



The Weathervane

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner 2017

Fall



From the Porch

The Transfer Station, 33 Years Later

~ Mike Wing

The West Gardiner Transfer Station opened in 1984, an experiment that met with strong support and some resistance by the community. Over the years it has adjusted to the growing pains, adapting to the personality of the town's needs as they also change. The operation as we see it today provides the residents a well-run place to recycle and control our flow of trash and treasures.

Joe Glidden, Bob Weeks, and Jeff Howe believe in their responsibility to serve the public and channel what people throw away. In a recent interview, each man stressed the satisfaction in helping residents understand how to separate paper, metal, tin, and wood product. Clearly, personality plays an important role, and to a man, they welcome the questions and interest about recycling. This positive attitude and problem-solving create a population that appreciates not plowing its waste and castoffs into a local landfill or burn pit.

Granted, transfer stations aren't perfect, nor are the people who use them. Jeff would like to see more people break down cardboard boxes. Bob would like to see drivers move their unloaded vehicles from the dumpster before walking down to the paper bins. Joe wants people to ask him or his co-workers if they are not sure of placement or procedure when disposing items. Bob accurately called the operation a "work in progress." After talking with these three workers, I found their feelings toward their jobs in agreement. With the help of the people, they make it work.

The vast majority of residents are excellent, cooperative and pleasant to serve. For 24-25 hours a week, three men are directing traffic, sorting material, compacting metal and paper, and listening to residents' questions as well as town gossip. On some days, it becomes a community center with an environmental as well as social significance. West Gardiner residents can be secure with the knowledge that good team members care enough to do their best, and hope we will do the same when we use the service. A partnership based on that cooperation will thrive.

Welcome to West Gardiner

It's been amazing to ride by and see all the For Sale/Sold signs in West Gardiner since last spring, so I thought I'd check public tax transfer records at the Town Office. I was able to gather the names of folks who moved here between April and September 2017. Some may already be residents, but many are new to the area. I decided to divide the town in three: East, Central and West, basically the Route 126, High Street and Hallowell-Litchfield Road corridors.

So Welcome All!

EAST WEST GARDINER: Mike and Gail Comey, Tim Hall, Ben King, Matthew Kilcollins, and Chad Perry.

CENTRAL WEST GARDINER: Tookie Gregoire, Tracy Crocker, Geoffrey Garceau, Jason Leach, Robert Ewell, Bradley Mattes and Caroline VanDanBossche, Cindy McDermott and Robert Sweetser, Dawn Hastings, Tyler Seliga and Lauren Trudeau, Justin Smith, Tracy Brown-Gysi and Daniel Gysi.

WEST WEST GARDINER: Richard Garland, Tanya LaPlante, Christopher Smith, Jeffrey and Karen McKechnie, William Korth, Nicole Harbaugh and Charles Callahan, Matthew and Heidi Lillibridge.

I know of at least five other homes that have sold in October and November, but the paperwork hasn't crossed over to the Town Office as yet.

The Weathervane would love to interview new residents and learn why you were drawn here, even if you have been in town for a longer time than mentioned.

Contact Margaret Peacock at margaret.peacock@yahoo.com if you'd like to share your story with us and we'll get in touch!
~ Susan Emmet

Cobbosseecontee Snowmobile Club News

A huge thank you to the residents of West Gardiner who have donated their returnables (cans/bottles) to the snowmobile club trail fund. Donations can be dropped off in the specially marked box at the transfer station.

The 2017-2018 snowmobile season is underway. Crews meet at the Auxiliary Hall (clubhouse) at 8 a.m. every Sunday. With 25+ miles of trails that connect to surrounding towns of Litchfield, Farmingdale, Gardiner and Hallowell, there will be a lot of work to be done before snow flies; we appreciate any and all help. If there are any concerns with the trails or if you would like to help, contact David Cogley, Trailmaster, at 724-7041.

There will be some trail reroutes this year due to landowner requests/construction/etc. Signage will be posted, please stay on the marked trail. Respect the landowners, they have given us the privilege of using their property for trails and they have every right to close the trail for misuse.

Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month. On the 3rd Tuesday, a potluck supper is served at 6:30 p.m., prior to the meeting. Memberships are: \$30 for family, \$35 for business, \$10 for associate (member of another club as well). Check us out at www.cobbosseeconteesnowmobileclub.com for updates on trail conditions and club news.

If you have a student that is in need of community service hours, we can help by putting them to work on trail maintenance, such as clearing brush. Contacts: David Cogley, Trailmaster and Chuck McFarland, President.

