



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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March - April 2024

150 years ago on the Cathance and Kennebec Rivers, selling ICE was a great Bowdoinham business

By Frank Connors

Let the frigid weather of Maine's winters lock old Bowdoinham's Cathance and Kennebec rivers into a glass-pure, crystal ice, chances are, hundreds of local farmers and sons, with folks from neighboring towns, would be standing in line, waiting to work with what in those days was called "frozen gold!"

Tidewater river ice was cut, stored and sold from our two rivers for several decades, starting in the early 1870's, and lasting till at least 1890, when electricity and other "modern" conveniences came along and ruined what many considered a "perfect industry." Cutting and selling ice was perfect because the rivers froze solid every year, nothing was needed to produce the "product" but cold weather, and the work came in mid-winter, when work on the farms was slack. In his History of Bowdoinham, Silas Adams says the first ice stored for shipping on the Cathance was in the year 1856. In the 1880's the demand for Maine ice was so great (and the supply seemed unlimited) that ice was cut and stacked OUTSIDE some houses to await shipment. By 1884, there were a dozen or more houses located in our town, and many of the larger ones had boarding houses for workers, and stables for rented horses.

The little Harward's railroad depot in East Bowdoinham was a hub of sorts, delivered hundreds of men and horses to work on the ice fields each winter. Many of these men boarded locally, ate in local establishments (or homes) and kept the hardware stores "humming." Adams added, "the business proved so very profitable that many invested their money in this business." A worker might earn \$8-10 in a good week, the pay was in cash and a wonderful addition to the local economy. Check out this item, gleaned from a Richmond Bee newspaper in 1898: "the Hancock Ice Company succeeded in getting out 400 tons of ice with a crew of 40 men last Saturday."



Consolidated Ice Company in Bowdoinham, ca. 1895. Item #194 from the collections of the Maine Historical Society and www.VintageMaineImages.com.

A cake of ice six to eight inches thick and measuring some 24 inches square was expected to weigh 100 pounds. These blocks were cut from "fields" on the river, often an acre or more in size. Lingering snow would be scraped away, and laid to waste near the shore, or pushed away to open water. Row after row of these blocks would be cut off and chipped free, then steered along, using the river current and pointed pick poles, to jockey them into "channels" where an endless cable, or chain towed the things up a chute to slide them into the waiting "great room" of the house. When the massive structure was filled, ground level to rafters, all was covered with blankets of sawdust from local sawmills, and the "harvest" would wait to be shipped along the American East Coast, and

Europe, as soon as schooners could come up-river in the spring.

Ice Houses on the Cathance in 1884 included the Crystal Ice house Company, Tidal Wave Ice Company, Maine Central Ice Company, Merrymeeting Bay Ice Company, T.B. Read Company, N.W. Purington Company, Spring Cove Ice Company, and Glazier Ice Company. In the winter of 1886-87, some 31,500 tons of ice was shipped from our little Cathance, and there is no reason to assume that year was a record. For several years, the Cathance stood behind only the Kennebec, Hudson, and Penobscot rivers for total tons of ice produced and shipped. Out on the Kennebec, the Hodge icehouse

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Bowdoinham Ice, from page 1

was just below the Richmond Town line, the Sagadahoc (or John Hancock) house was on what was then the Hill Farm, and the Clark & Chapin, measuring some 300 feet wide and 400 feet long, (“the largest house on the river,”) sat opposite the south end of Swan Island. The Morse Brothers house stood on the Maxwell shore, and the Pine Grove, Cold Wave, and William Brown Company ice houses were clustered together on the end of Abbagadassett Point. Many of the houses on the Cathance had capacities of 10,000 tons or less, but the Clark & Chapin house could easily store some 75-80,000 tons!

Most of the ice houses were large, warehouse-like structures, built for profit, not longevity. They’d squat along the shores of the rivers, two or three stories high, great shingled affairs that were stable when filled with ice, unstable during the long summers when they stood empty, unused. Some ultimately blew over during July gales, others caught fire and burned flat in minutes, some were abandoned to ruin when the ice business failed in the late 1890’s. Each house had its own dock and slide system, making it easy to load ice on the waiting schooners, getting it across Merrymeeting Bay, down the Kennebec and off to market.

While it lasted, the Cathance and Kennebec ice business was an amazing and unique boon to Bowdoinham and the surrounding area.

Further reading, see:

Tidewater Ice of the Kennebec River, by Jennie Everson (1970)

Kennebec, Cradle of Americans, by Robert P.T. Coffin (1937)

Mainstays of Maine, by Robert P.T. Coffin (1944)

A Maine Man in the Making, by Franklin Gould (1945)

Little Rascals Day Care, LLC

By Wendy Rose

The child-friendly space Amanda Blancato has created at the former hardware store at 20 Main Street in Bowdoinham is a perfect reflection of her approach to child care. It is bright, open, organized, stimulating, and exciting. With the help of her landlord, John Cote, she has transformed rows of hardware products into play areas, a “library,” dining space, and crib area for infants. Her Little Rascals Day Care is now licensed for up to 20 youngsters, and with her current staffing is able to accept up to 12.

Amanda’s path to her dream business started with a home day care service in 2019. As the only day care service in Bowdoinham, she was able to care for 4 children besides her own. She loved doing the work and saw the need for her service so she decided to take the leap to establish a larger, licensed facility. Through 2023, she jumped through the needed hoops: finding a space, getting approval from the Town Planning Board, passing the Fire Marshall’s inspection, renovating the space, and getting licensed. It wasn’t an easy process, but by Dec. 4, 2023, everything was in place.

Interested parents and the public at large are welcome to ring the bell at Little Rascals for a tour. Amanda will do a meet and greet with interested families, provide them with a handbook with her policies, and answer any questions. Her goal is to provide a loving, nurturing space where parents can safely entrust their children. There are play areas for dress up, crafts, play, circle time, reading, as well as eating and sleeping spaces. Because safety is a major priority, Amanda has a locked door and multiple safety cameras both inside and outside the facility. The Little Rascals Day Care page on Facebook has a lot of photos and helpful information.



There have been a lot of helpful guides along the way. “My landlord, John Cote, has been my biggest supporter,” Amanda says. He has helped to do the needed work so the facility could get its license. The staff at Coastal Enterprises, Inc. in Brunswick has also guided Amanda to loans and grants. Without these resources, she couldn’t have gotten underway. “I can’t say enough about how helpful CEI has been,” she says.

Amanda has ambitious goals for Little Rascals. She is accepting applications for new staff so she can expand her capacity to 20 children. Once that is in place, she would like to open a pre-school program on the second floor of her facility. “As the only day care facility in Bowdoinham, I would like to serve my community with a safe, loving place where parents can feel secure about bringing their children,” Amanda says.

You can contact Amanda by calling her at 207-740-0072, emailing her at littleascaldaycare@gmail.com or sending her a Facebook message through her Little Rascals Facebook page.

Earth Day 2024

This year Bowdoinham will conduct its annual Earth Day roadside clean up on Saturday April 20th. All roadside trash collected can be brought to the recycling facility located at 121 Pond Rd. between the hours of 8am and 2pm for disposal. Bags and gloves will be available the morning of Earth Day. For more information contact the Solid Waste dept. at 666-3228 or stop by recycling on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.



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Updates From Age Friendly Committee

By Peggy Muir

Winter has special challenges for the elderly! Age-Friendly Bowdoinham has tried to address these in many ways. We distributed Winter Kits of emergency items (there are a few left if you didn't get one). We have a Home Assessment questionnaire to help people prepare their homes for winter. You can get a sand bucket delivered by calling the Town Office. We publicize as many winter aids and activities as we can.

ACTIVITIES

Yoga, line dancing, cribbage, and the walking group all continue through the winter months. Check out the Bowdoinham Public Library website for its many activities. Go to the Town of Bowdoinham's calendar on the home page of its website for Town sponsored meetings and events.

Check out *Homes for All Ages + Abilities: A Guide to Universal Design*. Funded through a grant from AARP, the Guide provides ideas on how to update, remodel or build a home with features to make living safe and easy for everyone. We were especially pleased to feature several of Bowdoinham's own residents – Kate Cutko, Wayne Stanford, Doug Tourtelotte and Barbara Rollins – who have already adopted many Universal Design ideas. Copies of the brochure can be obtained at the Town Office.

LUNCHEONS

Our monthly luncheons at the Bowdoinham Fire Station help break winter isolation. Come and enjoy the company of your neighbors and have a lovely meal. Donations as you can.

