



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Volume 17, Issue 1

www.bowdoinham.com

January-February 2019

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Project Updates

2 018 was a busy year in Bowdoinham.

Public Works Facility Project

The Public Works facility Project is moving along very well. The Sand/Salt Storage building was completed in November by Lupo Construction or Etna, Maine. 1,500 cubic yards of sand has been delivered and mixed with salt inside the building and salt has been stored as well. It is a huge change to have dry sand and salt under cover!

The Public Works garage started to spring to life and look like a building over the past month with the floor being poured and the metal framing complete. Next will be the roof, wall panels and finally, the interior work. It is anticipated that the garage will be substantially complete in February. A huge thanks again to the community for supporting this long-awaited project.



ConnectME Planning Grant

Lincolntonville Communications, Inc. (LCI) is in the process of completing the planning work! As part of the planning grant, LCI is:

- investigating how to bring (high-speed) broadband internet service to Bowdoinham;
- determining the cost to provide broadband service throughout Town.

They will be presenting their findings to the Select Board in January.

New Town Website

The Town is developing a new website and we are working to have the new website completed in January.

Waterfront Re-Development Project

The Comprehensive Planning Committee is looking forward to seeing the final Master Site Plan from Richardson & Associates in January. Then the committee will begin its work with Baker Design Consultants and Richardson Associates to design a non-motorized boat launch and the shoreline stabilization in the spring. Please refer to page 2 for more information on this project.

Dog Licenses Due

State Law requires all dogs six months and older to be licensed by January 1st, however there is a grace period of January 31st before a late fee is incurred.

Neutered/Spayed Dog - \$6.00
Not Neutered Dog - \$11.00

After January 31st there is a \$25.00 late fee.

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Fire & Rescue News

By Arthur "Fudd" Frizzle, Captain

A few quick reminders from Bowdoinham Fire Rescue.

Have you checked your chimney lately? Check your chimney monthly to insure you catch creosote buildup before it becomes an issue, and don't forget to test your smoke and CO detectors at the same time.

Please make sure your house number is visible from both directions on your road. This is true for any season of the year but especially so with winter weather and snow banks. They can make it very difficult to find your house in an emergency. Remember generator safety – use only outside and away from open doors and windows. Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. It is odorless, colorless and tasteless and often goes undetected until it is too late.

Finally, don't forget the Sand Buckets for Seniors. If you are a senior or have a senior family member or friend that needs a bucket of sand to help you navigate the icy Maine winters please call Missy at the Town Office. Bowdoinham Fire Rescue will deliver the bucket and refill as needed.

Waterfront Re-development Project

By Joanne Joy

Progress continues on the Waterfront Redevelopment Project. Using community input from the public meeting in September, Richardson and Associates, Landscape Architects and engineering partner Baker Design Consultants, generated a four-phase concept plan for the waterfront. The plan, including broad estimates of costs, was presented to the community on November 7, 2018 at a public meeting at Bowdoinham Community School. About 40 members of the community and representatives from the Select Board and Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) attended. A general overview of potential funding was also briefly addressed and may include grants; donations of time, money, materials; bonds; allocations from the town budget and other strategies over time.

The majority of the people present registered their approval of the overall plan and that the work would be phased. There was discussion about importance, phase for completion, and costs of several specific elements of the plan with much focus on the kayak/non-motorized boat launching ramp; designated swimming area; and the pavilion including possible reuse/repurposing of the public works ga-

rage versus new construction, and if new construction, the best location for a pavilion. One outcome of the meeting was that construction of the kayak launching ramp was moved to Phase I.

There was much discussion about the designated swimming area because of both high interest and concerns that it will be difficult, costly and perhaps impossible to build a completely safe facility. On November 13th, during their regular meeting, the CPC reviewed both the Consultants' response regarding the swimming area and the possible reuse of the public works garage as a pavilion. After much discussion and review, recommendations from the CPC to the Select Board on November 27th were: 1) a designated swimming area in the park should not be included in the master plan, 2) the public works garage should be demolished as the facility was not worth saving, and 3) further discussion with the consultants is needed regarding the location of a pavilion. At the CPC's December 11th meeting, the committee met with the consultant to discuss the location for a new pavilion. There was a lot of great discussion and we look forward to seeing the final Master Site Plan in January.

Finally, Bowdoinham was awarded a \$45,000 grant to design the kayak/non-motorized boat launch and the shoreline stabilization for the active recreation area. The design process will begin in the spring, once survey work (topography and wetlands) can be completed. We look forward to starting this process.

As always, the CPC meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Coombs Building, usually at 6:30. Please feel free to join us.

Did you know.....

TOURTELOTTE EXCAVATION

Does....

