



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 1

www.bowdoinham.com

June 2009

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

By Tony Cox

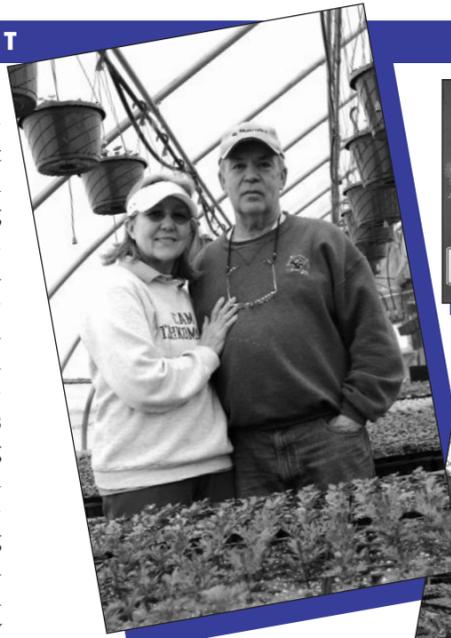
ENTERPRISE FARMS

Driving north on the White Road in Bowdoinham just before the Richmond town line, you come upon the sprawling greenhouses of Enterprise Farms. Jesse and Dawn Harriman own and operate one of the largest greenhouse operations in the area. With over 7 greenhouses in production this spring, Enterprise Farms has literally thousands of bedding plants to begin your garden, including flowers, vegetables, and kitchen herbs. In early March, five employees begin the process of starting plants from seed. A specialized seed machine plants the “plugs,” and with a little light and water they quickly turn into a sea of green.

Jesse Harriman’s roots in Bowdoinham go back to his parents who met while attending the Coombs School in Bowdoinham. He was born in Topsham at the Pot of Gold Farm on the Fisher Road. From there, he went on to attend schools mainly in Woolwich and Wiscasset.

When asked how he got interested in this line of work, Harriman replied, “I began my farming career back in the late 1960’s beginning with raising poultry and then produce. From there, about thirty years ago, I began raising perennials and annuals to sell, and my greenhouses grew.”

At one point, Enterprise was growing plants in sixteen greenhouses and heating some year-round to grow poinsettias and Easter lilies to sell wholesale and retail. Now their focus is on the retail greenhouse operation and Agway on Main Street in Richmond. Jesse

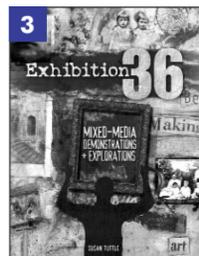


Dawn and Jesse Harriman



and Dawn like interacting with their customers. “Working with plant life always affords new experiences in learning about them, which goes without saying. However, I would say meeting and talking with the variety of folks who frequent our business has to be the most interesting

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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Bowdoinham Waterfront To Have a New Look Proposal to move Public Works facility

By Kathy Durgin-Leighton, Town Manager

Exciting things are about to happen to Bowdoinham's waterfront area if approved at the June Annual Town Meeting. In addition to the construction of sidewalks (see article page 4), the Select Board has entered into an agreement (pending final approval at Town Meeting) to purchase land at the intersection of Pond Road and Route 138 for the site of a new Public Works facility. The Public Works Department is currently located along the Cathance River on the opposite side of Route 24 from Mailly Waterfront Park. The town initially purchased the land from the Central Chemical Company in 1998 for recreational uses. However, at the time of the purchase the Town did not have a Public Works facility and it was therefore decided to temporarily house the Department in the former company's garage. It was to be a temporary solution that turned out to be longer than originally planned.

In 2004, the Bowdoinham Select-board created the ad-hoc Waterfront Plan Committee whose purpose was

to develop a plan for the 30 acres of contiguous waterfront property owned by the town that would "maximize and balance the recreational, natural, historic, educational, and economic value of the land, starting from the goals and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan." The land purchased from Central Chemical is part of the 30 acres and therefore included in the Committee's work. Public meetings were held and a town-wide survey was distributed for public input. In June 2005 the Committee submitted its Waterfront Plan for approval at the Town Meeting. The Plan was voted on and approved by the voters to help "guide future use of the Town waterfront." The Plan states, "...Public Works is not well located. Some residents complain that it is an eyesore; others express concern about the culvert pile or the adequacy of the current salt shed; still others feel the land is better suited to recreational uses...the Town should consider moving the Public Works operation to an alternate location, perhaps near the interstate."

The Public Works garage is in poor condition. It is an un-insulated building; the southeast sills and wall studs are rotting and the roof on the back side leaks due to two missing roof panels as well as numerous scattered holes. The Department has also outgrown its space; six vehicles need to be parked outside requiring the use of block heaters in the winter. Lastly, because the building is in the flood zone, the Department has on many occasions needed to move its equipment away from the garage.

It is evident that the Public Works Department is in need of a new building. When the Public Works Department moved to its present site it was widely asserted that the waterfront was not the proper location for a salt and sand pile as well as storage for diesel and gas tanks. The waterfront property is arguably the nicest property in the downtown village and the Public Works facility does not add value to the area. With land available near the highway, the Select Board believes it is the right time to purchase the 7 acres of land. The land is ideal for the facility and allows for plenty of buffer from neighboring homes. The Town is sensitive to the highway area as being the "gateway to the community" and is committed to designing a facility that complements the site, is energy efficient, and functional. We are in the process of designing the facility to present at the Town Meeting. We are excited about the possibilities!



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Bowdoinham Artist Susan Tuttle Publishes First Book

By Tony Cox



Bowdoinham is home to many entrepreneurs who work out of their homes. Susan Tuttle, mixed-media artist and now published author, is one of them.

