

The Town of Woolwich, Maine



MARCH 2015

NEW LOOK AT NEQUASSET FISHWAY

The Woolwich Fish Commission is preparing for the annual Alewife migration which officially starts in April with the arrival from the sea of adult fish heading to Nequasset Lake to spawn. This year they will be faced with a journey over the Bath Water District dam via a new fish ladder constructed by Woolwich based marine contractor Atlantic Mechanical. Alternatively some of the Alewives will choose to enter the town's harvest trap which is also under new management. Steve Bodge has been selected as this year's Nequasset harvester. Many readers may recognize Steve as he has worked the harvest for several years under the direction of long

term harvester Herb Lilly who has now retired.

The new ladder is anticipated to provide, for many years, a path for the spawning fish and juveniles to connect Nequasset with the sea continuing a migration that has been nurtured since before Woolwich became a town. The old ladder was built in the 50's and provided good service although recently, yearly maintenance increased to unreasonable levels and it was literally wasting away.

The new ladder features improved concrete and rebar construction, aluminum baffles and chutes, and new configurations at the dam top and at the attraction pools. Although considerable pre-planning and engineering

were accomplished prior to construction, as with any new project, we anticipate that both the fish and the human facilitators will have a learning experience adjusting. We are pleased to have a seasoned harvester who will provide his experience during this transition year.

We're sure our friends on the meeting house roof will also be ready to greet Steve and the returning Alewives. They always are!

This edition of the Woolwich Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of a dedicated volunteer fireman Jason "Skippy" Simpson



MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY



Maine Maple Sunday is a long standing tradition where Maine's Maple producers open their doors to their sweet operations for a day of educational demonstrations, Sugarbush tours, fun family activities and samplings of syrup and other great maple products.

Maine Maple Syrup is great on pancakes, waffles, French toast, biscuits, muffins, oatmeal, yogurt, and vanilla ice cream. Maple syrup is great for glazing a ham, with roast pork, or for giving a touch of additional sweetness to root vegetables, like carrots, beets and turnips.

Corn fritters with maple syrup are a classic favorite, and the most traditional baked beans are sweetened with maple syrup instead of molasses. Try Maine maple syrup in tea or your favorite milk drink.

Wherever you need just a hint of special sweetness, why not make it maple?

Maine Maple Sunday is always the fourth Sunday in March! Mark your calendars for March 22nd, 2015!!

You can visit our own Partridge Hill Farm right here in Woolwich. They will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 11 to 5 for Maine Maple Weekend.

Come spend the day and enjoy homemade ice cream with maple syrup, baked beans and lamb stew made with Partridge Hill Farm grass fed lamb. We will also have yarn and fleeces available for sale, as well as maple syrup. There will be many newborn lambs at the farm as well as alpacas, cows and more.

Come visit the animals, enjoy the "sugar" on ice cream and learn the process of making maple syrup in our post and beam sugar house.

Partridge Hill Farm is located at:

75 Joseph Mains Road in Woolwich

TOWN MEETING
Save the date!!
Wednesday
May 13 at 6 pm
Woolwich
Central
School



WOOLWICH LADIES AUXILIARY

Woolwich Fire/Rescue Auxiliary has been busy, busy, busy. We were present at town meeting selling food/beverage and raffle tickets on a beautiful quilt donated by friend and neighbor, Judy Cassidy.

We have helped with the Fire Department Haunted House event, Open House during fire prevention week, Woolwich Day and training events.

We helped make Christmas a little merrier for two families in town. We have been busy raising money so we can continue to support our community.

Our annual Christmas Fair was another success. We had more vendors than previous years. Fresh wreathes sold by the Cub Scouts, baked goods and hand crafted items were plentiful. Santa made a special visit which delighted even the smallest of children.

The Auxiliary gathered at West Bath Fire the night before and made fresh pies to be sold at the craft fair. Much fun was had as is always the case when we get together. Cathy Rioux held the winning quilt ticket.