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Logging

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Land clearing

Reclaims fields

Call Doug if you are interested in any of these!

Doug's cell – 729-2445

Office – 666-5941

RECYCLING UPDATE

We are once again recycling glass and all plastics numbered 1 through 7. If using curbside pick up, please separate your items in accordance with the recycling guidelines. Remember not all plastics are recyclable, if it does not have a number it cannot be recycled.

Assessor's Alley - Homestead Exemptions

By Darren Carey

Are you a permanent resident of the Town of Bowdoinham? Have you owned your home in town for 12 months on April 1st, 2018? If you answered yes to both of these questions you may be entitled to a homestead exemption.

The Homestead Exemption currently exempts \$20,000 of assessed value from residential property owned by Maine residents that permanently reside in Bowdoinham. Applications are available at www.bowdoinham.com/tax-assessor. The exemption is not a true exemption because the cost is split between the State of Maine and the municipality, this is outlined in Title 36 §683 of the Maine Revised State Statute.

It should also be noted that there are exemptions for veterans and veterans' families.

If you are unsure if you have the homestead exemption and believe you are entitled to it, please email me at dcarey@bowdoinham.com or call 666-5531 and ask for Darren.

Peary's Garden

By Brian Smith

Peary's Garden has been put to rest for the winter. This first year was a solid success with 12 plots of ground used by local gardeners. Everything from a three generational family garden to a retirement garden to a young family garden was in evidence. The plots were all 10 feet by 25 feet. Tilling, water, organic fertilizer and potatoes from Harvest Tide, seeds, storage shed, rope swing, picnic table and park bench, were all provided. The cost per plot was \$25. A few additional improvements for this year will be a small tiller for cultivating, a couple hav-a-hart (name only) traps for the woodchuck and the availability of a half plot or a larger plot. Additionally, Brian will be removing a couple trees to improve the sun exposure. Any volunteer help with that project would be appreciated. This past year the gardeners were from Bowdoinham and one from Richmond. If you would like to join us this coming season please contact Lily Montgomery at lilypmontgomery@gmail.com or Brian Smith at brian.luana@gmail.com. The cost of a 10 by 25 plot will be \$25 or less, based on need. We look forward to having another successful year. Peary's Garden is truly a relaxing and restful space for growing local food. Come join us.

Community School News

By Chris Lajoie, Principal,
Bowdoinham Community School

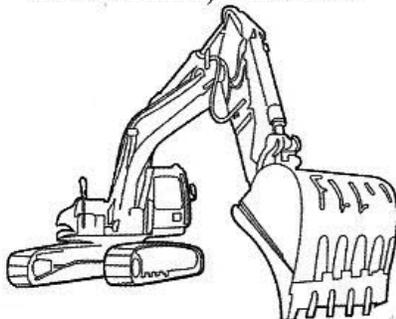
Every now and then as a school – 171 students across grades K-5 – we gather for a schoolwide meeting. The idea is an update of the traditional school assembly. Students sit in a semicircle on the floor and I usually lead everyone through the meeting. Most schoolwide meetings follow the same general outline, with all components being interactive: a greeting, a share, an activity, and news and announcements. This is the same format that teachers use every morning for class morning meetings. A day with a schoolwide meeting is always better than a day without one.

We have now established the tradition of a schoolwide meeting outdoors on December 21st – the Winter Solstice. Mid-afternoon everyone dons warm hats and mittens, winter coats and boots, and trudges out past the playground and across the leach field to our outdoor classroom. There, after our greeting, our Kindergarteners help welcome everybody and share a bit about how they use the outdoor classroom. They share information about how to be safe near the fire circle, and how they utilize the environment for fun, exploration and learning. And then, accompanied by my guitar and Mrs. Morneau's ukulele, we sing a few songs together to mark the shortest day of the year. At the close of our gathering, classes might take a hike through the woods, sit around the fire and share a story, or play a big game of tag. It is the perfect way to mark the close of the calendar year together as a community.

These gatherings always bring home for me the importance of belonging to a community. Students who feel connected to a larger network of friends and supportive adults are more likely to experience school success. They are less likely to fall between the cracks, or to withdraw to the illusory comfort of digital screens or substances. Belonging feeds learning, and at our community school we take that seriously. That is why we sing together.

