



THE BOWDOINHAM NEWS

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www.bowdoinham.com

October 2010

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

By Kathy Durgin-Leighton

OLD MILL TREE FARM BROWNS POINT ROAD BOWDOINHAM, MAINE

Brad & Marla Blake's good friend and neighbor, Linwood Rideout, taught them the basics of growing Christmas Trees while helping Linwood at his tree farm next door. And, when Linwood decided in the mid 1990's to get out of the business of selling Christmas Trees, it was only logical that Brad begin his business and put the forestry classes that he took in college to work!

Though Brad admits that anyone can plant trees, planting Christmas trees takes a lot of work and does not happen without making some mistakes. In 1995 he planted his first 500 trees and made the rookie mistake of planting them the whole length of his field not realizing that most of his future customers would not be interested in trudging through the deep snow to the trees planted at the end of the row! And while he planted the trees in 1995, it took ten years before they were tall enough to sell. The initial planting is time consuming but the additional time to fertilize, prune and mow between rows makes it a year round process. Now that the farm is established with plenty of trees to sell, Brad needs only to plant on average fifty 10 to 12 inch balsam firs each year to keep the farm productive.

Brad sells (or donates) about 75 trees per year ranging from 6 feet to 25 feet and each tree, regardless of size, sells for \$30. Many of his customers return each year making it unnecessary to advertise beyond the word of mouth. Most of his customers prefer to cut their own tree (he provides a saw) or he will cut the trees for them with a chainsaw.

As with any business, there are some highs and lows. A low point was when one of his trees was stolen over the Thanksgiving weekend. A high point is seeing the same customers returning year after year allowing Old Mill Tree farm to be part of their Christmas traditions. One family has been coming for as long as Brad can remember; mother, father and three sons. Each year they come and park their car in Brad's driveway, cross country ski up to the top of the hill and cut their chosen tree with an axe. Normally they come at the beginning of December and when they didn't show last year, Brad wondered what had happened to them. Happily they showed up the day before Christmas. They had waited until the very last minute for their son to return home from college to continue the family Christmas tradition!



Steve Hooper (left) and Brad Foley hauling the Christmas Trees from Old Mill Tree Farm 2009.

Photo by Jen Foley

General Information: Old Mill Tree Farm opens each year during Thanksgiving Weekend and is open on all day each Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Check at the house to see if Brad or Marla are home or call them ahead of time at 666-5939. Dog Friendly!

See page 11 for more stories about Christmas Trees in Bowdoinham.

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Books and Quilts . . . Atop that Hill

By Kate Cutko

The weekend of November 6 and 7 is sure to be an exciting one here in Bowdoinham. Book lovers and those who appreciate fine quilts and history won't be disappointed.

BOOKS: On Saturday the 6th, the Bowdoinham Public Library will once again hold its annual Used Book Sale. There are enough books to fill two rooms of the Coombs Municipal Building with hard cover books at \$1 and paperbacks at 50 cents. Doors open at 9 am and close at 2 pm. For more information, call the library at 666-8045. Volunteers Needed.



Photo by Jen Foley

Look at the children's books!

QUILTS: On both Saturday and Sunday, the Bowdoinham Historical Society will be hosting a Quilt Show of modern and historic quilts. The show will feature the quilts from the Historical Society's collection. The Historical Society invites anyone who would like to exhibit a quilt to download a form from the Historical Society's website at www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org or to pick up a form at the library. Details about where and when to drop off quilts are explained on the form. For more information, call Elizabeth Steen at 666-3468. Admission to the quilt show is \$4, to benefit the Historical society.

BOWDOINHAM QUILT HERITAGE: In addition to the show on Sunday the 7th, there will be volunteers from the Pine Tree Quilters Guild available at the Town Hall for a "Quilt Documentation Day". The goal of the quilt documentation is to collect information about any quilt in Maine which was made before 1960. The volunteers encourage anyone in Bowdoinham to bring quilts from their homes to be analyzed, photographed and documented in a database, "for the purpose of preserving our quilt heritage." Share what you know about your own vintage quilts and the people who made them. You may learn something new

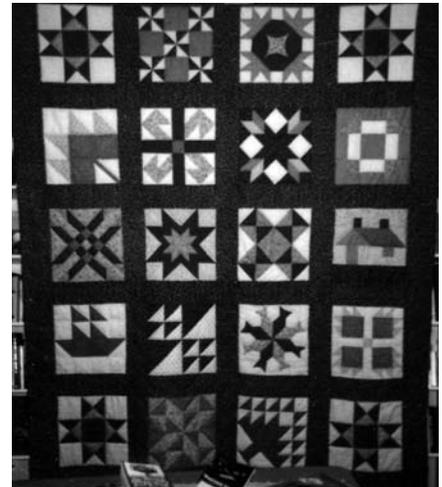


Photo by Betsy Steen

about your quilt, such as how best to care for it and store it properly. Your quilts do not have to be exhibited in the show to take part in the quilt documentation day. Documentation is on a first come, first served basis between 10 and 2 at the quilt show.

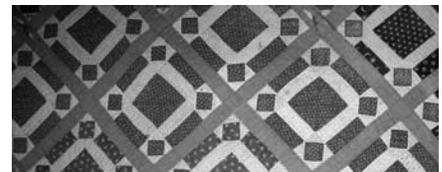
FIND THE QUILTS! In the years from 1976 to 1982 the ladies of the Bowdoinham Historical Society created five quilts which were then raffled for the benefit of the Historical Society. **We would love to display these quilts at our November Quilt Show.** We own The Coombs School Quilt (1977), have the loan of the Sampler Quilt (1980), and have contacted the owner of the Bicentennial Quilt (1976). The last two pose a challenge. The **Barbecue Quilt** (1978) was won by **Pat Sperzel** who used to live in town and whose kids went to school here in the 1970's & 80's. Does anyone know where she is and how we can reach her? And finally we have no idea who won the **Album Quilt** (1982). If you have any information about it, please, please let us know. Betsy Steen 666-3468 bayviewess@comcast.net or Kate Cutko at the library 666-8405.

