



The Weathervane

Fall

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner

2015

Ballot Clerks, Alternate Ballot Clerks, Election Clerks, Deputy Registrars, Oh My!

~ Eli Fish



Linda Ramsay catches up on the news at a slow moment at the registration table.



Mary McKeen works her needle in between voters.



Beth Corey-Smith hears the quote, "I knew I'd find you here!"

The service that clerks, alternates and deputy registrars put forth during election season often goes unnoticed. I'd like to take some time to write a brief thank you to those who continue to serve the town of West Gardiner every year. These citizens rise early to serve the community of West Gardiner. Some of the tasks that these workers complete include helping citizens register to vote, verifying their identification, and most importantly, counting the votes. Motivation for their service varies, but the common theme of meeting the people of the community is a main reason these ballot clerks dedicate their time. Another reason mentioned is their interest and involvement in local politics. The town of West Gardiner would like to award a sincere thank you to those who have served our community throughout the years.

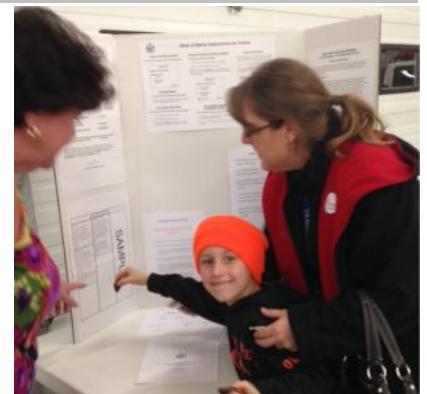
Current list of ballot clerks, alternate and deputy registrars

Gloria Thompson, Judy Raymond, Nena Cunningham, Elaine Goodwin, Mary McKeen, Kim Greenleaf, Audrey Littlefield, Linda Ramsay, Nancy O'Laughlin, Wendy Somes, Ernest Pierce, Shelly Hickey, Debra Couture, Beth Corey-Smith, Tina Marks, Michelle Shaw, Sue Pierce, Nadine Zdanovich, Tammy Hickey, Susan Curtis, Gina Pelletier, Melanie Littlefield-Hickey, Daniel O'Laughlin, Julia Hickey, Jeremy Bourque

Not everyone works at every election.
An as-needed basis is used.

Interesting Voting Statistics

There are **2758** registered voters in West Gardiner. Of those registered, **468** voted in the 11/3/15 referendum, and **1934** voted in the last Gubernatorial Election.



Kim Greenleaf explaining the voting process to a future voter.



Judy Raymond and Gloria Thompson ready to greet the voters.



Nena Cunningham chats while a BRQ's quilt is displayed.



Connections

Constance Barnard

~Susan Emmet



Deep roots and branches anchor families in West Gardiner and Connie and Bob Barnard's family stands out in depth and reach. What a legacy they established when they began a family of four daughters –Sue, Roxanne, Becky and Tina, whose kids and grands and great-grands now live in Virginia, Florida and Maine, some right out back of the Barnard home. In all, there are 61 family members, with three babies on the way.

Bob grew up in Gardiner, worked as a boy at Skehan's Farm, learning milk routes and gardening, and later found employment at SD Warren in Gardiner then at the Maine State Museum in Augusta where he was both taxidermist and curator. When they'd saved enough money, 57 years ago, Connie and Bob bought fifty acres of land on Route 126, knocked down the old house and began the house that is Connie's today.

They maintained productive vegetable gardens and Connie froze and canned and fed their family – and gave their surplus away. Connie's youthful membership in 4-H and later the Grange served her well. She also made specialty cakes to earn money. The gardens and family grew as did their ties to the Gardiner and West Gardiner communities. Over time a camp was built between Rangeley and Stratton and time spent there focused on hunting, canoeing and fishing. Connie loved to fish and paddle the canoe, knowing patience and attention were important.

Connie was born in her grandmother's house in Vassalboro and she treasured her grandmother, hoping to be like her – hard working, independent, family- and community-focused, kind and caring. Her example helped fuel Connie's move to other kinds of meaningful work outside her home.

A substitute teacher in Gardiner for nine years, Connie next worked in the first special education class at Hamlin School, and then, with Jean Gallant and others, began the Project LIVE program which was later incorporated into Winthrop and Hall-Dale school systems. Ninety percent of the students in the program had jobs upon graduation, many needed job coaches, however. Connie always believed that being a mother gave her skills and knowledge that were useful in special needs programs.