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THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

ACOA News

By Patty Melander & Alice Pollis

On the 4th Thursday of each month (except for June, July and August) at 11:45 a.m. at the Bowdoinham Fire Station you are invited to The Village Seniors' Luncheon provided by the Town of Bowdoinham with the help of administrative assistant, Missy Halsey, and a dedicated group of volunteers under the direction of Louise Rossignol. On October 25th ACOA members Patty Melander, chairperson, and Alice Pollis paid a visit to find out about this very popular activity. What a lovely surprise awaited us as we entered. The enticing, comforting aromas of home cooked roast pork and mashed potatoes were reminiscent of being at one's grandmother's house for a special family meal. The smiling faces of the crew who so carefully take care of all the details could be the aunts in their aprons from our childhood, each with their particular tasks to make everything run smoothly and efficiently. These dedicated volunteers are Louise Rossignol, Diana Mosher, Judy and George Hardin, Margaret Saindon, Kate Frank, Linda Barker, and Edna Seeley. Two long tables were set with tablecloths and colorful fall flower and scarecrow arrangements created by Judy Hardin in hollowed pumpkins, a very festive touch. The pumpkins, we learned, had been donated by Judy Hardin's brother, Bob Caron. Such a homey and welcoming atmosphere!

We spoke with Louise Rossignol, a former Army cook and school cafeteria manager, about how she prepares and plans these special meals and the challenges involved. For this meal, Louise had cooked the pork overnight at her house, and then, at the Fire Station, had prepared the mashed potatoes, butternut squash, and green beans. She was mashing a giant pot of steaming potatoes as we chatted. Homemade applesauce and fresh baked bread as well had been prepared in advance by volunteers! Desserts are also generally prepared at home by the volunteers and brought to the fire station. A lot of work behind the scenes goes into

the success of this monthly meal. We can tell you that this was an amazingly delicious home cooked repast. The roast pork was so tender and flavorful with its gravy, absolutely outstanding and worthy of a fine restaurant.

We learned that the Town of Bowdoinham funds the food for this activity, but often local farmers generously donate vegetables. For the meal we attended, the potatoes had been provided by Dumont Family Farm in Gardiner and the squash and pumpkins by Bob Caron and other Bowdoinham growers making this a true community endeavor. There is no charge for the meals. Donation baskets are put out for guests if they wish to contribute; the money collected from donations is used for paper products and other supplies.

Louise told us that attendance is about 25 to 42 guests. At this October meal there were 38 people enjoying not only a scrumptious meal, but friendly conversation and conviviality. We asked about the challenge of preparing the right amount of food with that range of numbers, but Louise, with all her expertise in this field, assured us it was not a problem. In our own kitchens we are not so sure we could be as unflappable and competent as Louise in dealing with the uncertainty of the numbers. Louise and the crew make sure everyone always gets a nice meal. Any extra meals are boxed up and raffled off after dessert. Also, at the end of the meal, donated door prizes are drawn.

When we arrived at about 10:40 as Louise was mashing the huge pot of potatoes and the volunteers were putting the finishing touches on all the details, a small group was playing cribbage, and we took the opportunity to interview those folks about the history of the Village Seniors' Luncheons. About 8 years ago they started as the Village Seniors at the Second Baptist Church under the able leadership of cook Rodney Chute and George and Judy

Hardin. Five years ago ACOA added the luncheons to their activities. When the luncheons were held at the church, there were games and crafts before lunch and programs with a speaker after the meal. Due to accessibility difficulties at the church and the increased costs for heat which had been generously paid for by the church, two years ago the luncheons started being held at the Fire Station, and it was voted on to discontinue the after lunch speakers. Patty and Alice were very impressed by every aspect of this monthly luncheon and hope you will come see for yourself.



Luncheons are the 4th Thursday of every month (except June, July and August) at 11:45 a.m. (social time at 11:15) at the Bowdoinham Fire Station. The luncheon is free; donations are accepted if you wish. If you would like to come, but do not have transportation Rides in Neighbors' Cars (RidesINC) can bring you. Please call them at 837-9577 for a ride.

The Senior Luncheon is not the only dining opportunity in Bowdoinham. Coming in the next issue of the newsletter will be an article featuring Dinner at the Estates held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

For more information about the Village Seniors' Luncheon and other upcoming events follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AgeFriendlyBowdoinham/>. You can also call the Town Office to be added to our mailing list: 207-666-5531. If you are interested in the Committee's work, please consider attending our monthly meeting. Meeting details as well as a hard copy calendar of the many activities offered each month are available at the Town Landing, Bowdoinham Public Library, and at the Town Office.

Cote's Bowdoinham Hardware

By John Cote

Well it's been four years since we started the Hardware Store. My vision when I bought the old brick building from Long Branch School was to use the building like the early

1900's, as old fashioned hardware store. Thanks with the townfolks, our little hardware store has become just that.