Volunteers are needed to shop/set up/cook/serve/clean up.

When: Second Thursday of every month at 11:30am

Where: Bowdoinham Fire Station

Speakers:

March 14: Jason Lamoreau, Older Adults' Services Coordinator

April 11: Guest speaker TBD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tax Prep Assistance: The Committee has arranged again for CA\$H Maine, a volunteer organization, to assist Bowdoinham residents prepare and electronically submit your state and federal tax filings.

Two sessions at the Fire House:

March 19: 9am - 2pm

April 6: 9am - 2pm

Reservations are requested. Please call Jason Lamoreau at the Town Office (666-5531) to reserve a time.

Don't forget to bring your W-2s, 1099's and SS statements and have your driver's license and SS (social security card and those for dependents if applicable) for your appointment.

For further information on CA\$H Maine, income qualifications and other scheduled dates outside of Bowdoinham, go to: www.cashmaine.org/coalition/midcoast-maine/

Mobile Shredder at the Fire House: If you have financial, medical or other documents containing your personal identifying information that you would like to securely dispose of, bring them to the Fire House on Saturday, April 6 from 9:00am - 1:00pm. This will be a paper shredding event only. No need to remove staples or paperclips. No appointments needed; free of charge.

Updating our Email List: Age Friendly Committee member Grace McCarthy has taken on the job of maintaining the Committee's mailing list. If you are on our list, you should have received an email from Grace this past month. If you have not received an email and would like to be on our list, please notify Jason Lamoreau at age-friendly@bowdoinham.com to be included.

TIPS

Be sure to ask about SENIOR DISCOUNTS wherever you go to shop or attend events or eat. Many businesses and events in the area have them!

There seems to be an increase in SCAMS targeting older Mainers through email, text, and phone calls. Be on guard and don't give out personal information!

Travel Advice:

- Debit cards are difficult to resolve at a distance. If you are sojourning far away, be sure to notify your Maine bank of your travels and officially add another address to your bank account. Otherwise any replacement card will have to be forwarded from your home address OR you will need to sign-return a form (which is not always easy or possible).
- Medical issues or emergencies at a distance have distinct complications. Your medical practitioner will only forward information with a signed release form. Be sure to carry identification and any emergency medical information/apparatus wherever you go - i.e. on a hike from a camp site. Or a long walk from a hotel.

TABLE TENNIS ANYONE??? Pickleball is going strong in Bowdoinham but may be too much running for some of us. We are looking to start a table tennis/ping pong group. Please let us know if you are interested and what days/times would work best. Please contact Jason in the Town Office at 207 666-5531 or age-friendly@bowdoinham.com.

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Happy (almost) Spring from the Bowdoinham Food Pantry!

By BFP Director Jenn Stonebraker

For the past two years, the Bowdoinham Food Pantry has staffed the SNAP booth at the Bowdoinham Farmers' Market, handling all SNAP transactions. We have seen SNAP use double in these past two years - allowing SNAP recipients to buy directly from farmers through the Maine Harvest Bucks initiative while putting money directly into the pockets of local farmers. This tells me two things:

- Firstly - our low income neighbors DESIRE to eat fresh, nutritious and local food.
- Secondly - Nutrition incentive programs work. Not only to incentivize consumption of fresh, nutritious and local food, but also to reduce the stigma surrounding the farmers' market experience.

Markets are a space for connection and community, and should be accessible, inclusive and welcoming to all. Access to nutritious and locally-sourced food should never be considered a luxury, and all market shoppers should be able to participate in farmers' markets with dignity, irrespective of their budget.



With winter (almost) in the rearview, we have been reflecting on events that helped us get through the darkest of days. A HUGE thank you goes out to our Soup Supper Volunteers. From the fine folks who made over 100 quarts of soup, to those who helped on the day-of, and to Counterpoint Bread who donated the lagniaappe that made the event extra tasty, we sure do have the VERY best community.

And speaking of community, have you had the chance to check out Breaking Bread in Bowdoinham? Our Pop-Up Cafe made its debut in December of last year and was a

HUGE hit. We took the month of January off to take a breather and assess our next steps. The Cafe has been open the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month since February and we will continue through May. At the Cafe you will find a delightful selection of treats including delicious coffee from Wicked Joe Organic Coffee and Counterpoint Bread croissants. Plus, join our wonderful community to chat and connect with neighbors. Hope to see you there!



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- Cafe set-up/clean-up/bakers/staff
- Meal Prep (help us make ready-to-eat meals for our aging neighbors)
- Garden Help (spring is right around the corner, help us prep our raised beds for the growing season)
- Pantry Volunteers (lots of opportunities to help during prep and distribution!)

Want to lend a hand? Send us an email at bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com.

Cathance Fitness Center

By Lisa West



Community Health Message: National Sleep Week is in March. "If we want to be healthy and at our best, one of the first places to focus is on our sleep." National Sleep Foundation website: www.thensf.org/sleep-health-topics/ **April is Stress Awareness Month:** Rapid breathing is one effect of stress, leaving you short of breath. This can make it even more difficult for those with asthma or emphysema. Remember to breathe deeper using your diaphragm vs quick chest breaths. When you are focused on your breath, you become more in touch with your mind, body & emotions. Benefits include: increased oxygen within muscles & cells, improved focus & concentration, improved respiratory muscle strength & endurance.

CathanceFitness.com

This month's friendly reminder: Individuals need to be 18yrs old in order to hold an "individual membership". Members younger than 18yrs must fall under a family or couples' membership with a parent. Members under 16yrs must have a parent in the building while using the fitness center or gymnasium. Please see this portion of the website FMI: cathancefitness.com/membership-information/

1201 Main St. Bowdoin, Maine. This route 125 address is the old Bowdoin Elementary School.

Thank you for using the Cathance Fitness Center.

"Maine's Death with Dignity"

with Valerie Lovelace

Free Program, March 22, 6:30 -8:00pm

Many people in Maine are still unfamiliar with the Death with Dignity Act, in effect here since 2019. There is misunderstanding and misinformation about Maine's compassionate end-of-life care option. The Death with Dignity law permits physicians to practice medical aid-in-dying under specific circumstances. The Bowdoinham Public Library welcomes Valerie Lovelace, the executive Director of Maine Death with Dignity who will offer current, fact-based information and all the details about Maine's law, how to have the conversation with your physician, and how to qualify for the law or support your loved one who may be qualifying. Valerie will present her information via Zoom, and answer questions brought by the audience. We welcome people to join us in the Kendall Room or at home.

MaineDOT

Posted Roads in Maine



Posted Roads' In Maine

During the winter and spring, some of Maine's roads weaken and they need to be protected. As temperatures warm and the ground thaws, soil under the pavement becomes saturated with water, making the pavement unstable. As a result, many roads cannot support heavy loads.

This means that a road carrying a 15-ton load in the summer or winter may only be able to carry a 5-ton load in the spring when it thaws. A posted state road's maximum weight limit is 23,000 pounds. The posting is temporary and is designed to protect a road while it is vulnerable. Repairing or rebuilding a road is expensive, at times costing over \$1 million per mile.

Many roads have been posted for years and these roads are well-known to those who use them. However, as roads age and deteriorate, posting is one maintenance strategy to protect them and extend their life.

Why we post

Asphalt roads are at their weakest when the ground begins to thaw and the materials underneath a road's surface are saturated with moisture. Travelling over roads that have a saturated base underneath can cause cracking, potholes, and rutting. Heavy trucks can completely break through asphalt and severely damage a road.

Travel over posted roads

In some instances, you may travel over posted roads. When a posted road is 'solidly frozen; you may drive over the road. A road is considered "solidly frozen" when the air temperature is 32° or below and there is

no water showing in the cracks of the road. Alternatively, if the air temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below and there is water showing in the cracks of the highway, the highway will be considered "frozen" if the adjacent gravel driveways, shoulders, or lawns remain frozen.

Posted roads versus non-posted roads

Not all roads are the same. If money was not an issue, all roads would be built to carry the heaviest legal loads. In Maine, many roads have been built to these modern standards.



However, there are also many miles of road that weren't built to tolerate heavy trucks and the day-to-day demands of modern traffic. Since dollars are limited, MaineDOT prioritizes construction on roads and bridges that have the most traffic and offer the most economic benefit to the state. Unfortunately, it may be many years before some smaller, less-traveled roads are rebuilt. In the meantime, we must post roads in order to protect and extend their life.