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Bowdoinham Historical Society News

By Betsy Steen

The summer has passed so quickly.

In August, the Bowdoinham Historical Society partnered with Merrymeeting Arts Center, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, and Bowdoinham Public Library to put on the show **Ducks On the Bay** in conjunction with the Ducks Unlimited event. Many of the decoys given to Historical Society by Linwood Rideout were on display, as well as many pictures of Merrymeeting Bay Duck Hunting in the 1940's and Spear Sedgley's sculling oar donated by Chet and Jeanne Gillis.

Celebrate Bowdoinham

Our Jellerson School float graced the parade, and in the waterfront tent, BHS displayed recent donations, sold Bowdoinham historic photos printed and matted by Tony Cox, and hosted a gathering of Bowdoinham neighbors to visit with Jellerson scholar and teacher Erla Browne Kelley. We also had a successful raffle for a Duck Tour of Merrymeeting Bay guided by Chet Gillis.

Members enjoyed a **Cider Social** at the Meeting House on Sunday October 10th. Now fast approaching is our **Quilt Show**, November 6th and 7th in the Town Hall.

BHS has also recently welcomed new members and received several interesting donations. Using our Memorial Fund, a fund dedicated to the acquisition of Bowdoinham related items, BHS was able to buy from an auctioneer in Massachusetts a **'Family Register'**

Sampler sewn by 11 year old Zaluma Bates of Bowdoinham in 1818. It's a real treasure and nice to have it back where it was created!

The Bowdoinham Historical Society's expanding website is fast becoming a rich source of information about BHS events, genealogy and Bowdoinham history, thanks to Todd Woofenden. Head to www.bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org for information on membership, events, and donating money, memories, or items.

BHS is in always need of support for our several projects and hope you will add **"Give Locally"** to the 'Sell Local, Buy Local' campaign, this year.

Buy Locally!

CONTACT US:

To join, renew, learn more, get involved, send photos, memories, or information, donate money, time, or artifacts Email: info@bowdoinhamhistoricalsociety.org Call: Todd at 666-5826 or Betsy at 666-3468, Snail Mail: BHS, P.O. Box 101, Bowdoinham, ME 04008



Photo by Betsy Steen

The latest collection addition.

What Great Bowdoinham Christmas Gifts!

History of the Town of Bowdoinham Maine 1762 –1912, by Silas Adams: 1985 reprint with index & map \$55

Bowdoinham—The Seventeenth Town in Maine 1762 –1962 (Bicentennial Book) \$20

Atop that Hill—a Social History of Bowdoinham's School House Hill by Frank Connors, 1999—\$5

Bowdoinham Advertisers—14 issues, edited and published by Frank Connors between 1972 and 1985, full of Bowdoinham history, ancient and recent (260 pages) \$20 full set; \$10 set of 6; \$2 each (limited numbers)

Matted Pictures of Historic Bowdoinham
small \$14 and large \$28

Please Save Our School

By Betsy Steen

Imagine a class of ten year olds, scrubbed and alert, waiting for the day to start, in the last of Bowdoinham's one room schools... learning what it was like when their grandparents went to school.

Imagine Bowdoinham Historical Society, meeting beside the wood stove on a cool fall evening, exploring some part of Bowdoinham's past.

Imagine a Box Social, like the ones held here years ago.

Imagine a display on Merrymeeting

Bay duck hunting to honor the business and sport that played such an important part in Bowdoinham's past and the organization that added to the story of this building for over 30 years.

Imagine a place to gather where members of a newly revived Rod and Gun Club could swap stories over a steaming cup of coffee.

Imagine...

or

Imagine an empty lot, growing up to brambles and sumac.



1939 Jellerson School Scholars!

Back row: Charles Wildes, Teacher; Erla Browne (Kelley) Front row: Henry Libby, Hartley Douglass, Albert Libby, Ronnie Burrell, Shirley Douglass (Curtis), Hazel Browne (Mitchell), Carolyn Baker (Chipman) and Jimmy Libby

Buying From Your Neighbors

By Todd Woofenden

The world is getting bigger again, and it's starting to hurt. The signs are all around us: We can see the unintended consequences of globalization in the loss of whole industries, outsourced to other countries along with all the jobs; in the loss of local grocery, hardware and supply stores, undercut and killed off by chain box stores that stock their shelves with cheap imported goods; and in the increasingly fragile and unreliable supply lines for everything from food to energy.

Food prices are rising in spite of the alarming unemployment level. Selection in the supermarket is dwindling as sellers consolidate to fewer brands. Backyard gardens are becoming the trend again, reminiscent of the Victory gardens of WWII, as people make an effort to supplement what they are able to buy with what they can produce on their own.

Around the world, mainstay production sources are destabilizing. Record heat waves, gigantic wildfires, bizarre floods and droughts, and other increasingly unstable events around the globe are killing off entire crops. Some countries have resorted to temporary export bans on commodities like certain grains.

Overall, the shine of the global trade movement is tarnishing, as we see it destroying our capacity to produce goods and earn a living here at home, and the "go local" movement that used to seem like the domain of a few leftover hippies from the 1970s is starting to look more compelling.

This, with good reason: People are out of work, state and local governments are running out of money, and businesses are not expanding to fill the gap—all problems that seem outside the control of any individual. We have to do something, and one thing we *can* control is what we do in our own community. We are not powerless in the face of increasingly unreliable national and global economies; we just need to focus on something closer to home than the flotil-



la of giant container ships filled with cheap consumer goods steaming toward us from overseas.