Laura, the store manager, has really connected to the cutomers and what their needs are. After four years of inventorying the store, we are very proud of what our Hardware Store has become. We carry: gardening, painting, and auto supplies, cleaners, fastereners, tools, plumb-

ing and electrical supplies, animal grains, bird food, fresh eggs, and trash tags, just to name a few items.

Thank you to the community for all your support. We look forward to continuing to serve you. The Hardware Store is open Monday thru Saturday, 9am to 5pm and Sundays, 9am to 3pm, so stop by and say hi. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 666-8953.

Cemetery Advisory Committee News

By Elaine Diaz

Through July and August, we continued working on the Village Burying Ground with several community volunteers including Linda and Kaylie Temple, Jacinta, Bryan, Mason, and Fern Blodgett, Bobbie Lamoreau, Linda Hornbeck, Bret Thompson, Jacob Ross, and other members of Scout Troop 699. Albert Stehle, with some volunteer help, restored 60 stones in the section nearest Center Street. Linda Temple, Elaine and Albert cleaned debris and the 4 stones in the tiny Campbell Plot on the River Road, and then inventoried the Durgan-Ayer Plot, down in back of the Campbell Plot finding two of those 3 stones fallen since last summer, apparently due to the severe storm of October 2017. Through September and October, we continued with small family plots.

We finally got into the Temple-Randall Cemetery, thanks to the support of abutter Jim Dixon, who allowed us access and gave us information and stories about this beautiful and large ground (34 stones, only 3 fallen). The Temple family, which includes 3 generations of volunteers/keepers were glad to finally get in there with a crew, and with help of Albert Stehle and Bret Thompson and their equipment, we cleared the entire 75' by 75' plot of all debris and tree shoots, and continue to inventory and clean stones. We also cleaned the large Starbird monument in the Adams Cemetery on the Millay Road and were able to see the name of Franklin Starbird, the small child whose stone we received from the Pejepsot Historical Society and will be able to return it to its rightful place. Linda and Elaine also inventoried the small Sturtevant Plot on Route 201 which is cared for by the Hornbeck family. We took a break from planned excursions during deer hunting season, and probably the rest of winter,

but will continue doing research and documenting our finds.

Continuing List of Cemetery "Keepers"

Ron, Amy and Jim Babb: Whitmore Cemetery, River Rd.

Dave Andreason and Fred and Euna Cheney: Campbell Plot, River Rd.

Jason and Kierstin Carlson: Durgan-Ayer Plot, off the River Rd.

Carolyn and Fred Case, Jacob Ross and Scout Troop 699: Hill-Getchell-Hatch Cemetery, River Rd.

Don and Sarah Mckinnon: Nealey Plot Betsy and David Steen: Sampson Cemetery (old section of Bayview), BayRd.

Linda and Adelbert Temple, Scott Temple and Kaylie Temple and Jim Dixon: Temple-Randall Cemetery, Post Rd./201.

Linda Hornbeck: Sturtevant Plot, 201.

Gordon Curtis and Curtis Family: Curtis-Aderton-Jennings Cemetery
Todd Woofenden: Nickoles Weymouth Stone, River Rd.

Nina and Peter Mendel: Fisher Cemetery
Dawna Bowlin, Mike Ebert, and Bobbie Lamoreau: Maxwell Family Plot

Carl Billings and Linda Temple: Nathaniel Millay Stone, Millay Rd.

Pejepsot Historical Society: Keeping and returning the displaced stone of Franklin Starbird, a child, to be returned to the Adams Cemetery.

Thanks for your response to the July-August Cemetery News, and for all the work you have done and are doing to preserve so many small burying grounds.

Please, anyone knowing of any abandoned stones or burial grounds, contact Pam Ross at the Town Office, 666-5531 or Elaine Diaz 666-8255, or Tony Lewis at tony.lewis@taknology.net.

20 Main Street

**Bowdoinham,
Maine**

666-8953

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Merrymeeting Hall News

By Betsy Steen

Merrymeeting Hall and BHS thank you for your generous contributions of money, materials, experience, and time. This ongoing project to create a Community Center for Bowdoinham out of the former Merrymeeting Grange Hall has once again demonstrated how truly magical a place Bowdoinham is!

In September, just a few days after Ad-elaida Berry created a wonderland in Merrymeeting Hall with her Bowdoinham's Best display, Copp and sons arrived to raise the building. Then, if you traversed Main Street, you noticed a flurry of activity: Doug Tourtelotte excavating for the new cellar. LaPoint Brothers setting forms and then pouring our new foundation. On October 29th, the Copps lowered Merrymeeting into place. Whew! Tom & Dave Piccuito worked hard to close in the ground floor before the weather deteriorated. They were just in time.