State law permits posting roads

In order to protect the state's road infrastructure, the Maine Legislature has authorized MaineDOT to post roads. Title 29-A, Chapter 21, Subchapter 3 states that "the Department of Transportation may restrict the weight or passage of any vehicle over any way when, in its judgment, such passage would be unsafe or likely to cause excessive damage to the way or bridge." Municipalities and counties are also authorized to enact rules on roads under their jurisdiction.

For more Information visit mainedot.gov/postedroads/

More free computer classes at the Library

By Kate Cutco,

Bowdoinham Public Library Director

The Bowdoinham Public Library in conjunction with the National Digital Equity Center (NDEC) will again be offering free computer classes at the library. The instructor will be on a screen, while you and a class hostess will be together in the Kendall Room. You have to register online at digitalequitycenter.org/classes/onsite-class-catalog/. If this is your first class, they ask that you enroll by clicking on the enroll form on the "dashboard" of the NDEC website. If you need assistance, please stop in to the library.

Telehealth - Connecting with Your Healthcare Provider at Home

May 1: 10 - 11 AM

In this class we will look at how you can connect with your healthcare provider from the comfort of your own home. Telehealth is the new Home Visit, allowing healthcare providers to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients, whether it's for check-ups, consultations, or a follow-up appointment. We will discuss the process; from setting up your initial appointment, what to expect, insurance and patient portals to community resources. No devices are required; just bring yourself.

"Cutting the Cord" - Getting TV & Phone Services Over the Internet

May 20: 4 - 5 PM

What does it mean to "Cut the Cord"? It's about canceling cable or satellite services and being able to watch television shows online, as well as options that would allow you to get rid of your landline. This class will not only show you the wide variety of options out there, but also teach you some tools to decide if cutting the cord is right for you." No devices are required; just bring yourself.

Betty and the duck family have started to arrive back home to join us again at Celebrate. Can you find Betty in the newsletter?



Don't forget
Town Meeting 2024 will
be **SATURDAY, June 1st**

**Bowdoinham Heavy Loads Limited Posting on Town Roads
Is in effect as of Thursday, February 8th.**

Cemetery News

By Elaine Diaz

Well, we were a little ahead of ourselves in January, writing that we had presented the updated Policy For the Superintendence and Maintenance of the Bowdoinham Cemeteries to the Select Board. It was not finished and presented until February; and at this writing, we don't know if approved. We really struggled with maintaining consistency and historical accuracy in Appendix A, the cemetery names, as many of the cemeteries have had various names used over the years. We decided to keep the GR numbers as each cemetery has a unique GR number, while there may be two or three cemeteries with the same name! We also went with using the same names as listed on the Bowdoinham Historical Society website, bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org. Currently, this is where anyone would search for Bowdoinham Cemetery information. However, Tobey has found the flash drive onto which Elaine used to save the cemetery data in 2020. This will soon be available on the town website and all new information will be added as it comes in.

The Volunteer Coordinators, Linda and Elaine will spend the rest of the winter contacting all Keepers and other volunteers to determine each one's availability and needs for assistance and supplies. In early Spring, we will deliver clean-up kits and Keeper and volunteer folders of useful information. As soon as weather permits, we will be completing reassessments of all known burial grounds in Bowdoinham and getting that information to the Town in order to prioritize needed work.

Our summer plan is to focus on clean-up and restoration in the Village Burying Ground (across from the School) and to stabilize some fragile monuments there and in the Ridge Road Cemetery. We also will



be supporting Keepers in working on some smaller plots. We continue looking for some small burial grounds we have not yet found, but have heard of. We ask that any fishermen or Spring hunters be on the lookout for stones that appear to be "arranged" (they may be unmarked field stones). There might be some in the area between Pond Road, Millay Road and Post Road or on the East bank of the Abagadasset River, in the Dinsmore Falls area. Please, if you have any information, "finds" or questions, contact any one of the following:

Linda Temple, Volunteer Coordinator, (207) 666-3343, wwells9@myfairpoint.net

Elaine Diaz, Volunteer Coordinator, (207) 666-8255, elainediazhome@gmail.com

Nina Mendall, BCAC Chair, (207) 666-8838, njmendall@comcast.com

Tina Magno Town Clerk, (207) 666-5531, townclerk@bowdoinham.org

This is an extra request, not necessarily related to any cemeteries. Would anyone

with ancestry or knowledge related to the Irish Famine immigrants in Bowdoinham (nearly 100 of them listed in the 1850 census in this town), please contact Elaine Diaz, she is doing a research project on them. They are (shamefully) missing from any Bowdoinham historical writings, except for a couple of brief mentions in Abraham Preble's Journal. 92 of these folks lived in a "shanty" near the Cathance River and built this section of the railroad. Prejudice and persecution against these Irish immigrants were rampant at all levels of society, government and press. Let us try to acknowledge them! Some of the family names listed in the census were Donahue, Cohalow, Long, Gorman, Conner, Dessan, Durgin, Cajorda, Harrigan, Murray, Caine, Glenn, Radican, Gerety (or Gerrity), Gafney, Callin, Welch, Canly, Redington, Morrie, Galvan, Hill, Marremall, Driscoll, Harrington, Flood, Diamond, Carues (or Carrn), Magee, Knowland, Redington, Caughlin (or Cocklin), Kelley, Roanoe, Fitzgerald, Grogan, O'Conner, Barkley, Galigean, Wilson, Brick, Eagle. These are the names as recorded in the 1859 Census, and some other town records. We suspect much misspelling and I welcome any information about the Irish Immigrants in the Bowdoinham area. Thank you!



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Bowdoinham Recreation Deptment

By Jason Lamoreau

Adult Pickleball: Continues Mondays 3:45 - 5:45pm and Wednesdays 4:30 - 8:00pm in the Bowdoinham Community Gym. (No pickleball April vacation week 15th - 19th). We will be back outside on the tennis court as soon as the weather allows!

Baseball/Softball Season: Baseball, Quickball and Softball registrations close in early March. Visit www.bowdoinhamrec.com for details. Practices begin this month with games beginning in April.

Sponsorships and Home Run Fence Banners: Our youth sports program is again offering advertising opportunities. If you are interested in sponsoring a team or flying your banner this year, our baseball/softball community greatly appreciates the continuous support. Updated paperwork for 2024 is available on the above website.

Community Swim: Sundays, March 3, 10, 24, April 7 & 14. Located at Bowdoin College pool, 4:30 - 5:30pm. FREE to residents of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell & Topsham. Registration available at poolside or by visiting www.harpswellme.myrec.com.

Cross Country Running: Youth cross country for grades 1 - 6, registration is open and meets will take place in May.

Ferrier Scholarship: Applications for our 13-18 year old Bowdoinham residents are available on the website as well as in the town office and library.

Indoor Walking: Continues Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 - 8:00pm in the Community School Gym. Please use "Door #2" on the left side of the building (not the main entrance), next to the gymnasium and sign in using the "walking program" clipboard. Thank you.

Volunteers Always Needed! Please Consider Volunteering time for: Walking/Running Group for 2nd - 5th grade; Youth Tennis program; Celebrate Bowdoinham Rec Food Tent; Snack Shack time; Softball/Baseball field maintenance, 2024 State/District Baseball Tournament in June.

Jason Lamoreau Recreation Director
666-5531, Recreation@Bowdoinham.com,
www.facebook.com/BowdoinhamRecDept,
www.BowdoinhamRec.com.

Burning Permits

By Chief Frizzle

As we slowly transition into spring the melting snow is revealing the mess left by several wind storms that pelted our area since last November. The fallen branches that line our yards are gathered to be chipped, composted, hauled away or in many cases burned on site. If you opt for the latter please make sure you are doing it safely and following the rules for outdoor burning. There is a change that went into effect at the end of October 2023 that may play a role in your annual cleanup or any outdoor burning you plan in the future.

Any open burning of brush and wood debris requires a burn permit, that has always been the case and remains unchanged. A recreational campfire, usually meaning a cooking, warming or a fire used for lighting, that is not a part of debris disposal, previously did not require a permit. That allowance was modified in 2023 and now reads that any campfire may not be larger than 3 feet in diameter at the base of the fire or be more than 3 feet in height. If the campfire exceeds these parameters then a burning permit is required. Burning permits are free and can be obtained online at either www.wardensreport.com or www.maineburnpermit.com.

