. There will be a fee charged to the customer if a credit or debit card is used at the counter, through the website or over the telephone. This fee will be disclosed prior to the transaction being paid and is based on the amount to be paid by the credit or debit card. The fee for using electronic checks through the website or over the telephone will be \$1.00. This service will be provided by Androscoggin Bank. Please keep an eye on the Town's website for more information.

## Ridge Road Construction Planned for Spring

The lower section of Ridge Road, from River Road (Route 24) to Cemetery Street will be reconstructed this spring. The work will include removing the existing pavement and gravel base, replacing the underground drainage system, rebuilding the gravel base and paving the road. This work is expected to be completed by the end of May in preparation for sidewalk construction this summer. Harry C. Crooker & Sons, Inc. of Topsham is the general contractor for this work. Funding for this work is from the bond as approved at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. If you have any questions about this work, please contact the Town Office at 666-5531.

## Business Equipment Tax Assistance

by Rep. Seth Berry

If you run a business in Maine and pay taxes on your equipment or other personal property, I want to be sure you know about the BETR and BETE programs. Together, these programs mean businesses in Maine do not need to pay taxes on most business equipment.

BETR, the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement, is a state program that began on April 1, 1995 to reimburse businesses for the property taxes they pay to towns. This measure was meant to encourage the purchase of new equipment or used equipment not previously operating in Maine.

In 2008, a new, streamlined version of the program was phased in and nicknamed BETE, or the Business Equipment Tax Exemption. Instead of requiring two transactions, BETE directly exempts you for equipment purchased after April 1st, 2008 and the state reimburses the town for those lost revenues.

Qualifying for BETR and/or BETE is simple. On a one-page form, you only need to list any equipment purchased between April 1, 1995 and April 1, 2008 under BETR, and newer purchases under BETE. To learn more, visit [www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax](http://www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax) and click on "Property Tax Relief Programs."

As your representative and as a member of the Legislature's Committee on Taxation, it is important to me that our

tax code creates jobs. To do this, we need a code that helps small businesses as well as large ones, and is fair to the middle class and to working families.

As always, please contact me anytime, and thanks for the honor of serving as your Representative in Augusta.

## Sidewalk Project Update

Sidewalk construction will resume this spring AND Cemetery Road has been added to our project! Pine Tree Engineering has completed the sidewalk design and cost estimate for Cemetery Road...the great news is that the Town will be able to construct this additional sidewalk with our existing sidewalk budget. Off-Road Construction will be back to finish the sections of sidewalk they were not able to get to last fall, including Bay Road, Ridge Road and School Street. In addition, the contractor will be loaming and seeding behind the sidewalks where the construction was completed and correcting any issues with the work that may have come up over the winter.

We will do our best to minimize delays during construction and we thank you for your patience. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Nicole Briand, Town Planner at [nbriand@bowdoinham.com](mailto:nbriand@bowdoinham.com) or Bill Post, Town Manager at [wpost@bowdoinham.com](mailto:wpost@bowdoinham.com) or 666-5531. We will gladly meet with you to discuss any concerns that you may have.



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## News from the Bowdoinham Historical Society

**T**he Historical Society is busy working on several projects for Bowdoinham's 250th Anniversary.

**CHICKEN BBQ:** We are looking for help with creating a display to depict the History of the Chicken BBQ. If you have any pictures, articles or any other type of historical contribution, we would be pleased to include it, (we will return all originals to you). *We also need your help with the Strawberry Shortcake Sale for the Jellerson School.*

**250TH QUILTS:** The 250th Quilt "Bowdoinham 1762-1912" and the Kids' 250th Quilt are being submitted to the Pine Tree Quilt Show in Augusta in July. Then they will return to Bowdoinham to be displayed for current and future generations to enjoy. *You can be part of the 250th Quilt, for \$5, your name can be added to the back of the quilt.*

**CENTURY BOX:** We will be opening the Century Box at Celebrate Bowdoinham to read the messages from years past.

Then we will be adding your messages from today and sealing the box to be opened again in 2062. *We are inviting you to add your messages and articles to the Century Box.* You can bring your messages to our booth during Celebrate Bowdoinham or drop it off anytime at the Town Office.

**JELLERSON SCHOOL:** Work on the Jellerson School moves ahead this Spring. Tuesday mornings, 9 am–12 pm are our work days at Jellerson, feel free to join us. We are still looking for donations of building materials, please see our wish list on our website. *Jellerson School Mugs are still available for purchase at the Town Office for \$8.00 to support the rebuilding of the Jellerson School.*

We are not holding our regularly scheduled meetings due to our participation in these projects events. Want to join in any of these activities? We'd **love** your help!

**Volunteer and Join the Fun!** Visit our website or contact Glenna Morin 666-3462 or Betsy Steen (bayviewess@comcast.net)

### 250TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PLATE

Don't forget to order your 250th Anniversary Commemorative Plate. The new plate is modeled after the 1962 plate and is, in fact, being produced by the very same company, Kettle Springs Pottery of Ohio! The 2012 Plate contains seven beloved scenes of Town. The plates will be accompanied by a short explanation of the images and the artists. The 2012 commemorative plate is being offered either in blue or in maroon on white. The Committee has also ordered copies of the 1962 plate which will be in the original colors, blue or green. Both plates are edged in gold and available for purchase (\$20 per plate) at the Town Office.

## 250th History Book wants YOUR photos!

**T**he 250th Book Committee that is organizing a book of historical photographs for Bowdoinham's 250th Anniversary is looking for your treasures. Do you have old photo albums that include pictures of town events and town people? Would you be willing to share those photos with others? The book will feature 125+ pages of photographs spanning the 250 years of the Town's people, places, businesses and events. We will bring the "history" right up to present day, so that a photo of the hand pumper "Waterwitch" might be alongside a photo of the newest Bowdoinham Fire Engine.

