

# The Weathervane

Summer

A Quarterly for and from West Gardiner 2015

## West Gardiner Heritage Day

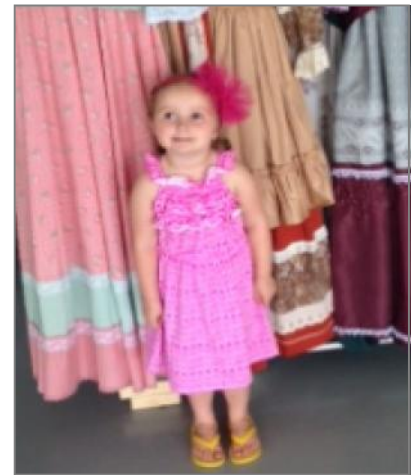
The West Gardiner Historical Society hosted a Heritage Day this summer. Among others, the Boy Scout Troop, West Gardiner Gardeners and the 3rd Maine Infantry, Company A Re-enactors took part. Town historian, Joe Ware, gave a lecture, live music played, historic items were on display and lots of good food rounded out the event! A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers and the good people who donated time, talent and goods to make it such a special day.



Shannon Russell & Aaron Quintal with sons, Abraham & George "at the grindstone".



Cathy Chapman and Deb Couture at the podium during the rededication ceremony of Civil War Veterans.



Lillianna Harvey does her best posing by the period dresses on display made by Ann Berry.



Elaine Goodwin steps out of the 18th century just before serving some delicious lunch.



West Gardiner Gardeners add spirit to the plant & card sale.



Bob Pierce represents a corporal with 3rd Maine Infantry Regiment, Company A.

## The Boston Post Cane in West Gardiner

~ Mert Hickey

The Boston Post Canes were distributed to the largest towns in New England in 1909 by the Boston Post newspaper, to promote circulation by giving a gold-topped cane to the oldest man living in each town. In 1930, it was changed to be either man or woman.

In the late seventies, Nancy O'Laughlin, former town clerk, found the long forgotten West Gardiner Gold Cane under a pile of papers in the old fire station safe. Since then the tradition has been revived.



Will Wentworth, c. 1950, at 88 years old, holding the gold-headed cane.

People in the town who have had the cane in their keeping are: Catherine Gosline, Mary Parker Gosline, Josephine Stevens, Neva Mae Rolfe Goodwin, Mr. Harmon, Rev. Clarke, William Wentworth, Ester Fuller Jordan, Doris Cambridge, Mrs. Manning, Victor Littiere and Henry Pender.

The cane is now under the care of Shirley Dodge. If you know of others who have been presented with the cane, please call the town office.

*Photo from "West Gardiner's Hundred Years".*

### Update on Devryn Valley, West Gardiner's Olympic Hopeful

This past season Devryn competed in 15 international events in the Snowboardcross discipline. His top three athletic performances include:

5<sup>th</sup> place at the U.S. Jr. World Cup two man team race in Yabuli, China;

4<sup>th</sup> place finish at the 2015 USASA Nationals held at Copper Mountain, Colorado, USA;

3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the National Jr. Championships in Big White, British Columbia, Canada.



"TEAM DEV" will be holding a Silent Auction/Dinner and Ice Cream Social Fundraiser on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at the Gardiner Augusta Lions Club on 10 Lions Avenue, Gardiner. Silent Auction ! -7p. Spaghetti Dinner ! -6:30p. Ice Cream Social 6-7:30. Tickets are \$10 per adult. \$5 per Child 12 & under.