When you attempt to obtain your permit there are several questions you will need to answer. Obviously, your name and contact information as well as the location of the intended burn are required. Additionally, you will be asked for an estimated size of the burn. The larger the intended burn pile the more people and safety equipment required in case of an emergency. Once you have answered all of the questions and submit your request you will receive a reply with your

permit information that includes allowable burn times. State law requires you to have this information immediately available so make sure to print a copy or have it accessible on your electronic device in case it is needed. Since weather conditions change quickly, especially in the spring, permits are only valid for the day they are issued. You need to acquire a new permit each day you plan to burn. Please make sure to read and understand the permit. If you indicate the presence of a certain tool or piece of equipment, then it needs to be on hand and readily available while burning.

The Maine Forest Service generates a daily wildfire danger report beginning in early spring and continuing until the first widespread snow in the fall. This report is *usually* issued at 9:00 AM daily and is based on current/future weather and wind conditions combined with readings from their network of sensors throughout Maine. This allows them to categorize the day based on the National Fire Danger Rating System. This is a color-coded system and what you commonly see Smokey Bear pointing to at many fire stations throughout Maine.

Green = low fire danger / Blue = moderate fire danger / Yellow = high fire danger / Orange = very high fire danger

Red = extreme fire danger

Any day coded as a yellow or higher means no burning is allowed and permits will not be issued or possibly revoked if the conditions change rapidly enough.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the fire station at 666-3505, Sagadahoc dispatch at 443-9711 or email firechief@bowdoinham.com.

Merrymeeting Dance Alinement

By George Oliverz

The Merrymeeting Dance Alinement continues to meet for line dancing on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 at Merrymeeting Hall, 27 Main St., Bowdoinham village center.

Our format has changed for this year. The first and third Tuesdays of the month will be normal open dancing, with easier dances the first hour and harder dances the second hour.

However, the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month will now be "open studio," where we can teach each other, try out new dances or steps, invent dances, watch videos, and have breakout groups with different interests. Experienced dancers will enjoy stretching their skills and creativity. These are

good sessions for beginners as well, as you can pair up with a regular dancer to learn an easy dance.

Line dancing is fun, great exercise, and terrific for your mind-body connection. Many studies have suggested that dancing may be the best activity for all around good physical and mental health.

Don't be shy or embarrassed or hesitant to move your body in time to all kinds of music. No partner means you won't step on a partner's feet! Our group is supportive, welcoming, and happy to have anyone willing to try.

If you're interested or have questions, email George Oliver at golivergo5@gmail.com.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Jen Kelley

“Dreams are what guide us, art is what defines us, math is what makes it all possible, and love is what lights our way.” - Mike Norton

Mother Nature is ready to wake us up. With the gentle nudge from the Crocus and Daffodil, we shed our coats and poke our own heads out of hibernation. Hope buzzes. The Sun warms, reminding us of all the possibilities a new season brings.

Merrymeeting Arts Center too, is brimming with possibilities as we welcome the newest member of our team, our new Program Manager, Nan Cumming.



Nan has just retired from a 35-year career managing nonprofits and cultural organizations in Maine. Most recently, she was the founding executive director of the Portland Parks Conservancy, a nonprofit supporting the public parks of Portland. Nan has previously served as the Executive Director of Portland Trails, Curator and Assistant Director of the Maine Historical Society, and campaign director for the Maine Island Trail Association. She holds a BA in Art History and an MA in American and New England Studies. A resident of Richmond, Nan spends her free time swimming, hiking, and dabbling with multiple craft projects. With Nan on the team, the possibilities are endless!

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who donated their time, work, or materials to our Ode: To Ice and Smelt exhibit. First and foremost, special thanks to **The Cathance River Gallery** for the collaboration. Their extraordinary artist's works elevated our exhibit. If you haven't seen their website

recently, visit cathancerivergallery.com/. And to Kate Cutko, Dana Legawiec, Jim's Smelt Shacks and to all of our volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

We've got some fun events in March and April. And we're not done yet! Keep an eye out for updates on our website or sign up for our monthly newsletter.

MARCH

Exhibit: Printmaking for Astronauts

Opening Reception: March 8th (5:30-7:30PM) & March 9th, 16th, 23rd (10:00-2:00PM)

Exploring both traditional and experimental printmaking techniques, this group show features artwork created using different types of printmaking processes. Be it using a turn-of-the-century printing press or food cartons from the kitchen, the contributing artists have used a variety of innovative methods to produce creative and original work. You'll be encouraged to be your own astronaut, experience a range of artistic styles and expressions, and dive into the world of printmaking with us! Presented by Merrymeeting Community & Adult Education.

Second Sunday Series: Game night!

Sunday, March 10th (4:00-6:00PM)

Join your fellow game-loving neighbors for an early evening of strategy and laughs. We'll have an assortment of games and tables so we're certain we'll have something for everyone. And if you have a favorite game, you're welcome to bring it! The event is free. Donations are welcome. Seats will be on a first come/first serve basis.

Workshop: Block Printing with Ruthanne Harrison

March 30th (2:00-4:00PM)

Join artist Ruthanne Harrison for an afternoon of creative block printing. We'll be creating designs using carved rubber blocks, experimenting with prints using found textured objects, and even carving a few blocks from potatoes! You'll leave with two printed cards/envelopes and a printed art piece that you can frame. All materials will be supplied, and no prior experience is needed! This is a workshop for all, ages 15 and up. The cost is \$25. This can get a bit messy, so dress accordingly!

APRIL

Workshop: Linda Murray's Acrylic Pour Class

April 5th – April 10th (9:30-12:00)

Linda Murray will be back for another six week session. Registration coming soon!

Second Sunday Series: Karaoke, baby!

April 14th (4:00-6:00PM)

Who needs to sing in the shower, when you can sing at MAC? Lose your inhibitions and find your inner diva. We're all superstars when we decide to be and sell it. Come have some fun and join us for our first Karaoke night. The event is free. Donations

OPEN STUDIO - ON GOING

Mondays + Wednesdays (6:00-8:00PM) with Zachary Fields

Saturdays (9:00-11:00AM) with Catherine Scanlon

\$10 suggested donation covers studio use, clay, kiln firing, and glazes. Open to the public, no experience necessary! Bring your ideas and we can help make them a reality. There is no traditional instruction offered during this time, only an attendant available for suggestions and answering questions.

COMING SOON... Summer Art Camp

Katie Hudak and Cami Wagner are excited to offer four weeks of Art Camp again this summer! Look for details in March.

Are you interested in being a part of MAC? We'll have lots of opportunities to volunteer this season. If you're interested, please visit our website at www.merrymeetingartscenter.org and fill out the short form.

When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are...

Every season can be the season of giving and to make it easy, we've created a wish list! Of course, we appreciate any and all donations that help us continue with our mission of ART FOR EVERYONE. Visit our Amazon Wish list at www.amazon.com/registries/gll/guest-view/14BJ41GXB0PLG.

The Heron Fund is our scholarship fund for all MAC organized studio programs and events. It is made possible by the generosity of the Muir Family and donations from MAC friends and supporters like you. Donations can be made on our website and allow us to remove financial barriers for program participation and ensure Art for Everyone. *Start early with that tax write off.*

Best of Bowdoinham Photo Contest

The Town of Bowdoinham is having a 'Best of Bowdoinham' Photo Contest to determine the pictures that will be featured in the Town's 2025 Calendar. These photos must represent Bowdoinham in any season. It can be of the bay, a farm, art gallery, special event, anything that represents our town at its best to you. Photos will be published in June for Bowdoinham residents to vote for their favorites. The top photos will be published in the 2025 Town Calendar along with the location of and name of photographer.

Email your photos to Lisa-Marie Curtis adminassistant@bowdoinham.com by May 15th.

- Photos need to be 300-600 dpi and of a location in Bowdoinham.

- If a photo contains people, send the names of the person(s) in the photo with a signed note from each person giving permission for us to print a picture of them.
- Send your name, contact information and location of the photo.
- Limit of 5 entries per photographer.
- All photographs become the property of the Town of Bowdoinham and may be considered for printing or posting in other Town publications.
- Don't have email: Photos can be submitted in person or by mailing to the Town Office.

If you need more information contact Lisa-Marie via email or by calling the Town Office at (207) 666-5531.

On Sale now: 2024 Bowdoinham Calendars

It has been said that it is our past that gives us roots to grow our future. Bowdoinham is a town with a rich and colorful past that has seen many changes, overcome many obstacles and endured many tragedies. Despite everything it has survived and thrived.