Funds raised are used to support our firefighters and neighbors in need.

We provided hot coffee and sandwiches during a structure fire in town and mutual aid calls.

We catered West Bath's annual department banquet. Chief Greg Payson presented the Auxiliary with a plaque for supporting WBFD with mutual aid and training events. An unexpected, but pleasant surprise. We hope to display our plaque at the Town Office/ Fire Station to share with our community.

If you are interested in supporting the Fire Department Auxiliary? Feel free to contact Judy Rowe at 207-449-0930.



Central Maine Power Announces Tree Trimming Plans, Protects Power Lines

Woolwich Selectboard members and the Road Commissioner met with a representative from Central Maine Power Company (CMP) on Jan. 21 to discuss concerns about trees and their impact on power quality and reliability. The utility will take a two-step approach to address these concerns.

First, over the next few weeks, Brunswick District Utility Arborist Mei-Ling Cheung will address short-term concerns by looking for "hot spots and hazard trees" that may interfere with the power quality and having crews prune as appropriate.

Then, in 2016, crews will be back to prune around power lines throughout Woolwich as part of its regular program to minimize power outages related to tree contact. CMP manages trees along its distribution system on a five-year cycle designed to reduce tree-related outages.

The utility estimates that since the five-year cycle program began in 2008, it has cut tree-related outages by approximately 34 percent.

Generally, the tree crews prune a minimum of eight feet on either side and 15 feet above primary electric wires. Additionally, tree crews remove tree

species growing within primary wire clearance zones. Secondary lines and service cables only receive about two feet of clearance.

CMP contracts with professional arborists who are required to follow practices established by the International Society of Arboriculture. These include consideration for the health, shape, strength, growth rate, and appearance of trees before and after pruning. CMP notifies customers about its vegetation management activities every year with inserts in its bills. Customers can sign up to receive a notice when tree trimming is happening in their area.

For more information, call CMP Customer Service at 1-800-750-4000 place a notification for Mei-Ling to review your concern.

If the tree concern is out of CMP's specifications to remove or prune, then she recommends that you call CMP to schedule to have your service cable dropped so that landowners may use a qualified licensed arborist to complete the tree work safely.



New Options for Solid Waste and Recycling

Pursuant to Article 31 from last year's Town Warrant, approved at the Annual Town Meeting by the attending residents, the Woolwich Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (WSWRC) was directed...

"...to develop a pay-as-you-throw proposal for handling the Town's non-recyclable trash, and to present a proposal to the Town within the next year for a vote."

We invite you to attend an informational meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Woolwich Town Office (second floor meeting room) to hear about our research to date and to solicit your thoughts.

Questions about Service?

If you have questions or complaints of ANY kind about trash/

recycling pick-up, contact Fred Kahrl, chair of Woolwich Solid Waste and Recycling, for resolution. This is the only way residents with problems can get the most current information. This way, the committee will get a sense of where the "problems" are in the system. Also, issues will be resolved more quickly with one

person calling Pine Tree, and talking to the proper employee to resolve problems and do follow-up if necessary.

Fred's contact information:
Home 442-8497, cell 751-6166,
email: pofkahrl@comcast.net



Route 1 Summer Grinding and Re-Striping to Add Bicycle Lanes

Maine Department of Transportation plans to mill and pave the downtown part of Route 1 this summer, from the Sagadahoc Bridge up to the Taste of Maine Restaurant.

Construction will also include a re-striping of this section of road to include bicycle lanes on either side of the highway, which means a northbound lane reduction earlier than currently exists.

Ideally, Route 1 would be reduced to one lane northbound just before the

intersection with Route 127 North. By eliminating the lane, MDOT will be able to add 4 foot bicycle lanes on either side of the road.

MDOT says "ideally" because it wants to monitor this configuration to see if achieves the goals of traffic calming and improving bicycle and pedestrian safety before laying down the final pavement. The second choice is to merge into one northbound lane just after the intersection heading north.