So her work continued when she helped start Kennebec County Special Olympics. Winthrop, Hall-Dale and Gardiner participated. John Burgess made SO a keystone of his psychology classes for over twenty years and took their good work to Hall-Dale when he went to work for Jobs for Maine's Graduates. That legacy continues.

Connie wrote a book about her dear grandmother's Scottish roots and family. At 196 pages, it's a centuries-long yearbook, *The Campbells of the Northeast*. It's just amazing. Connie met and communicated with countless Campbells, researched archives, and with yet another web of folks to help, it was published in 1981. In the book's biographical introduction, her daughters said that “forbearance and understanding” were her hallmarks and that “she seemed a natural-born teacher (who) put others' needs before her own.” May her family treasure their copies and may they be passed down through the generations.

At 82, Connie maintains her flower gardens (with the help of a four-wheeler), is involved in church and club work, and is an active member of the West Gardiner Gardeners.

Rooted in family, friends, faith and gratefulness, Connie Barnard feels blessed.



Welcome to West Gardiner



For my article in this release I am spotlighting a young couple, Brianne and Seth Hasty, who moved to West Gardiner to raise their child in a great neighborhood with a great elementary school. Brianne says it is quiet and rural but not inconveniently so. Both of their parents are close by, as her father and her brother both live in West Gardiner and Seth's parents live in Gardiner.

Brianne would love to see more of our young families and couples at the activities here in West Gardiner, from our public processes, to our clubs and organizations. (Our population is growing with many young families and that is awesome.)

Seth's hobby is running, Seth loves to run! When he is training for a marathon he will run between 80 and 100 miles a week. He has run about 10 marathons so far. Brianne runs a photography business, *179 Photography*, and in addition, works at the Office of Community Development. She loves being a Mom and spending time with family and friends.

Brianne and Seth are just one of the bright spots in our community.

~ Kim Greenleaf



One Busy Lady

~ PhilDavis

When Shauna Burke was only a year old her mother, Sherry Swift, started Busy Bear Nursery School and Day Care now on Terri Lane; Shauna of course, attending. Shauna went on to work there helping her mother for ten years, through high school, and while earning an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Development. Sherry recently retired and Shauna now operates The Children's Place as two complementary programs; a nursery school at Terri Lane, and a before and after school care program at her beautiful home on Burke's Way. The nursery program is designed to prepare kids for school and the after school program to foster their continued success.

Licensed as Family Home Day Cares by DHHS, both programs are geared to children's development levels; operate all day through school closings and; and have weekly activity themes and monthly newsletters.

The nursery accepts up to ten 3 to 5 year olds, operates from 7am to 5pm, and has two faculty, Ms. Marleen a retired school teacher, and Ms. Josie an associate in Early Childhood Development.

Shauna accepts up to twelve 5 to 10 year olds in the day care and with part time helper, high schooler, Ms Allie. It operates from 7am until morning school bus pick-up and from afternoon bus drop-off to 5pm.

Also offered is a ten week summer camp program at both facilities. Shauna hopes to consolidate the programs at a single location within the next 2 to 3 years providing even greater continuity for the kids. The Children's Place, 30 Burke Way and Terri Lane, West Gardiner, 441 9714.



Shauna and son Zachariah

See the Weathervane's annual spring business listing for additional child care facilities.

HAPPY AND SAFE MOTORING TO EVERYONE, AYUH!

~ Gary Crocker

Two friends of mine were driving between Jackman and Rockwood, Maine when they spotted a Moose lying next to the road. They stopped to see if anyone but the Moose was injured (the Moose was actually dead) and felt the animal. Since it was still warm to the touch they figured it had been struck within the last few minutes. So, they proceeded toward Rockwood thinking they might actually see a vehicle with the type of damage consistent with what might happen if you struck a vegetarian the size of the official Maine animal.....The majestic Moose!

After driving several miles they came up behind a vehicle with two people inside, a driver and passenger. Several notable things were obvious to my friends. The car was traveling at a constant speed of 15 mph, the hardtop roof had been peeled back and the windshield, what was left of it, was laying mostly flat on the car's dashboard. So, they pulled up next to the car and waived the driver to the side of the road.

Once they had stopped they could tell it was an elderly couple. The 84 year old husband was driving and his 86 year old wife was the passenger. He waived them to pull over to the side of the road. Once stopped, my friend got out to have a chat with the driver. He asked the driver if he had hit a moose a few miles back. To which the elderly driver responded, why yes. Well, said my friend, while visually assessing the rather significant damage to the vehicle, why didn't you stop? We couldn't, responded the old fella. Why not, asked my friend? Well, says the elderly driver, my wife and I go to town once a month for groceries, and this time we bought ice cream. We have to get home before it melts!

