



The Weathervane

Summer

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner 2017

East Coast Greenway & US Route 1 Combo

Motivated by the question, "How's the empty nest?", I decided to seek some sort of adventure and discovered an interesting possibility.... why not hike along US Route 1 with a friend and see what was out there! Then recalling a sign that had captured my attention on the Indiana Road, I began to research "The East Coast Greenway".

Here in West Gardiner it enters on the eastside of town entering near the Gardiner Regional Middle School on to the Old Lewiston Road, and then back to Rt126. It then meanders down the Indiana Road onto the Bog Hill Road before connecting back to Rt126 onto South Monmouth.

Our trip began at the tip of Maine in Fort Kent with a handful of maps. We had determined that it would be a combination of driving every inch of US Route 1 in Maine, walking where we felt it was safe, and then combining parts of the East Coast Greenway to add more of a hiking component to the trek.

The East Coast Greenway begins in Calais and is actually a work in progress. It is being developed for the enjoyment of bikers, hikers, as well as ATV riders and will enable outdoor enthusiasts to travel along scenic routes on the eastern United States coast with less hazards from motor vehicle traffic. Many of the ECG routes are a series of trails like the Rail Trail from Augusta to Gardiner, as well as the Back Bay Loop in Portland. We hiked these along with several others, in addition to stretches of US Route 1 through picturesque towns. The walking/driving led us through Presque Isle, Houlton, Machias, Belfast, Rockland, Camden, Freeport, Old Orchard Beach, Yarmouth, and many other towns all the way to Kittery. It was a great adventure, and well-recommended.

~ Sandy Palmer Fish

East Coast



Greenway
ALLIANCE



Left: Colene O'Neill, Cindy Smith

Knead Thyme Catering

~Phil Davis

West Gardiner cousins Colene O'Neill and Cindy Smith started Knead Thyme Catering in April 2015, and now have a busy business serving weddings, receptions and parties from 30 to 300 guests. It started as family, friends and neighbors craved more of their Christmas cinnamon rolls and they found themselves baking 100 dozen rolls each holiday. They thought if they could cook that much, they could cater large groups. Cindy is the pastry and baking maven, Colene the "Jackie" of all trades, and family and friends are drafted as "kneaded" to serve large groups. They custom-design the menus based on the customer's wishes and serve only freshly prepared food. Lately, they have done many barbecues and Italian foods and are proud of their presentation and full service.



Like them on Facebook at [C&CKneadThymeCatering](https://www.facebook.com/C&CKneadThymeCatering)



Call them at 207-441-9752



Email them at C&CKneadThymeCatering.com

Gary Crocker, Vietnam Veteran

- Deb Couture

Gary Crocker received his draft notice from the US Army in the spring of 1966. That same day, he went to the US Navy Reserve Center in Capitol Park in Augusta and joined the US Navy. He completed boot camp in the winter of 1966-67 at Great Lakes, Illinois. After boot camp; he was assigned to the USS Boston, a guided missile heavy cruiser. Gary was a seaman apprentice and was initially assigned as a deck hand on the cruiser. One day he was out scraping paint on the side of the ship, when a boatswain's mate asked if anyone could type and how many words per minute he could type. Gary said, "I can type 40 words per minute." The boatswain's mate told him he was now going to be the Captain's and the Chaplain's personal yeoman.

Gary deployed with the USS Boston to Vietnam in 1967 with the 7th Fleet. The ship was firing thousands of rounds against targets in North and South Vietnam. Gary remembers one incident in 1968 when the ship was conducting naval gunfire against North Vietnamese targets. The ship was accidentally attacked by USAF jet aircraft. Fortunately, no US sailors were killed during this friendly fire incident and the ship only sustained minor damage.

Gary recalls when he was on R&R in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, waiting for the ship to have new gun barrels installed. He was in civilian clothes in a bar with fellow sailors and other soldiers and airmen. One of the soldiers asked where they were stationed. They told them, "the USS Boston". The soldiers immediately stood up and raised their glasses to all the sailors and said thank you. They learned from the soldiers that they had been surrounded by the Vietcong and had requested big gun assistance. It was the USS Boston that had come to their aid and saved all their lives.

Gary is partial to the US Navy and wishes he had stayed in longer. He would encourage every young person to do at least "one hitch" in the military. Believing that it is good for a young person's character, education, and personal development. Gary qualified as a Yeoman 3rd class and was discharged in December, 1968. Gary, thank you for your service to our country.



At the Car Wash

~Mert Hickey

A friend of mine, I'd rather not say who, but, I'll call him Dan, went to the car wash. The guy working there asked him what he wanted. "The works," Dan said. So the guy said, "Just watch me." He directed Dan ahead, gave him the thumbs up to stop and told him to put it in park and sit back and relax. Dan was just starting to relax when a charge of hot sudsy foam hit him side the head. Dan's eyes were full of soap as he groped for the window button and rolled down the passenger window instead. When he finally got the windows up, it was too late, he was soaked and the car was washed inside and out.