Billie Oakes began a campaign to encourage former Merrymeeting Grange families to pay for a ground level window which would then have a small brass plate inscribed with the family's name and has been very successful.

On November 12th, we had a Moving Party. The motivated crew picked up

lumber from a donor, extra lumber from the Carriage Shed, and all the furniture and equipment Lynn Spiro donated from the Town Landing. All was accomplished in just 2 hours!

In late November, Rennai Propane heaters were installed on the ground floor (cellar) & main floor. The folks at Main Street Fuel were so busy, we had to wait for the propane hookup until December 5th.

On December 1 & 2, as part of the Holiday Festival, Bowdoinham Public Library held its first Wreath Making Workshop in Merrymeeting Hall. The smell of balsam fir, laughter, food, and LOTS of creativity filled the hall! And it made more money for the library than expected. To be repeated next year!

On December 5th we reached our stated goal of \$70,000!!!! That day the new heat warmed our bodies, while the generosity of Bowdoinham warmed our spirits! Of course, we can still use more as we move to complete handicapped accessibility, our commercial kitchen, and eventually a new roof.

Sarah Matari dropped in one day and while looking at the plaster in the theater which was ruined during the raising/lowering, said she would organize a 'Plaster Party,' and she did. On December 8th Sarah, Laura, Jan, and Jeff took down the

plaster; removed the debris; vacuumed, dusted, and swept; mopped the floor and arranged the chairs! Amazing!

On December 9th, over 75 people toured MMH, enjoyed the company of friends and neighbors, feasted on delicious food, and celebrated the season and our wonderful community!

If anyone else wants to take in a MMH Mini-Project, we have plenty of others; including Plaster Party #2, in which a crew installs 8-10 sheets of drywall where the plaster is gone, and Radiator Round Up: A person or persons to research the best way to dispose of our no-longer-needed radiators. Selling them would be nice— maybe ebay, but they do need to go.

As a beginning, by early February, we hope to start welcoming folks at least three mornings a week, for drop in coffee (tea) and conversation. We will have an ongoing puzzle, games, newspapers, etc. You could come to the village and walk around on the sidewalks for some exercise, then end up at MMH to warm up and have a snack. All are welcome!!!

Feb. 2 - BHS will host the Soup Supper for the Smelt and Ice Festival, 4:30-6 (before the Story Hour) in the Masonic Hall. Proceeds to benefit Merrymeeting Hall. Please let us know if you would like to help.

Contact BHS

Mail:

PO Box 101, Bowdoinham

Email:

info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Website:

www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/thebowdoinhamhistoricalsociety

Office Hours:

in the Lancaster-Bishop Archive & Research Room, 13 School Street on Tuesdays, 10am-12pm & 2-5pm

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News from Merrymeeting Arts Center

By Jan Marks

The Merrymeeting Arts Center is welcoming the new year with the exciting and mind-blowing exhibit of Ian Trask's Second Chances show. Local artist Ian Trask creates his work from discarded and donated materials in a deliberate effort to let scarcity and access dictate the direction of his art practice. The Second Chances show presents a broad spectrum of work, including beautiful hanging orbs made from discarded materials bound in yarn, collages made from 35mm slide photographs, bright textile compositions on used skateboard decks and paintings on panels made from post-consumer plastic packaging. He takes a unique and inspiring approach to what others may consider simply discardable junk, and turns it into works of art that lift the spirit, dazzle the eye, and expand our consciousness about the nature of art and the surprising places where beauty can be found.

The show, located at the Merrymeeting Art Center's Gallery, 9 Main Street, Bowdoinham, will run through January 26, 2019. The Gallery is open on Saturdays, between the hours of 10:00am and 1:00pm, and by appointment. Admission is free.

For more information contact MAC at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com, or call (207) 370-5002.

Cabin Fever Relief

Mac is planning its first annual Equinox - an auction of art and a variety of other items, some useful, some whimsical, from the sublime to the ridiculous - for late March. Celebrate the equinox and get some relief from cabin fever at this fun-filled event. Bid on something irresistible, or just enjoy watching the bidding, listening to the music and hob-nobbing with friends and neighbors. What better way to spend a cold, dark, late winter evening? All proceeds will go toward supporting MAC and its program-

ming of classes, workshops, exhibits and community events.

To donate items to be auctioned, contact MAC at merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com, or call (207) 370-5002.

Annual Meeting

Merrymeeting Arts Center will hold its annual meeting on January 16, 2019, from 5:30 - 7:00pm. The pot-luck supper meeting will be located at the home of Howard Solomon and George Oliver, 1 Backhill Street, Bowdoinham. This is the time to meet the board members, learn about MAC's plans for the coming year and to voice your opinion about the direction and kind of programming you would like to see from MAC during the year. The meeting is open to all members, as well as members of the public. Please RSVP to merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com, no later than January 10th.

