

BELGRADE NEWSLETTER

Town Office: 495-2258

Center For All Seasons: 495-3481

Fax: 495-2742

Belgrade Library: 495-3508

Website: www.belgrademaine.com

Belgrade, Maine

March 2007

Notes from the Town Manager

I feel spring in the air and, personally, I will miss winter and bemoan the fact that it was so short...*have I got your attention?* Seriously, with the coming of spring there are a number of issues that I want to address, e.g., Town Meeting, e-Belgrade, municipal solid waste management issues, the requirement for driveway permits, and a survey on the delivery methods for Town Reports.

The most important among these is our **Town Meeting**. This year it will be held on **Saturday, March 17** at the Center for All Seasons. This will be an opportunity for me to meet all of you and, as time is available, to answer any questions or concerns that you may have in a one-to-one conversation. I will be available most of **Friday, March 16**, at the *Center for all Seasons* during the **vote on the referendum articles** and all day Saturday, before, during and after the Town Meeting. Your participation in voting on the referendum on Friday and during the Town Meeting on Saturday is a vital part of what makes Belgrade...indeed all of our New England communities unique. Your attendance is an affirmation that this *unique* form of democracy practiced in New England each year around this time is alive and well, despite all that you have heard or may hear.

e-Belgrade is a new initiative that offers the convenience to conduct most of the business transactions that occur between you and the Town over the web. Initiated in January 2007, this service allows you to re-register your motor vehicles (cars, snowmobiles, ATVs, and aircraft), license your dogs, and obtain hunting and fishing license...all by accessing our website: www.belgrademaine.com. We will provide you with more information as we continue to expand the services we offer on it and upgrade the website to meet the needs of our community. Please send any suggestions that you may have to improve the function of our website and the service we provide to me at DKESCHL@TOWNOFBELGRADE.COM

As many of you know Solid Waste Management is one of the highest cost services that Maine communities provide. During the pass year our Transfer Facility and Recycling Committee worked very hard to draft new Transfer Facility Rules, including a revised fee schedule for the disposal of demolition debris, tires, and bulky waste items. Our Selectpersons adopted the rules and fees schedule on December 19, 2006, with the rules becoming effective on January 1, 2007 and the *fees to go into effect as soon as a reasonable method to collect fees is developed*. I am currently working to develop a fee collection system and hope to start sometime in April.

Unsecured Loads - I urge everyone who is taking their waste to the Transfer Facility to secure the loads they are hauling. We are continuing to receive complaints about paper and trash falling off vehicles onto private property. Working together we can keep Belgrade roads

and our neighbors' property free of unwanted wastes, while complying with State Law.

Illegal dumping areas - I have received complaints from people who have people who have land where tires and other wastes have been illegally "dumped" over the years. I want to locate such areas so that, over time, I can work to get this material removed. If you know of an area that has been used for such "illegal dumping", please let me know. Once I get these areas identified and catalogued, I can develop a plan to clean them up.

Transfer Facility Hours - A number of people have asked whether or not we can change our hours of operation for the Transfer Facility on Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. believing that this timeframe would make the facility more accessible to many of us who are at work and who often are not around to take care of their trash on Saturday. The Transfer Facility and Recycling Committee will be making this recommendation to the Selectpersons soon. What do you think? Should this change be made or should we keep the current operational hours? Let me know and I will get your input to the Selectpersons.

As we move into warmer weather, many people will be contemplating making improvements to their driveways. To assist the Road Commissioner in his duties and to help save the Town of Belgrade money, please come to the Town Office and fill out your driveway permit application and pay the \$10 fee. This requirement was adopted by vote of the town at our 2005 Town Meeting. By doing so, the Road Commissioner will be able to ensure that culverts that need to be replaced will be done while the driveway improvement is occurring, thus avoiding the necessity and costs of cutting through new pavement to replace a culvert.