We need to view buying goods and services differently, to think of local sources as our primary resources, and to rely on non-local sources only as a last resort. Patronizing local businesses is not just a matter of helping out the local store once in a while. Don't buy local to be a good guy; do it because it's in your best long-term interest to have strong local and regional production capacity, to take up the slack as the import economy falters.

In Bowdoinham, we're working on building a local business directory, to make it easier to buy local. This is a new project: We have completely updated the old directory, basically starting over with a better, more useful, searchable database. Here's what you can do to help:

If you own or run a local business, take five minutes to submit your business listing. Paper forms are on the front desk in the town offices, or go to the business section of the website (www.bowdoinham.com/business) and use the online form.

If you are part of a local organization—a guild, a club, the farmer's market, etc.—make sure *all* the people in your organization who run local businesses are listed. Help them get more business!

When you buy something locally, ask if the person's business is listed online in the directory.

And, when you're looking to buy something or hire someone, check our

local directory *first!* Patronize these local businesses, and remember to tell them that you saw their listing in the directory.

The good news is that we live in a town with an exceptional talent pool, a rich cultural history, and a lot of local resources. We have skilled builders, artists, farmers, technicians, service experts – just about everything, it seems. What's needed is to build more and stronger relationships between these skilled local providers and ... **you!**

BUY LOCAL— GIVE LOCAL

Consider keeping some of your charity dollars in Bowdoinham!

SUPPORT LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS/FUNDS SUCH AS:

Bowdoinham Fireman's Auxiliary
EMS
Friends Of Merrymeeting Bay
Bowdoinham Public Library
Bowdoinham Historical Society
Jellerson School Renovation
Merrymeeting Arts Center
Christmas Giving Tree
Bowdoinham Recreation
Scholarships Fund
Skateboard Park Fund
Bowdoinham Home Heating Assistance Fund
Bowdoinham Community School

Voters to Vote on Three Town Questions on November Ballot

By Dan Billings

Along with the state ballot, on November 2nd, Bowdoinham voters will decide three local questions by referendum.

The first two questions on the local ballot deal with how Bowdoinham is governed. Though the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to place the two questions on the ballot, the Board did not take an official position on either question and Board members hold different views on at least one of the two questions.

Question 1 asks the voters if they would like to expand the Bowdoinham Board of Selectmen from 3 to 5 members. If the question is approved, the Board would be expanded at the next municipal election, meaning three positions would be up for election with one person elected to a two year term to allow for staggered terms moving forward. Proponents of the change argue that a larger Board would provide for greater representation of the people in town, with a larger Board more likely to include people of different views, talents, and experiences. More than two-thirds of similar sized Maine towns have 5 member Boards. Opponents of the change suggest that Bowdoinham has been served well by a 3 member Board and a larger Board could lead to division and make it more difficult to get things done.

Question 2 asks voters if they would like to change the date of the annual municipal election from June of each year to the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of each year. The major argument for this change is that it would result in much larger participation in municipal elections. Every year, significantly more Bowdoinham voters cast ballots in November than in June. Holding municipal elections in November, at the same time as the state elections, will ensure that Board mem-

bers are accountable to a larger segment of the community. One argument against the change is that most municipalities hold municipal elections at the same time as town meeting and our current system has new Board members taking office at the start of the fiscal year.

Question 3 asks voters if they wish to enact the Bowdoinham Property Assessed Clean Energy ("PACE") Ordinance. Enactment of the ordinance would allow owners of qualifying Bowdoinham properties to access financing for energy saving improvements to their properties financed by funds awarded to the Efficiency Maine Trust under the Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. The ordinance would allow the Town to enter into a contract with the Trust to administer the program. The program would allow Bowdoinham property owners access to low cost financing, from state and federal funds, for energy saving improvements at no cost to the Town. If the ordinance is not adopted, Bowdoinham property owners would be shut out of the program.

New Assessing Agent for the Town of Bowdoinham

We are pleased to have Ron Beal as Bowdoinham's new Tax Assessing Agent. Ron has been the Town of West Bath's Assessing Agent



Photo by Kathy Durgin-Leighton

for the past 20 years. He will continue to work for the Town of West Bath and will have regular office hours here in Bowdoinham every Wednesday from 9 am to 5 pm. In addition to being a Tax Assessor, Ron is the owner of Sagadahoc Surveying Company and served as a Selectman for West Bath for 13 years. He has vast municipal experience and we are delighted that he will join Dotty Baker in the Assessing Department.

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

2010-2011 SPEAKER SERIES

(Partial listing through February 2011)

All talks at 7:00 pm. See locations below.

November 10 Words for the Wild

Gary Lawless, *Gulf of Maine Bioregion Poet & Publisher*
Bridge Academy, Dresden

December 8 Last of the Kennebec Log Drives

Dave Calder, *Songwriter & Storyteller*
Bath City Hall Auditorium

January 12 An Exploration of the World's Most Amazing & Mysterious Fish

James Prosek, *Artist, Writer, and Activist*
FOMB Annual Meeting & Potluck: 6:00, Public Welcome
Cram Alumni House, Bowdoin College

February 9 Roadkill to Classroom: The Art & Science of Taxidermy

Rock Agostino & Anne Gorham, *Creative Maine Taxidermy*
Bowdoinham Coombs Municipal Building

“WAITT” Bowdoinham

By Peter Sullivan

“**W**e’re all in this together” or (WAITT), most of us have heard the phrase. When life is going well it doesn’t always seem that it applies—we’re getting along just fine by ourselves. However, during those times when things are tough and we are struggling family, friends, neighbors and even strangers can make you realize we do need each other. It’s then that we appreciate what is really important and how much we can benefit from the interaction with others. These days, just mingling with acquaintances seems to be becoming less frequent. As a result, our neighbors sometimes have unmet needs.