Somewhat perplexed at this point, my friend spots a cell phone sitting on the console between the driver and his wife, so he asks the old fella why he didn't call 911. And the driver looks him straight in the eye and responds.....We didn't have the number.

My friends loaded the very nice couple into their car along with their groceries (ice cream too) and drove them to their home in Rockwood! So, no one was hurt (except the moose), the ice cream didn't melt and a wrecker service towed the totaled car to it's final resting place. And this story is a friendly reminder to be careful while driving the roads of Maine. Wildlife is everywhere in our great State. And some of it is wicked big!

Addendum

I spoke at a Small Woodlot Owner Association event and told this story, and there in the audience was Rick LaFlamme, the game warden on North Woods Law. After I told the story, and it's a true one, I said to Rick, I call him "Hollywood Rick", I said, This is what's going on in the North Woods, while you're making movies!





Honoring Our Veterans Vietnam Era Thank You for Your Service

~Deb Couture



Steve Goodwin joined the Navy Reserves in February, 1967. In June, 1967, he was sent to boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois for 6 weeks. He attended "A" school in engineering and was designated a US Navy Engineman. After returning from boot camp, Steve drilled in the Navy Reserve Center, Augusta, ME until he was called to active duty in April, 1968.

There were 45 men in his unit that were activated. Forty-two were sent to the battleship USS New Jersey and deployed to Vietnam. Three were sent to the USS Yellowstone (AD-27), a destroyer tender homeported in Mayport, Florida. The Yellowstone was responsible for traveling around the world and repairing the Navy's fleet of ships wherever they were located. Steve was assigned to the Yellowstone. As an engine-man, he not only helped to keep the ship and the engines running, but also worked on the engines of other ships. Steve deployed with the Yellowstone to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Naples, Italy; and Piraeus, Greece from 1968 through 1970. After a Greek ship collided with 4 US ships, including the Yellowstone, in Naples in February, 1970, the Yellowstone's crew worked 24/7 to repair all the ships. The crew received a commendation for their exemplary repair work. The Yellowstone returned back to Mayport, Florida from Greece in April, 1970. Steve was also promoted to Petty Officer 3rd class in 1970.

Steve's most memorable events include the port call in Piraeus, Greece where he learned a lot about the country and its history and how the people lived. He also enjoyed Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and the beautiful weather.

Greg Peacock was drafted into the Army in California in 1965 and entered the Army in October, completing his Basic Training at Ft. Dix, NJ. He was given the opportunity to either attend West Point, Officer Candidate School, or helicopter flight school. He turned down those choices and was sent to Ft. Hood, TX to radio and teletype school. On June 6, 1966, Greg departed for Vietnam. When he arrived at Tan Son Nhut Airbase, he was sent to a holding site where he waited with thousands of other soldiers until their units were put together. They were issued their weapons and other supplies before being sent to their next base.

Greg's MOS was a radio operator. His first assignment was with the 125th ATC at Quy Nhon from July to November, 1966, as an air traffic controller and flight follower for all US Army aviation.

In December, 1966, Greg was transferred to a fighter jet base at DaNang. Right after Christmas in 1966, he was sent to Pleiku – a gunship-helo base near the Cambodian border. As an air traffic controller, he sat in a 4X4 foot radio tower and monitored all the flights in the area. While there, he was in the field several times with his platoon to patrol the area surrounding the base.

Toward the end of his tour in 1967, he applied and was accepted to Maine Maritime Academy. While he was waiting to leave for home, his Commander told him his tour had been extended an additional 6 months because they needed his MOS. If he had to stay the additional time, he would miss starting school. Greg wrote a letter to Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, as she had nominated him to MMA. After several months, the Commander called him into his tent and said he didn't know who he knew in Washington, but a helicopter was waiting for him with orders to go home. Greg flew to Saigon and on to San Diego. In San Diego, he was spit on, then again when he arrived in Boston.

Greg graduated from MMA in 1971.



VFW Essay Winners from West Gardiner



Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bagley - Gardiner - Post #9, announce winners in two categories.

Patriot's Pen (grades 6 - 8) "What Freedom Means to Me", winner, Mikayla Turner

Voices of Democracy grades (9 -12) "My Vision for America", winner, Elijah Fish

Congratulations and Good Luck!

The essays will be submitted to the VFW District Level for the next round of competition.

The contest is open to all 6 - 12 students in the United States who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program.