### A Great Place to Live

~Josh Caldwell

West Gardiner is an idyllic town located in a beautiful area. Changing seasons provide distinct fluctuations in weather patterns, allowing the scenery of the town to shift radically throughout the year. With each new season comes a new, refreshing backdrop of nature, preventing any sort of monotony from arising. The fishing and hunting are excellent, the school system is full of dedicated teachers and eager students, and the residents of the town are hardworking and respectable. However, many a town could claim to have such qualities, so I set out to interview some of our local residents in order to determine the factors that make West Gardiner a truly special place. My first stop was at The Four Corner Store, the cultural hub of the town and a source of unlimited social information. Here I interviewed several willing participants, asking each of them the following question: "What makes West Gardiner a great place to live?" This seemingly simple question led to some thoughtful insights from those who were asked. Nancy Prince, the store's owner, expressed that she enjoyed living in the country, a privilege that has become exceedingly rare. Her husband, Randy Prince, appreciates the fact that West Gardiner residents don't bother each other without first being invited, emphasizing the politeness and respect that the townspeople bestow upon each other. Employee Jennifer Cavern echoed a similar sentiment, stating that she likes "the small town aspect", a system in which people are familiar and friendly with each other but not overly nosy. Before I left to delve into the minds of customers and employees at the thriving Fuller's Market, West Gardiner residents Jim Smith and John Canty provided their own unique opinions. John loves the freedom that is inherent in residing in a town such as West Gardiner. Outdoor activities are essentially unlimited, and very rarely does someone tell you what to do. Jim left me with a particularly insightful quote, which I will write out verbatim: "It is what we don't have that makes us a unique town." In Jim's view, our lack of structures and urbanized lifestyles make our town all the more vibrant. I agree with him wholeheartedly. The mindsets of those at Fuller's Market were similar to those at The Four Corner Store, proving that there are certain aspects of West Gardiner that nearly every resident can enjoy. Joseph Fellows, an employee at Fuller's Market, expressed that the customers that come through Fuller's are always friendly and respectful, showing that West Gardiner is a town of upstanding individuals. The simple fact that so many shoppers and employees were willing to take time out of their day to be interviewed is a testament to the quality of West Gardiner residents, and speaks volumes to the closeness of our community. I am sure that I speak for all West Gardiner when I say that I feel extremely fortunate to live in this town.



## From the Porch



## Be the Bird

~ Mike Wing

We just came in from the porch for supper. The air is soft and 75 degrees, gold finches perch on the railings and clean up leftover sunflower seeds, and one faraway neighbor keeps whacking a rock with his riding mower. Other than the Sox being embarrassed again, it's been a halcyon day. Now there's an interesting word, so I looked it up. In late spring, early summer, the kingfisher makes its nest on debris around lakes and streams, but only then because the winds and waves have become mild and safe for a new home. The Greeks created a myth around a bird identified with the kingfisher who in legend had the power to calm the waves during incubation, naming the bird "halcyon"; hence a day like today: calm, clear, safe.

Let's go back a few months. The wind blew, the snow flew, and the temperature hit freezing on a warm day, and we sat on the porch in parkas. How quickly we forget on a day like today. I don't know about you, but our vegetables and flowers like this climate as much as we do. Salad greens are fresh at every dinner. Leeks and kale look great. The irises this year were flaming in everyone's beds, despite hibernating under drifts of snow and crust, as we were. Go figure. When we worry about watering, the night wakes us up with a rain shower. Better knock on wood. The soil is dry and humidity low, the road dusty even in the boggy spots. A little rain would help.

West Gardiner welcomes these days in familiar ways. Look around at the manicured fields that have been cut and tilled, waiting for the balers. Two crops easy this year, maybe three. More new house lots have been cleared and stumped, driveways laid down, and foundations formed up. This town seems to be growing like our gardens, adding on each year, improving a little at a time. This weather and water help the plantings thrive, but residents are another matter. If the environment isn't healthy and appropriate, like the plants, they won't survive. Fortunately, the town provides clean air, good people, and a safe community for a family to put down its roots and nest. The kingfisher is safe.



## A Children's Invitation to Make a Fairy Garden!

The West Gardiner Gardeners are inviting little fairy garden-makers on October 10th at 10:00 am, to the Auxiliary Hall located across from the Helen Thompson School.