At any given time, there are Bowdoinham residents who could use some “help”, some for the first time in years and others on a routine basis. Often fulfilling those needs does not require funds—just time. It might be something fairly important such as providing transportation to the grocery store / doctor’s office or helping splitting firewood. And sometimes “help” can be simple, e.g., an invitation / ride to the bean supper, going out for an ice cream or helping with the garden. Repairing a leaky faucet or rotten step may require some skills, but often only one’s time is needed to benefit someone else.

Simply put, “WAITT” would serve as a process to capture resident’s needs and satisfy them with other resident’s services—a matching process. We have not determined how to best accomplish this goal. What roles will the municipality vs. citizens’ play? Should a group meet initially to design the program? What is the best way to inform residents about the opportunity to volunteer? *We do know* we want to develop something that will work for our community and have the strength to continue for a long period.

Many in our community already volunteer while others work multiple jobs and truly have little free time.

We are confident though that there are others who like to contribute to our town’s overall quality. It may be residents who are not really into committees or meetings. Rather, they would prefer to provide direct help—on a limited basis—that they find personally rewarding. What an impact if everyone contributed even 1 hour a year?

Initially, we plan to invite the community to a public meeting to hear people’s thoughts. This will be a planning discussion, not a recruiting effort. If someone contributes an idea on how to proceed, that in itself, will be a meaningful service and serves to demonstrate that we can assist each other directly or indirectly.

Please join us for the “WAITT” kickoff meeting to be held **Wednesday, November 17, 6:30 pm at the Coombs Municipal Building.** So, in the future when someone contacts the Town office for help they can tell them to “WAITT” just a bit and they’ll get back to them with support.

We need your ideas and comments. If you would like to talk about the program before the meeting please contact Peter Sullivan, 737-2127.

Town of Bowdoinham Home Heating Assistance Program

Bowdoinham’s Home Heating Assistance Program, funded entirely from private and business donations as well as fundraising efforts, is available to town residents whose income is within 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. With the rising cost of fuel and money being tight, many residents, including the town’s elderly citizens, will be struggling to heat their homes this coming winter. To make a donation, or inquire about eligibility, call Kathy Durgin-Leighton, Town Manager at 666-5531. Applications are available at the town office.

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Plumbing Tip from Peggy the Plumber

Do you hear a bang, flutter, squeal, foghorn or other unnerving sound coming from your water pipes when a fixture is shut off?

You may have a water hammer problem. The two most common reasons for this problem are discussed here.

Whether from a well pump or municipal water supply your water pressure is most likely between 40-65psi. With newer faster acting ballcocks and valves the pressure is cut off so fast that the energy reverberates back through the pipes causing the noise.

The water hammer could also be caused by a loose washer. As the water rushes past the loose washer it flutters causing an unnerving sound.

You may think that the noise is simply an annoyance, but over time it may weaken fittings and valves and cause leaks.

The solution. If it is a fast acting valve that is causing the problem then installing a water hammer arrester as close as possible to the valve should solve the problem. If it is a loose washer then replacing the washer should solve the problem.

THE BOWDOINHAM WATER DISTRICT

AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR WATER DISTRICT AND YOUR WATER BOARD

The Bowdoinham Water District was incorporated as a quasi-municipality and started delivering water to customers in the Town of Bowdoinham in 1959. A single well of about 30' depth was located in a gravel deposit in the Town of Bowdoin, off the West McIver Road. Now, approximately 20% of all water sold is delivered to customers in Bowdoin.

The District serves approximately 280 customers by way of a little more than 8 miles of water main piping. Each customer, however, may be one household or several households—such as a development, or a school or mobile home park.

The Board has 5 members, typically: 4 from Bowdoinham and 1 from Bowdoin. Board members are not paid for their services. The Board meets in the Bowdoinham Coombs School building on the third Thursday of every month. The District shares a business office, with its staff of one manager, with the Richmond Water District. This business office is located in Richmond on Front Street. However, the labor forces of the two districts are not commingled. The Bowdoinham District has

one part time Superintendent, who must tend the pumps and record data daily (365) and who must be “on-call” at all times (24x7).

Several significant District upgrades have been done in the last 10 or 11 years. The new pumping station was completed about 10 years ago. The water is chlorinated to a low concentration for safety, but that treatment was being done long before the new pump station upgrade. In addition, the water is aerated to reduce the carbon dioxide for corrosion control. Aeration also further reduces the radon content, which was already low. The new water tank constructed in Bowdoin and put in service in 2006, adds about 20 psig to the water pressure of all Bowdoin customers. The District now has two water pressure zones. In addition, the District has trained and licensed a Board member to act as a back-up operator, who can stand-in for the Superintendent when he is sick or on vacation. And in 2009, the District has installed a redundant well of about 40' depth – near the first one. Water is pumped from each well on a weekly basis. Each of these upgrades was fund-

ed with the help of grants or zero interest loans.

The District is now operating in its fourth year since the last rate increase, but a minimal increase will probably be required next year in order to offset some of the affects of five years of inflation. Projects contemplated for the next decade include a looping pipe to make for a redundant supply to the Bowdoinham village and a main to the new Bowdoin school. The main to the Bowdoin school is particularly interesting because it would be a more dependable source of higher purity water than what is supplied by the current system.

In summary, your water District supplies very high quality water; water that tests as well or better than the water from any other municipal district or from any bottled water company—and all for about a penny per gallon— delivered.

Respectfully, your Water Board—
September 2010

Brant Miller
F. Donald Oakes
George Harvey Freeman
Gordon Johnson
Stephen Cox



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Public Works Department Completes Road Work—Residents receive the “Gift of Fill”!

By Kathy Durgin-Leighton



Kevin Prout, Public Works Director unearths rock on Pratt Road.