Please bring your photos to the library where they can be scanned and immediately returned to you. We can also provide you with an electronic copy, if you wish. All photos will be included in the growing archive of the Historical Society.

We are especially hoping to find photos of the following:

- Veterans
- Ice houses or ice cutting
- The yurts in the 70s and 80's
- Town restaurants including the Tea House and Lunch Room
- Car dealership and other businesses
- Early Bar-B-Q s
- Houses in Brooklyn

We will NOT be selling advertising space in the book, but will include a memorial page where you can list the names of your loved ones for whom you would like to have a dedication. Memorials will cost \$5 per name. Checks should be made out to the Town of Bowdoinham and dropped off at the Town Office.

So dig into those dusty albums and see what treasures you might have to share. Questions? Call Kate Cutko, Book Committee Chairperson, Bowdoinham Public Library, 666-8405.



*Merrymeeting Farm*



*Bowdoinham's Railroad Station*

## 39th Annual Bowdoinham Public Library Plant Sale *Plant a Heritage Garden!*



Spring is here and so is the time to plan those lovely flower, vegetable and herb gardens. In celebration of Bowdoinham's 250th Anniversary, heritage plants will be highlighted at this year's plant sale. Many heritage perennials are of historical significance for medicinal, ornamental or household purposes. To help with the planning of your heritage garden there will be handouts listing the plants which were grown in colonial communities such as Strawberry Banke and Sturbridge Village. There will



also be posters displaying a Weaver's Garden, a Shakespearian Garden, and a Saint's Garden. You may want to try your hand at one of these.

As always there will be hundreds of locally grown perennials, annuals, vegetable seedlings, trees and shrubs for you to choose from. So, whether you want to try your hand at a heritage garden, enhance your existing garden or get some vegetable seedlings, mark your calendars for **May 19th, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at**

### the Town Hall.

Our plant sale was recognized by the Maine State Legislature as the Longest Running Plant Sale in the State of Maine. Thank you to all the volunteers that have made this tradition possible. Please help us continue this wonderful tradition for years to come by volunteering. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Diana Mosher at 666-8102 or [diana.mosher@gmail.com](mailto:diana.mosher@gmail.com).

## Bowdoinham Farmers' Market

It's that time of year again...time for the opening of the Bowdoinham Farmers' Market. The fifth season will kick off on May 19th with our new Bowdoinham Farmers' Market reusable grocery bags!

Join us in welcoming Fairwinds Farm, Apple Creek Farm, Adams Family Farm and Paula C's Bakery back to the market. Fairwinds Farm will offer hanging baskets, annuals, and vegetable and flower seedlings to start off your spring plantings. As the season progresses Fairwinds will have an extensive selection of vegetables, with strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries. Apple Creek Farm offers pastured lamb, free range eggs, and wool fiber products, and pastured beef later in

the summer. Adams Family Farm, a sixth generation family farm with 2 acres of vegetables, berries and herbs in Bowdoin, will have vegetable and flower seedlings, container herbs and some greens. Paula C's Bakery will have all the breakfast favorites to start your day off right, along with your favorite breads.

New to the Bowdoinham Farmers' Market this year are Crescent Run Farm and Whatley Farm. Crescent Run Farm will start the season with pea shoots, greens and radishes; but stay tuned, their pork, honey and poultry will be here soon. Whatley Farm will be providing us with an array of tender spring greens like red Russian kale, spinach, ready-to-eat salad mix with baby lettuces, mustards, and other tasty greens, as well as baby beets, baby carrots, radishes, salad turnips, chives and scallions.



Come on in, chat with friends, meet your farmers, support your local economy, and eat well!

Hours are Saturdays, from 8:30 am-12:30 pm at the Merrymeeting Grange. If you are interested in joining the Market please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531.

## The Bowdoinham Chicken Barbecue is Back

As part of Bowdoinham's 250th Celebration the 250th Anniversary Committee is bringing back the Chicken Barbecue!!! After 24 years, David Berry has agreed to put on the Bowdoinham BBQ again. In David's best year, 1977, he served 1,500 BBQ chicken dinners; the event was a two day affair and raised \$4,000 for the Bowdoinham Community School. "This year we are planning on selling 700 servings with proceeds, once again, donated to the Bowdoinham Community School" stated Berry.

**The BBQ will take place on Saturday, June 23rd from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Bowdoinham Community School.** The menu will be very similar to those in the past, consisting of BBQ chicken, drink, chips and a salad. The Bowdoinham Historical Society will be selling strawberry shortcake to raise money for the Jellerson School. There will be historical presentations of the history of the barbecue, chicken farming in Bowdoinham and musical entertainment.



**Volunteers are needed** to help us bring historic event back to Bowdoinham! Please contact Tony Cox at [htcox@myfairpoint.net](mailto:htcox@myfairpoint.net) or David Berry at the Recycling Barn.

Please check the website, [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) for updates on this and other 250th events.

See you at the BBQ!!!



## Red, White and Blue Summer Fun Festival—

The 5th annual Red, White and Blue Summer Fun Festival will be held on Saturday, June 23rd at 5 pm at Maily Waterfront Park in Bowdoinham to benefit the Mid Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross. The fun-filled day is a community fundraiser hosted by FHC, Inc. and the Cathance Center of Bowdoin and Bowdoinham.

The evening promises a family-friendly atmosphere with a bouncy house, games, music and concessions, including our ever-so-popular sausage and pepper subs! There will be many community participants including Mid Coast American Red Cross, Shotokan

Karate Academy, Cathance Fitness Center, volunteer firefighters and EMS, Boy Scout Troop 639, and more. No admission will be charged; however, donations of non-perishable food items will be appreciated for the Friends Helping Community Food Pantry located in Bowdoin.

We welcome new groups and organizations to get involved and have a presence in this event. While FHC will be donating all profits to the Mid Coast American Red Cross, other organizations are invited to host a game or activity to raise funds (with prior approval of event coordinators) to support their own non-profit causes.