Studio Update

Work continues at The Merrymeeting Arts Center Studio, otherwise known as "the green building" at 6 Main Street. Making the building more weathertight and comfortable for the winter months, by sealing places where cold air leaks in and redoing the ceiling, is scheduled to take place in early January of this year. Classes will start up again on or about January 16th. Details on classes being offered this winter will be posted on the Studio doors, and the bulletin board at the Town Office. For updated information about classes or cancellations please check out the Merrymeeting Art Studio Facebook page. For questions or additional information contact merrymeetingartscenterstudio@gmail.com, or call (207) 370-5002. Pre-registration is required for most classes and workshops.

Call for Volunteers Continues

MAC is still recruiting volunteers to work with us in a variety of ways, including gallery sitting for exhibits, planning and preparing community events and shows, creating an e-mail mailing list, public

relations, building issues, instructors for classes and workshops, and a volunteer coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our website at merrymeetingartscenter.org, contact merrymeetingartscenter@gmail.com, or call (207) 370-5002.

To all who have already volunteered... Thank You. We look forward to working with you in the year to come.

Upcoming Events

Ice and Smelt Festival will be Saturday, February 2, 2019. Stay tuned for details, which will be listed on our website at merrymeetingartscenter.org.

MAC presents Molly Hogan, Photographer Molly Hogan, a Bowdoinham photographer, whose work focuses on wildlife and our local environment, will have her work on display at the Merrymeeting Arts Center Gallery, 9 Main Street, Bowdoinham. The exhibit is scheduled to open February 2nd, and will run through March 30, 2019.

For more information on the Merrymeeting Arts Center, its history and current doings, please visit www.merrymeetingartscenter.org.

The Clothes Closet at the Nazarene Church

The Clothes Closet will be opening again on Wednesdays from 3:30-6pm beginning March 13. We will have spring and summer clothes out. Donations of clean clothes in good condition can be dropped off during those hours. Anyone is welcome to "shop" at the Clothes Closet. The clothes are free, but donations are welcome and help with expenses. The Clothes Closet is located at the Nazarene church on the corner of School and Main Streets (7 School St.). For more information or for cases of urgent need, contact Christina Couch at 351-0289 or followingtheson@hotmail.com.

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Library News

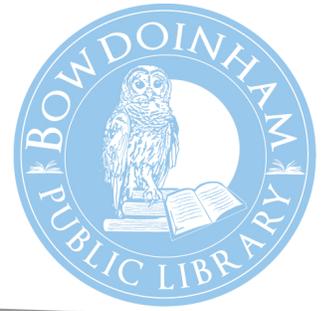
By Kate Cutko

On a cold evening in December, the library hosted a gathering in the Town Hall to hear a discussion by Bowdoinham resident Howard Solomon. Inspired to action by the deadly shooting in the Pittsburgh synagogue in October, Howard spoke to us about the history of Anti-Semitism in America. He gave a whirlwind history of the roots of anti Semitic language, rhetoric and iconography beginning in ancient times and continuing to today. The gathered crowd of 78 people was both moved and inspired. In person and online, people have requested that we continue the conversation- about anti Semitism and about other “isms”. We heard people’s desire for gathering in community and for discussion of current issues and ways we can bring about change.

Please join us as we continue the conversation. Thursday, January 31st at 7pm in the Kendall Room, Coombs Municipal Building. Coffee, community and conversation discussing “Where do we go from here?”. We can begin by reflecting on Howard’s presentation and perhaps decide on a book or speaker to move us forward in discussing how we each can bring change in a world of widening differences. Bring a friend and bring ideas. All are welcomed.

The library would also like to thank Joe Hanson who volunteered many hours of handiwork in restoring the windows in our children’s room. To repair the one-hundred-year-old window weights, tracks and pullies, Joe hired a local wood-worker but he did most of the work on the 12 huge window sashes himself in his workshop. The room is more lovely and weather tight than it has been in years. Thank you, Joe.

Please follow the library’s Facebook page or call the voicemail 666-8405 if you ever have a question about weather related closings.



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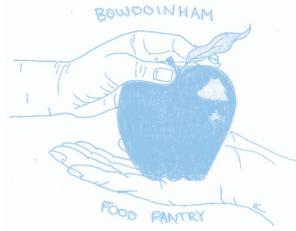
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Cell: 798-2908
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Food Pantry News

By Lily Montgomery

The winter months are always busy at the pantry, and this season has proved no exception. Thanks to generous donations from all of you, we were able to give out dozens of holiday meals at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Additionally, we continue to share food each week at the pantry during normal distribution and via the backpack program at the Bowdoinham Community School, Margi's Market at Bowdoinham Estates and at the Little Free Pantry at Greenleaf Apartments. This little pantry is a tiny, freestanding structure that is accessible at any time to local residents, and can be stocked by anyone (dry goods only during winter months, please!) If you'd like more information about this project, please reach out!

