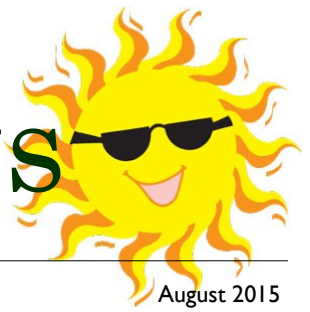




Whitefield News

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August 2015

Annual Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Dept. Auction

by Dan Joslyn

"PLEASE BID HIGH AND OFTEN"

Keep your day flexible! This 59th Auction is scheduled to be held on Saturday, August 15, starting at 10:00 A.M. and ending late afternoon.

The annual fundraising auction originated with the Whitefield Lions Club and was handed over to the CMVFD in 1945. Just as a reference, this was the same year and month that the Howe Fur Company was broken into and 27 rifles and 8 shotguns were stolen. One would need to be near eighty to remember that. The auction has survived and thrived since; without a missed year.

Typically, nearly 120 bidders (some from as far away as the western mountains of Maine and southern New England) sit under a large rented tent and collect their wares. Most were not born when the first auction was held. Brian Huntley said, "The event is a magnet for all 'junkies' from Knox, Lincoln, Kennebec, and Waldo counties who purchase to resell at the Monday Livestock Auction in Fairfield. These bidders are affectionately known as the 'Ameritas Patrons.' They are the regulars; the 'any weather folks.'"

Although much has stayed the same, some things have not. Years ago, a large tarp; (likely blue) was strung up using ropes, duct tape, and an old gas hot-water heater as an anchor. A fierce wind came up and threatened to tear the tarp off and send it toward Augusta. "It was a real gully washer," said Brian



Coopers Mills Firehouse Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

Huntley. The heater lifted and danced around. Having been adequately secured to a sixteen foot 2x4 with copious amounts of duct tape, it was the only thing giving any hope to the folks sitting there; casting one eye toward the auctioneer and the other toward the heater. The auctioneer held his tempo, but the clanging of the heater on the stones seemed to concern him. Yet the wind finally abated and another successful event drew to a close.

Originally, firemen went door to door to collect items or donations. Now, calls start coming in to Norm Best (215-6600) or Brian Huntley (549-5668) well before the auction date; always the third Saturday in August. The firemen volunteers go to great lengths to accommodate all callers.

Antiques, tools, furniture, gift certificates, equipment, and sporting goods are just a few of the items sold.

Unusual items, like a three-hole toilet seat once brought fierce bidding. The winner intended to use it as a picture frame. What is now called the "Benny Barn" with 1.5 acres was put up for bid by its owner. It sits next to the fire station's east side. According to Timmy Yorks, bidders got his grandfather, Walter Yorks,

in a spot where they could help him own the building. Tim said, "He got stuck with it." It was eventually sold to Benny Avery.

Once a Jeep Wrangler offered by John Libby was bid up by Vern Dufault. It was demonstrated for the proud new owner after the bidding had stopped and promptly caught fire! However, it sustained little damage; possibly due to the proximity of the fire department.

When the auction is near its end "Box Lots" of items will be offered, and everyone knows it is time to exit the premises when auctioneer, Brian Huntley, can be heard saying, "I'll take ten cents as the first bid! **Continued on pg. 2**

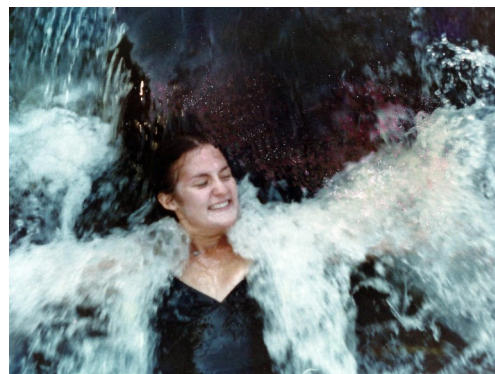
The Swimming Hole

by Debbie Rogers

As many of you may remember, the swimming hole was the best place to be in the summertime. When the weather was hot and sticky, no matter what you did, the thought arrived that a dip might be the best course of action on a hot, humid, summer day. Most kids in my time remember haying in the summer and knowing that after a grueling day in the sun, the swimming hole was our reward.