The Mid Coast Chapter of the Red Cross, based in Topsham, serves a region of 36 communities including Bowdoin and Bowdoinham. Its programs include

health and safety education, disaster preparedness and relief, assistance to military families, and international services. There is a widespread call for help that will allow the volunteers at the Mid Coast American Red Cross to continue their level of support for people in need. The chapter thanks everyone for their participation in the festival, which promises to be a fun time with great weather!

For more information, please call Denise at 666-5651 ext. 2248.

### ELECTION CLERKS NEEDED

We need people to assist with the upcoming election on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at the Bowdoinham Town Hall from 8:00 am–8:00 pm. They are paid positions. Please contact Pam Ross 666-5531 for more information.

## Save the Dates— Upcoming 250th Anniversary Events

**OPEN FARM DAY**— July 22nd.  
Bowdoinham will be hosting several special events at participating Farms this year. Please stay tuned for more detailed information to come. Farms interested in joining the event should contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

**DUCKS UNLIMITED**— August 11th.  
Bowdoinham is pleased to welcome back Ducks Unlimited's Annual Waterfowl Hunters Party to Maily Waterfront Park. In addition, Merrymeeting Art Center will be opening their wonderful exhibit "Celebrate the Bay" to compliment this great annual event.

**CELEBRATE BOWDOINHAM**—  
September 14th, 15th, & 16th.  
Festivities will begin Friday afternoon with the Bowdoinham Historical Society's dedication of the restored Jellerson School House. Later that evening we will welcome back the Variety Show highlighting local Bowdoinham talent. Judy Gray and Ann Hartzler are coordinating the Variety Show and are looking for local talent. If you are interested in joining the show or learning more, please contact graywallace@comcast.net. Saturday morning's activities will begin with the parade at 10 am, followed by various activities and entertainment at the Maily Waterfront Park. The days activities will conclude with a special Fireworks display for our 250th Anniversary at 8:30 pm! Then Sunday join the fun at the Fireman's Muster. *As always, volunteers are needed; it takes many volunteers to make Celebrate Bowdoinham a success!* Please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com to volunteer.


**HARVEST FESTIVAL**— October 20th.  
Long Branch School of Maine will be hosting a Harvest Festival to celebrate Fall in Bowdoinham. Please stay tuned for more details in our August Newsletter.

**VETERANS' PARK DEDICATION**—  
November 11th.  
We will be having a rededication of our Veterans' Park for Veterans' Day. The resetting of the cannon is almost complete and the landscaping is next. We look forward to having a revived Veterans' Park for all to enjoy.

**HOLIDAY FESTIVAL**—  
November 30th and December 1st.  
This is an invitation!! Laurel Lopez and Jessica Sullivan, are planning a Holiday Festival that will draw people from surrounding communities. Some of the events planned for the festival so far include: a craft fair at the Bowdoinham Community School, the Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans Annual Show & Sale and the Holiday Tree Lighting. We are also looking into the following: wine tasting, horse and wagon rides, polar bear swim and bon fire with caroling, Santa and family photos and/or pictures with Santa, movie for the kids and child care.

As part of the festival there are opportunities for other groups and businesses to contribute to and benefit from this event. We are beginning the planning stage and would love to hear from you and what you might like to do as part of this Holiday Festival. Participation forms are available from us directly. Please feel free to contact either of us at any time with questions: Laurel's email is w32alice@hotmail.com, Jessica's email is jessicamaysullivan@gmail.com. We hope that you are as excited as we are and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

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**Plumbing Tip from  
Peggy the Plumber**

**Low Water Flow**  
What you may perceive as low water pressure in your house may simply be restricted water flow at the fixture. On a faucet remove the aerator (the piece at the end of the spout) and remove any debris. Check to see the flow without the aerator. With a shower head remove it from the shower arm and rinse it out. Soaking it for several hours in a vinegar water solution will remove mineral buildup. If you are finding a lot of debris on a regular basis, then you should have sediment filter installed.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ICE & SMELT FESTIVAL: 250th Anniversary Event coordinated by Merrymeeting Arts Center

by Lee Parker

**M**errymeeting Arts Center was honored to coordinate the opening event for the 250th Anniversary Celebration. MAC intends to hold this festival on an annual basis, creating new traditions based on Bowdoinham's rich past and colorful present as we move towards the future.

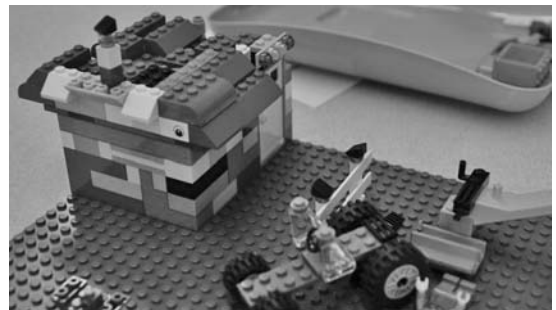
The Opening Reception was held on Friday evening with the reading of the Local Myth, "Smelt Makes Ice". The exhibit of art by local artists included a variety of whimsical pieces as well as pieces depicting the river and bay in winter. Items were on display, loaned by the Bowdoinham Historical Society and other community members as well as a model ice house loaned by Eleanor Everson from the Dresden Historical Society. On Saturday people came to see the exhibit and to view a film on ice cutting. Many had no idea of the magnitude of the ice cutting business in Bowdoinham.

Activities on Saturday were held at both the Masonic Lodge and Cathance Place. "Decorate a Smelt" kept children

and adults busy for hours. Build a Smelt Shack Legos Contest and the Lego table were highly popular. Children and adults made luminaries, printed t-shirts using "smelt" on loan from Friends of Merrymeeting Bay and decorated smelt. The highlight of the day was the Best Beard contest. The Bowdoinham Boys had some stiff (and friendly) competition from members of the Maine Men's Facial Hair Club.