Thanks to extensive road work completed by the Public Works Department this summer and fall, many residents were the recipients of clean fill. Almost 3,000 yards of fill (ditching material) were removed from town roads and most of it went to residents in need of the material. The roads that received most of the work were Cemetery, Pratt, Wallentine, Center's Point, Browns Point, Dinsmore Cross, Preble, and Lucas.

Cemetery Road received the most work with over 1,300 yards of fill removed, and another 1,000 yards of gravel added! Major drainage improvements were made with the addition of a catch basin, a repair of an existing catch basin, and the addition of roadside curbing. A two inch base coat of paving has



Cemetery Road work.

been applied and at the time of this writing we are awaiting another 1 1/2 inch of surface pavement. In addition to the road upgrade, the town is adding a four foot paved shoulder for children to walk and bicycle to school. On the opposite side of the paved shoulder, a gravel shoulder will accommodate horseback riders and others.

Work to the Pratt Road was Public Works' seconded largest project. Much needed drainage work was accomplished with extensive ditching. With the removal of ledge and the addition of over 450 yards of gravel, motorists will see a significant improvement to this road.

Other gravel roads that received extensive work were Wallentine, Center's Point, and Brown's Point roads. Again, over 1,200 yards of fill were removed from these roads and 900 yards of gravel added!

Preble Road, Dinsmore Cross Road, Brown's Point Road, and Lucas Lane were all given a base shim, surface coat and shoulder work that will add to the life of these roads.

More work to the town's gravel roads is planned for the month of November, weather permitting. This work is all part of the town's aggressive effort to maintain its infrastructure and remain current with our 15 year road plan.



Maine Army National Guard comes to Bowdoinham!

By Kathy Durgin-Leighton

On Saturday morning, October 2nd members of the Maine Army National Guard 262 Engineer Company from Westbrook rolled through Bowdoinham. Its mission was to assist the Town with needed road work on the Curtis Farm Road as well as to transport winter sand to the Public Works Garage in preparation for winter. Residents may wonder how and why the Town was able to receive such needed assistance. As the saying goes, it all started with “a friend who knows a friend, who knows a friend, etc. etc.” In this case, my good friend and Bowdoinham resident Ben Hunsberger mentioned to me that he had a friend who was part of the Guard and that the Guard was looking for opportunities for training exercises since its mission to Iraq had been cancelled in the spring. Ben suggested to his friend that Bowdoinham may have some projects that needed doing and at his friend's suggestion, I called the Guard. After a couple of meetings, a ‘road trip’ to review potential projects, and lots of paper work, two of our projects were accepted! The Guard agreed to haul 1,200 yards of winter sand to the public works facility from the neighboring sandpit as well as upgrade the Curtis Farm Road. Three 20 ton dump trucks, one grader, one smooth drum roller, and thirteen soldiers were sent to Bowdoinham on October 2nd under the command of Sgt. Jamie Smyth. They spent the day working on the projects and plan to return for a two day training mission on November 6th and 7th to complete the work!

Recreation News

By Brooke Cox, Recreation Director

Bowdoin College Common Good Day:

I would like to thank Bowdoin College for sending a work crew to Bowdoinham on Common Good Day. A van pulled into the parking lot and out jumped 7 eager workers to help on one of our trails! They had been forewarned that they would be moving boulders but that did not frighten them away. We worked for 3 hours in the summer like temperatures. Please refer to the photo to see the workers who gave up much of a lovely Saturday afternoon to help here in Bowdoinham.

1. **Walking & Running Club** began October 1 and will run through the month of October; we have 16 participants with lots of parents helping out.

2. **Children's Chorus** with Matt Loosigian will begin October 20 and run through Dec. 15 with a Concert at the end; check the website later for details as they become available.

3. **Zumba** began Sept 15th and will run through Nov. 10th 6:00-7:00pm at the Bowdoinham Community School Gym.

4. **Basketball registration** forms for the 3rd/4th and 5th/6th graders are due back October 18 and the practices will begin the week of Nov 15 with games to begin on December 4th. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade Basketball Registrations will not be out until the first week in November and will be due back the 1st week of December

5. **Village Senior's** first lunch of the fall was this past Thursday, September 25th at the Fire Station; we had a cookout and a good visit.

2nd Thursday of every month is lunch at Bowdoinham Estates

3rd Thursday of every month is game day at the 2nd Baptist Church

4th Thursday of every month is lunch, usually at the 2nd Baptist Church Keep checking the town's website calen-



Photo by Brooke Cox

From L to R in the photo: Caroline Ciocca, John Bruno, Molly Taft, Mariya Ilyas, Erin D'Agostino, Ben Dyer, and Michelle Cupid.

dar for details or call Brooke Cox at 666-3504

6. **Family Swim at Bowdoin College:** Join in on the fun at the Bowdoin College Pool Sunday afternoons 4:30-5:30pm. It runs through December 5th; please bring your insurance card for the first visit.

7. **Lost Valley Ski & Board** Registration forms will be out in the beginning of November and due back the 1st week of December.

8. **Ice Skating, Snowshoeing, and Cross Country Skiing:** Look for ice rink to be ready as soon as we get good weather for it; it is located near the Recreation Field Parking lot. The Recreation Department has snow shoes and cross country equipment to loan out; please sign equipment out at the Town Office.

For more information on any of the events call Brooke Cox at 666-3504 or email bcox@bowdoinham.com

Skateboard Park

Yes, that's right the development of a Skateboard Park in Bowdoinham is underway. We are just beginning the design phase of the Skateboard Park and **we need the help of skateboarders!!!** If you like to skate or know someone that does, PLEASE help us to design your Skateboard Park.