There were many places to go and we always had a favorite. The "Swimming Hole" was your neighbor's access to the river, pond, or if you were very lucky, right in your own back yard. Sometimes the cherished spot was by a road, so access was easy. We were fortunate. Our neighbors were more than willing to have us tromp through their field (if we didn't damage the hay crop) and meander down the path that led to the cool water that was the ultimate goal.

One of these spots was on the West Branch of the Sheepscot on the Howe Road by the bridge. We always called it the "dump road" because of the location of the...you guessed it, dump. There was a convenient turn-out for parking; although, before we drove, we walked there or rode our bicycles. A steep path led down to the river where there was an outcropping of rocks and many waterfalls; depending on the water level. We would sit in the waterfalls or sunbathe on the



Leane Morin (teen)—Howe Road Swimming Hole
Photo by Debbie Rogers

rocks. It was not a place to go swimming; although at the base of the large rocks was a pool large enough to swim in. It was a beautiful spot; still there today, but I rarely see anyone there.

Mary Jo (Tobin) Higgins remembers their swimming hole on "The River".

She grew up on the Benner Road where Sam and Alice Hutchinson current-

ly reside. Mary Jo's family spent many hours at the river where they had built a rock patio on the water's edge. In the evening, Mary Jo remembers they often would ask mom (Mary Tobin) if they could go swimming as it was too hot to sleep. On many occasions the answer would be yes. They would all climb out of bed, walk across the field in the moonlight, and take a cool swim. When they returned to bed, sleep was easy!

Continued on pg. 2

Auction Cont. from pg.1

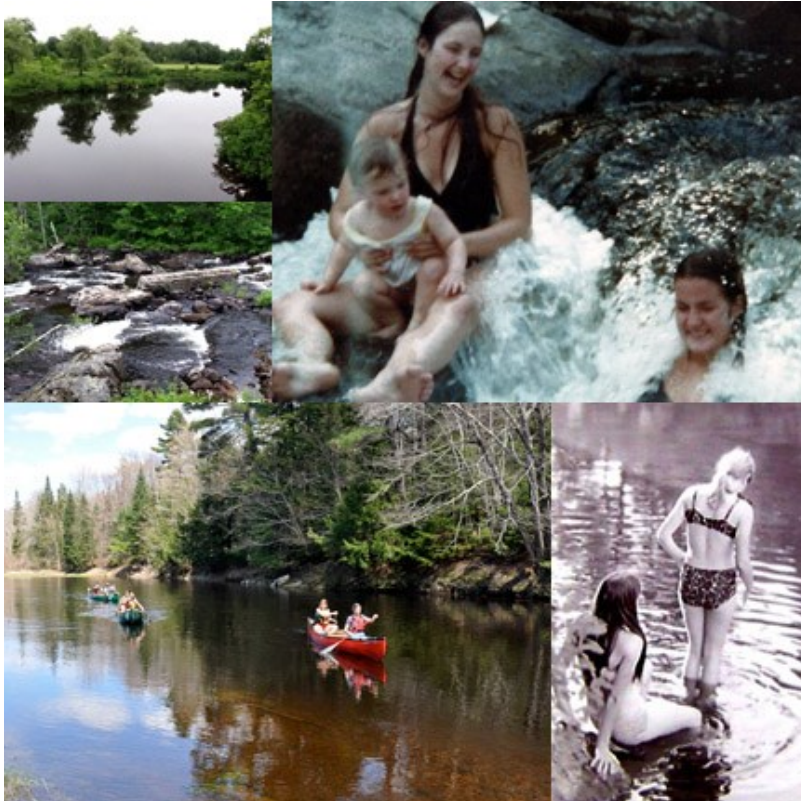
The firemen never know what is being donated, but consistently gross in the range of \$10,000.00. For years, they relied on this income to pay off a \$100,000.00 fire truck. Once it was owned, they started saving for a new or renovated building.