Afternoon activities included a puppet show – Fairy Tales told from a Smelt's Perspective – followed by The Carnevale (parade). Smelts – along with additional Local Myth characters will be a part of the annual parade for years to come. The afternoon came to an end with an archery demonstration and a bonfire at the waterfront.

In the evening the Ice & Smelt Ball was held and Heather Cox and Felicity Beede were crowned Royalty. As



*Legos—a Build a Smelt Shack Contest—and a free Lego build table—were highly popular.*

Royalty, they will appear at the Christmas Tree Lighting and in the Celebrate Bowdoinham Parade.

Merrymeeting Arts Center plans to hold this festival again next January with some modifications. As one participant observed...it was nice to see parents, children and community members having a lot of fun with simple, "traditional", activities.



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### News from Merrymeeting Art Center: Looking Forward to Spring and Summer

by Lee Parker

**O**nce again, the Merrymeeting Arts Center is showcasing Emerging Artists, under 18, for our annual "Young At Art" Show. To honor the growing local food movement, the exhibit is based on the theme "Farm, Food, and Family". The exhibit will open on Friday, May 4th with a reception for the artists and will run through June 17.

This year a special exhibit will open on Friday, June 22th and run through September 16th. The exhibit will feature three well known Bowdoinham artists: Carlo Pittore, Bryce Muir and Carter Smith. Workshops, films, and lectures highlighting the work of the artists will be scheduled throughout the summer. A special reception will be held for each of the artists.

As MAC has done the past three years, a special show will be mounted to coincide with Ducks Unlimited's annual visit

to Maily Waterfront Park. This year "Celebrate the Bay" will feature photos of eels from the collection of Heather Perry as we celebrate the eel fishing industry of the bay. The show will open on August 11 and run through the end of September.

Coming soon: Children's Art Activities for July and August...

## Cruise 'In On the Cathance *by Lynn Spiro*



*Don and Billie Oakes Crusin in their Model A*

Cruise 'In On the Cathance, sponsored by The Town Landing Restaurant, now marks its 4th year in downtown Bowdoinham. Lining the streets of this quiet village with all classes of cars, the music of yesteryear is enjoyed, and the village area is brought to life with the many classic cars that once canvassed these roads. There is no entry fee to exhibit or attend the Cruise 'In On the Cathance. Everyone bringing a classic or antique car gets automatic entry into the Door Prize Raffles.

Anyone attending can participate in the 50/50 drawing, and buy additional Door Prize Raffle tickets with the proceeds going to the Bowdoinham Community School.

Today, in a very complex world, nothing can bring a smile to the faces of many, as the thoughts of just how simple things were when they were young. The old family car or the very first car owned surrounds the best of memories, always with a smile, always a story to tell. Last year's event toted a Model A car by Bowdoinham's own Don and Billie Oakes. Don told of driving the car in high school, and back and forth as he went away to college and came home to court his wife in the early years. "We took the car on our honeymoon" stated

Don, "I finally had time to have it refinished this year, this is the first Cruise In we have attended since getting it back!"

Bowdoinham, incorporated in 1762, is celebrating its' own 250th anniversary throughout the 2012. Bowdoinham is a generational community, many of whom own and cherish their own classic cars. They value not only the beauty of classic, tricked out cars, but also, the hours and hard work put into each and every detail.

Come and join classic car enthusiasts for this free event at The Town Landing Restaurant, 12 Main Street, in downtown Bowdoinham. Cruise 'In on the Cathance will be held throughout the summer on the last Saturday of each month, June 30th, July 28th and August 25th from 4 to 6:30 pm. Stroll the streets, shop and have dinner at our locally owned restaurant. Celebrate with us not only the history of this town, but also the history of the classic and antique cars that remind us of the memories of our youth, and simple things in life we treasure.

## Aquitania: A production by Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble in partnership with Merrymeeting Arts Center

*by Lee Parker*

Merrymeeting Arts Center will present Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble's *Aquitania*, an original theatrical comedy, from Thursday, July 5th through Sunday, July 15th (no performances July 9-10), in Bowdoinham's historic Town Hall. Inspired by the Legends of Charlemagne, *Aquitania* creates a mystical world in which a young girl's board game resonates in an ancient kingdom threatened by an evil warlord. This marks Ziggurat's second production since relocating to Maine, and builds upon the groundbreaking success of last summer's *Fafalo!*

Described as "a work of haunting visual beauty and mythological resonance" by the Los Angeles Times, *Aquitania* will utilize Maine actors and singers onstage, and local artists, craftsmen and volunteers for all production elements including set construction, painting of the scenic backdrop, costumes and lighting design. In the tradition of ensemble-created theatre, actors will work together to create the signature performance style that is "nothing less than a feast of dance, music, classic storytelling and visual bravura that will dazzle" (LA Weekly). *Aquitania* is written and directed by Stephen Legawiec, with movement design, ensemble training and choreography by Dana Wieluns Legawiec. Stephen Legawiec and Dana Wieluns Legawiec are co-Artistic Directors of Ziggurat Theatre Ensemble, and have lived in Bowdoinham since 2010.

Additionally, Ziggurat Theatre's Youth Company, composed of local high school students, will create an original piece of children's theater in conjunction with *Aquitania* to be presented to the public free-of-charge in Bowdoinham's Waterfront Gazebo on Saturday, July 7th.





## News from the Bowdoinham Parent Group

by Tessa Kingsley

Our last update introduced the Blue Boxes you may have seen at the Town Landing, Bowdoinham Country Store, Bowdoinham Public Library and Town Office. They have been a great success in the collection of school supplies! Please continue to take a moment to drop off your Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education. Our fall submission to Box Tops for Education awarded us \$384.40 and we racked up 3500 points with our last Campbell's Labels for Education submission, so keep clipping! Target's Take Charge of Education program gives 1% of your annual purchases to our school when you use your REDcard (charge or debit) and designate Bowdoinham Community School online. We've already earned almost \$200 toward our next deposit in August! The more community members who designate our school and use their REDcard, the more

the school can earn! Please consider using the information center's collection box to also contribute to the Green School Project fundraiser that will bring money into our school and help the environment at the same time by collecting all brands/types of empty printer cartridges for printers, fax machines, copier and toner cartridges as well as all old cell phones. Every little bit helps!