How would you describe your work? "I am a self-taught, mixed-media artist. I enjoy creating collage, assemblage, and altered art with found imagery and recycled objects. Exploring abstract intuitive painting on huge canvases, often with bold colors and patterns, is a passion of mine. I have a newfound love for photography and creating digital art."

What is your background? "I've had formal training in the areas of Flute Performance and Music Education, having obtained degrees from both Rutgers University-Mason Gross School of the Arts, and the Boston Conservatory. I taught K-12 public school music over a span of ten years, in both the Greater Boston area and in my current home state of Maine, but my most recent embracement of the arts is in the visual realm. I am drawn to color, texture, and design, and enjoy playing with various media to express whatever happens to be in my heart and mind in the moment. I must make art – it seems to be in my blood – it brings me much joy -- and oftentimes provides a safe haven where I can work out life's chal-

lenges. The process of each creation can often feel like "Christmas morning" to me – I get so lost in what I am doing – it is my passion!"

How many copies have you sold and are you going to write another one? "As of the end of January I sold just over 7,000 copies. Amazon lists the top 100 purchased books in mixed-media art, which they update multiple times each day, and my book has been holding its own, usually listing in the top 10. I am currently working on my second book which focuses on digital art and photography. That book will be released in April 2010. There is no official title yet."

Exhibition 36 may be purchased online at amazon.com or you may pick up an autographed copy at Borders in Brunswick. Susan is a long standing member of the Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans and her art can be seen in person at the annual Guild of Artisans Art Show and Sale in December at the Bowdoinham Town Hall. Learn more about Susan at her website and blog at: www.ilkasattic.com and www.ilkasattic.blogspot.com.

Susan's first book, "Exhibition 36: Mixed-Media Demonstrations and Explorations" which was published at the end of 2008, is filled with collage and multi-media artists from all over the world. Many Bowdoinham residents went to Susan's book signing at Borders Book Store in Brunswick in November to get their copy signed. Amazon.com describes Susan's book in detail:

"Within the pages of Exhibition 36, readers will enter a virtual art exhibit featuring thirty-six mixed-media artists whose collage, digital, assemblage, altered and repurposed art adorn the walls and pedestals of this unique gallery. The artists are



"present" throughout the exhibit, answering questions, sharing their thoughts, talking about their work and offering instruction. The tour is structured to provide insight into the creative process of the artists whose work is on display and the reader will be delighted with the plethora of inspiration, articles, techniques and general visual candy. As a final bonus, many artists featured in the book have contributed imagery as a gift to readers for attending the exhibit to reuse in their own creations."

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Town of Bowdoinham Awarded \$535,000 Sidewalk Grant from Maine Department of Transportation's Quality Community Programs

Needs Town Meeting Approval on June 10, 2009

By Kathy Durgin-Leighton, Town Manager



Wooden sidewalks lined the village streets of Bowdoinham as early as the 1800's. In fact, we have fewer sidewalks today than we did at the turn of the 20th century. With predominantly gravel streets, sidewalks were essential for pedestrians to navigate the village especially during mud season! Today, if you have ever walked along Main Street, Center Street, or Ridge Road it quickly becomes evident that sidewalks are needed for the safety of pedestrians and motorists alike. There are more vehicles today than in the early 1900's and vehicles are traveling at a much higher speed.

Sidewalks provide more than a safe way to walk from one destiny to another. Studies show that people with access to sidewalks are more likely to walk and meet the Surgeon General's recommendations for physical activity. In addition to the health benefits, sidewalks provide an enhanced sense of community through better connections to neighbors and businesses and decrease the use of cars for short trips, thereby lessening carbon emissions and saving gas! Children will be more apt to walk to school and residents may walk to the Country Store, Town Landing Restaurant, library, credit union, or the Farmers' Market. Sidewalks not only benefit residents who live in the village, but all residents, since businesses are more apt to move into communities where sidewalks exist. Lastly, according to the International Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Association, there is a reduced risk of crime when there is an increase in pedestrian traffic. In other words, the more people out and about providing "eyes on the street," the less apt there is to have a crime committed. In short, when the village center is pedestrian oriented, it becomes the healthy heart of a town, economically and socially. A walk-able village acts as a magnet, drawing people into the village, increasing local business, and supporting the local economy.

It is for these reasons that in June 2008, town staff, with Select Board approval, applied for grant monies to update and expand the existing sidewalks in the village. On April 8 we received the good news that our

Continued on page 5

Sidewalks

Continued from page 4

funding request was approved! What does this mean? Voters will be asked to make the final decision regarding the fate of the sidewalks at the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday, June 10. The project is estimated to cost \$906,029 with \$535,000 coming from the Department of Transportation and the rest to be made up by a local match of cash (\$350,029) and in-kind (\$31,000). Though this may sound like a lot of money, it is our belief that the benefits will outweigh the costs. According to Dan Stewart, Maine Department of Transportation's Bicycle and

Pedestrian Program Manager, the addition and enhancement of the sidewalks "will transform Bowdoinham's downtown area."