David Landman of Windsor offered his architectural services several years ago to begin the design process. "I wanted to give something to the community," he stated. He continues the relationship, working at a discounted rate and is eager to see the building completed.

The current structure is in three sections. The A-frame portion in the center was built prior to 1956. The last of the three pieces was largely built by the Army Corp of Engineers. It has been determined that the small crew of dedicated men and women cannot risk mortgaging a large debt approaching \$389,000.00, so they are remodeling the current building, gutting it, installing wiring, new insulation, sheetrock, and adding a new bathroom (which the current station does not have).

CMVFD has served Whitefield, Windsor, Jefferson, Somerville, and other surrounding towns for a very long time. The village also has the largest concentration of homes and businesses in the immediate area. The firemen are sensitive to the importance of their location.

The remodeling is ready to begin in earnest as soon as the auction is over, so come one, come all, to a fun day for a great cause.





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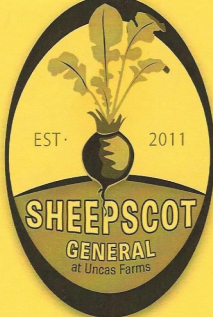
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Swimming Cont. from pg.1

Back in the 70's, a large group of us adventurous folks decided to float down the river on various inner tubes, air mattresses, and anything else that would float. We started at David Boynton's on the Benner Road with about 15-20 people, and by the time we hit the bridge on Route 126, we had lost most of the participants due to leaky crafts. Bob Gibson, June Lordi, Peter Froehlich, and I went on to Laurie and Fred Stone's swimming hole on the Townhouse Road.

We were treated to the beautiful sights along the river. With the water level

low, little islands develop with beautiful wild flowers and neon blue dragon flies with black wings. The trip was longer than we anticipated, and we ended up floating for several hours. The original group and many more were there to meet us with food, drink and merriment at the water's edge. We enjoyed the gathering despite the horrible sunburns we developed on the river. That trip was repeated many, many summers, often with a cooler in tow.

- and a little more reminiscing from Charlie Tobin - *One summer morning Eugene MacDonald and I were on one of our many adventures behind the Happy Farm and Eugene's house; starting in the cow pasture, and gravitating toward the river. It was extremely muggy, and we were pretty sweaty. The water looked so cool and inviting. It was my bright idea to continue further down the river to the Oxbow behind the Rogers Farm. Living up to its name, the Oxbow was off limits according to the adults, but Gene and I proceeded to shuck our duds to wade around in the water. At the bend of the Oxbow was a very large rock. I said to Eugene, Let's swim over to it, and I plunged in where the rocks we were wading on stopped, and the deep channel of the Oxbow started. I was almost to the huge rock, and I looked back over my shoulder to see Gene flailing and going under and popping up again. I swam back toward him, and as I got within reach, he immediately became squirrel-like. He crawled up my outstretched arm to the top of my head, sending me under, and forcing me downward. He tried to stand on me to keep from going under himself. I swam away from him underwater and surfaced. I told him, Calm down, or I'll let you drown! He and I made it back to the bank, got our wits back, and I said, I thought you could swim, and he said, I thought I could!*

We are very blessed to live in an area with so many beautiful places to swim, float and relax. I'm sure many of you have your favorite swimming hole somewhere down the river between Coopers Mills and Head Tide. I encourage you to take the time to visit the water (wherever that may be for you); as it is the best part of summer in Whitefield, Maine.