The weather is warming and Bowdoinham Community School is getting ready for SPRING! This year marks our 12th Annual Rummage Sale on May 4th and 5th at the Town Hall! If you have unwanted household goods, furniture, clothing, books, or items of interest, you can drop off to grateful volunteers Sunday, April 30th through Thursday, May 3rd from 5:30-7 pm. There will be a \$1 admission to the preview sale on Friday, May 4th from 5:00-7 pm for those who just can't wait to see what's on the tables this year. The sale is open to the general public on Saturday, May 5th from 9:00 am-3 pm. Each year, the goal is to contribute \$1000 to the school from the sale of donated items, and every year we seem to make that happen. Here's hoping this year the thrifty among us find a few extra treasures to help us pass our goal!



Another way to support the school's general fund is by participating in Bowdoinham Night at the Sea Dogs on Friday May 18th, 2012 at 6:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to see minor league baseball with the whole family at an affordable price! Tickets are on sale NOW for \$4.00/person in the school office.

As our busy events season approaches, more notices will be posted to the Blue Boxes regarding our upcoming events, so even if you can't contribute supplies, labels, or Green School items, do check in to see what community events are going on at the school. Bowdoinham Parent Group and Bowdoinham Community School greatly appreciate the community's involvement and support! We look forward to seeing many of you at the Rummage Sale and maybe even out at the Sea Dogs!



**Earn Cash for Our School!**

Phone 207-666-5941 • Cell 207-729-2445

## DOUG TOURTELOTTE EXCAVATION

369 Millay Road  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

New Site Prep, Driveways,  
Septic Systems, Gravel,  
Land Clearing, Treework

## Baled Hay & Firewood

- Garden Preparation
- Tilling/Plowing
- Field Maintenance
- Mowing/Bushhogging

## HOBART FARM

239 Ridge Road  
Bowdoinham, Maine 04008

666-3075  
bhobart@gwi.net

## News from The Long Branch School and General Store

We have been busy getting classes together and rearranging the store to accommodate more local food. We have an exciting list of classes and events for the summer. Check us out at [www.longbranchschool.com](http://www.longbranchschool.com).

### May 19th Grand Opening of The Blacksmith Shop

Join us at The Branch for learning and fun!

- All Day: Blacksmithing demonstrations by local smithies.
- 4 pm–4:30 pm —Samantha RickerGoad will talk about her new book *The Conscious Consumer: Your Guide to Sustainable Maine Living*. “Do you want to keep your carbon footprint small? Do you want your food dollars to go to those who produce your food? Do you want to have your money stay in your local economy? . . . This book contains the who, what, why and how to purchase and use foodstuff and other consumables carefully but rationally in an increasingly complex world.”
- 4:30 pm–5 pm—Robert Nicoll from Fiddler’s Reach Mead will talk about the process of mead making.
- 5 pm–6 pm —Potluck; bring a dish to share.

- 6 pm–7 pm—Music by: Bob Webb & Helen Richmond Webb. “Back in the Olden Times,” the title of a song by songwriter Patty Hall best describes the music of Bob and Helen.

**June 22nd & 23rd**—Red, White & Blue Festival: Long Branch joins FHC in their annual celebration.

### Friday, June 22nd,

- Open Mic Night: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm: Join us for a spontaneous evening of music for anyone wishing to share their musical talent with others.

### Saturday, June 23

- Blacksmithing Demonstrations: All afternoon.
- Horseshoe Tournament: 1:30 pm–3:30 pm
- Red, White & Blue Dessert Class: 2 pm–4 pm with Sara Fahndley of And Candy Too. A family cooking experience using Maine strawberries and blueberries to create a luscious dessert. Please sign up in advance at Long Branch School.
- Family Friendly Kayak Tour: 3 pm–6 pm with Alice Bean Andrenyak, a registered Maine guide. We will depart from the Maily Waterfront Park. Please sign up in advance at the Long Branch School.

### A Sampling of Upcoming Classes:

- Before Baby
- All You Need to Know About Bird Houses
- Garden Tool Maintenance Workshop

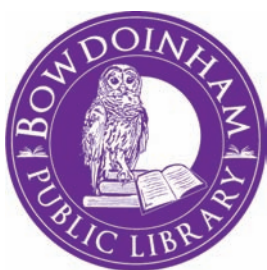


- Preparing to Parent
- Design A Masonry Heater
- The High Needs Baby
- Beginner Blacksmithing Series
- Red, White & Blue Dessert
- Explore Merrymeeting Bay by Kayak
- Build a Bow Back Windsor Chair
- Edible Mushroom Collecting Walk
- Explore Merrymeeting Bay by Kayak

### At The General Store:

We have E X P A N D E D! We now carry more of the local food you want: produce from Six Rivers Farm, local pork, beef and chicken, baking mixes and flours from Fiddler’s Green, local wine, beer and soda, bread from Annabella’s, backyard eggs, milk from Smiling Hill and much, much more. In our Crafter’s Cove we have a wonderful selection of crafts, cards, books and gift items from our local craftspeople.

Get local! Get Long Branch!



## The dust is flying at the Bowdoinham Public Library!

That is...the dust from old photos, old files and old scrapbooks. People inspired by Bowdoinham’s 250th Anniversary are coming in to search for and to share their stories, mementos and

photographs. The library has some wonderful materials to share with patrons, from family histories, to newspaper clippings, to a complete set of old town reports and death records. Many of these materials are on loan from the Bowdoinham Historical Society and the Connors Collection; a collection of books and files pertaining to Maine history, given to the library by Frank and Jane Connors. We encourage you to come and see what we’ve got. Would you believe there is a waiting list to borrow the Adams’ History of the Town of Bowdoinham?