Julie Hickey will host and demonstrate how to make a small fairy garden. Other West Gardiner Gardeners will be on hand to assist, although we ask the adults who bring the children to stay for the bit of time it takes to make the gardens. All materials will be provided and light refreshments will be served for this delightful affair.

We appreciate donations. They will go toward a scholarship given to a graduating West Gardiner high school student. Please call Charlene MacFarland at 582-7239 for a reservation.

## News to Know

**The West Gardiner Rod and Gun Club no longer has a phone, please find them on Facebook or email [wgrgc@hotmail.com](mailto:wgrgc@hotmail.com)**

**Malloy Construction Inc., Building new homes, remodel, residential and commercial, 582-3213, Shane Malloy, Jenny Malloy**

**Last Chance Garage and Custom Fab, Michael Ouellette, owner, at 16 Echo Lane, West Gardiner, vehicle repair, welding, diagnostic, state inspection, and fabrication, 215-1540**

**West Gardiner Historical Society Craft Fair, October 24th, look for more information on Facebook**

## WG Gardeners Scholarship Recipient



Robert Blier, recently received the 2015 scholarship from West Gardiner Gardeners. Member, Margaret Peacock hands him the award. Rob is now attending University of Maine at Farmington and plans to pursue a teaching career.

Good Luck to you, Robert!

## Heritage Day in West Gardiner ... Continue

The re-enactors of the 3rd Maine Volunteer Infantry, Company A, took part in the ceremony to honor West Gardiner's Civil War veterans at the Heritage Day event this summer.

Early in the Civil War, Company A was a regiment recruited from several communities of Maine's Kennebec River Valley. The regiment was therefore known as the "Kennebec Regiment".

The 3rd Maine first "saw the elephant" (a Civil War term meaning one's first time in battle) at the first battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861, and during the next three years was engaged in 25 major battles.



**Re-enactors of 3rd Maine stand at attention during the re-dedication ceremony of Civil War soldiers on the West Gardiner War Memorial. West Gardiner's own Terry Marks on the left.**

The company was famous for the Peach Orchard attack in Gettysburg.

On the morning of July 2, 1863, 196 men and 14 officers reported for duty with the 3rd Regiment. Later in the day, they were positioned near the left of the Union line running south of Gettysburg, in the vicinity of the Peach Orchard. The 3rd Maine, along with other regiments helped delay the Confederate advance and buy time for the Union Army to reinforce its left flank and defeat the attack. That evening, 97 3rd Maine men were present to answer the roll call.

By the time it mustered out of service on June 28, 1864, a total of about 1600 men had served in the regiment.



There *is* such a thing as free lunch and free ice cream, too!



Great music to enjoy!



Dylan Haskell played a moving rendition of "Taps".

## 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 2015-2016 snowmobile season is underway. First trailwork is planned for Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Crews meet at the Auxiliary Hall (clubhouse) every Sunday at 8 a.m. With 25+ miles of trails that connect to surrounding towns of Litchfield, Farmingdale, Gardiner and Hallowell, there is a lot of work to be done before snow flies. Any and all help is appreciated. For concerns with the trails or if you would like to help, contact David Cogley, Trailmaster, at 724-7041. We know you like to ride the trails, so come on out and do your share, so we can all ride together.

Club meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, a potluck supper is served prior to the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Memberships are: \$30 for family, \$35 for business, \$10 for associate (member of another club as well).

Check out our website at [www.cobbosseeconteesnowmobileclub.com](http://www.cobbosseeconteesnowmobileclub.com)

If you have a student in need of community service hours, we can help by putting them to work on trail maintenance, such as clearing brush; contact David Cogley or Chuck McFarland, President.

~ Charlene MacFarland



## Job Security, Plus

This is about a man we will call MH. Well, MH had a load of wood on his truck and was going to the mill. He was near home so he thought, "I'll scoot right down and have some supper and then go to the mill".