From floods to fires, prosperity to bank robberies, the people of this town continue to come together as a community. This spirit, above all else, has caused our little town to endure. It is our rich heritage and deep sense of community that will help us to continue to build a town our children and children's children will be proud to call home. - L. Curits



Calendars can be purchased at the Town Office and the Country Store for only \$10. Funds raised from the sale of these beautiful calendars go directly to the Town Hall Fund. This fund helps pay for the restoration of this beloved town landmark.

Morning Jo

By Jo Werther

A pessimist and an optimist walk into a bar...

The pessimist says, "Things can't possibly get any worse." The optimist replies, "Sure they can!" Haha, groan.

Just about everyone I know is going through something (or more than one thing) right now. If you are too, know that you are not alone.

The "turbo" button on the blender.

I like to bake and often use a hand mixer which has a "turbo" button. The instructions say that this button is intended to be used only sparingly. Why? Because otherwise it will likely fry the motor.

The human nervous system is hard-wired to handle emergencies. We have our very own built-in "turbo button" to get through a crisis. "Crisis mode" is meant to be temporary. We are not wired for emergencies or crises to become chronic.

Feeling a little fried? It's no wonder.

When stress becomes chronic, we begin to burn out. And the thing about stress is that it's a function of two things: what's happening externally (in the world, in our neighborhood, in our home) and what's happening internally (our thoughts and feelings about it and our reactions to it). While we can't always control the former, we can learn how to change the latter.

The *Five Ps* of Inner Peace.

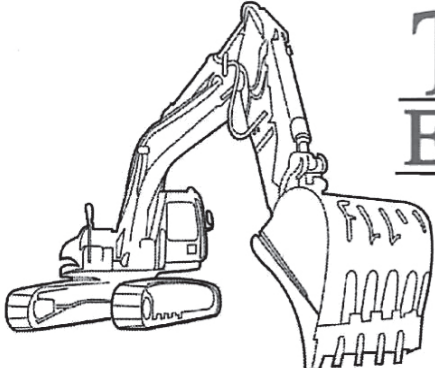
The Five Ps of Inner Peace are how you do it. Presence (see it, hear it, touch it, smell it, taste it), Perspective (when you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change), Perseverance (keep on keepin' on), Patience (because Rome wasn't built in a day), and Practice (rinse and repeat).

Short simple practices are the secret sauce.

Stress can't always be avoided. But we can learn to change the way we respond to it. One breath, one moment, one step, and one day at a time. You'll be surprised at what a big difference small changes can make. Got a minute? Give them a try.

You've got this. Happy Spring!

Questions? Something else you'd like me to address next time? Email me at jowertherlcs@gmail.com.



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BOWDOINHAM EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Recruiting New Members

Our volunteers have helped protect the people of Bowdoinham for over 20 years!

Grants and scholarships available to help cover the costs of EMT training and equipment

We are also always looking for Licensed:

- ✓ EMTs
- ✓ Advanced EMTs
- ✓ Paramedics



**FOR APPLICATION
SCAN HERE**



For More Information

www.bowdoinham.com/fire-rescue

A note to Businesses from the Assessor's Office

2024 Business Personal Property Declaration, 706-A Notice

Maine law provides that the personal property associated with a business is subject to taxation. The tax is assessed annually in accordance with the requirements set forth in Title 36 of the Maine Revised Statutes § 601 & 706-A. Pursuant to MRS 36 § 706 - As a business owner you are required to provide a "true and perfect" list of your business personal property that is not exempt from taxation that you possessed on the first day of April.

Your completed asset list must be returned either electronically or by mail to the Assessor's Office **no later than May 1, 2024**. All our filing forms are also available electronically on the Town's Website under the Assessor's Department. Marijuana business have separate forms.

Under State statute, if you are in business on April 1, you are responsible for the entire year's personal property tax bill. If this declaration form is not completed and returned, an estimated assessment (growth factor) will be rendered. If you have never filed, we will render an assessment based on a comparable business. Under Maine Law, taxpayers who fail to respond or do not comply with this request forfeit the right to appeal their assessment. **It is very**

important that you notify us in writing if your business has closed or relocated to avoid an assessment.

The Business Equipment Tax Exemption Program, aka "BETE" or "Betty" is an available property tax relief program. This is a 100% exemption program for qualifying assets. **You must file a 706-A declaration and apply to receive the exemption.** Assets listed on the BETE application must not be reported on the 706-A declaration. The BETE application, eligibility requirements and instructions are available at the Maine Revenue Services website or our website: www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/business-equipment-tax-programs#betr.

Filing your asset list is the best way to ensure an accurate assessment. While it can be confusing to understand how to comply and file, we are here to help. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us; we encourage you to call or email us with questions. If you would like assistance compiling your asset list, we will gladly visit you at your place of business. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you.

Robert J. Duplisea Jr., CMA - Assessing Agent. 666-5531 or assessor@bowdoinham.com.

2nd Half of Property Taxes Due May 1st

You can pay your Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes three ways: In person, by mail, or ONLINE. We take cash, checks, and credit cards.



- WWW.BOWDOINHAM.COM
- Online Services
- Online Tax Payment
- Scroll down to [Bowdoinham Payment Portal](#) and follow directions.

For current year tax bills we accept three online payment methods:

- E-Check/Checking Account - You will need to provide your account number and the bank's routing number to pay by this method. There will be a \$1.00 processing fee assessed.

- **Credit Cards** - We currently accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit cards. There will be a 2.75% processing fee for each credit card transaction with a minimum charge of \$1.95.
- **Debit Cards** - Tax payments qualify for a discounted flat rate of \$3.95 when using a VISA consumer debit card. All other debit card transactions will be processed as credit.

For prior-year tax bills and lien properties, payments must be made by cash or bank check and cannot be paid online. Checks are accepted via mail, please do not mail cash.

** Please note that an accurate processing fee will not be reflected until all payment information is entered.*

Celebrate Committee

Celebrate Bowdoinham on September 14th is just around the corner! We are looking for community help in planning the event. Please save the date and come share your ideas!

Save the Date:

Celebrate Bowdoinham Planning Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, Kendall Room, Town Office, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Topics to consider:

1. Theme - Help us determine this year's theme
2. Parade - Soliciting more parade participants
3. Exhibitors - Recruiting Artisans, Vendors and Community Groups
4. Activities, Entertainment & Music lineup
5. Silent Auction

FMI contact: Yvette Meunier at Planning@bowdoinham.com or 666-5531

Spring Bulky Waste Day

We will be holding our Spring Bulky waste day on April 20th from 8am to 2pm at the Public Works facility located at 121 Pond Rd.

The following items will be accepted on this day for a fee.

Box Spring/Mattress each piece:

Twin	\$5.00
Full	\$8.00
Queen	\$9.00
King	\$10.00

Carpet:

\$1.00/foot, priced at the lesser of the size i.e., 5'x8' = \$5.00

Furniture:

Chair	\$5.00
Chair- recliner	\$7.00
Couch- small	\$7.00
Couch- large	\$12.00
Couch- recliner	\$14.00
Couch- pull out	\$14.00

Construction Debris including Sheetrock, Insulation:

¼ yard of debris	\$30.00
½ yard of debris	\$50.00

Large and/or heavy quantities of construction debris should be taken to one of the following locations: Grimm Industries in Topsham, Pine Tree waste in W. Bath, Maine Waste to energy in Auburn.

Boating Safety and Education Course

Beginning January 1, 2024, a person born on or after January 1, 1999, may not operate a motorboat greater than twenty-five (25) horsepower for recreational boating purposes on inland waters of this State or territorial waters, unless that person is 12 years of age or older and has completed a boater safety and education course. These persons must possess and present a boater safety and education course certificate for inspection upon request to a law enforcement officer. There are a few exemptions, such as for registered Maine guides (hunting, fishing, and recreational guides only), commercial fishermen, daily boat renters, and merchant mariners, please see the **frequently asked questions section** on the Inland Fisheries

and Wildlife website.

A person born after January 1, 1999 is also required to complete a boater safety and education course and be at least 16 years of age to operate a personal watercraft (such as a jet ski) on inland waters and territorial waters of the State or to supervise a person under 12 years of age who is operating a motorboat.