More dust is flying on the library’s website! Bowdoinham-based web designer Will Zell is hard at work launching a new website for the library. By the time of this

publication, you will find the gorgeous new site at [www.bowdoinhamlibrary.org](http://www.bowdoinhamlibrary.org). Please check it out and change your old bookmarks to lead you to our new site. We would like to thank Betsy Steen for her years of maintaining the old website site and to Will for creating the new one.

A new history resource now available at the library is Ancestry.com. Some of you may be familiar with this web-based resource for doing genealogical research. Patrons may now come to the library and do their genealogical searches free of charge via Ancestry.com Library Edition.

Stop in and visit, you’ll find something of interest and we guarantee no dust on the new books coming in to the library every day.

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## From Bowdoinham to Bowdoinham— Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative (BCDI) develops a new loan fund concept

Over the past year, a group of Bowdoinham citizens has gotten together to discuss how they might help build on the wonderful assets that the Town already has—a burgeoning group of young farmers committed to sustainable agriculture, a vibrant arts scene, a long history of an eclectic population tempered by a strong sense of community, a location on Merrymeeting Bay midway between four key Maine cities—to make Bowdoinham an even better place to live and work. What has emerged from these conversations is BCDI.

BCDI, which is a work in progress, focuses on farms, food, forests, the music and art that accompany them and the businesses that support them. Starting small, based on the needs and interest of members of the community, BCDI aims to establish in a phased and incremental way the capacity to provide capital, and to incubate and/or support mutual benefit enterprises. The starting point will be food: farms and the farmers that run them, processing and distribution, and the land that supports them. Our first initiative was a community loan to support the expansion of a small organic farm through the purchase of a used tractor. After a meeting late last year, the group took up the challenge of creating a locally based loan fund process to finance the purchase of a tractor

by Small Wonder Organics. Some basic criteria for applying for a loan were developed, and Small Wonder submitted a loan application in early January. The application was reviewed by a four person Screening Committee, which after doing due diligence, conditionally approved the loan on January 13th. After reviewing the approval and the conditions with the applicants on January 19th, “An Opportunity to Invest” was sent to some 30 people in or connected to Bowdoinham. Within two weeks, the \$7000 had been raised! The funds were disbursed to Small Wonder on February 21st. Throughout the process, each step was written up, and the documents involved stand ready to be used for further reference.

How BCDI will develop is an open question, and while its initial starting point has been food and farming, its overall goal is to support and strengthen the community. It may move in the direction of making more loan capital available, developing a shared services co-op, or establishing a “land bank” function to help link farmers and the land that might be available to farm. This should occur organically and according to expressed need/demand, and might include (but not be limited to) shared equipment and infrastructure, capital, financing and business development, marketing and distribution, winter crop storage, or other cooperative services.



The core group of people who have been discussing this initiative directly and moving it forward include some 25 people from Bowdoinham, including farmers, local business owners, and current and former Selectboard members (in their personal capacities). We have consulted extensively with Town Officials and organizations facing similar challenges in Maine. There is enthusiasm, tempered by cautious realism, and a sense that we will not realize the full potential of this initiative unless we engage seriously with a broad group of Bowdoinham residents. If you are interested to learn more about BCDI, please contact David Whittlesey (666-5525), Tony Cox (837-5113), or Planning and Development Director, Nicole Briand (nbriand@bowdoinham.com).

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## Need a Haircut? Shearlings Hair Salon comes to Bowdoinham.

Bowdoinham resident Julie Booty is bringing her 20+ years of cosmetology experience to a new local salon, Shearlings, at 43 Main Street (behind Fox Realty).

Julie is looking to expand her clientele base from her existing location in

Yarmouth. In addition to owning her own salon in Yarmouth, she also served as a national educator for John Paul Mitchell Systems from 2007 to 2011.

Shearlings Hair Salon services include haircuts, color, highlights, hairstyling, waxing, ear piercing, manicures and pedicures.

Julie relocated to Bowdoinham in 1997 with her husband AJ and two children. She is actively involved in school,

recreation and community activities. She currently serves as the treasurer for the Bowdoinham Community School Parent Group as well as the Bowdoinham Recreation spring sports concessions (also known as the Snack Shack).

Salon hours are Mondays 10-4, Wednesdays 11-5, Fridays 10-4 and Saturdays and evenings by appointment.

To set up an appointment, contact Shearlings at 751-4781.



## News from the Community Development Advisory Committee

by Tony Cox

Our Committee recently completed developing a “Buy Bowdoinham” logo with Bowdoinham’s own Manon Whittlesey, owner of Morphee Creative. We will be working on enhancing the “Buy Bowdoinham” program to promote Bowdoinham businesses. Support your local community and Buy Bowdoinham!!!

Over the past year our Committee has overseen and developed the Bowdoinham brochure highlighting what is the heart of Bowdoinham, community. A culmination of articles and stories written by residents who take pride in the place they call home. Sponsored by 35 businesses within Town, the magazine is available at each of the businesses location as well as available on line at [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com).

The Community Development Advisory Committee is working with the department of Economic and Community Development to keep up to date on the ongoing projects in Bowdoinham including

but not limited to the sidewalks, skatepark fundraising efforts, the Merrymeeting Trail, Celebrate Bowdoinham and development of the Comprehensive Plan. Some of the future projects we are looking to tackle are signage by the highway and for highlighting the village area, an additional TIF districting through the future CMP project, public bathroom facilities and a farm brochure for the Town. We will work with the 250th Committee as we celebrate throughout the year the founding of Bowdoinham, the place we call home.