For more information please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

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bhobart@zwi.net

Merrymeeting Trail— Project Update

By Nicole Briand

Midcoast Council of Governments has hired an engineering firm to conduct the corridor study for the proposed Merrymeeting Trail. The overall goal for creating a Corridor Study is to develop a comprehensive plan for implementing the creation of a regional rail-trail that will serve as a recreational and transportation linkage. The Corridor Study will allow us to identify possible alternatives for phasing the trail's construction and ultimately allow us to pursue funding for the construction of the Merrymeeting Trail. The Corridor Study will be complete by the end of November 2010. We are able to do the corridor study thanks to the following funding:

- \$20,000 Regional Challenge Grant from the State Planning Office
- \$20,000 from Maine Department of Transportation
- \$13,500 from Maine Outdoor Heritage Board
- \$1,000 from the City of Gardiner
- \$1,000 from the Town of Richmond
- \$1,000 from the Town of Bowdoinham
- \$1,000 from Topsham Development Incorporated
- \$1,000 from Friends of Kennebec River Rail Trail



Let's keep our fingers crossed for our two pending grant applications.

The Town of Richmond has applied to Maine Department of Transportation's Quality Community Program for construction funding. This funding will be used to construct the segment of the Merrymeeting Trail that is located within their village area.

Midcoast Council of Governments has submitted an application for a TIGER II Planning Grant to do the preliminary design for the Trail.

For more information, please go to our new website www.merrymeeting-trail.com or contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

Sign-up for our E-newsletter at www.merrymeetingtrail.org and join us on Facebook.

Comprehensive Plan— Update

We are required by state statute to update our Comprehensive Plan every 10 years. In order to update our Comprehensive Plan we need your help to:

- create an assessment of our community
- determine goals for our future
- develop policies and strategies that will allow us to obtain our goals.

Updating our Comprehensive Plan gives us the opportunity to shape our community's future. If you are interested in helping to shape Bowdoinham's future, please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531 or nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

Sidewalk Project Update

Sidewalks are coming!!! The Preliminary Design Report has been completed and Pine Tree Engineering is moving forward with the Final Design. When will our sidewalks be completed? The next step will be to go out to bid. The construction is scheduled to start in the summer of 2011 with completion by the fall of 2011.

For more information please contact Nicole Briand at 666-5531, nbriand@bowdoinham.com.

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Importance of Traditions and Friends

by Jennifer Foley

When Brad (Foley) and I first moved to Bowdoinham in 1990 right after we were married, we rented the Beyersdorfer home right across from the Old Mill Tree Farm which wasn't yet in operation. The Blakes were our first neighbors and they introduced us to Mr. Rideout's Tree Farm. So one chilly December day we trekked into the farm and met Linwood for the first time. He told us the lay of the land, we selected our tree and he buzzed it down and we thought the transaction was over once we paid him. But with a twinkle in his eye, he asked us if we had ever had a Christmas Tree cookie before? "Well sure. The sugar cookies mom makes." "No, not that one." And he proceeded to cut a 1/2 inch off the bottom of the tree stump and hand it to us. "Now, you take that home, cook it in the oven, sand it, drill a small hole, put a string through it and you name the people in your home that Christmas and you date it". Since Christmas 1990 we have been making Christmas Tree cookies. Year one was simple...just Brad and Jen. Couple years later we added Jamie..couple more Ben.....And we seem to always have a cou-



Photos by Jen Foley

ple pets on them as well....some with names, some just called 'fish'.

And now every December the Foley Family treks down to the Blake's Old Mill Tree Farm with the Hooper Family and some rope, saws, and a thermos of cocoa. We only go when there is a snowflake in the air because it makes a terrific Christmas

card picture. And Linwood's Christmas Tree Cookie is a now tradition for the Hoopers as well as our extended family and friends. And when we get out our tree decorations to decorate the new tree from the Blake's, the ones that are most sentimental are the Linwood Christmas Tree cookies because they remind us how our family has expanded over the years, how nice it is to live in Bowdoinham and how fortunate we are.

Tree Lighting

"It started in 2006. A small group of merry men and a woman and child or two, who wished some old fashioned traditions could stand the weight of the politically correct movement. No longer able to enjoy Christmas carols at the school 'winter concerts', they longed to stand around a centrally located conifer tree with their neighbors and sing in the holiday spirit.

So one weekend, when the town government offices were closed and, unbeknownst to the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and even the Animal Control Officer, they dug a hole on the Coombs Municipal lot green and 'planted' a Christmas Tree for all to see. And then the following Friday night word spread around town that at 6:00pm the

town would sing real Christmas Carols around the real lit tree.

That was five years ago and the tradition continues. Over the years, candles and Christmas carol books have been donated by local organizations not to mention the glorious trees. This band of merry people who hike into the woods, select a tree they think they can haul out of a giving soul's property (thanks to the Boulays, the Steens and the Curtis' for their tree donations), deem who on the team is chainsaw worthy and who isn't (Tony), then dutifully transport it to the green and decorate it. And last year, they actually placed lights onto the tree with a



Ben Foley sings in 2006.

Photo by Mom

crane at the Hooper residence before transporting it and raising the largest tree yet A Top That Hill.

And then some weekend in spring when the town offices are closed, the robins are heading back, and Ms. Foley starts to complain, they dutifully dismantle the beautiful tree and cover up the hole."

The tradition will continue again this year barring any political correct effort to stop this effort based on the submission of this article in the town newspaper. Come join in the singing Friday, December 3 at 5:30 pm, A Top That Hill."

Bed Bugs

by Health Officer Becky Miller

Have you been hearing about bed bugs in the news recently? They are fast becoming an international public health threat once again. After World War II, the use of the pesticide DDT eradicated from most developed nations. However, DDT was banned in 1972 because it is very toxic to the environment. It is thought bedbugs are becoming a problem again because of the increase in traveling and pesticide resistance.