Participating in a recreational boating safety education course will teach you how to safely operate and maintain a boat and introduce you to Maine boating laws and resources. The State of Maine has accepted the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) educational standards that is recognized in all 50 states and the 6 territories. The Boating Safety

Education Course is available both online and in-person. Whether you attend an in-person course or opt for the online option the course duration is about 6 hours and covers the following subjects:

- Knowing your boat
- Before you get underway
- Operating your boat
- The legal requirements of boating
- Boating emergencies
- Environmental concerns
- Enjoying watersports with your boat

For more information on courses and Maine Boating Law visit Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website: www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/index.html.

Recycling

If you've been over to the Town's recycling facility on Pond Road lately you know it's here! Big Red is a recycling compactor that was approved in last June's Town Meeting. Our Solid Waste Director found a good deal on Big Red, it is used and after purchase and a complete refurbish, the cost came in more than 20% below budget.

So just what does Big Red do for Bowdoinham? With Big Red we can reduce the number of loads we transport to the sorting facility; in other words, we can now transport what used to take 4 - 5 loads in just one load. And as the Town currently pays \$400 per load to transport recyclables Big Red represents savings between \$1,200 and \$1,600 per load. With that kind of savings Big Red will pay for itself by October.

From a user perspective the opening to deposit your recyclables is both larger and more assessable than the old 'silver bullets' making it easier to use for all of us.

If you haven't seen it yet come on over to the Town's recycling facility on Pond Road and check it out.



Save the Date! Saturday, July 13



Bowdoinham Garden Tour

to benefit the Bowdoinham
Public Library

Lots of
volunteers will
be needed.
Please call the
library to join
the fun.
666-8405



The Three Rs, and More

Chris Lajoie, Principal, Bowdoinham Community School

For years Bowdoinham students have consistently performed better than state and national norms in literacy and math. We have continued to carry that torch in our most recent rounds of standardized testing. And while learning to read, write, and perform mathematics is a fundamental outcome of a student's time at our school, we all know the purpose of education is so much deeper. I want to share a few of the enrichment activities we have created for our students to help them develop passions, explore new ideas, and grow as human beings.

After some pandemic-related stops and starts, our longtime Electives program (also known as "Arts Alive") was revived this winter. Several parents and community members joined with our staff to offer special classes for third-through-fifth graders, once a week for six weeks. Students could join "Cooking Around the World," juggling, painting, ice skating, nail art, or one of several other electives. Through this project students are learning new skills, but also expanding how they see education as a lifelong pursuit.

Our Civil Rights Team is the longest-running such club amongst MSAD 75 elementary schools. With optional participation for fourth and fifth graders, the Team meets once a week to discuss issues related to civil rights and the role kids can play in helping make our school a safe and welcoming community. When we had an unfortunate incident of harassing language earlier this year, the Civil Rights Team studied it and developed some educational



presentations about how to speak up when encountering bias.

There are sweet sounds on Thursday mornings before school. That is when our Songbirds Choir meets with Music teacher, Adrian Morneau, to rehearse challenging vocal music. These students come early to get a little extra music into their week. Similarly, our fifth grade Band rehearses on Monday mornings with teacher, Dawne-Marie Powers. We are looking forward to a few performances from these groups later in the year.

Our most popular enrichment group is Chess Club. Open to all students, K-5, and sorted into two groups (The Knights and The Rooks), students learn strategy and compete against each other to climb in rank. The creator of this great program is parent, Dan Feldman, who runs each meeting along with

a few dedicated volunteers. We will have six Bowdoinham students competing in a state chess meet in March!

We have found ways to enrich the teaching of the basics too. In March we will be welcoming Maine author, Lynn Plourde, back to our school to share about the life of a writer. (We are also looking forward to another author visit in November ... this one from Chris Van Dusen!) Additionally, over forty students in grades 2-5 are involved in the Crazy 8s Math Club after school. Our district Gifted and Talented teacher, Colleen Crowe, leads this group along with some dedicated parents, focused on fun math problem solving. Whenever possible, across all grades (and especially in Kindergarten) our teachers move learning outdoors. We also use recess as a time for kids to learn through play, another foundational concept that is important in our school.

And of course our students benefit immensely from the rich offerings provided by Jason Lamoreau and the Bowdoinham Recreation Department. We have dozens of students involved in Rec. programs, many of which are run from our school building and the adjacent fields. A program like this is a jewel in a small town like ours, and we are so thankful for the work of Jason and all of his volunteer coaches.

We have lots of excitement in the works! A production from our school's Theatre Program, the return of volunteer readers for our Lunch Bunch program, the Spring session of Girls on the Run, and a session of Coding Club (computer science) will all be on offer for our school community. Our motto is meaningful learning that lasts, and this gives you a glimpse into what we mean by that.

Want to support enrichment activities for our students? Email Principal Lajoie at lajoiec@link75.org.



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Midcoast CA\$H

An Initiative of United Way of Mid Coast Maine

FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE!

Households earning up to **\$64,000 annually** can likely receive **FREE** tax preparation by an IRS-certified volunteer tax preparer.

Scheduling opens January 15th!

Location: Bowdoinham Fire Department

Address: 57 Post Rd, Bowdoinham

Dates:

Tuesday, March 19, 2024: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 6, 2024: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Call 207-295-6340 or 207-751-3756

Email midcoastcash@uwmcm.org

Visit [www.eznetscheduler.com/Calendar/](http://www.eznetscheduler.com/Calendar/MidcoastMaineCASH)

MidcoastMaineCASH



SCAN ME

For more information, visit uwmcm.org/midcoastcash

Generously sponsored by

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United Way
of Mid Coast Maine

Second Baptist Church

The Second Baptist Church of Bowdoinham continues our mission to bring the Truth and Love of God into our community and world through the lives of committed and growing Followers of Jesus Christ.

The church is thriving under the leadership of Interim Pastor David Clark and his wife Wandah. Our sermons are now being posted to our Facebook page. We encourage you to watch a sermon to hear Pastor Clark sharing God's word.



Christmas Concert: Ryan Sweet assisted by Ann Hartzler

The Clarks will serve Second Baptist while the church seeks a new settled pastor.

The church hosted its 2nd annual Christmas concert on December 10, featuring the musical talents of Ryan Sweet, our pianist. Ryan prepared a thoughtful collection of Christmas music including his own interpretation of Silent Night and played Noel Suisse, written by Louis-Claude Daquinon, on the historic church organ. Ryan is a Bowdoinham resident and junior in high school at Mt. Ararat.

The concert was attended by over 50 people. A goodwill offering was collected for the town's Heating Assistance Fund and matched by our Missions Committee, allowing us to donate \$600. Food was also collected for the Bowdoinham Food Pantry.

We "Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

- Worship Service at 10:00AM on Sunday

- Communion is held on the first Sunday of the month.
- A potluck church luncheon is held after the service on the third Sunday of the month.
- Midweek Prayer and Bible study at 6:30PM on Wednesdays
- Men's Breakfast at 7:00AM on Saturdays
- Women's Bible study at 9:00 on Sundays
- Also, AA Meetings are held each Monday and Thursday evening at 7PM

Scheduled Upcoming Events:

Sunday 3/31/24 Easter

Sunrise Service at the waterfront followed by a free breakfast at the church

10:00 Worship Service

For more information, you can go to the church's website at: www.bowdoinhamsecondbaptist.org



Ryan Sweet

bowdoinhamsecondbaptistchurch.org or visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bowdoinhamsecondbaptist.

2024 Dates to Remember

Spring Bulky Waste Day

Saturday April 20, 2024 8 am - 2 pm

Property/Personal Taxes Due

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Photo Contest Entry Deadline

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Town Meeting

Saturday, June 1, 2024 @ 9 am

Sunday Summer Concert Series:

Starting June 30, 2024

Open Farm & Studio Day:

Sunday, July 28, 2024

Le Tour de Bowdoinham Food Pantry Charity Bike Ride:

Saturday, August 17, 2024

Celebrate Bowdoinham:

Saturday, September 14, rain date 9/15, 2024

Holiday Festival:

2 Weekends: December 6, 7, 8 & 13, 14, 15, 2024

Visit for more info: www.bowdoinham.com/page/events

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

New 2024 Permit Application Forms

Planning to build or subdivide your land? Please note that we have updated several applications to modernize the permitting process:

- Code Enforcement Officer Applications, often used to obtain a Building Permit, now include new fields, checkboxes, and a spot for a site plan or map.
- Building Permits and Certificates of Compliance provide clearer dates of issuance, inspection, and expiration.
- E911 Addressing Applications are a new form for tracking which properties need to be issued an address.

