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## The Town of Woolwich, Maine

Woolwich Communications Committee

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# The Town of Woolwich, Maine



October 2014

## NEW FISH LADDER COMING TO NEQUASSET BROOK

The construction equipment you see at the Nequasset dam signals a new fish ladder for better alewife passage. The Bath Water District, which operates the dam and is responsible for fish passage, has contracted with a Woolwich business, Atlantic Mechanical, to completely re-build the fish ladder, which should be completed this fall. Begun this summer just after the alewife run, the project promises an easier time for alewives swimming up into Nequasset Lake, since the new ladder is larger by one pool, slightly reducing the incline that the fish need to navigate.

Alewives are anadromous fish, which means they spawn in fresh water, live much of their lives in salt water, and swim upstream to fresh water to spawn. Their arrival each spring has been a part of Woolwich history since before

the Town's founding. It was used as bait, as food, and as a draw for other wildlife (since alewives are food for many animals other than the human kind). It is also a key part of the ecology and health of the lake.

Moreover, the Town has overseen the harvesting of alewives since its incorporation in 1959 and – by the appointment of a Fish Commissioner as early as 1760 – regulated that harvest so as to ensure that alewives keep returning each year. It is now monitored with the help of the state's Department of Marine Resources, and Woolwich is one of only about 20 municipally managed harvest sites in the state.

The new ladder, which replaces the deteriorating 57-year old one that has been patched and prodded more and more in recent

years, has been modified based on recommendations from state and federal officials and engineers, but the goal is to provide both a sustainable alewife run into the lake as well as a successful harvest, which has been handled for many many years by the Herb Lilly family.

Stop by next spring to watch them climb!



This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our friend and fellow committee member  
Edna B. White,  
1927-2014

## Thwing's Point Reveals Artifacts from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century



Woolwich shoreland that was settled at three different times by

English colonists received attention from archeologists this past July. Friends of Merrymeeting Bay sponsored a 2-week dig at Thwing's Point in northern Woolwich to identify the perimeters of the two known cellar holes on the site. While there this summer, the group unearthed several nails, pieces of porcelain, glass from a wine bottle, brick, buttons, and a board game piece.

The land is owned by Claire and Michael Robinson, who allowed FOMB to conduct the dig, and

helped sponsor it. FOMB has been there in previous years, and discovered the cellar holes in 2009. According to historic archeologist Lee Cranmer, who volunteered his time for this year's dig, Thomas Ashley lived there around 1650 – and may have had a tavern – but was gone by the time of King Philip's War in 1676. There is evidence of a tavern later in the 17th century, and then again in the early 1720s. Nathaniel Thwing, for whom the point is now named, built a house on the site in 1750.

Cranmer, who earlier worked for the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, isn't sure if one of the two

houses built on these cellars in the 1700s was built on top of the 17th century. That was one of the goals of this year's dig.

The Friends of Merrymeeting Bay states that the artifacts are in the process of being cleaned and catalogued. The site is historically important, says Cranmer, and near the site of a significant Native American site in Dresden, which state officials claim was a seasonal campground as early as 9000 years ago. It is possible that the artifacts will then be stored at the Woolwich Historical Society museum and be available to researchers.



Elections will be held  
November 4th  
at the  
Woolwich Central  
School  
8-8.

Absentee ballots are available now from the Town Office.

## WOOLWICH EMS

### Meet Julia Gillespie Deputy Director for Woolwich EMS

I grew up watching M\*A\*S\*H and wanting to be just like Hawkeye Pierce. I always wanted to be a doctor, from the time I was about 9 years old. I didn't just want to be a doctor, I wanted to be an Emergency Surgeon, swooping in and yanking the injured back out of death's maw.

In my freshman year of college I took an EMT course through my school and everything changed. Back then we weren't even EMT-Basics, my first license was EMT-A, which stood for "ambulance certified". That was over 25 years ago.