The project is expected to take two years to complete, with engineering and design work beginning in the fall. After careful consideration, the Finance Advisory Committee recommends a plan that will pay off debts that are currently financed at a higher interest rate than today's rates and borrow



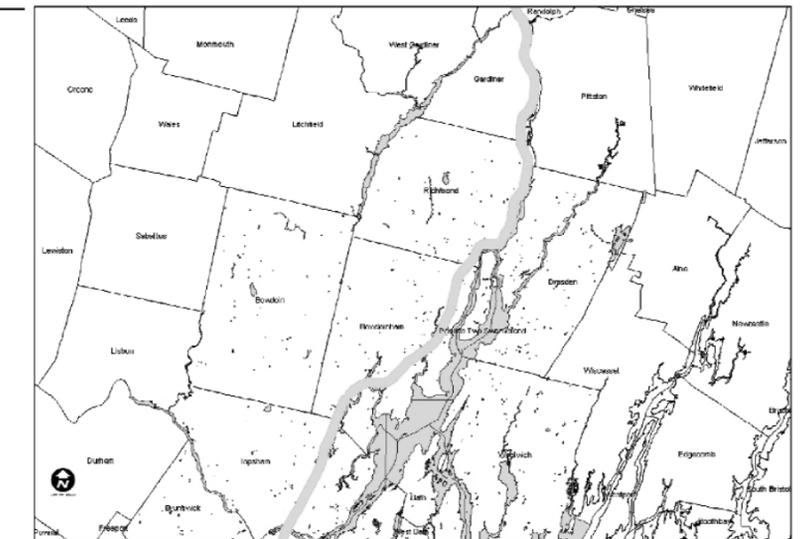
Wooden sidewalks, Center Street

money for the sidewalks at a lower rate for a 15 year term. With this strategy, along with other sound financial decisions, taxes are not expected to increase next year!

Merrymeeting Trail Initiative

Our goal is to create a regional trail from Topsham through Bowdoinham and Richmond to Gardiner, which connects the following: the Androscoggin River Pedestrian Bike Path in Topsham, the Village Area in Bowdoinham, the Village Area in Richmond, and the Kennebec River Rail Trail in Gardiner.

The creation of this trail would connect two existing regional trails—the Androscoggin River Pedestrian Bike Path in Topsham and the Kennebec River Rail Trail in Gardiner—thus connecting the cities of Brunswick and Augusta. By connecting with these existing regional trails the Merrymeeting Trail would connect to the East Coast Greenway on either end. The East Coast Greenway is a national trail that connects existing and planned trails in a continuous, safe, green route that is 3,000 miles long,



Merrymeeting Trail Corridor - Topsham -- Gardiner

connecting Calais, Maine with Key West, Florida.

If you are interested in obtaining more information and/or supporting our effort go to www.bowdoinham.com/merrymeetingtrail or contact:

Bowdoinham
Nicole Briand - Town Planner
666-5531

Topsham
Rod Melanson - Town Planner
725-1724
Richmond
Darryl Sterling - Economic Development Director 737-4305
Gardiner
Jason Simcock—Planning and Development Director 582-6888



What you should know about the

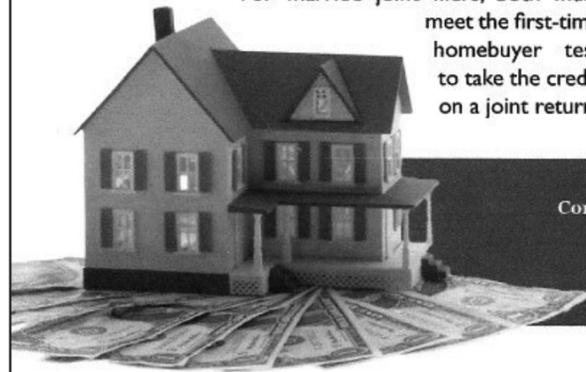
First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 features an \$8,000 tax credit for first-time buyers who purchase a home on or after Jan. 1, 2009 and before Dec. 1, 2009.

Details of the tax credit include:

- The temporary credit is only available for home purchases made from Jan. 1, 2009 to before Dec. 1, 2009 and is equal to 10 percent of the cost of the home, up to a maximum credit of \$8,000. (For example, a home purchased for \$80,000 or more would qualify for the full \$8,000 credit while a \$70,000 home would only qualify for 10 percent, or \$7,000)
- Eligible properties include anything that will be used as a principal single-family residence—including condos and townhouses.
- Buyers claim the credit on their federal tax return to reduce their tax liability. If the credit is more than their total tax liability that year, the buyer will get a refund check for the balance.
- There are income guidelines on the credit. Individuals with an adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 (or \$150,000 if filing jointly) are eligible for the full tax credit. The credit is phased down for those earning more and is not available for those with an income above \$95,000 (or \$170,000 if filing jointly).
- Only first-time homebuyers can take advantage of the tax credit. A first-time buyer is defined under the tax credit as an individual who has not owned a home in the last three years. For married joint filers, both must meet the first-time homebuyer test to take the credit on a joint return.
- The new tax credit does not have to be repaid if the buyer stays in the home at least three years. But if the home is sold before that, the entire amount of the credit is recaptured on the sale.
- People who purchased homes under the 2008 \$7,500 tax credit program will still be required to repay that credit to the government over a 15-year period.



Consult with your REALTOR® or tax advisor and visit www.YourPieceOfMaine.com to learn more about the tax credit.



Business Spotlight

Continued from page 1



Sylvia Edmundson and Ursula Pinnette transplanting seedlings.

experience I have as a business owner”

“In both the greenhouses and at the store, the most unique characteristic we offer is our friendliness, courtesy and knowledge of what we do and what we have to offer, which, after being in the business for so many years, is invaluable to our loyal customers. Proof of that is our best and only advertisement has been word-of-mouth for many

years now. They keep coming back. New people come in and all tell us of the dependable reputation of our plants, so we must be doing something right!”

Inside the garden center there is potting soil, clay and plastic pots, seed starting supplies, onion sets and packed seeds. They also sell compost and bark mulch in bulk by the yard with delivery available.

“We invite you to come in and smell the flowers, walk through our greenhouses and take in the beauty. And if you’re lucky, my lovely wife, Dawn, will make you a cup of tea and pull out a chair so you may sit and enjoy! Lastly, we can’t thank our customers

enough for their loyalty over the years and hope they all know just how much their business is appreciated.”