The Community Development Advisory Committee is working to help bring to the table the hopes and visions of not only our committee members, but those of the people that make up this community. Community as defined means “shared by all” and that is what we focus and build upon. Your help and input is greatly sought and appreciated. Currently, we are seeking two additional members; anyone interested may contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or [nbriand@bowdoinham.com](mailto:nbriand@bowdoinham.com). As always our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Please be sure to check the Town’s website at [www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com) for updates and agendas.

## NEWS FROM COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

by Nicole Briand

Since the Committee was formed in January 2011, we, with help from many participants, have created a Vision Statement and Goals for the Town Bowdoinham. Now we are working to create the strategies that layout how Bowdoinham will attain its Goals and our Vision for the future. We have received lots of input from our winter workshops and outreach with other groups to assist us through this process. Thank you to everyone who has helped us to create a Comprehensive Plan for Bowdoinham!

As we more forward and start working on Future Land Use in Bowdoinham, it is our hope that the participation we have experienced so far will continue. If you are interested in helping to shape Bowdoinham’s future, you can get involved in any (or all) of the following ways: join our Committee, sign-up to receive Committee emails, sign-up for our email newsletter (with project updates) and/or join us on Facebook. Please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or [nbriand@bowdoinham.com](mailto:nbriand@bowdoinham.com) for more information.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Selectboard Meeting Room in the John C. Coombs Municipal Building.

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## Launch Into Spring

by John McMullen, Harbor Master

Spring is here, summer is just around the corner and the time when we get the itch to uncover the boat and get it ready to go is fast approaching. Before your first launch, you should complete a safety inspection of the engine, hull and other systems to make the approaching boating season fun and safe.

With the boat out of the water inspect and lubricate the seacocks. Replace deteriorated zincs and inspect your prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Take a look at the hull for blisters, distortion and stress cracks. Make sure the engine intake sea strainer is free of corrosion and is properly secured.

Examine your outdrive or outboard. Check your rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots. Check your power steering and power trim oil levels. Check the engine shaft and rudder

stuffing boxes for steady leaks and looseness. Use a hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches.

Carefully inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for indications of softness, brittleness or cracking. Take a look at the outer jacket and study all fuel-system components for leaks—fuel tanks, fuel pumps, filters. Clean the fuel filters. Your exhaust manifolds should be removed and inspected every few years for corrosion, which could be restricting water flow. Clean and tighten your electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. When checking your hoses, cooling hoses and fittings should fit snugly and be double-clamped. Don't forget to inspect the bilge blower hose for leaks.

Refill or replace fire extinguishers as necessary. Be sure extinguishers are mounted where they're clearly visible and easy to reach in an emergency. Clean your bilge and inspect the bilge pump and float switch to ensure they're working properly.

Your trailer is also an important part of your boat's system. You should inspect all of the tires' treads and sidewalls. Cracks on sidewalls or lack of tread indicate the tire should be replaced. Sand and paint rusted areas on your trailer and inspect your wheel bearings and repack as necessary. Test the lights and replace burned-out bulbs and chafed wires. Clean corroded terminals and make sure the white ground wire is securely attached to the trailer's frame. Test the winch to ensure it's working properly.

Although it takes some effort, your spring commissioning can save you headaches in the future. The marine environment is harsh and if something can break down, it will. A thorough check of your equipment and systems before the first launch of the year can prevent a loss of the on-the-water time that is so precious to us in our short season in Maine.

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## Stay safe this spring and summer!

by Rebecca Miller, Health Officer

Spring and summer are a great time of year; everyone is getting outside, walking more, working in the yard and doing work around the house. This means lots of fresh air, sunshine and more activity! But there are also hazards at this time of year, so be careful!

Here are some prevention tips to avoid getting injured and avoiding poisoning exposures.

- Use pesticides cautiously! Always read the label thoroughly before using. It is important to use protective gear (goggles, face mask), change clothes and to wash up right after using pesticides, especially on windy days. Pesticides can be absorbed through the skin and can be potentially dangerous. Use pesticides carefully around pets and young children. For information on precautions to take or for a potential exposure, contact the poison center at [www.nnepc.org](http://www.nnepc.org) or call 1-800-222-1222.

- Be careful using lawn mowers and garden tools. It is important to make sure you are wearing shoes (not sandals or flipflops) when using a lawn mower. Make sure garden tools are picked up immediately after use and not left on the ground. These tools can be dangerous to children playing! Approximately 210,000 people are injured each year in the U.S. by lawnmowers and nearly 17,000 are children under age of 19 years.

- Be careful on ladders! Make sure your ladder is strong and sturdy and is placed on a good solid foundation before using it. At least 300 people a year die from falls from ladders in the U.S.

- Use insect repellents as directed on the label. If used properly, repellents can work well and reduce insect bites. If using a spray, be careful about spraying near the face. It may be safer to use lotions to avoid eye exposure, especially in children.

- Be careful when biking and riding on the road. Our new sidewalks are a wonderful addition to our downtown for walking, but many roads still do not have sidewalks. When riding a bike, make sure you ride

WITH traffic and when running or walking, make sure you walk or run AGAINST the traffic. If you are riding, jogging or walking in the evening or early morning, make sure to wear light colored clothing (white is best), carry a flashlight or wear reflective clothing.

Enjoy your spring and summer AND stay safe!