~ Charlene McFarland

The Art of Wood Stacking



Jimmy Smith has his wood stacked, dry and ready to give some warmth to winter. Neatly arranged on the slow curve of the driveway, it could be called a West Gardiner art installation.

~ Margaret Peacock



This stag weathervane has been proudly placed at Denny and Kim Greenleaf's property.

Welcome Student Writer, Emily Peacock

We are pleased to have Emily Peacock on our writing team! She is a Gardiner Area High School senior and will be studying journalism as she furthers her education.

Thank You Very Much

For years, Greg Peacock has many times picked up the Weathervane issues at Quality Copy and the route trays from the post office, then helped carry the sorted Weathervane newsletters into the post office to be mailed. ~ Margaret Peacock

THE IRON TIGERS

~ Phil Davis

Gardiner High School buzzes, beeps and blinks several nights each week as the Iron Tigers robotics team builds its gizmos. Twelve members including Alyssa Barnes, Jackson Plourde, Allyson Moore, and Brice Weeks of West Gardiner and mentors Paul Seed and others build competition robots along with over 8000 other teams around the world as part of the FIRST Robotics Competition. On January 6, via a webcast, all the world's teams will learn this year's challenge and have exactly six weeks to design, program and build a robot able to meet the challenge. In 2018, the Iron Tigers will compete in Lewiston and outside Boston with a robot that will perform both autonomous and radio controlled tasks. They will work three evenings a week and all day Saturdays to create their robot. You can help by coming to their kick-off dinner at Gardiner High School January 6 at 5:00pm, \$7 per person and you can follow the team at www.firstteam4041.com.



Alyssa Barnes, Allyson Moore and Jackson Plourde of the Iron Tigers stand with the robotic tee shirt cannon.

Three in a Boat or.... Danger Lurks in a Lure

When we were 8 and 10, my brother and I went fishing with our father - three in a row boat, my brother in the middle. Our father told him to cast overhead, next thing I knew, WANG! I got a treble hook in the back of my head. It took my father a while to cut it loose. If I think about it today, I can still feel it. Glad it got the back of my head. ~ Mert Hickey

Did You Know?

West Gardiner

Was settled in 1759.

Incorporated August 8th, 1850.

Included part of Gardiner in making it's boundaries.

Swapped land from Farmingdale in 1852 and 1853,

Annexed land from Litchfield in 1856.

Taken from MAINE, AN ENCYCLOPEDIA.



Harold Blen

West Gardiner Men Honored

Harold Blen and Leo Small, both WWII veterans from West Gardiner, received their Eagle Canes on Veteran's Day 2017 at American Legion Post 181 in Litchfield. The canes are hand-carved by Donna and George Gunning of Windsor and have the military person's name, branch and dates of service, and medals carved into the cane.

On October 28/29, Leo traveled with 45 other WWII and Korean veterans to Washington, DC. He had a great time. Honor Flight Maine is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's Veterans for all their service and sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to tour, experience and reflect at their memorials. It is totally free to the veteran.

~ Deb Couture



Leo Small



Donald Goggin, Vietnam Veteran

~ Deb Couture

Donald (Donnie) Goggin joined the US Army just 11 days after he graduated from Gardiner Area High School in 1967. He spent his first few months in Basic Training at Ft. Gordon, Georgia. After Basic Training, he was sent to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia where he trained to become a Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technician (MOS-51L20).

After completing his training, Donnie received orders to Vietnam. He arrived in Saigon in February, 1968. After a brief stay in Saigon, he was airlifted by C-130 to his duty station at Da Nang. His unit, MAC-V, was an advisory group and part of the US Military Assistance Command. Their compound did not have any barracks, so they lived 3 to a room in a Da Nang hotel. The Command rented the entire hotel. His job as a refrigeration and air conditioning technician sent him to many areas in South Vietnam, including HoiYan, Quang Tri, and Quy Nhon. He was on helicopters and other aircraft many times, as well as in convoys.

Donnie's one experience that he will never forget was the loss of his roommate and good friend at Christmas time in 1968. His good friend was on a mission and his plane was shot down.