The Enterprise Farm Greenhouses are located at 819 White Road in Bowdoinham and are open from the end of April through to the middle of July every year. The Enterprise Farm Agway store is open year-round. The greenhouses are open from 8-6 daily while in season. Because the greenhouse is seasonal, the main phone number is the store’s number: 207-737-4502.

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Celebrate Bowdoinham Planned for September 12 2009

On Saturday, September 12, 2009 the Town of Bowdoinham will hold its 247th Birthday Celebration at Maily Waterfront Park on the banks of the Cathance River. The rain date for the event is Sunday, September 13. This yearly event is a showcase of everything that Bowdoinham has to offer. The very popular parade begins Saturday at 10 a.m., “Bowdoinham Best” is a pie and produce exhibition at the Masons Hall. Free activities for children include the lobster crate challenge, art tent and archery. The Merrymeeting Arts Center hosts the annual arts and craft fair featuring many local and regional artists demonstrating their work. Local food vendors and a great selection of musicians round out the activities to make this a Bowdoinham day not to be missed. If you would like to discuss ways to sell your goods or promote your business or non-profit organization, or would like to volunteer to help with the event, please contact Tony Cox at tcox@bowdoinham.com or at the Bowdoinham Town Office on Wednesdays and Fridays.



Bowdoinham Recreation News

By Brooke Cox – Recreation Director



Left: 3rd and 4th grade boys basketball

Below: Referees Bremm and McKim



The Bowdoinham News

The Bowdoinham News is published by the Bowdoinham Town Office and paid for through the Town's Community and Economic Development budget. The News is published two times a year. If you would like to submit an article for consideration in the News or if you would like to advertise your business, contact Tony Cox at 666-5531 or tcox@bowdoinham.com. The News is designed and printed by Will-Dale Press in Bowdoin.



The winter months were busy with basketball, skiing or snowboarding, and Mad Science.

We had 59 Bowdoinham players registered in the 3rd-6th grade Ararat Youth Basketball League. Thank you, Bob Bremm and Steve McKim, for refereeing all thirty home games; that is a lot of court time! In addition to the older kids, there were forty-six little dribblers (K-2) in the program held after school. Thank you to all of the coaches that helped out! On Friday nights throughout the winter, Bowdoinham sent a bus full of twenty-three skiers and snowboarders to Lost Valley for lessons or just time on their own on the slopes. Monday afternoons, "Mad Julie" came to Bowdoinham to teach eighteen students all about the fun of science.

Although not an organized program this year, ice skating took place on the rink near the parking lot at the Recreation Fields. Thanks to a cold snap early on in the winter, the rink had a wonderful base that lasted throughout the winter. It was a challenge to keep the snow off the surface! Thanks to all who helped to keep the ice skaters happy.

The end of this basketball season brings the end of the "careers" to some very faithful volunteers to our program: Lisa Pelletier, Craig Stimpson, Mike Roux, and Bob Bremm. Lisa, Craig, and Mike have been long-time coaches in the program with several kids growing up in Bowdoinham, which meant many, many hours of their time has been spent on the court at the Bowdoinham Community School. Along with the three coaches, we have a very dedicated referee and Ararat Youth Basketball League Board member, Bob Bremm. Bob is stepping down from the Board and is hanging up his whistle. He has been involved with the basketball program since his kids were young (now in their twenties) and has remained a huge part of our program here in Bowdoinham. Even though his kids are long since out of the program, he has put in countless hours on and off the court helping to make AYBL what it is today. Thank you Lisa, Craig, Mike and Bob for all

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Bowdoinham Recreation News

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that you have done for the kids and our basketball program here in Bowdoinham. Our hats go off to you!

Baseball, softball and t-ball are under way—come on down to the fields to see all the fun! Saturday mornings are full of activity on the Pertel and Middle Fields. Plan on enjoying some entertainment and eating lunch at the famous Snack Shack!

Summer Camps are also right around the corner. We are offering a four-day Tennis Camp June 23 - June 26. Greg Reardon has offered to have two sessions, one for ages 8-16, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and then an adult session 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 per day or \$120 for all four days. Class size is limited, so register as soon as possible. Come to the Bowdoinham Town Office to sign up. SeaSpray Kayaking is earlier than usual this year; SeaSpray is coming June 29 - July 3. Visit the Town website for a registration form. Call Brooke at 666-3504 for details. Please visit the Town of Topsham's website for more activities at

www.topshammaine.com. A summer program for incoming kindergarten students will be offered, with details given out to parents at the school's information night in May. Last summer the students met on the playground one evening a week to use the playground equipment, work on a hands-on activity and then we ended the evening with playing kickball, t-ball, or relay races.

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Need Dirt?

The Bowdoinham Public Works Department is looking for residents who may have a need for fill. Every year when doing ditch work, the department finds itself with excess dirt, sand and fill and needs a place to dispose of it. First priority goes to the abutting landowners, second to residents who have requested it. This year most of the work will be on the Ridge Road. There is a 99 yard spreading limit (10 yards in the shoreland zone). If you are interested in the possibility of free dirt, please contact Kevin Prout, Public Works Director at 666-3503. If you called last year, there is no need to call again this year as your name is kept on file.



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS



MERRYMEETING BAY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

by Angela Chute, Co-Chair

What's NEW in town? Have you heard the latest buzz? BUY local BUY Bowdoinham.

"Promoting local for the benefit of all" is exactly what we are all about. The Merrymeeting Bay Business Association has been promoting economic growth through local businesses since its inception in 1997.

Recent MBBA events were held at

the Merrymeeting Arts Center in Bowdoinham and Micro Technologies in Richmond, and FHC, Inc in Bowdoin where guest speaker Barbara Hart shared effective networking skills. Other events included an evening geared toward the "who, what, and why" of internet social networking and a legislative breakfast for the state budget update. These are examples of perfect

opportunities to meet other local business owners and find ways to increase your own business. Join us, we will all be glad you did.