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## News from the Recreation Department

by Brooke Cox

I would like to start by thanking all of the volunteers that made our winter activities a huge success. Steve McKim held the fort down on the basketball court, blowing the whistle for us on many Saturday mornings and weeknights. Our coaches and other volunteers for our basketball programs and Lost Valley were: Brandon Dionne, Devin Monteiro, Leah Groh, Steve Cox, Cameron Cox, Katelyn Cox, Rich Taylor, Jerry Merrill, Tara Plant, Randy Skelton, Chris Gonyea, Jon Beede, Robyn Persson, Jen Berry, Cathy Curtis, AJ Booty, Chris Jackson, Kim Wheeler, Andrea Temple, Susan Lapreziosa, Brani Lohr, Will Zell, Heather Parks, Jennifer Merrill, Athena Mann, David Mann, Sara Crocker, Brian Reed, and Suzie Satterfield. Vicki Russell needs a special thank you for helping with all the gym time scheduling! Dwight Blease and Colleen Morse helped teach several young ones Nordic Skiing on a warm February afternoon. Ray Mayo helped keep the skating rink in shape again this winter. Thank you to the Fire Department for flooding the rink for us early on in the winter. I apologize in advance if I have missed any names; it is hard to keep track of so many wonderful people!

With the mild winter and very warm

weather in mid March, we hopefully will be on the fields early; I am going to keep my fingers crossed because I probably just jinxed the weather. Registration forms were passed in for baseball, softball, and t-ball; there are 30 softball players, 49 baseball players, and 26 t-ball players. Look for home games to begin on our fields either the last weekend in April or the first weekend in May. Please come sit on the berm and enjoy some Snack Shack goodies while taking in a game or two.

Seaspray Kayaking is coming back this summer for a camp in the last week in June, Monday June 25th, Wednesday June 27th, Friday June 29th, and Saturday June 30th. It is being offered for all ages 7 and up; yes, adults included!!! The cost is \$60 for ages 17 and under and \$90 for 18 and older with a family rate of \$250. You may print a registration form off the town website on the Recreation Department page. Contact Brooke Cox for details.

Meet 'N Greet will be offered again for incoming Kindergarteners; this is a great opportunity for the kids to make new friends before the school year begins. Information about this program will be distributed during the parent information night at the Bowdoinham Community School or contact Brooke.

If you should have any questions about any of the above please contact Brooke Cox, 666-3504 or bcox@bowdoinham.com.



Small Wonder Farm is offering **Summer 2012 CSA shares**. Become a member of this season's CSA and eat healthy, fresh produce all summer. We pride ourselves on

quality, affordability, and reliability. As you think forward to summer's bounty, think of us! It's a decision you'll be glad you've made! Visit our website for more information [www.smallwonderorganics.com](http://www.smallwonderorganics.com) or give us call, Sarah Trask 837-7425 Pete Engler 737-9142

## SKATEPARK—UPDATE

*The process to design our skatepark has begun!!!* The Town has hired WhoSkates to create the design for our skatepark this spring. To start the process we have created a Facebook page to gather your input, please join the discussion by liking us –Bowdoinham Community Skatepark Project. To build on the feedback we receive via Facebook we will be holding two design workshops.

In addition to designing the skatepark, we will be working hard over the summer to raise \$50,000 for the construction of the park. Our fundraising plan includes many opportunities for people to benefit and be apart of the park.

- **Buy a Brick.** You can have your name engraved into a paver that will be used for the pathway into the skatepark for all to see, for just \$100. Or for \$200, you can buy a large paver.

- **Enter a chance to WIN \$10,000.** Starting May 1st, we will be selling raffle tickets for our \$10,000 drawing at noon on June 23rd at the Chicken BBQ! Tickets are available at the Town Office and are \$100 each. We will not sell more than 250 tickets, which gives you a 1 in 250 chance to win \$10,000. However, because this is a fundraiser for the skatepark, if we sell less than 150 tickets the prize will be limited to half of the ticket proceeds. For example, if we sell 100 tickets then you will have a 1 in 100 chance to win \$5,000. *Stop by the Town Office to enter your chance to win!*

- **Sponsor an element of the skatepark.** We have several sponsorship opportunities ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. If you are interested in being a sponsor or for more information please contact Nicole.

Our goal is to complete the design process in June and raise the money over the summer so that we can construct the skatepark this fall. If you are interested learning more, please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

## Community Calendar

### MAY 2012

#### May 4

“Farm, Food, and Family” exhibit opens 5:30 pm at Merrymeeting Art Center

#### May 4-5

12th Annual Rummage Sale on at the Town Hall

#### May 19

Plant Sale at the Town Hall  
Bowdoinham Farmers’ Market at Merrymeeting Grange  
Grand Opening of the Blacksmith Shop at Long Branch School

### JUNE 2012

#### June 12

M.S.A.D. #75 Referendum Election and the State Primary Election, 8 am-8 pm at Town Hall

#### June 13

Town Meeting, 7 pm at Town Hall

#### June 22

Open Mic Night, 5:30-7:30 pm at the Long Branch  
Gala Preview of Three Town Artists Exhibit opens at Merrymeeting Art Center

#### June 23

Chicken BBQ, 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Bowdoinham Community School  
Red, White, Blue Festival, 5-10 pm at Maily Waterfront Park  
Events at Long Branch School, 1:30-6 pm  
Opening of Three Town Artists Exhibit opens at Merrymeeting Art Center

**June 24**—Summer Concert Series Begins, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

**June 30**—Cruise 'In on Cathance, 4-6:30 pm at the Town Landing

### JULY 2012

**July 1**—Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

**July 8**—Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

**July 15**—Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

#### July 22

Open Farm Day  
Bryce Wooden Portrait Reunion, 1-4 pm at the Town Hall  
Events at Long Branch School of Maine  
Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

#### July 28

Cruise 'In on Cathance, 4-6:30 pm at the Town Landing

#### July 29

Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

### AUGUST 2012

**August 5**—Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

**August 11**—Ducks Unlimited at Maily Waterfront Park  
“Celebrate the Bay” exhibit opens at Merrymeeting Art Center

**August 12**—Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

**August 19**—Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00 pm at Maily Waterfront Park

**August 25**—Cruise 'In on Cathance, 4-6:30 pm at the Town Landing

**August 26**—Last Summer Concert, 6:30-8:00pm at Maily Waterfront Park

### TOWN OFFICE CLOSED

**May 28** in observance of Memorial Day

**July 4** in observance of Independence Day



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