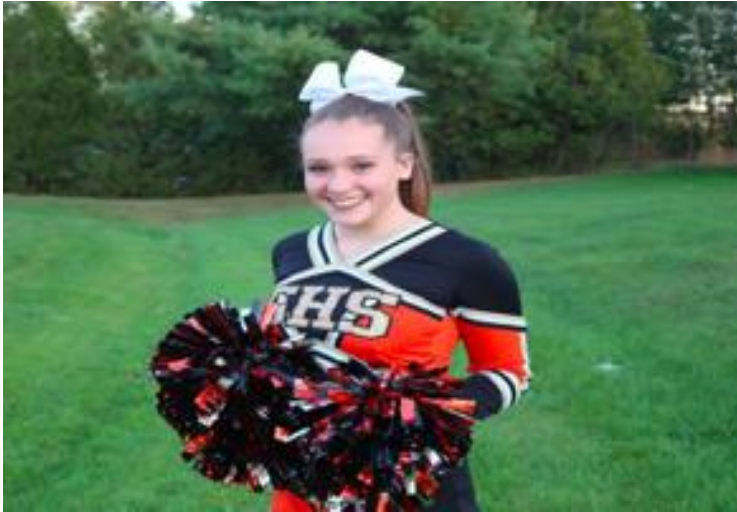
Donnie's advice to young people thinking about the military: Go for it. It is a great experience. If there was another war, he would go.

Donnie now works at BIW, where he continues to serve his country by helping to build US Navy ships for our military.

During his one year in Vietnam, Donnie was promoted several times. He arrived in Vietnam as a PFC (E3) and left as a Spec5 (E5). He supervised a team of technicians that included both US and South Vietnamese soldiers. Donnie received a great honor for his service in Vietnam – the **Bronze Star**. He received this award for his Meritorious Achievement in Ground Operations from February 1968 to February 1969. This is an outstanding accomplishment and we commend you for this award. Donnie returned home from Vietnam in February 1969 and was stationed at Ft. Dix, New Jersey until his discharge in June, 1970. Donnie, thank you for your service.

Cheering for a Cause

~ Emily Peacock



Mikala Palmer

Nearly every high school in Maine participates in the Drive Out Cancer games - sports games played to raise money for cancer research. Winter cheering typically participates in these games with cheer competitions and cheering at the basketball drive out cancer game, but fall cheering never has, until this year.

On Monday, October 9th of 2017 West Gardiners Mikayla Palmer, a senior captain of the cheer team at Gardiner Area High School, succeeded in having the first fall cheer drive out cancer exhibition.

Ms. Palmer put in a request last winter to have the event and heard back in the spring, since then she had been busy planning the exhibition. Palmer had to call around for donations for raffles and concessions, as well as having to get the event cleared by the school board and athletic director. Five teams came to participate, including Edward Little, Hamden, Morse, Oak Hill, and Gardiner. In all, over \$800 was raised to donate to the Drive Out Cancer fund.

After speaking with Mikayla Palmer it was clear that cheering and cancer are both things that are close to her heart, having dealt with family members who suffered from cancer. "What I love about cheering is the process of putting a routine together." says Palmer. What she has done for the community in organizing this event clearly has had a positive impact. Hopefully, the Drive Out Cancer Cheer Exhibition continues to be held each year and more money is raised for the cause. This would not have been possible without Mikayla Palmer's drive and determination to help with a good cause.

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

You may have heard of John Stevens, from West Gardiner, the world-famous engineer who headed the building of the Panama Canal?

Well, there's another man with the name of Stevens, William Henry Stevens, born in West Gardiner in 1818, who made a name for himself as an architect. Most of his work was done in Lewiston, Maine. Our next issue will feature him.

Helen Thompson Holiday Fair



For 40 years, the children at the Helen Thompson School have been able to buy gifts for their families during the holiday season. With a limited budget we rely on donations and volunteers from the community. We ask for a \$3.00 donation from the student's family, however, no child is ever turned away for lack of funds. In the past, the classes have made coasters, ornaments and reindeer cocoa and older elementary, middle school and high school students volunteer their time with set up, during craft fair night, and with clean up afterward. Our goal is to continue this tradition that the community and students enjoy so much. ~ Lyn Traver

Never Too Young



Accompanied by their teachers, Ms. Shagoury, Ms. Stevens, and Ms. Lazaro, the Helen Thompson Kindergarteners visited the West Gardiner Fire Station on November 7th, where they learned a bit about the voting process and received a tour of the voting area. They all received, "I voted today."

WEST GARDINER NEWSLETTER

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The Weathervane is a non-profit quarterly informational newsletter intended to be unbiased, r -denominational
non-partisan, accurate, and enjoyabl

Schedules of town events, organizations and activities as well as local businesses will be listed in the spring issu

The Weathervane welcomes story ideas from our readers.

Call 724-3869 or write margaret.peacock@yahoo.com