Find more information about your local businesses and upcoming MBBA events by logging onto the MBBA website www.merrymeeting-bay.com.

Quality, affordable medical care is closer than you think

RICHMOND - Richmond Area Health Center (RAHC), located on the Gardiner Road in Richmond, has specialized in taking care of community members medical needs for over 30 years.

The practice, which is welcoming new patients from all of its 10 major service towns in the region, currently services 163 patients from Bowdoinham, and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It has extended hours on Tuesday evenings until 7:00 p.m., and walk-in hours for established patients are also available during those days from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. The practice can handle a variety of routine medical procedures includ-

ing minor office surgery, physicals, immunizations, check ups and flu shots.

Education of their patients also remains a high priority, particularly for chronic illnesses such as diabetes, smoking cessation, and family planning.

A variety of programs are available through the Health Center to better serve those who are uninsured or under-insured, or who would otherwise have to go without their medications.

Supported by a Federally Qualified Health Center grant, an Affordable Care program uses family size and income level to determine how much is paid for medical care at the health center.

"Nobody should be without health care," said RAHC Board Chair Thomas Abbott, PhD. "Without good health, quality of life goes downhill, or people are unable to work. Keeping everyone healthy is a plus for the entire community."

For prescription help, the aptly named Prescription Assistance Program does as it sounds. The Health Center works with

drug manufacturers to ensure those patients who cannot afford medication are able to receive their prescriptions, rather than going without.

RAHC is one of eleven Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and two dental centers located throughout Central and Western Maine operated by HealthReach Community Health Centers (HRCHC). HRCHC has administrative offices in Waterville where such departments as Communications, Development, Operations and Billing work together to further the goals of the organization and each of the locations.

To ensure access for everyone, HRCHC accepts Medicare, MaineCare, major insurances and offers an Affordable Care Program based on family size and income to uninsured and underinsured residents. A private, non-profit organization with a 30-year history, HealthReach is funded by patient fees, grants and individual donations.

For more information about RAHC and HRCHC please visit www.HealthReachCHC.org.

News from the Recycling Barn

By David Berry

It's been a winter to "hunker down" at the Recycling Barn. Since the prices crashed last fall on all of our paper grades (corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper and magazines) we have been trying to store as much of these recyclable materials as we can until prices improve.

Fortunately, we have been making more room all winter by burning our store of waste wood brought to us by town residents last summer and fall, and helping to keep the Barn somewhat comfortable through this cold winter.

Our "new" 1974 truck is living up to its expectations as a bulk hauler. Although the truck body is only two feet longer than the body of our "old" 1985 truck, because of its very high sides, it can carry nearly twice as much material. This means fewer trips and decreased fuel consumption.

Also, congratulations to the kids at the Bowdoinham Community School, who were one of the three top schools in the state in last fall's annual recycling contest. They won a \$500 prize for their efforts.

Tips from the Barn

Please flatten plastic bottles, especially milk and juice containers, before you put them out with your mixed recyclables for curbside pickup or drop them off at the Recycling Barn. This saves time and space all the way along the handling process. Without all the air that was in those flattened jugs, the curbside hauler can get more material in his truck, and at the Barn we can get more in our bins, boxes and truck.

If you use our free curbside recycling service, please try to fill your clear plastic bag as full as possible before you set it out. The Town pays the curbside hauler by the bag for his service, and a half full bag costs

just as much as a full one. Remember not to include mixed

paper and mixed recyclables in the same bag. And check out the Town of Bowdoinham Recycling Bags, on sale for 25 cents a piece at the Bowdoinham Country Store, a price the supermarkets can't match!

Latex Paint - If you have latex paint to dispose of, please dispose of it in your household trash. It can be dried out by adding kitty litter, sawdust, or any such absorbent material, and left uncovered to harden. Latex paint left on our Household Hazardous Waste pallet means that our staff has to spend time dealing with something that is messy but not hazardous and can be handled at the homeowner level, instead of dealing with the truly toxic oil-based paints and household hazardous materials.



Mutual Aid in Bowdoinham

By Jack Tourtelotte, Bowdoinham Fire Chief

Mutual aid was started many years ago with other towns in the area. When a person calls 911 for a structure fire, the call goes to the Sagadahoc County Dispatch who pages the fire department to the location that is given to them by the caller (this is called a first alarm). Upon the arrival of the first officer, a size up is done and if needed a radio call is made to dispatch asking for a second alarm. The dispatcher has a book made up by the officers of the fire department requesting different pieces of equipment. Upon arrival the additional departments are assigned to different areas of the fire by the person in charge (some may go to water

supply, some will protect another property, some will supply man power, and so on). Does everything go as planned? In the end everything goes very well. The town has been broken down into three sectors: 2nd alarm - town, 2nd alarm - north, and 2nd alarm - south. I hope this will help everyone to understand the Mutual Aid system; if you have any questions call the Bowdoinham Town Office at 666-5531 and leave a message—I will get back to you.

THANK YOU
Jack Tourtelotte, Fire Chief

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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Bowdoinham Community School News

2009/2010 Kindergarten Students

Calling all incoming Kindergarten students. If you have a child who will be 5 on or before October 15, 2009 or know of a child in your neighborhood around that age, please contact Mrs. Russell in the office at 666-5546 with the name, date of birth and telephone number of the child. It is important for us to know as many as possible in order to have the information for the upcoming budget process.

"Congratulations" to 4th grader, Haven Cutko for qualifying to represent our school at the state level of the National Geographic Bee at the University of Southern Maine, Portland.