Bed bugs are brown, oval and flat about the size of an apple seed. They typically hide in the cracks and crevices of box springs, mattresses and bed frames. They can also be found under peeling paint or loose wallpaper, under carpeting near baseboards, in furniture upholstery seams and under light switch plates or outlets. They crawl about as fast as a ladybug, and often hitchhike on clothes or luggage. They can travel easily between floors and rooms in hotels or apartment complexes. Bed bugs do not care if their home is dirty or clean because they only need plenty of warm hiding places.

Some bed bugs prefer to feed on birds and bats and may end up in attics or eaves. If their preferred prey is not available, they will settle for humans. A female bed bug can lay more than 200 eggs in a lifetime which is about 10 months. Newly hatched bed bugs are nearly colorless and hard to spot. As they grow, they shed their skin five times and need a blood meal for each molt.

The bite of a bedbug is similar to other insect bites: red, itchy, often located on the face, necks, arms and hands and the bites may be in a line or cluster. Some people may experience an allergic reaction that may present as hives, severe itching or blisters. However, some people may not have any reaction. If a person experiences severe allergic or skin reactions, he or she should see their doctor. The good news is that bed bugs do not carry disease.

The best way to control bedbugs is to

be vigilant. Check secondhand furniture being brought into your home for any signs of bedbugs. Remove clutter where bedbugs hide, seal cracks and encase mattresses and box springs. Check luggage when returning from a trip and unload your suitcases at the washing machine. If you find an infestation, wash and dry bedding and clothing at high temperatures to kill bedbugs. You can heat the infested areas or furniture for one hour or use cold temperatures below 0 degrees for at least four days may help. If you choose to use a pesticide, be sure it explicitly says it is for bedbugs and follow label directions exactly. Ultimately, if you suspect you have bed bugs, it is recommended you talk to a professional pest company as soon as possible to avoid the problem getting worse. For great information about how to identify and kill bedbugs, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/bedbugs/#identify>

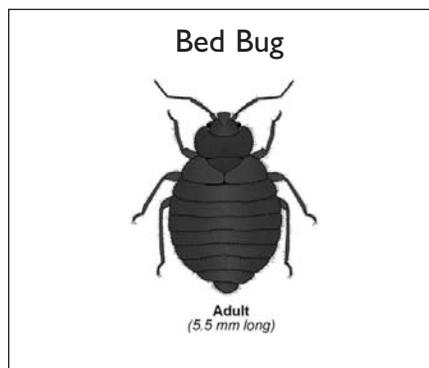
Resources

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/bedbugs/DS00663>

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/bedbugs/#identify>

Update

Bed bugs have been reported to be in Bowdoinham. If you find bedbugs, please notify the town office for a list of local resources.



News from Public Health Officer, Rebecca Miller

On September 25th a nationwide medication collection was held about the country. Nationally, 242,000 pounds of unused and expired medications were turned in! Of nearly 8,000 pounds were from the approximately 110 sites in Maine. If you missed this date, there will be another opportunity on November 11th (5-7pm at Midcoast Hospital) and 12th (10am to 2pm) at five local sites in Sagadahoc County area where you can bring your unused and expired medications. The closest to Bowdoinham will be at the Richmond Senior Center from 10am to 2pm. Anyone can bring their medications to any of the sites with no questions asked and confidentiality assured. For further information, call Midcoast Hospital at 373-6585 or the town office at 666-5531.

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CRIMINAL DEFENSE
REAL ESTATE LITIGATION
AND DIVORCE

Celebrate Bowdoinham

Photos by Jen Foley, Kathy Gallant and Brooke Cox



A Celebrate Bowdoinham Thank You!

Thank you to all the people who helped make Celebrate Bowdoinham 2010 a success !

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard!

Thank you to all the business and individuals that participated!

Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who contributed so generously to the Silent Auction!

Bowdoinham to Celebrate its 250th Birthday in 2012

The town's 250th anniversary in 2012 is approaching fast! Many people have begun to do some thinking about possible events. A first brainstorming and planning session is planned for Nov 9th at 6:30 pm at the Fire Station.

Everyone is welcome to attend—the more ideas, the better! If you are unable to attend, but have some ideas that you would like to share, please email them to Kathy Durgin-Leighton at kleighton@bowdoinham.com or send them to her at 13 School Street, Bowdoinham, Maine 04008

New Arts Building— 6 Main Street

by Lee Parker

Something new and different happened at Celebrate Bowdoinham this year! The Art Zone, coordinated by members of the Merrymeeting Arts Center, offered ongoing art activities at 6 Main Street and “on the hour” projects in the Children’s Activities tent.

6 Main Street is located between Town Landing Place and the railroad tracks. It has housed different businesses over the years and has from time to time remained unoccupied. In early September a joint effort between the Merrymeeting Arts Center and volunteers resulted in a fresh coat of paint on the building in the center’s colors: green, red and yellow.

During Celebrate Bowdoinham, children and adults worked on a mural that will eventually be affixed to the outside of the building. The mural, reflecting life on and in Merrymeeting Bay during summer and fall was designed by local artist Jane Page-



Young artists at work!

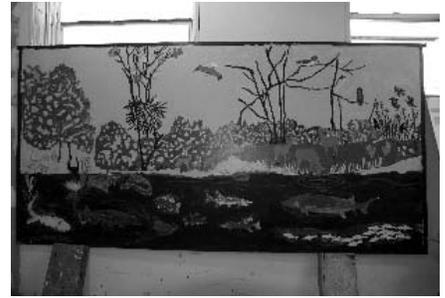
Conway. A second complimentary mural depicting winter and spring on the bay will be completed later this year.