I was born in Washington DC and still have family there. I lived there for the first 15 years of my life, and returned there for another 15 year stint after college. That's when I started taking fire-fighting classes and was em-

ployed as a 911 Dispatcher for Arlington County in Virginia. From the late 90's until 2006, I worked all of the big happenings in the DC area from Arlington Dispatch...9/11, the snipers, the Anthrax attacks.

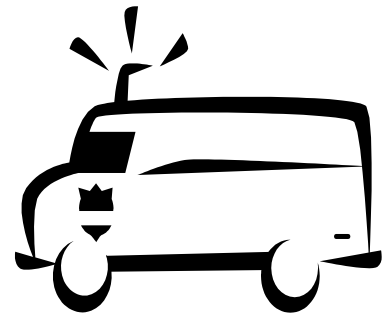
I was also a firefighter and EMT for Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department just outside the city and a member of the Montgomery County River RRATS Team (it stands for River Rescue and Tactical Services, I LOVE water rescue!)

I decided I wanted to be on the other side of the microphone after nearly 10 years in Dispatch. I went to the Police Academy. I was an Arlington Police Officer for about a year, and then came to Maine (just like Hawkeye!) Shortly after I moved to Maine I started responding for Woolwich Fire and Rescue and got my Advanced EMT license.

I still work in local law enforcement, and I respond for the Southern Maine EMS Critical Incident Stress Management Team, a group that goes out and gives emotional support to police, EMTs, dispatchers and firefighters who have had to respond to particularly difficult or upsetting incidents. I am also the medical officer for the Midcoast Regional HazMat Response Team. I teach EMT and Advanced EMT classes for the National College of Technical Instruction and recently checked a major item off of my bucket list when I got my Paramedic license!

Here in Woolwich I am the Deputy Director of EMS, and I handle the EMS training program for the Department as well as the Basic Firefighting program for our junior members.

I always say that you can never be 100% certain about your future, but I am 100% certain I will always be a firefighter. I hope in the future to raise and train Search and Rescue dogs, maybe specifically for doing Water Search and Rescue, I'm not sure yet. I look forward to serving the residents of Woolwich for many years to come, and I hope that many of you will stop and say hi if you see me out and about or working at the firehouse!



## Woolwich Heating Assistance Fund

The Woolwich Heating Assistance Fund is supported by donations from Woolwich citizens and local businesses and 100% of the funds received will go directly to people we assist with heating fuel. With many households still facing increasing financial pressure due to the recession, we are now assisting more families who never expected to be in a position of needing to ask for help.

Each winter, the demand for heating assistance is great. We ask that you consider making a contribution to this fund to support our efforts to keep Woolwich residents

warm and safe this winter. By donating, you are truly making a difference in the life of a family in your community.

Donations can be made at the Woolwich Town Office or mailed to:  
General Assistance Administrator  
Town Office  
13 Nequasset Road  
Woolwich,  
Maine 04579



## Route 1 Paving and Possible Re-Striping Next Spring

Woolwich residents should be on the look out for a public hearing about this project, which will affect all of us. Maine DOT is re-paving the stretch of Route 1 from the Dairy Queen to the Taste of Maine, as well as the roadway from Route 1 by the Sagadahoc Bridge down to Route 127. The process, called "mill and fill," is scheduled to be completed before Memorial Day. The reason for the public hearing is the possibility of also re-striping the highway to accommodate bicycle traffic. MDOT is currently conducting a safety audit and a multiple lane analysis to examine the options. Those of you who drive and/or bicycle and/or walk along the road should weigh in.

In addition to bicyclist concerns, several residents have complained about the traffic, some of whom signed a letter to Sagadahoc Sheriff Joel Merry. Data from the County acquired

last year indicates that the vast majority of drivers during the time of the study exceeded the 35 mph speed limit. Northbound had a higher percentage but over 50% of the southbound drivers also exceeded the limit. For bicyclists and pedestrians who choose to travel this stretch of Route 1, the speed issue is of special concern, since there is little in the way of adequate space for either group.

The hearing is scheduled for sometime this fall but the Town has not been told when that will be yet.