Pete Galle of Apple Creek Farm shares his new lambs with local children.



Library News

By Kate Cutko, Librarian

I'm sure you've seen it in the national news: library usage is up all over the country. Bowdoinham is no exception. The circulation at our library has increased about 30% over last year. I knew we were a town full of readers and now I see you borrowing more library books and buying fewer. We're trying to keep up and manage that increased circulation and keep new fiction and non-fiction arriving every month to keep you readers happy!

One new program that I began in September has helped manage the increase circulation. That is the Junior Librarian program. I would like to thank my young stars who help me each week with all the tasks of library management: Spencer Coker, Liam Stride, Kate Guerin, Larissa Decker, Tiffany Hemond, and Anita Woofenden. They are awesome helpers and I couldn't manage the library without them.

A new group sprang up this winter, following requests for both a knitting group and an evening book discussion group. Thus was born the "Stitch and Pitch" group which meets one Tuesday night a month. We bring our knitting or other handwork, and discuss whatever book it is we are reading. It's low pressure and no guilt. A daytime book group meets on the first Thursday of the month and reads a specific title for

discussion. Both groups welcome new members.

Please know that our library has internet access through a public desktop computer, as well as wireless internet access. We circulate books and magazines for three weeks and still have the low overdue rates of 10 cents a day. Use the bookdrop if you can't catch the open library hours. Can't find a book you want? For \$2 postage I will help you access the State library's inter-library loan program. Have a suggestion for a title the library should own? Come and tell me about it.

Once again we will benefit from the hard work of the library's most dedicated volunteers, as the women behind the annual plant sale welcome us on Saturday, May 16. They will dig, pot, arrange, price and sell an amazing variety of annuals and perennials. This year we welcome donations of books about gardening, farming or plants for a mini-book sale during the plant sale. Drop off book donations any time before May 16. Contact us if you would like to help with the plant sale.

I would like to thank Jill Hooper, the library's president and ace volunteer for all of her hard work as I have made the transition to become the new librarian. She has helped me so very much and has continued to plug away at the tedious job of bar-coding the library's collection in preparation for an automated circulation system. Thank you, Jill.

See you at the library!
Kate Cutko

Library Hours:
Tues. 10-12, 2-5, 7-8
Wed. 2-6, Fri. 2-5
Sat. 10-3



FHC Hosts Red, White and Blue Summer Fun Festival Fireworks at Bowdoinham's waterfront

By Denise Norko

The Red, White and Blue Summer Fun Festival will be hosted by FHC with cooperation of community organizations and businesses for the benefit of the Mid Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross. This event, scheduled for June 27, 2009, is a family friendly one that has grown from last year's "festival-only" event into one that will be a two-part event this year with the festival at the Cathance Center (FHC building) in Bowdoin from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., followed by an evening of waterfront activities in Bowdoinham including food and musical entertainment from 5:00 to 9:30, a vintage car show from 5:00 to 7:30 and a fireworks display at 9:30 p.m..

We are enthusiastically working with several organizations and businesses throughout Bowdoin and Bowdoinham to make the day a fun one, with activities for all ages while keeping our

focus on having a profitable fundraiser for the Red Cross.

It will be a day of fun for kids and adults of all ages.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, June 27, 2009

This community fundraising event will benefit the American Red Cross. We invite organizations in the community to get involved by hosting a table or event.

Call Denise for more info
666-5651 ext. 2248

**DUNK TANK • BOUNCY HOUSE
PONY RIDES • GAMES • FOOD
UNCLE SAM • FIREWORKS
MUSIC and MUCH MORE**

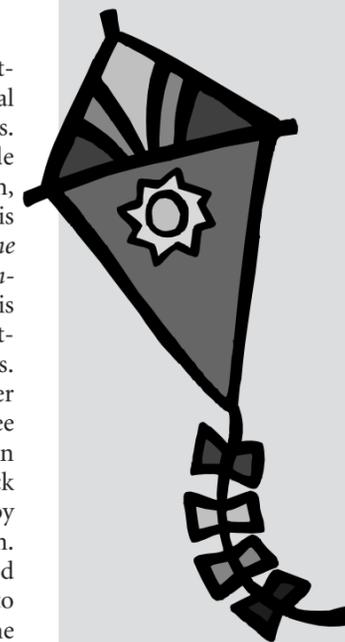


Uncle Sam with Roxanne, Gabriela and Victoria Sassé Festival, 2008

Bowdoinham Author Receives Award

Tilbury House, Publishers, is delighted to announce that Franklin Burroughs, author of *Confluence: Merrymeeting Bay* (with photographs by Heather Perry) received the John Burroughs 2009 Medal Award for Best Nature Writing. The press release from the John Burroughs Association (no relation to Frank!) at the American Museum of Natural History notes: "In *Confluence: Merrymeeting Bay* (Tilbury House, 2006) Franklin Burroughs reflects on the human and natural history of this colorful Maine bay with insightful observations of its wild nature, scenic beauty, and the people who inhabit it. He is being acknowledged for his excellence in the genre of nature essay-writing, which John Burroughs perfected.... The John Burroughs Medal has been given annually since 1926 for a book

that combines scientific accuracy, first-hand fieldwork, and creative natural history writing in the United States. Past Burroughs medalists include Rachel Carson, Joseph Wood Kutch, Loren Eiseley...." Franklin Burroughs is the author of two other books, *The River Home: A Return to the Low Country*, and *Billy Watson's Croker Sack*. His essays have appeared in a variety of literary quarterlies and in collections. Frank lives in Bowdoinham. Heather Perry is a photographer with a degree in biology. Her work has appeared in numerous magazines and her stock imagery collection is represented by National Geographic Image Collection. Heather lives in Bath. Frank and Heather and their spouses all went to NYC for the award luncheon at the museum on April 6.