The Milfoil Fighters

~Abi Weston

After graduating from Maine Maritime academy with degrees in Marine Biology and a license in Small Vessels Operations, Nate Fiske decided to take a summer job offered by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed. He took up residence in West Gardiner and captained the DASH unit, (Driver Assisted Suction Harvester) for the season.

Fiske explained the unit is equipped with a vacuum system where divers feed the underwater tube with variable leaf milfoil, an invasive, fast growing plant needing to be pulled by the roots to prevent regrowth. The milfoil can take over shorelines and shallow waters, crowding out native plants, upsetting the ecological balance and restricting boaters and swimmers.



Left: Jacob Bergeron, Nate Fiske,
Alex Beaulieu

Working to create a channel free of milfoil in the stream, he and his crew have removed milfoil from Cobbossee Stream, pulling 30 to 50 yards a day, filling 4-6 barrels with the invasive plant.

To help prevent the spread of of this invasive, Fiske said always check your boat before and after using it for milfoil fragments. He added, for more ways to help, contact the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed at 621-4100 or visit their website at friendsofthecobbossee.com.

We wish Nate the best as he pursues his career in the marine field and hope he'll come back again to West Gardiner.

THE WEATHERVANE DIRECTORY

<p>ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER..... 215-3207</p> <p>CHILD & ADULT PROTECTION 1-800-452-1926</p> <p>CRISIS HOTLINE 1-888-568-1112</p> <p>CHRYSALIS PLACE (food bank) 582-5507</p> <p>FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT 623-3569</p> <p>FIRE CONCERNS 911 Gary Hickey, Fire Chief 441-7135</p> <p>FUEL ASSISTANCE 622-4762</p> <p>GARDINER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB..... 582-8458</p> <p>GARDINER PUBLIC LIBRARY 582-3312</p> <p>HEALTH OFFICER 441-6864</p> <p>HOSPITALS: Maine General, Augusta 626-1000 St. Mary's, Lewiston 777-8100 Central Maine Medical, Lewiston 795-0111</p> <p>POISON CONTROL..... 1-800-222-1222</p> <p>PLUMBING INSPECTOR 441-6864</p> <p>ROAD COMMISSIONER 724-3648</p> <p>SCHOOLS: Gardiner Regional Middle School 582-1326 Gardiner Regional High School 582-3150 Helen Thompson Elementary..... 724-3930</p>	<p>SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS: Deb Couture 582-3897 Carrie Boudwaycboudway@msad11.org Earl McCormick.....emccormick@msad11.org</p> <p>SELECTMEN: Greg Couture 582-3897 Randall Macomber..... 582-6322 Mert Hickey 724-3668</p> <p>STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS: Senator Shenna Bellows..... 287-1515 Representative Charlotte Warren 441-9116 State House 287-1440</p> <p>TOWN GARAGE 724-3944</p> <p>TOWN OFFICE 724-3945</p> <p>TRANSFER STATION 724-3951</p> <p>WEST GARDINER CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS: Cobbosseecontee Snowmobile Club 582-7239 West Gardiner Gardeners 582-7239 W.G. Rod and Gun Clubwestgardinermerodandgunclub.org</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">REMINDERS ABOUT OPEN BURNING PERMITS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Burning Permits are required for every outdoor burning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Free on-line burning permits available at wardensreport.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or call Gary Hickey II at 441-7135 or the town office at 724-3945.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Burning with a permit is allowed Monday-Friday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.</p> </div>
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FOR YOUR CALENDAR

<p>GRACE COMMUNITY CHAPEL Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 am Bible Study Wednesdays 6:30 pm Contact Lin Libby 724-7153</p> <p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEST GARDINER Sunday School 9:15 am Worship Service 10:30 am Summer Worship Service June– Aug. 9:30 am Bible Study/Prayer meeting Weds. 6:30 pm Vacation Bible Sch. July 13-17, 6-8 pm Ages 3 to 6 grade Contact Dave Adams 724-3587</p> <p>HISTORICAL SOCIETY Meetings on third Wed. of the month at Aux. Hall 7:00 pm</p>	<p>WAYSIDE CHAPEL Sundays: 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship/Bible Teaching 6:00-8:00pm Wayside Youth Group Wednesdays: 6:00-7:30pm Bible Study/Prayer</p> <p>WEST GARDINER SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB LUNCHEONS Every 3rd Friday, in the months of April through October at the Fire Station. Arrive at 11:30, lunch is served at 12:00. Membership is \$1.00 a year. Contact Mary Blen at 724-7494 to reserve your seat.</p> <p>WEST GARDINER TOWN OFFICE Selectmen meet Thursdays, 5 to 8 pm. To speak with selectmen, call for an appointment at 724-3945. Walk-ins are also welcome.</p>
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The Weathervane Directory will be updated and published once a year. Place it in your phone book for easy reference.