## West Bath Withdrawal Vote from the RSU Looms Public Hearing October 22

West Bath's proposed withdrawal from RSU 1 has financial implications for all members of the school unit. Specifically, in the current agreement reached between the RSU and West Bath's Withdrawal Committee, students who currently attend West Bath Elementary School but who live elsewhere in the RSU will need to pay tuition to West Bath IF (a) West Bath residents vote to withdraw AND (2) those children continue to attend the West Bath school.

This issue is of some concern to the parents of those "school choice" children, who have been urging a change in the withdrawal agreement, and require the RSU to pay the tuition costs for those students. According to a recent *Times Record* newspaper article, the RSU's figures estimate that the net cost to the RSU taxpayers would be \$291,898 if West Bath votes to leave. If the current agreement is changed to mandate that the RSU pay tuition for the school choice students, the cost to the rest of the RSU

rises to \$547,514. The withdrawal alone, according to RSU Board chair Tim Harkins, could result in a 3% increase to RSU taxpayers. Adding school choice would mean a 6% increase.

This and other questions related to the withdrawal process will be addressed at a public hearing, Wednesday October 22, at 6 pm in the West Bath School.

**Send your ideas for  
future articles to us!**

**E-mail:**

administrator@woolwich.us  
aheplerwoolwich@gmail.com

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[www.woolwich.us](http://www.woolwich.us)

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## WOOLWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Woolwich Historical Society has a busy year

The Woolwich Historical Society tries to keep the Town's past in the limelight, sometimes by giving talks, sometimes with exhibits, and sometimes by utilizing the Town's plethora of historic buildings. Toward that end, the Society hosted its first ever summer concert series in the Nequasset Meetinghouse. For four July evenings, music and song filled the building with local talent. Our own Doug Protsik and Sharon Pyne entertained folks one evening, followed by the new local group, the Montsweagers. Children's songwriter Josie Cameron highlighted music for kids, and Bath native Max Ater finished up the series with a concert before he took off to Los Angeles's music scene. Free and open to the public, the concerts will continue next summer. According to Society President Debbie Locke, "it's a great way to use this historic building. Many people – attendees as well as performers – loved being there." A few musicians have heard about the series and have already contacted the Society about "booking" it for the future.

WHS also participates in the Patten Free Library's annual winter history series, made up of presentations by the Towns that support the library. This year, Vince Shatto and

Allison Hepler shared the history of Woolwich ferries with "Ferrying the Kennebec." What was most interesting, however, were the recollections of audience members who remember taking the ferry, which Shatto and Hepler plan to follow up by talking and perhaps recording these memories.

The Farmhouse Museum on Route 1 and Nequasset Road was open this summer every Sunday from June through August. Sometimes staffed by Board members but more often by Galen DuBois, a 2014 graduate of Morse High School and Woolwich resident, the museum welcomed visitors with family ties to the Town as well as local residents who just decided to stop in on the spur of the moment. Connie Wills also volunteered her time to help genealogy researchers. The Museum got a facelift this summer with 32 new windows, manufactured and installed by A. Best Windows. And thanks to the work of several board members, new room darkening shades (which protect museum artifacts from sunlight) were installed (and then re-installed after the new windows went in.

With the new addition to the Town Office, the histor-

ical society has "lent" the Town a couple of exhibits for the lobby, including Woolwich in the Civil War, and the Alewife industry in Woolwich.

Finally, the Society recently hosted its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Silent Auction at the Taste of Maine. Each year the organization honors someone for his or her (or their) work on behalf of Woolwich history, and this year it went to long-time educator and former Society President Ann Pierson. Past honorees include Roland Bailey, Joan & Don Lipfert, Margaret Gardiner, Hayden Temple, Connie and Ron Willis, and many others.



## PAYT - Facts From The Woolwich Solid Waste Committee

Pay as you throw, or PAYT, is a *unit based pricing system* for financially supporting the town's solid waste functions. Residents to pay for trash removal on a per-bag basis, just like buying ground beef by the pound or gasoline by the gallon. The system is equitable because residents pay for the trash they generate.

The more material recycled, the less tonnage has to be hauled away and the lower the resident's costs.