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Coming to you in June - Proposed Land Use Ordinance

By Nicole Briand - Planner/CEO

The proposed Land Use Ordinance will be voted on at Town Meeting on June 10, 2009. The Land Use Planning Committee will have an Informational Question/Answer Session on Thursday, June 4th at 6:30 pm on the second floor of the John C. Coombs Municipal Building. The Final Draft of the proposed Land Use Ordinance (dated May 19, 2009) is available at the Town office, at the Bowdoinham Public Library, and online at http://www.bowdoinham.com/Land-Use-Planning-Committee_Proposed-Ordinances. If you have any questions please call Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

The Land Use Planning Committee has also been working on a Districting Plan (previously referred to as the District Amendment) that had been proposed for Town Meeting. However, after considerable discussion including three public hearings on the subject, the Selectboard decided not to place the Districting Plan on the warrant for consideration at this Town Meeting, believing that the plan needs further understanding and review. If you are interested in working with The Land Use Planning Committee and/or learning more about the Districting Plan please contact Nicole Briand.

What is the problem with our existing Ordinances?

Our current ordinances have been pieced together in parts over many years; therefore there are conflicts between the individual ordinances as well as provisions within the individual ordinance that just do not make sense. This often makes the work of the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals, and the citizens of the town coming before those boards, extreme-

ly difficult if not impossible. Some examples of how our current ordinances can be confusing and burdensome are:

- The Town currently has two Shoreland Zoning Ordinances, in order to comply with the State's Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act, which conflict in several areas. For example, where the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance allows a permit from the Code Enforcement Officer, the Land Use Regulation & Shoreland Zoning Ordinance requires a permit from the Planning Board (i.e. docks, residential houses and garages).
- The Land Use Regulation & Shoreland Zoning Ordinance does not allow for the provisions set forth in the Multi-Family Dwelling Ordinance, making the Multi-Family Dwelling Ordinance ineffective.
- There is a different definition section in each individual ordinance, and several of the Ordinances do not have definition sections at all.

What is the purpose of the proposed Land Use Ordinance?

The goals of the proposed Land Use Ordinance are to:

- Fix the conflicts that currently exist between our individual Ordinances.
- Resolve existing problems and areas of confusion within our Ordinances.
- Provide a consistent, efficient and fair land use regulation process.
- Make the language throughout the ordinance as consistent as possible.
- Be consistent with State Regulations.
- Make the Ordinance more user friendly for all.



Does this proposed Land Use Ordinance create more regulation/rules about what I can do with my land?

The Town currently has ten ordinances that regulate what property owners can do with their land. In some cases these existing regulations are unnecessarily restrictive and burdensome to residents.

What happens if the proposed Land Use Ordinance does not pass?

The existing ten Ordinances will remain in place and will continue to be confusing and burdensome for all who have to use them. Additionally, the State will impose a Shoreland Zoning Ordinance on the Town, which the Town will have to administer and enforce.

What are the major changes between our existing ordinances and the proposed Land Use Ordinance?

(Please refer to the Summary of Changes document to see a detailed list of the changes in the proposed Land Use. The Summary of Changes document can be found with the proposed Land Use Ordinance online and at the Town Office.)

Consolidation of Ordinances

The proposed Land Use Ordinance will replace the following ten ordinances: Land Use Regulation & Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Building Permit Ordinance, Floodplain Management Ordinance, Ordinance Regulating Mobile Homes and House Trailers, The Bowdoinham Multi-Family Dwelling Ordinance, Site Plan Review Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, Board of Appeals Ordinance, and Residential Growth Ordinance. Consolidating these ten ordinances into one ordinance will eliminate the conflicts that currently exist between separate ordinances.

continued on page 15

Land Use Changes in Bowdoinham

Continued from page 14

Definitions

We will have one set of definitions, which will eliminate the conflicts and inconsistencies that currently exist between the definition sections of are existing ordinances.

Non-Conformance Section

Currently, our Land Use Regulation & Shoreland Zoning Ordinance classifies any non-conforming lot, building or use as a non-conforming use and requires anyone who wants to expand a non-conforming use to obtain a permit from the Planning Board. (A non-conforming lot is a lot that does not meet the lot area, lot frontage or lot coverage requirements, and a non-conforming building is a building that does not meet the setback requirements from property line, road or water body.)

The proposed Land Use Ordinance classifies each of the non-conformities (lot, building, use) separately, and provides guidelines for the expansion/use of each which does not automatically require a permit from the Planning Board.

Shoreland Zoning

The LUPC has updated our Shoreland Zoning to be in compliance with the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act, 38 M.R.S.A. Sections 435-449. The Town is required to adopt, administer and enforce a Shoreland Zoning Ordinance that is no less stringent than these State Guidelines by July 1, 2009. Shoreland Zoning involves two aspects: district mapping and the ordinance language.

- The district mapping has been done in compliance with the State's requirements and does not exceed the State's Minimum Requirements.
- The LUPC used Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Guidelines for Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances as a base to create this Shoreland Zoning section, but strengthened some language where they felt the State's Minimum Guidelines were insufficient.

Performance Standards -

The proposed Land Use Ordinance contains new and updated Performance Standards from our existing Land Use Regulation & Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Many of the Performance Standards in the existing Land Use Regulation & Shoreland Zoning Ordinance will be removed, as they are previous/outdated State Guidelines.



On October 20, 2008 the Electa Chapter #2, Order of the Eastern Star presented Bowdoinham EMS with a check for \$450 for a cookbook fundraiser they did. The donation was greatly appreciated. Pictured Left to Right - Worthy Matron Kim Searles, Secretary Corley Anne Byras, EMS Director Ann Davis, and Worthy Patron Mickey Searles.