Anyone who uses this stretch of highway, whether on foot, bicycle, or motorized

vehicle, can appreciate and would not be surprised by the speed data provided by the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's office; vehicles have been clocked at 44 miles per hour as they leave the Sagadahoc Bridge northbound, well over the posted 35 mph.

Summer traffic and shift changes at Bath Iron Works create stress points at certain times of the day. The hope is that the earlier merge would slow traffic to levels closer to the posted limit.

With the re-striping, MDOT also has plans to increase signage so that drivers have time to understand the changes ahead of them as they cross the bridge.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring, depending on the weather, and proceed during the evening and overnight hours, and be completed by Memorial Day, except for the final layer. This gives MDOT June, July and August to monitor the results; final paving would occur after Labor Day.



Summer is Coming: Woolwich Summer Concert Series

Woolwich Historical Society is planning for summer with its second summer concert series. Held in the historic Nequasset Meetinghouse on Wednesday evenings in July, these concerts will feature local musicians, highlighting a variety of talent.

Here is our 2015 Summer Schedule:

Wednesday July 8:
Long-time Woolwich performers Sharon Pyne and Doug Protsik open the series. Pyne, a wooden flute and tin whistle artist, also teaches music in Bath. Protsik, an accomplished accordionist, pianist and

fiddler, has also been seen playing "old-time piano" for silent movies.

Wednesday July 15:
The "Montsweagers." This is a group of local musicians, many of whom live in the vicinity of Montsweag Road in Woolwich. This group, which has only been performing for a couple of years now, features accordion, flute, piano, banjo, drums, and a couple of fiddles. Many residents may have heard the Montsweagers last fall at the annual Veteran's Day service at the Meetinghouse, and have also performed at

All concerts are free and are held at the Nequasset Meetinghouse on Nequasset Road, opposite the Woolwich Town Office at 13 Nequasset Road.

Concerts start at 7 pm. Please join us for free refreshments. For more information, contact Allison Hepler at 442-0754.



WOOLWICH KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WANTED

We are looking for Woolwich children who will be 5 years old on or before October 15, 2015 to join next year's kindergarten class.

Please call Mrs. Lane at 443-9739 to sign up for screening.

Parent Information Night is May 13 at 6:00 PM, and screening will be May 21.

Paperwork packets will be sent out in advance.

Voting Change on Library Budget Request on Tap at May Town Meeting

The Woolwich Selectboard has decided to allow townspeople the option of moving the Patten Free Library budget request to a June secret ballot. Normally, the Library budget request (which is \$50,688 this year), is voted on during the May Town Meeting. However, as a result of a certified petition signed by 184 Wool-

wich registered voters asking for a secret ballot vote, the Selectboard voted to put that request to the Town Meeting. If passed, a secret ballot vote would occur during the June 9 election, when the RSU budget is on the ballot. If this Article does not pass at Town Meeting, then the library budget would be voted on during the May Town Meeting.

Because Woolwich has no charter, the petition, which asked for the budget vote to be moved to the November election from now on, is not valid, and no action on it was required by the Board. But the Selectboard members were persuaded by the strength of 184 residents who supported this request. Consequently, at this year's May Town Meeting, residents will be asked to "vote to move the . . . [Library] . . . funding question to June to be voted on by

secret ballot." If this is approved, voters would then use a secret ballot on this question in June. The Selectboard members chose June, they said, because the Town will be holding an election on June 9, but more importantly, because voting in June would allow the Patten Free Library to know the outcome before the start of its fiscal year on July 1.

It is also important to note that this action is only valid for this year. Future action such as this would require another petition or the Selectboard deciding on its own to put it on the Warrant.



Send your ideas for future articles to us!

E-mail:

administrator@woolwich.us
aheplerwoolwich@gmail.com

SIGN UP!

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