The cost of the bags is an economic incentive to reduce, reuse and recycle more and throw away less. There are no mandatory recycling rules, no recycling police.

It is entirely the choice of



the resident: how much to recycle and how much to spend.

Recycling tends to be cheaper than disposal of waste, so the more material recycled, the fewer taxpayer dollars will be needed. There is also the environmental benefit that companies that use recycled materials as raw materials for their manufacturing processes will spend less money, use less energy, and create less pollution.

Towns like Durham have successfully implemented PAYT. Woolwich is a long way from the State of Maine recycling goal of 50%.

PAYT, in combination with single stream recycling, will help Woolwich meet that goal.

If adopted, PAYT would move Woolwich toward four goals:

- Increase revenue to support solid waste program and decrease solid waste disposal costs.
- Create equitable distribution of solid waste costs rather than increasing the overall tax burden – you will pay for your own trash, not your neighbor's.
- Increase the community recycling rate.
- Reduce consumption of landfill space or generation of incinerator ash.

**Feedback, Ideas** What other resources do you know of that might assist all of us in reducing our waste stream? Join the committee at **5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month** in the town offices, or send ideas and comments for the Committee to any member of the Select Board or the Committee.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Town of Woolwich seeks:**

**10-new EMTs**

**10- New Ambulance**

**Drivers**

EMT Class starts 11-04-14 and is held on Tuesday and Thursday @ 6PM at Woolwich training facility.

Town will pay with three year commitment.

Contact: Wm. "Bill" Longley Jr.  
Director of EMS Town of Woolwich

At 443-3589 Ext- 20  
(leave message) or

Direct on his cell phone

at 751-7420

## Neighborhood Group Invites Friends to Join its Activities

### By Kitty Wheeler

South Woolwich Volunteer Fire Department is a non-profit neighborhood group on Montsweag Road. Its 'home' is the old schoolhouse on the road that closed in 1954 when the Woolwich Central School first opened its doors. Some neighbors attended the one-room schoolhouse before it closed.

Anyone who lives on Montsweag Road, Phipps Point Road, Murphy's Corner Road and Barley Neck Road is invited to be a member of our group. \$10 is the annual fee per person, and there are well over 100 members now. Terry Kunkel and Cory Gardiner are co-chairs, and Tim Mellon is the Treasurer.

When the group was first formed fifteen-odd years ago, the hope was to encourage neighbors to become involved in our community. Two events became immediately popular: the annual Hallowe'en party and a Holiday celebration. Then an annual potluck supper was held in late May to take care of necessary business and enjoy each other's company.

One question of concern was having enough insurance to replace the school building if a fire destroyed it.

Because the building is not used on a regular basis, the insurance coverage is rather high.

But the group approved the rate. Two other fees are our annual application to continue our non-profit status and minimal electricity costs.

The most popular event is our annual lobster bake held at Phipps Point during the month of August. The Gardiner family has graciously allowed the lobster bake to be held on their lovely point of land that juts into the Sheepscot River. Members have to pay for their lobster or hamburger and bring a dish to share with other attendees. Because there is a bit of extra funds, that can be used to maintain the schoolhouse by replacing the roof, fixing windows, painting the school walls or updating the fire shed next to the school. Volunteers donate their time to make these improvements.

The neighborhood enjoys its activities, and more events have been added recently. There is a fun St. Patrick's Day gathering in the afternoon when the Montsweagers, a local band, entertain the guests, and we enjoy green beer and freshly-made popcorn.

This past summer, a contra dance was held. And we have had a plant exchange on the school grounds in the spring to share our garden selections.

One of our neighbors has been stricken with Lyme's disease, and a year ago, we had a large potluck supper in the school to encourage any contributions to help her defray medical costs. Jack Gable, a wonderful painter who lives on the road, painted the schoolhouse and fire shed for a live auction. It was a joyous occasion, and, happily, our neighbor's health is improving.

Neighborhood communities are important to the fabric of Woolwich's spirit. Perhaps other neighborhoods can come together at a local spot for their own celebrations. Woolwich Days in early August held at the Town Hall is the best example of enjoying one another with the whole community.