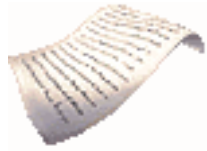
On the last page of the *Town of Belgrade Annual Report* for 2006 you will find a survey requesting your input on how the Annual Report should be delivered. Many local towns are not mailing their annual reports to everyone in the town; rather they are making them available at the Town Office and in local stores. This has provided them with a fairly large saving in postage. We anticipate that we can save over \$800 per year in postage by using this approach rather than mailing them. Our annual reports are also accessible on our website. Let us know what you think by filling out the survey and mailing it to us. Your input on this issue is important.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments about these issues, or anything that might be of concern, stop by the Town Office and we can talk about them.

Enjoy the rest of our *all too short* winter season, and have a wonderful spring!

Dennis L. Keschl, Town Manager

FROM THE DESK OF THE TOWN CLERK



Once again, it's Town Meeting Time! We will vote on March 16th from 8:00A.M to 8:P.M. at the Center for All Seasons and the Town Meeting will be held on March 17th beginning at 1:00 P.M. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office. We have 2 positions on the Selectpersons, 1 School Board position and Road Commissioner to be voted on, also, 15 Secret Ballot Articles. Please come vote and attend the Meeting. Remember, if you are not a registered voter you need to come by the office to register. Also, please we are asking you to bring one (1) non-perishable item to Town Meeting to benefit the Belgrade-Rome Special Needs Food Pantry.

We now offer Rapid Renewal to renew your vehicle registration. If you go to our website: www.belgrademaine.com, there is a link under Government-Online Services to Rapid Renewal, IF&W for Hunting/Fishing Licenses, Snowmobiles and ATV's, also, a link for registering your dog. You will need your checking account information to use this service (Rapid Renewal), Credit Cards can be used on IF&W site. Any questions please call the Town Office.

Once again, DOG registrations were due January 1st. There is a \$15.00 late fee being charged now. Please bring proof of rabies.

THINK SPRING!!

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Well, winter is coming to an end and hope there will be an early spring. Still we have to remember to keep chimneys and woodstoves clean and safe. Keep all CO2 and smoke detectors working properly- replace batteries regularly.

Also, keep camp roads well maintained so we can get to you in case of an emergency.

Remember, do not run your generator indoors, be sure they are outside or in a well-ventilated area, not in garage or home. Have a safe winter. Thank you for your support.

Jeffrey C Stevens

Chief, Belgrade Fire and Rescue

NOTICE

To all Belgrade Residents

The Town Office has received a number of complaints about litter coming from vehicles transporting trash to the Transfer Facility and Recycling Center. Many of the complaints have been from the Dunn Road and the West Road.

Please secure your trash in your vehicle to prevent causing any litter when you are going to the facility. Unsecured loads create both a safety and nuisance issues and are against the law.

29-A M.R.S.A §2396 (2) states: "Unsecured load. A person may not operation on a public way a vehicle with a load that is not fastened, secured, confined or loaded to reasonably prevent a portion from falling off."

By not securing your loads, thus preventing potential serious safety problems and unintentional littering, you are directly impacting your fellow Belgrade residents. The worse case scenario is that your unsecured load can cause damage to property or personal injury if it falls from your vehicle. More often however, your unsecured load can (and does based on the complaints received) create a significant nuisance problem with the accrual of unsightly litter along the roadways or on private property and the subsequent work required to clean it up.

Remember: "Be a good neighbor and help to keep our community clean and safe by securing your loads prior to taking it to the Transfer Facility."

Thanks, in advance, for you cooperation in this matter!

Dennis L. Keschl, TownManager

**BROWNIE
TROOP 416**



What a busy 2005-2006 year these young ladies have had!! In the past year the girls have learned how to set up tents, have conducted two camp-ins in preparation for a camp-out and learned how to properly build a fire and to extinguish it so that it never reignites. They have cooked hotdogs and biscuits on an open fire, and, of course, the ever important s'more!! The girls have prepared a five course meal and dined in style at the Center for All Seasons ,at cloth covered tables with linen napkins. They practiced setting up a formal table, and learned proper etiquette for fine dining as they were waited upon. I am now confident that these young ladies will be equally at home at Wendy's or at Wings Hill Inn!

In the spring we worked with an Aquatic Biologist for 2 weeks to study the vernal pool life cycle that we are so lucky to witness in our state. The girls created habitats for and cared for tadpoles, studied the many organisms suspended in the spring pool water and, following the two week study, returned the tadpoles and frogs back to their home so that their special adaptations would not be compromised. They are constantly learning to be stewards of the earth and how their activities impact the environment and the creatures that live there.