We would like to say an enormous



THANK YOU and farewell to Joanne Savoie, who has worked with the pantry for many years and has retired

at the end of 2018. Joanne has kept us all organized as she facilitated volunteer scheduling and has sent hundreds of thank you notes on behalf of the pantry. We are all so, so grateful for your years of service and will miss you, Joanne!

We are consistently in awe of the generosity of this town- in recent months we have had amazing financial and food donations come in from the local Girl Scouts, the Masons, the Credit Union League, the Bowdoinham Community School, and many, many individuals. Thank you for continuing to support this pantry and our mission, we couldn't do it without you!

Are you interested in donating to the pantry, or volunteering with us? Please get in touch so we can put you on our mailing list and keep you informed, and follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information. Top requested items for donating:

Peanut butter/jelly
Pasta/sauce
Canned tuna + chicken
Granola bars
Non-sugary cereal
Meat (small portions)
Eggs

The pantry is open each Wednesday from 4-6pm and the first and third Saturday of each month from 9-10 am. All Bowdoin and Bowdoinham residents are welcome with no income verification required. Questions? bowdoinhamfoodpantry@gmail.com, call 751-779, or find us on facebook!

BCDI News

By Ingrid Leschefske

Thank you to all those who braved the dark and the cold to join us for our Annual Meeting in December! During our meeting BCDI Board Chair, Kathy Montejo, Vice Chair, Abby Sadauckas, and Treasurer, Rachel Murphy, reviewed the organization's year of successes including the full repayment of two loans from our Neighbors Investing in Neighbors Loan/Investment Program (Bob Kane Woodproducts and Harvest Tide Organics); two successful grant applications; the completion of "Phase 1" of our Farmland Inventory Project (details about this project and "Phase 2" to come in the March/April newsletter!); continued momentum on the remaining action items from our 2017 Village Community Conversations (thank you to Dave Asmusen, Vice Chair of the Comprehensive Planning Committee, and Betsy Steen, Treasurer of the Bowdoinham Historical Society, who updated the crowd on the Town's Waterfront redevelopment project



and the establishment of Merry-meeting Hall!); the creation of a BCDI quarterly newsletter to members, as well as further expansion of our organization's communication tools through a new website (www.bcdimaine.org), increased social media presence, business cards, rack cards, and a sharpened logo. We also rolled out a new and well-received Business Membership. Check out our website for more details on BCDI Business Memberships and to find out how you can join other Bowdoinham businesses such as Brendan Bullock Photography, Christian and Robinson Plumbing, Cobbs Repair Service, and Left Field Farm as a BCDI business supporter.

Two of BCDI's Board members, Harriet Van Vleck (6 years of service) and Abby Sadauckas (3 years of service), move off the board with the closing of 2018,

and the establishment of Merry-meeting Hall!); the creation of a BCDI quarterly

as well as Lily Montgomery who left the Board in September (1 year of service). Their collective energies and expertise have been invaluable to the organization over the years. We send them off with gratitude for their excellent service in the true spirit of BCDI. To fill these vacancies, we welcome Atlee Reilly and Michael Mahan to the Board. We look forward to working with Atlee and Michael through the coming years!

Fast away the old year passes, and we thank you, generous Bowdoinham residents (and beyond!), for another great year for BCDI! There are lots of opportunities for involvement and we are a member-driven organization, so please consider joining us! For more information on the features mentioned in this article (Are you a local business in need of a loan? Interested in seeing Bowdoinham's precious farmland preserved? Would like to serve on the Board of Directors for a local non-profit?) please do not hesitate to contact us at bcdi.maine@gmail.com. Be sure to check out our website (www.bcdi-maine.org) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Cub Scout Pack

By Cathy Curtis

Patrol Sargeant Michelle Small, with the Bath Police Department, brought her police dog to the November Pack Meeting. She serves as the department's K-9 handler. Her k-9 partner's name is Sampson. She also instructs other police K-9 teams throughout the State of Maine. She was assisted by K-9 Officer, Lucas Shirland, of the Topsham Police Department. A big thank you to both of them for showing us many of things Sampson does on the job.