West Gardiner Gardeners Announces Scholarships Winners



*Hunter Russell with
Margaret Peacock*



*Nancy O'Laughlin with
Allie Newcombe*

Hunter is attending College of Holy Cross and Allie is attending the University of New England.

The W.G. Gardeners wish you the best on your educational pursuits.

Generation Pictures



Front from left: Mary Blen, great grandmother and Ellen Marston, grandmother. **Back left:** Mary Lavalley, great-great grandmother, Adam Marston, father holding his daughter Amanda Gagne Marston.



Front from left: Mary Blen, great-great grandmother, Amanda Marston, mother, holding baby Grace Marston Thompson and Adam Marston, grandfather.

Back center: Ellen Marston, great grandmother.

Events in West Gardiner

- Kim Greenleaf

Cobbossee Snowmobile Club

- Trail work begins in September. Meet at the Auxiliary Hall every Sunday at 8:00am.
- For questions call Dave Cogley, 724-7041 and check out the website, www.cobbosseconteesnowmobileclub.com

Backroads Quilt Show

This year's theme is "Seasons in Maine"

October 14th from 9:00 to 4:00

October 15th from 9:00 to 3:00

at the West Gardiner Fire Station

Announcements

Update for Business Directory

MB & Logging ~ Stump & Grinding,
Phones – 592-5772 and 557-3750

New Business

Coley's Cleaning, Residential and Commercial cleaning, 391-0684 or check her website at www.coleyscleaning.com or look her up on Facebook



This weather vane adorns a West Gardiner rooftop in memory the families precious "best friend" Charlie.

If you have a weather vane you'd like to share with the Weathervane readers, please send a picture to margaret.peacock@yahoo.com

Miss Peacock Goes to Washington

Emily Peacock of West Gardiner traveled to George Mason University in Washington D.C. this summer to take part in the Washington Journalism and Media Conference. She was invited to the conference after she qualified for nomination and wrote an essay to be reviewed by the University. She and 250 high school students in the country attended.

Emily particularly enjoyed meeting journalists and others who specialize in different fields of the media. When asked what her biggest “take away” was, Emily said, “I learned I can pursue multiple areas in journalism; there’s room to be creative in my choices”.



Don't Move

The housing market, (new construction and sales) is strong in West Gardiner. Seems as if new roads are opening up and both single residential homes and developments rise every month. Real estate signs crowd around each other at the end of the rural lanes. Not wanting to miss the housing extravaganza, Susan and I took a ticket and stood in line. What a ride it's been.



We hadn't sold a house in a long time, and nothing's the same. Is it ever? Showings went from exciting to annoying, offers were negotiated, and closing required professional investigations and reports of every aspect of the home. The days of a handshake and personal check are gone. At the closing, the realtor's office looked like Thanksgiving dinner, a crowded table only with piles of papers and shiny new pens instead of turkey and mashed potatoes. I kept my pen. And we left the deal with a check, and homeless. Define irony.

Our new home is a gem, an unpolished one. We moved in a few weeks before we actually bought it. Remember, we didn't really know what we were doing. Susan keeps reminding me it's an adventure. The older I get, the fewer adventures I require. Just changing addresses takes the smile off your face. The postmaster eventually knew us by name, not just zip code. Speedy, the delivery man, was another story.

So in a few short months we have gone from a perfectly comfortable home with amenities like lawns, heat, reliable water, and a paved driveway to a fine, smaller newer place with obvious potential. Now all we need is patience and perseverance, something we nearly ran out of. Take my advice. If you don't like someone meddling in your business, stay put. Selling and buying is not a private experience for the weak of heart, at least until the deals are closed. For us, stressed backs and minds were tough but now seem worth it.

The folks on Antique Roadshow usually say, “We had no idea.” Got that right. Moving means touching everything you own, several times. Loads of “treasures” end up at The Swap Shop or the crusher, so for that part, moving is a good act, unless you hoard. If we had to do it all over again, we would, only differently, sort of. At best, we still live in West Gardiner.



Fairy Garden Event

Hosted by the West Gardiner Gardeners

Children of all ages are invited to create a fairy garden!

Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00

October 7th, 2017

Being held at the Auxiliary Hall,
next to the West Gardiner Town Office.

We ask the accompanying adults to stay
while the take-home gardens are made.

Donations appreciated. They will go toward scholarships for
Gardiner Area High School students from West Gardiner.

Materials provided.



WEST GARDINER NEWSLETTER

The Weathervane

A Quarterly For and From Our Town

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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

The Weathervane welcomes story ideas from our readers.

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