- Planning Board Permit Applications also include new fields and checkboxes, providing more information to all parties involved.
- Escrow Account Authorization is a new form within the Planning Board permit application. This form authorizes the Town to deduct the cost of public notices and printing from the account. It will also streamline the process for returning escrow account balances.
- Submission Checklist for Site Plan Review is a checklist that outlines the required materials for all tiers of projects. A new checkbox provides a simple way of requesting a waiver.

Stay tuned for upcoming checklists on Shoreland Zoning, Floodplain Management, and Subdivisions.

Application forms are on the Town website, under the Document Library tab of the main menu. They can also be found under the appropriate Department or Board and Committee tabs, under Town Government. Paper copies are available at the Town Office.

Have an outstanding permit needing inspection, or are you starting a new project? Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Matthew James, CEO
ceo@bowdoinham.com
 207-666-5531

Removal of Roadside Vegetation

Many of you may have noticed our Public Work crews diligently working along Bowdoinham's many roadsides



cutting trees and removing vegetation.

The removal of vegetation growing along the sides of the roads is a vital part of maintaining our roads. Vegetation not only blocks driver's views of oncoming traffic, street signs as well as wildlife and individuals on the side of the road it also hinders proper drainage, roots can break up and cause damage to the tar. In the colder months vegetation can shade parts of the road which can cause ice to form, making it hard for crews to keep roads clear. Bottom line clearing away vegetation helps keep our roads safer and healthier.

Crews are currently working on the most problematic areas and then will begin systematically clearing road by road as long as the weather permits.

FYI: Public Road right of ways normally average 50 feet, this means the right of way could extend 10 to 15 feet from the edge of the road. Crews will be clearing within this right of way.

Roads in Bowdoinham

A	C	K	K	D	I	N	S	M	O	R	E	C	R	O	S	S	I	B	B	O	B
B	B	A	H	O	R	N	B	E	C	K	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	F	M	R
A	A	B	A	T	C	H	L	D	R	B	A	C	H	O	R	I	F	O	S	D	W
S	H	O	A	B	O	W	D	O	I	A	N	H	S	N	Q	L	F	W	I	N	N
X	V	Z	T	G	B	L	A	N	C	T	A	R	D	R	I	D	G	N	I	N	O
W	I	L	D	E	A	S	H	C	S	C	H	O	O	L	A	E	E	S	S	K	O
A	K	G	K	I	C	D	B	O	C	H	I	L	L	U	P	S	A	P	O	S	B
L	L	A	H	T	K	I	A	M	J	E	A	M	M	Y	T	O	G	O	O	Q	Y
L	B	O	A	T	H	L	Y	S	O	L	T	T	O	M	C	A	L	I	R	N	Q
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E	N	B	P	B	O	W	D	O	I	N	H	A	L	N	F	D	O	O	E	E	H
S	H	W	E	M	E	R	S	O	F	I	S	H	I	S	A	I	W	P	Z	S	A
L	A	H	A	T	C	H	P	O	I	N	T	I	H	D	R	A	L	L	A	M	N
O	M	I	R	I	V	E	R	P	S	O	A	K	N	O	M	E	P	O	L	I	C
V	M	T	I	M	E	I	R	E	H	O	P	E	R	U	N	E	O	I	I	L	E
E	G	E	G	G	D	I	N	N	E	A	S	T	I	N	Z	P	I	C	E	L	M
J	U	M	P	G	P	I	P	E	R	O	C	K	A	C	K	E	N	E	F	A	T
O	M	G	E	L	F	P	R	A	T	T	E	I	C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	E
Y	O	U	R	B	O	W	D	O	I	N	H	A	M	O	O	S	S	E	A	T	R
T	C	A	R	D	I	N	G	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	A	T	E	R	S	J	Y

ABBAGADASSETT	BACK HILL	BATCHELDER	CEMETERY
HATCH POINT	CAIRN HILL	MILLAY	SCHOOL
BROWNS POINT	FISHER	BAY	CARDING MACHINE
CURTIS FARM	MALLARD	WALLENTINE	WHITE
WILDES	SPRING	POND	RIDGE
DINSMORE CROSS	DINGLEY	PREBLE	CATHANCE
HORNBECK CROSS	SPEAR	RIVER	PRATT
Bonus word: BOWDOINHAM x2			

Property Tax Exemptions

Home Owners did you know that you may be eligible for one or more of the State's Property Tax Exemption programs? Below is a list of programs available that could save you money on your property taxes. All you have to do is fill out the appropriate application and return it to the Town Assessor by April 1st. Some exemption claims may require additional information to support the claim.

Homestead Exemption - This program provides a measure of property tax relief for certain individuals that have owned homestead property in Maine for at least 12 months and make the property they occupy on April 1 their permanent residence. Property owners would receive an exemption of \$25,000.

Renewable Energy Investment Exemption - This program exempts renewable energy equipment, such as solar

panels, from property tax beginning April 1, 2020. Taxpayers must apply for the credit by April 1 of the first year the exemption is requested.

Veteran Exemption - A veteran who served during a recognized war period and is 62 years or older; or, is receiving 100% disability as a Veteran; or became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for \$6,000.

Paraplegic Veteran - A veteran who received a federal grant for a specially adapted housing unit may receive \$50,000.

Blind Exemption - An individual who is determined to be legally blind receives \$4,000.

For more information about Property Tax Exemptions program visit the Maine Revenue Services website under Property Tax Exemptions or call to schedule an appointment to talk with the Town Assessor.

Tax Programs

As many residents have heard, in July of 2023 the State of Maine repealed the Property Tax Stabilization program. This program allowed many of our citizens 65 and older to freeze their property taxes for FY2024. Town Office has received a lot of questions about this program and including what can residents do now to help with their property taxes?

First, some clarification. This was a State of Maine program not a Town program.

Second, though the State did away with the Property Tax Stabilization program they did not leave taxpayers without options. They expanded two preexisting programs to help eligible residence with property taxes.

1. The Property Tax Fairness Credit: Eligible Maine taxpayers may receive a portion of the property tax or rent paid during the tax year on the Maine individual income tax return whether they owe Maine income tax or not. If the credit exceeds the amount of an individual's income tax due for the tax year, the excess amount of credit will be refunded. The state increased the maximum benefit from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

To claim this credit, you must file a State of Maine income tax form 1040ME with a Schedule PFTC/STFC form. Need help filing taxes? See the 2024 Mid Coast CASH notice in this newsletter.

2. The State Property Tax Deferral Program: This is a lifeline loan program that covers the annual property tax bills of Maine seniors 65 and older, or those who are permanently disabled and cannot afford to pay the taxes on their own. The loan program allows Maine's most vulnerable community members to age in place and ensures that property taxes are still delivered to municipalities, requiring repayment of the loan once the property is sold or becomes part of an estate.

This program has been expanded. It doubles the income limit on that program to \$80,000 and raises asset limits.

More information on tax relief programs offered by the State of Maine can be found at www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs. If you still have questions, you can contact Maine Revenue Services, Property Tax Division, at 207-624-5600 or email them at prop.tax@maine.gov.

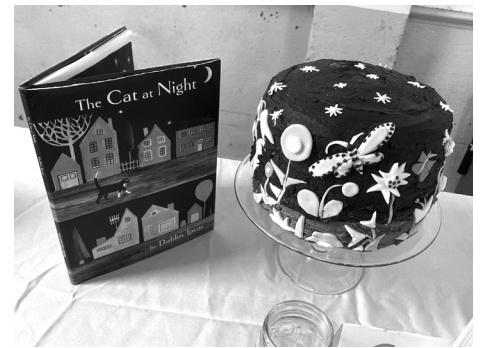
Edible Books Festival Moves to Merrymeeting Hall

Once again, the Bowdoinham Public Library hosts the annual "Luke McFadyen Memorial Edible Books Festival!". In memory of our dear friend and local baker Luke McFadyen, the festival is a celebration of books, creative fun and community. This year we will hold the festival at Merrymeeting Hall on Friday, April 5. We invite you to cook, bake or arrange some kind of food that makes you think of a book, either because it looks like the book cover, represents the title, or it makes a literary joke or pun. It is free to enter the contest, and those attending the festival are invited to judge and eat and will be asked to make a small donation. Entries will be judged in two classes: ages 12 and younger, and 13 and older.

Call the library if you would like to enter.



Ferdinand the Bull, a cake by Camila McFadyen



Cat at Night, a cake by Jen Stonebraker

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

What's Cooking at BCDI?