The Brownies used ½ of their fall fund raising money to purchase turkeys for the Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry in November and, with the other Girl Scout troops in Belgrade, aided an area family through the holidays by providing as many of the Christmas gifts as we could.

For the past 4 years, the girls have adopted as their special community service project, the many foster children that the Maine Department of Human Services serves. As a beginning Girl Scout troop they named this PROJECT CUDDLY BEAR and in the past the girls and the townspeople have provided backpacks, stuffed animals, books, coloring books, crayons, markers, hand held games, diapers and clothing items as needed. This past year the girls worked together and donated \$266.43 to reunite siblings separated by foster care for a week together at summer camp! I am so very proud of the girls and their families for consistently supporting this cause and for all of the work they do to help others!!

In closing, I would like to say a huge thank you to all of "my girls" for your kind hearts and your generous spirits, to their families for sharing these young ladies with me each month, to my co-leaders for all of their help, and to the townspeople for supporting us as you do!

ThankYou!!

Sincerely, Melanie Jewell

PUBLIC NOTICE

Belgrade Area Dams Committee announces the start of “Spring Refill”

Throughout the year our Dams Committee is actively working and maintaining water levels on our lakes. However, there are three activities that are planned and sometimes have created public interest. These are Fall Lake Drawdown and Winter Management activities, Spring Refill, and our Summer Water Level Management practices. The Committee is now preparing for SPRING REFILL activities.

Pursuant to the *Belgrade Area Dams Committee’s Water Management Plan*, “Spring Refill” management procedures will *begin in March and continue through April*.

Section II of the plan specifies that:

1. The primary objective (of the “Spring Refill” management plan) is to pass through enough of the spring runoff to prevent flooding and end the spring season with adequate and stable lake levels for fish and wildlife protection and recreational use.

2. Water level limits _ At no time during the spring refill should lake levels exceed:

Salmon Lake – 0.5 feet above spillway (278.5 ft msl*)
Great Pond – 0.7 feet above spillway (248.9 ft msl*)
Long Pond – 1.4 feet above spillway (240.2 ft msl*)

*msl – mean sea level

3. General management programs: As much runoff as possible should be passed through the dams in March and April, continuing the winter management scheme. In most years precipitation and runoff will cause lake levels to rise above spillway elevations in April; water levels should not exceed the maximum limits listed above. Until the ground is frost-free, an attempt should be made to keep the lakes at, or bring them back to, a level no higher than 1 foot below spillway elevation. Lake levels should then gradually rise to full pond by June 1st.

This “Public Notice” is provided as an on-going attempt by the Belgrade Area Dams Committee’s to keep you informed of their water level management activities for our lakes. If you have any questions about these activities please contact your Town Office or the member of the Committee that represents your town:

Belgrade:

Dennis Purington – 495-2698
Roger J. Pelletier – 465-3420
Percy Ackerman – 495-3842
George Hoy – 495-2105

Rome:

Fred Weston – 495-2137
Richard MacKenzie – 495-3111
Timothy Comeford – 495-3877

Oakland:

Delores Lemon – 465-7992
Town Manager, Belgrade Town Office – 495-2258
Selectmen, Town of Rome – 397-4011
Manager, Oakland – 465-7357

SELECTPERSONS CORNER

SELECTPERSONS Meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

PLEASE have any items you want on the agenda to the Board Secretary (Mary) so she may get the Agenda ready in a timely manner.

PLANNING BOARD meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, Gary Fuller on Thursday's 5-7 P.M.

FIRE DEPARTMENT meets 1st and 3rd Monday, Lakes Station, 7P.M.

BOARD OF APPEALS meets 4th Wednesday, 7 P.M. Town Office

TOWN OFFICE is open Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri 8-4:30 Thurs 8-7. Closed daily 11:00-11:30 for lunch.

BULK RATE

U.S.POSTAGE

TOWN OF BELGRADE

PAID

6 MANCHESTER ROAD
04917

BELGRADE, ME

BELGRADE, ME 04917

04917
PERMIT #6

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PRE-SORT**