- Sampson is a Sable Shepard who came to America from Holland and didn't know any English.
- Sampson sniffed out some drugs placed in one of the parent's pockets by Officer Small.
- Sampson found drugs hidden by Officer Small under a chair.
- Sampson works hard so he gets to play with his Kong Toy.
- Sampson trains on a bite suit-see photo.
- Sampson can tell who was driving a car by smelling the gas pedal.



The Pack held a pet food drive in December and donated the food to a local shelter. Thank you to the Bowdoinham Community School and the Bowdoinham Country Store for allowing us to place our boxes in the community.

Students in grades 1-5 are welcome to join scouting at any time. Contact Athena Mann 737-4641, amanncs-pack699@yahoo.com or Cathy Curtis 666-8434, curtisc@link75.org



2018-2019 Speaker Series

ALL TALKS AT 7:00pm at CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK, UNLESS NOTED

- January 9** Women of the Dawn
Bunny McBride, Author & Anthropologist
FOMB Annual Meeting & Potluck: 6:00pm, Public Welcome
•Cram Alumni House, Bowdoin College•
83 Federal St., Brunswick
- February 13** Cobbosseecontee: On the Edge of Restoration
Steve Brooke, Upstream
- March 13** The Fascinating Life Cycle of Native Plants
Heather McCargo, Executive Director, Wild Seed Project
- April 10** Dresden Falls-Kennebec Life 1776-9,000 Years Ago
Art Spiess & Leith Smith, Prehistoric & Historic Archaeologists,
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
- May 8** Wireless, Wildlife & You
Blake Levitt, Science & Medical Journalist/Author

FREE • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FREE Sponsored by: Friends of Merrymeeting Bay
With support & door prizes from: Patagonia, Inc.-Freeport
Contact Ed Friedman, 666-3372 or edfomb@comcast.net for more information.

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Scout Troop 699

By Cathy Curtis

Troop 699 has been busy with camping trips, working on new ranks and doing volunteer activities. Many of our scouts attended Camp Hinds last July where they worked on a variety of merit badges. A highlight of the summer was a troop camping trip to Swan Island in Richmond where many of the boys canoed or kayaked over. Scouts and leaders did service projects ranging including preparing a site for a lobster bake, fixing a bridge and repairing a tractor.



Ricky Mann earned his Eagle Scout rank in August, the highest rank you can earn on boy scouting. His Eagle project involved creating an outdoor classroom at the Bowdoinham Community School—notice the concrete benches near the gymnasium on your next drive by. Ricky helped reestablish the Boy Scout Troop in Bowdoinham and has provided ongoing

leadership for younger scouts working through the ranks. We wish him well during his time at the University of Maine at Orono in the engineering program.

The scouts participated in the Celebrate Bowdoinham parade and helped move library books at the end of the day.



Thank you for continuing to support the Troop with your ongoing bottle donations. Students ages 11-17 are welcome to join scouting at any time. Contact Scout Master David Mann at dmann88napa@gmail.com.



Thank you!!!

Thank you to the Bowdoinham Country Store and the Bowdoinham Hardware Store for hosting the giving tree this year. This community helped 15 families! Thank you to all the wonderful and giving people that contributed this year. It was very much appreciated.

Thank you to FHC for providing turkey dinners for Thanksgiving.

Tidewater Tree Care

- Winter Removal Rates • View clearing
- Winter Safety Pruning • Shoreland Removals
- Apple tree pruning • Roof shoveling



WE WORK ALL WINTER!!!

737-9365

tidewatertreeservice@gmail.com

THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

Community Calendar

January

16th

Merrymeeting Arts Center's Annual Meeting, 5:30pm

21st

Town Office Closed

31st

Where do we go from here? Library Talk, 7pm

February

2nd

Ice & Smelt Festival

18th

Town Office Closed

Town Board & Committee Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and held in 2nd Floor Meeting Room at John C. Coombs Municipal Building, 13 School Street.

Select Board

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

Planning Board

4th Thursday of Month at 7:00pm

Committee on Aging

3rd Monday of Month at 2:30pm

Community Development Advisory Committee

1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Comprehensive Planning Committee

2nd Tuesday of Month at 6:30pm

Reminder - Sand Bucket Brigade

The Bowdoinham Fire and Rescue Department will be distributing 5-gallon buckets of winter sand this winter. This program is designed for those residents that cannot pick up their own winter sand from the courtesy sand pile located at the Public Works Facility.

If you would like a bucket of sand dropped at your residence, please contact Missy Halsey at the Town Office, 666-5531, or assistantclerk@bowdoinham.com. Missy will then forward your information to the Fire & Rescue Department. After you have received your first bucket, please contact the Fire & Rescue Department for a refill at 666-3505 and leave a message.

For a complete listing of events, please visit the Town's Calendar at www.bowdoinham.com/calendar.

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