Bowdoinham Community Development Initiative (BCDI) hosted its 2023 annual meeting in December at Merrymeeting Hall. We welcomed incoming new board members Molly Seaward and Jim Deming, and thanked retiring members Mary Mayo (Chair) and Rachel Murphy (Treasurer). Michael Mahan is the new Chair, and Wayne Sanford is the new Treasurer; Eric Ferguson moves into the Vice Chair position vacated by Mahan moving to Chair.

Throughout 2023 BCDI continued to engage the community with our Neighbors Investing in Neighbors loan program; to date, we've distributed over \$150,000 to Bowdoinham businesses with 17 different loans. Our ongoing Farmland Inventory program is helping match farmers looking for land with town landowners with appropriate land available for farming. If you're interested in learning more about either of these programs, get in touch!

A cooperative effort between BCDI and Bowdoinham's Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) focusing on land use and attainable housing starting in late 2022, moved forward in 2023. This is a nationwide issue and Bowdoinham, like so many communities across the country, faces questions as to how to balance needed and

attainable housing with the preservation of open space, farmland, village character, and affordability. BCDI's Housing Community Conversations examined these issues and we made recommendations to the CPC. They will be moving the initiative forward through town channels.

In late August, BCDI held its community barbecue dinner and fundraiser prior to the season's last waterfront concert featuring Bowdoinham's own Stringtide. A brief thunder shower didn't dampen appetites and it was a fun and successful evening. As in the past, BCDI rented a smoker grill to smoke the 90 pounds of pork we served. The Bowdoinham Food Pantry and other local organizations have also rented the same smoker for community dinners over the past few years.

As we were planning our 2023 BBQ we started thinking about the possibility of procuring a smoker grill for community use. The Food Pantry has embraced the idea, and BCDI is looking at options and costs. We're in the early planning stages; do we buy or fabricate, what features are desirable, where do we find the funds? We're thinking of a portable unit that could be used by community organizations as well as by town residents. Got ideas? Do you or your organization want to get involved? Contact us! bcdi.maine@gmail.com

Richard A. Ferrier Scholarship Fund

This fund was established by the estate of Richard Ferrier to encourage students to explore the less traditional pathways to an education. Assistance will be provided to students between the ages of 13 and 18 by April 1 of the application year who are residents of Bowdoinham to pursue their artistic, academic, athletic and vocational or life's passion outside of the traditional school environment (i.e., experiential education, summer programs or studies, or special athletic instruction). Eligible applicants must be residents of Bowdoinham who clearly demonstrate a need for financial assistance. Preference is for applicants who have resided in Bowdoinham for at least one full year.

Contact: Maine Community Foundation

Application Deadline: June 1

FMI: www.maineCF.org/find-a-scholarship/available-scholarships/aspirational-nontraditionalcamp/

Available Online Services

Hate standing in line, driving in foul weather, traveling or obligations making it hard to get to the Town Office?

Did you know that there are several things you can do 24/7 any day of the week online instead of having to drive to the Town Office? Below are some helpful links.

Pay your real estate or personal property tax: bowdoinham.androgov.com/

Renew ATV, Snowmobile & Boat registrations or buy Hunting & Fishing License: www.maine.gov/ifw/

Renew Car or Trailer registrations: www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/

Dog License: www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl

Get a Burn Permit: www.wardensreport.com (no fee) / www.maineburnpermit.com (State of Maine site with fee)

Notes from Merrymeeting Hall: A Festival of Dolls

In late March, probably Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24, Bowdoinham Historical Society will host in Merrymeeting Hall "A Festival of Dolls." It will feature a beautiful display of dolls in the BHS collection, and dolls belonging to some of the BHS members. They will be accompanied by their story and the research we have been able to find on them.



We would love others in the community to bring in their dolls to display as well. Of course, we will show doll accessories, doll books, and old stuffed toys from the 20th century or before. We are hoping to find someone to speak on dolls and/or stuffed toys, or on some aspect of these childhood favorites.

We are only beginning to put this show together. If any of you would like to help, please contact Betsy Steen bayviewess@comcast.com or 737-9460. It surely will be a fun and exciting venture!

SPRING 2024 FREON COLLECTION DAY

APRIL 20th 2024

Spring Freon collection will include items such as:

- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Air conditioners
- Water coolers
- Dehumidifiers

And any other items containing freon.

Current Land Use Programs

The State of Maine has four “current use” programs that offer the property owner a reduction in assessed value: Farmland, Open Space, Tree Growth, and Working Waterfront. The programs establish valuation of property at its current use, rather than at market value.

All four programs are available to property owners through an application process with the local municipality. Applications must be filed on or **before April 1**.

Property must meet certain criteria to qualify for each program and any future change in the use of the land will cause disqualification resulting in a penalty.

Farmland

In the Farmland program, the property owner is required to have at least five contiguous acres in their parcel of land. The land must be used for farming, agriculture or horticulture and can include woodland and wasteland. Additionally, the parcel must contribute at least \$2,000 gross income from farming activities each year.

Open Space

There is no minimum acreage requirement with this program. However, minimum areas and setbacks must be excluded from classification. The parcel must be preserved or restricted in use to provide a public benefit. Benefits recognized include public recreation, scenic resources, game management, and wildlife habitat.

Tree Growth

This program provides a benefit for owners of at least ten acres of forested land used for commercial harvesting. A forest management and harvest plan must be prepared and a sworn statement to that effect submitted with the application. Applications must include a map of the parcel indicating the forest type breakdown as well as all other areas to be excluded from the tree growth program.

Working Waterfront

“Working waterfront land” means a parcel or portion of a parcel of land abutting tidal waters or is located in the intertidal zone (located between the high and low water mark) the use of which is more than


50% related to providing access to or in support of the conduct of commercial fishing (including commercial aquaculture) activities.

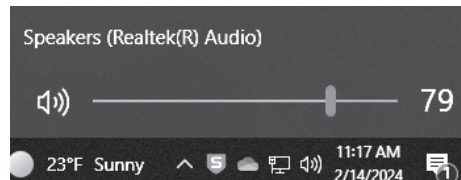
For more information about these programs along with required reporting, management and penalties for removing property from a program visit the Maine Revenue Services website under Current Land Use Programs or call to schedule an appointment to talk with the Town Assessor.

Tips for watching Zoom, YouTube and Town Hall Stream Meetings

Having trouble with your volume?

There are two places to adjust volume when watching online meetings.


First is your speaker volume. For most Windows PC and laptops, the volume can be adjusted by clicking this icon  on the lower right hand side of your screen. Adjust your volume by sliding the volume to the desired level.



If you have a lap top you can adjust your speaker volume using these two keys.



Second is the video volume: If you have adjusted your speakers and still are having a problem hearing a video you may need to adjust your video volume as well.

Zoom, Townhall Streams and YouTube have their own volume setting. All of these platforms have an icon that looks similar to this:  on the bottom of the video screen. Use this button to adjust the video volume up and down.

Bowdoinham Municipal Directory

Town Office

13 School St
Phone: 666-5531
Fax: 666-5532
Website: bowdoinham.com
Hours:

Monday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Tuesday: 8:30am-4:00pm
Wednesday: 11:00am-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)
Town Office sells Trash Bags

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
Thursday: 10:00am-2:00pm
Friday: 2:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am-2:00pm

Animal Control

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

March

- 8 Town Office Closed for Software Upgrade
- 14 Age-Friendly Luncheon
11:30 am
- 19 Midcoast Ca\$h Tax Prep
9 am - 2 pm
- 22 The Death with Dignity
6:30 pm - 8 pm

April

- 1 Computer Class: 'Telehealth'
10 am - 11 am
- 1 Property Taxes Due
- 5 Edible Book Festival
- 6 Midcoast Ca\$h Tax Prep
9 am - 2 pm

- 10 Computer Class: 'Cutting the Cord'
4 pm - 5 pm
- 11 Age-Friendly Luncheon
11:30 am
- 15 Patriots Day - Town Office Closed
- 20 Bulky Waste Day/ Earth Day
8 am - 2 pm

May

- 1 Property & Personal Taxes Due

Town Board and Committee Meetings

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

Select Board

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of Month at 6:30pm

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 6:00pm
(November will be on the 3rd Thursday)

Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham

2nd Monday of Month at 1:30pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:00pm

Cemetery Advisory Committee

1st Thursday of Month at 4:00pm

Town Hall Committee

Last Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Solid Waste Committee

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of Month at 5:30pm

Town Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri 8:30am - 4pm • Wed 11am - 6pm

Town of Bowdoinham
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