MH always wanted to do things fast so he drove into his driveway, jumped out of his truck and ran up to the house. Just as he got to the door he heard tires rolling on gravel. He had forgotten to lock the brakes. He ran after the truck, but it was too late. The truck hit a fairly large tree dead center. He could not have done better if he had been driving it himself!

This wasn't all bad news because as his mechanic, it gave me a good weeks work. MH was always good for job security.

Another lucky break was if the truck had not hit the tree, it would have ended up in the trout pond. I guess every cloud has a silver lining.

~ EH

## Welcome to West Gardiner

Welcome back Mike Collins, and welcome to your wife, Shannon and daughters, Rachael and Makenna.

Mike is the new face at the transfer station. He has come home from a 21 year career in the Air Force. The Air Force took him from Maine to Florida to Alaska to Wyoming to New Jersey and many countries around the world. His primary job in the Air Force was as an aircraft mechanic on a C-130. He retired in 2014.

Mike is just 5 classes short from obtaining his B.S. in Aeronautics and a minor in Strategic Management and Safety from Embry Riddle Aeronautics University, (Largest Aeronautical University in the World). He wants his daughters to continue their schooling after high school and feels he needs to set the best example by completing his own education.

He knew he would always come home but didn't realize it would be to live here. He wants his daughters to experience some of the things he got to experience growing up here, the closeness of family, community, and all that comes with living on the stream. Mike would also like to see the town establish activities for the younger generation such as walking trails and have the boat landing become a reality.

He enjoys working at the transfer station because he gets to see old friends and meet the many new residents. If you see him there, say, "Hi Mike, and welcome home!".

~ Kim Greenleaf

*We sincerely thank Josh Caldwell for his time and talent as a Weathervane student writer. He is now attending Bates College. Josh, we wish you well furthering your education.*

## BACKROAD QUILTERS SHOW

The Backroad Quilters will hold their bi-annual Quilt Show at the West Gardiner Fire Station.

❄️ *Winter Wonderland Theme* ❄️

**Saturday, October 17th, 9:00 to 4:00**

**Sunday, October 18th, 9:00 to 3:00**

- Four vendors selling all that you need for quilting
- ❄️ Demonstrations every hour
- ❄️ Handmade items for sale
- ❄️ Over a 100 quilts on display
- ❄️ Homemade soup, sandwiches and dessert
- ❄️ Special exhibit of Downton Abbey quilts

*We ask for a \$3 donation*

Monies are used to make quilts for the Boys and Girls Club nursery, the Harold Alford Center for Cancer Care, Maine General Pediatrics and Maternity and the Walk for Hope.

*For more information, call 582-5365*

~ Nena Cunningham



"Timeless Garden" quilt will be raffled, made by the Backroad Quilters and placed in Gloria Thompson's garden for this photo. Need not be present to win.

## MAGNIFICENT GENTLE GIANTS



The teams weigh in at a svelte 4000 and 5500 pounds. They have an easy time pulling Bob Pierce in their daily exercise workout at Steve McGee's farm. Steve has eight Belgian draft horses which Bob gives workouts six days each week. They can pull up to 10,000 pounds depending on ground conditions and Bob says, "They like to pull. They eat better and are happier each day if they workout regularly." Eating must take much of their day. The eight horses take 1800 bales of hay yearly and 1000 pounds of oats and sweet feed weekly! Bob drives the teams at all the local fairs, (Pittston, Monmouth, Topsham, Windsor, Litchfield) and at competitions as far away as Florida. Steve McGee drives as time permits and says, "I'm going to be Bob's apprentice when I grow up." So get out to one of the local fairs and watch the pulling contests, perhaps you will see Buster, Cody, Duke and King, the magnificent gentle giants.

~Phil Davis



WEST GARDINER NEWSLETTER

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*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 issues.*

***The Weathervane welcomes story ideas from our readers.***

*Call 724-3869 or write [margaret.peacock@yahoo.com](mailto:margaret.peacock@yahoo.com)*