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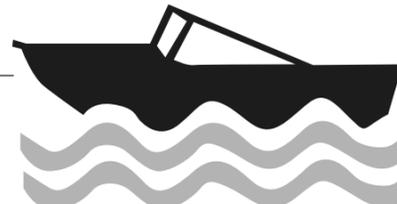
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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS



Art at the Gazebo

Art at the Gazebo:
Mondays & Thursdays
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,
July 6 - July 30

Free art activities
for kids
of all ages.
(ages 12 and under
must have adult
supervision)

For more
information:
Peggy Muir
666-3426



Cub Scouts Pack 699 annual Pinewood Derby at Masons Hall, March 14th 2009. Alex Dan and Carson Estela watch as their cars hit the track. FMI on joining cub scouts contact Athena Mann at 737-4641.

Join BowdoinhamFriendsandFamily.com today!

This site was created by residents for the families and friends of Bowdoinham to help us stay more connected—an online community for the community we love!

Sign up and join the BFF Forum—you'll find a place for upcoming events, news at the library, trade and sell, tips and advice, and a home for any group that wants to make themselves cozy! Keep up on the blog or browse the gallery! We are happy to have you, neighbor! <http://bowdoinhamfriendsandfamily.weebly.com/>



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Boating Safety Focus: Ways to prevent propeller accidents

By John McMullen, Bowdoinham Harbor Master

There are a number of hazards that can ruin your summer boating fun. One of the worst and least anticipated by many is the possibility of being hit and maimed by your boat's propeller. If you've ever seen a propeller strike accident, you want to do everything in your power to prevent another one. They can be the most gruesome of boating accidents. Anyone in the water around a boat—a swimmer, scuba diver, fallen water-skier, or someone who's fallen overboard—is a potential victim. Many propeller accidents are caused by operator inexperience, incompetence, negligence, and intoxication. However, most accidents can be prevented if operators follow a few simple safety practices:

- Turn off the engine when passengers are boarding or disembarking. Propellers should not be spinning when a passenger is in a vulnerable situation.
- Prevent passengers from being thrown overboard accidentally.

Never start a boat with the engine in gear. Never ride on a seat back, gunwale, transom, or bow. Make sure all passengers are seated properly before starting the engine and getting underway.

Some operators cause injuries by putting the engine in gear while people are still swimming or diving from the boat. It is much safer if the engine is turned completely off while people are in the water near the boat as the prop can still be turning when the engine is in neutral.

Assign a responsible adult to watch any children in the boat and sound the alarm if a child falls overboard.

Approach anyone in the water bow first; keep the prop to the rear. Slow down, circle around, and keep the individual in sight at all times. Take the engine out of gear and turn off the engine at least a boat length from the victim. Throw a line or float and pull the person toward the boat. Practice this procedure.

Maintain a proper lookout for people in the water. The primary cause of propeller strike accidents is operator inattention or carelessness. Slow down when approaching congested areas and anchorages. Always be alert for swimmers and divers. Be familiar with the red flag with a white diagonal stripe and the blue-and-white "Alfa" flag—both signal that divers are down.

Boaters involved in propeller strikes can be sued for prop injuries and can receive prison sentences based on their degree of negligence.

The mechanism of production of propeller injuries is unique and very complex. Rotating at a high speed and with a very powerful torque, when a propeller makes contact with a body it will result in multiple impacts of great force by the moving and advancing blades of the propeller. A typical three blade propeller running at 3,200 rpm can inflict 9,600 impacts in 1 minute or 160 impacts in 1 second. A 13 inch blade can travel from head to toe in

an average person in less than one tenth of a second. Once you are in the way of a spinning propeller, it is too late. As a boat owner and operator you are responsible for your safety and the safety of others. Boat responsibly!



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Community Calendar

JUNE

- 4** Info. Q & A Session on Proposed Ordinances 6:30pm - Coombs Bldg.
- 9** Elections 8am-8pm Town Hall
- 10** Town Meeting 7pm Bowdoinham Community School Gym
- 21** First Sunday Concert Series-6:30pm
- 22** Bowdoinham Community School - Last Day
- 23-26** Tennis Camp
- June 29 - July 3** Sea Spray Kayaking Camp
- 30** Summer Reading Program Kick Off - 10am Library

JULY

- 6** Art at the Gazebo Starts - 9am - 12pm

AUGUST

- 16** Last Sunday Concert

SEPTEMBER

- 12** Celebrate Bowdoinham

Town of Bowdoinham
13 School Street
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Merrymeeting Grange Hall and Bowdoinham Farmers' Market Join Together

By Tony Cox

This past summer one could feel the excitement at the revival of the Farmers' Market. The market saw as many as 12 vendors during the peak with offerings fresh from the field. Local meat, eggs, cheeses, vegetables, flowers, herbs, and of course strawberries filled the tables on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings from late June through the end of October. The vendors were joined by the "Bowdoinham Sprouts," an entrepreneurship opportunity for kids ages 8 to 16 to sell their own products. This winter the board of directors voted to join forces with the Merrymeeting Grange, with all vendors becoming dues-paying members of the Grange. The Grange system was founded in 1887 as a support center for local farmers, where farmers bought insurance, farming supplies and met to discuss farming issues. This model will help the Grange increase their membership and allow them to raise money to work on their aging foundation and building. All community members are invited to become members of the Merrymeeting Grange. If you would like to support or join the Grange please contact Sue Hackett, Grange president at



jennsue@suscom-maine.net or 666-8849. If you are an interested farmer and have specific questions about becoming a vendor at the market please contact Chas Gill of Kennebec Flower Farm at kffn@suscom-maine.net or 666-3116. The market will be opening Saturday, May 23, and will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the end of October. See you at the market.

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