~ Deb Couture

From the Porch

The Lion Sleeps

~ Mike Wing



Just the other day we watched a turkey vulture glide over the porch, scouting the field for the next meal. Twenty years ago, we'd have reported it to the bird police, but not today. This scavenger has become a common sight. Last winter another new member to West Gardiner's wildlife showed up, the opossum. Never seen one around here, and two waddled by in one week to our disbelief. Not too long ago a pine martin crossed our path, but only long enough to be impressive. Recently another wild character may have visited the neighborhood, the mountain lion. I wouldn't run out on the porch with a camera right now, but the rumor of puma is tempting.

Mountain Lions are big, like five to nine feet, nose to tail tip, and 100 to 200 pounds. To maintain this size, they will eat deer. West Gardiner offers a feast. Being tawny brown with a light underside, a lion blends well with the undergrowth around our homes. Look for the distinct track, four toes up front and three lobes on the heel pad. Call them puma, painter, cougar, and catamount, but don't call 'em late to dinner. But do mountain lions ever show up in Maine, especially in our changing menagerie? It's debatable. At least we saw the opossum.

A researcher with U.S. Fish and Wildlife out of Orono reviewed their status in 2011 and declared no existing and breeding population was established in Maine. Mark McCollough then admitted that they show up and wondered why. "Captive origin" means "escaped from a zoo place." He also suggested they could have walked here from western states. The feds will declare this cat extinct in Maine, an upgrade, or downgrade, from endangered. You still shouldn't shoot one because Maine lists no open season. I wonder what the warden would write on the summons. "Shooting a non-existent species outside a non-existent season"?

A few pictures later, a few sightings, a plaster cast track and a far-sighted warden and what do you have? Puma rumor. Before they are declared extinct, I want to see one trot across the yard some morning, ears and tail up, eyes flashing, wow. Sure beats the opossum waddle last winter. In the meantime, I have to talk to a few experts and hear the excitement in their voices. Maybe a roar some night would quicken the heart beat. For now, I'll follow the advice of Ogden Nash. "If you hear a panther, don't anther."

New Code Enforcement Officer in West Gardiner

~ Deb Couture



Casey Peacock was appointed the Town of West Gardiner's Code Enforcement Officer in May, 2015. He was appointed after the resignation of Waldo "Gil" Gilpatrick. Casey's fulltime career is in the construction industry. He feels his job is a "good fit" for him because of his background in construction. His family moved to West Gardiner in 1975, and Casey has lived here for most of his life.

The job is part-time and includes Code Enforcement, Plumbing Inspections, and duties as the Local Health Officer. Some of the reasons to contact Casey include: internal plumbing inspections, septic systems inspections, shoreland zoning, and code enforcement issues. He has completed most of the certifications in these areas and continues to complete State Board examinations. If you have any questions for Casey, please contact the Town Office at 724-3945.

The West Gardiner Historical Society

Come at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Auxiliary Hall next to the Town Office. Enjoy old friends and new friends while you help preserve the town's history!

Two Post Offices in Town! Believe It or Not!

The first post office in West Gardiner was established April 11, 1828, at the house of Aaron Haskell, who was the first postmaster. This office is on the old post route from Augusta to Freeport and had a tri-weekly mail until about 1875. Sometime prior to 1857, there was a post office at West Gardiner center, on the Gardiner and Lewiston route, with Joseph L. Spear as postmaster.

Taken from Illustrated History of Kennebec County, Maine; 1625-1799-1892

West Gardiner on Facebook!

See the posts!

Post something to share.

See what people are talking about!

West Gardiner Boat Launch Underway

A big thank you to all who donated time, materials, and funding for the progress on boat launch on Cobbossee Stream. Many projects in town are accomplished without fanfare or names named. In the case of the boat launch, names have been provided. They are: Gary Hickey, Mert Hickey, Steve McGee, Adam Towle, Linwood Tracy, John Canty, Dan Chapman, Wayne Hickey, Mike, Kim and Jon Flynn, and Scott Hickey.



The picture shows the view of the Collins Mills bridge from the site of the almost finished boat launch.

So far, a road has been put in and a parking area “carved out”. Putting in the actual launch will be the next phase. Between time and money, the project has come to approximately \$10,000. To finish the launch, more funds are needed. If you would like to contribute to the new town boat launch, it would be gladly accepted. Please drop off your donation at the town office.



WEST GARDINER NEWSLETTER

The Weathervane

A Quarterly For and From Our Town

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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 issues.

The Weathervane welcomes story ideas from our readers.

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