The rest of the building was abuzz with activity throughout the day, including “Build a Town” from recycled cereal boxes, cardboard tubes and egg cartons. The 8 foot long construction will soon be moved to the Town Recycling Barn where it will be displayed. While buildings were being constructed at one end of 6 Main Street flower fairies were being created at the other. Many colorful creatures made from cloth, ribbon, pipe cleaners and wooden balls “flew” about Celebrate Bowdoinham grounds.

Flying was not limited to flower fairies as many objects floated (or in some cases did not) through and above the fan-powered transparent wind tubes. As children explored the concept of flight, nearby adults caught a few minutes respite in rocking chairs while a huge chalk board at this end of the building enticed sidewalk chalk artists young and old.

Outside in the Children’s Activities tent children made bells and flowers from egg cartons, painted rocks, and created necklaces reflecting objects from other cultures. Enthusiastic children returned to the tent over and over as they came to see what would happen next.

6 Main Street is again quiet but not for long. Plans are underway for Merrymeeting Arts Center to coordinate putting the building and property to use for future community activities like those offered at Celebrate Bowdoinham.



Merrymeeting Art Center Paint by Numbers & Letters Mural Celebrate Bowdoinham 2010

This Mural was designed by Jane Page-Conway who projected images onto a sign board and made a skeleton drawing of birds, animals and landscape of the bay. Many children filled in the drawing by painting and filling in the shapes to create this 4x8 mural. This mural was a community art project for adults and children of Bowdoinham, Maine during Celebrate Bowdoinham 2010.

Contributing Artists:

Allie Gjertsen
Emily Gjertsen
Klara Sweeney
Kait Sweeney
Olivia Crooker
Julia Crooker
Daniel Seavey
Lukas Finley
Jace Bryan
Katie Robinson
Dina Murphy
Michael Black
Ann Hartzler
Jorja Hooper
Ali Hooper
Sydney Plant
Aurora Aalfacse
Alex Day
Olivia Sullivan
Camila Ciembronjewicz
Olivia Cox
Anna Cox
Holly Temple
Taylor Worthington
Graicia Woodward
Mrs Bunn



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Merrymeeting Arts Center NEWS

by Kathleen Kenny

In August, Merrymeeting Arts Center received its first major grant. The award from the Quimby Family Foundation will support MAC's capacity-building plan. Now three years old, Merrymeeting Arts Center is a member-run not-for-profit organization dedicated to art for everyone and celebrating the environment and cultural heritage of the region.

The Center operates galleries and shop at 9 Main Street, open year-round Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm. The shop now features work by 24 local artists, ranging from felted handbags to children's books to quilts to jewelry. The Bryceworks room has a changing exhibit of works by Bryce Muir, currently including his large sculpture of a sheep (Raggmopp).

Gallery shows of the late spring to late summer were the Annual Members' Show and "Ducks on the Bay." The Members' show displayed works in an amazing variety of formats, by artists from Bowdoinham and communities all around the region. "Ducks on the Bay" opened August 14th, and was an exciting collaboration with Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, the Bowdoinham Historical Society, the Bowdoinham Public Library and Ducks Unlimited International. Decoys and hunting camp memorabilia from Historical Society's extensive collections were featured, including a large model gunning boat by local waterman Buster Prout. In the gallery, a wonderful mix of works by artists of all ages depicted ducks in photographs, pastel, sculpture, quilts, and many other genres. The final gallery show for 2010 will be "Smitten: Hands and their coverings," opens just before

Thanksgiving for the holiday season. This show will feature intricate Latvian mittens by Bowdoinham artist Angela Kimberk and mitts in a variety of styles (knitted, felted, even in metal!) by area craftspeople. As an historic sheepfarming region, the Merrymeeting Bay area is a great setting for this exhibit. For more information on participating in this or other MAC gallery shows, call Peggy Muir at 666-3426.

The Center played a part in this year's Celebrate Bowdoinham events on September 11. The Center co-sponsored the arts tent with the Bowdoinham Guild of Artisans. MAC members, coordinated by Lee Parker, organized a daylong series of art activities and demonstrations in the arts area and in the newly painted Number 6 Main Street building.

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\$12—6.5" POT, or \$18 —7" POT**

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Tools and space donated by Kennebec Flower Farm, greens donated by Steens, wreaths made by volunteers
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THANK YOU



Linda slays the greens.

Photo by Kate Curtko



Linda Gill, Betsy Steen and Leslie Anderson busy making wreaths in 2009.

Community Calendar

NOVEMBER 2010

November 2

Tuesday—Election Day 8 am to 8 pm
—Town Hall

November 2

Library takes orders for Wreaths and
Poinsettias at the Polls

November 6

Library Used Book Sale 9–3
—Coombs Building

November 6/7

Antique and Modern Quilt Show
9–3 pm—Town Hall

November 9

2012 Town Birthday Celebration
Meeting 6:30 pm—Fire Station

November 11

Veteran's Day (Town Office Closed)

November 17

WAITT Kick Off Meeting 6:30 pm—
Coombs Building

November 20

5th Annual EMS Christmas Craft Fair
9 am–2 pm—Bowdoinham Fire Station

November 23

Annual Pie Sale 8 am to 4 pm
—Bowdoinham Fire Station

November 25 & 26

Town Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Holiday

DECEMBER 2010

December 3

Holiday Tree Lighting and Caroling
5:30 pm—Town Hall

December 3

7th Annual Guild of Artisans Sale
6 pm–8 pm—Town Hall

December 4

7th Annual Guild of Artisans Sale
10 am–4 pm—Town Hall

December 5

Santa Coming to Fire Station at 4 pm

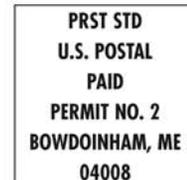
JANUARY 2011

January 29

Baked Bean & Casserole Supper 4–6 pm
—Fire Station

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