Owen's first dip in a favorite Joslyn swimming hole 2015 (photo by Mike Joslyn)



Please Tell Us
The Whitefield News group welcomes suggestions for topics to include in the monthly newsletter. If you have an interesting idea for a topic to share with the community, we would like to hear from you. Please contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or call Debbie at 549-3491

Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Coopers Mills dam, sawmill, and a favorite summertime swimming hole
(from the Roger Glidden Collection)

Free summer lunch served weekdays at Whitefield School

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds free, nutritious meals to help children continue to get the food power they require to learn, play, and grow over the long summer vacation.

This summer, USDA expects to serve more than 200 million free meals to children 18 years and under at approved SFSP sites across the country. The three elementary schools in RSU 12 are all approved as open sites, with no enrollment necessary.

Just show up Monday to Friday between 11:30 and 12:30 at the Whitefield Elementary School (or Chelsea or Windsor Elementary if more convenient) to enjoy a delicious free summer lunch for children aged 2-18. No questions asked. The only requirement is to eat lunch on site.

Kings Mills Union Hall Association WISHING FOR A WELL

We are a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to restoring and maintaining one of Whitefield's historic landmarks and community centers, Union Hall (built in 1901), which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our next project is installation of a new well.

Donations gratefully accepted at:
KMUHA, PO Box 49
Whitefield, ME 04353
attn. President/Treasurer Judy Maldovan



Energy Efficiency at Whitefield School

by Kit Pfeiffer

Have you noticed the new propane tanks behind the Whitefield School or seen contractors' trucks in and out this summer? All this activity is part of a comprehensive energy efficiency improvement project in RSU 12 elementary schools on schedule to be completed when students return from summer vacation.



An energy audit of the Whitefield School identified three areas most needing improvement: the heating system, insulation and lighting. The outdated oil burner has proved inadequate to heat the entire building with its several additions. It is being replaced with a high-efficiency propane boiler, and automation of vents and controls in the ductwork will regulate temperatures more effectively room by room.

A second area of improvement is an overall tightening-up of the building. Foam insulation has been sprayed into the walls, and the gym ceiling has been newly insulated. After the fire last spring, an inspection of the entire building revealed that the old windows were too small to meet new fire codes. Newly replaced windows throughout the building are now much tighter; contributing to energy savings. All these improvements are expected to bring a 30 percent savings in heating costs annually.

The third area of improvement is classroom lighting. Most of the fluorescent lighting has been converted to LED technology, not only for energy efficiency, but for a healthier learning environment. Research studies report that many children tire quickly, show diminished eye contact and have shorter attention spans in rooms with fluorescent lights. LED lighting is a win-win for the school, since the result will be a cost savings and a healthier space.

The financing of all these improvements was achieved with a Federal QECB (qualified energy conservation bond). A QECB is a bond that enables qualified issuers to borrow money at attractive rates to fund energy conservation projects. The low 3-5% interest rate on the QECB means the energy savings at the Whitefield School cover the financing costs, "and perhaps then some", says RSU 12 Superintendent Howard Tuttle. "The QECB allows school districts strapped for money to make cost-saving improvements, spend more resources on education, and do good for the environment with the energy efficiency." He also explained that the RSU is allowed to finance this work without taking it to the voters, because the contractor guarantees the energy savings. Under a performance-based contract with Siemens, the energy cost savings are guaranteed. If the contracted savings are not achieved, Siemens has to pay the difference for what they guaranteed.

To add to all of this good news about our school, a dedicated RSU 12 school board member has also volunteered to improve the bottom line. Richard DeVries, of Westport Island, on the board since 2009 and a member of the Facilities Committee, saw a chance in this project to save money and help the environment. "I've been gathering all the material that can be sold to a scrap yard at all four buildings: Whitefield, Windsor, Somerville and Palermo," he says. "So far I've delivered about 5 tons, valued at about \$1,500. I've put 2500 miles on my vehicle and made 29 deliveries so far." Fortunately the end is in sight!

AUGUST 2015 Community Events Calendar

- 2nd** St. Denis Irish Picnic, St. Denis Hall, following 11 am Mass. Hot dogs, hamburgers, entertainment. No admission or food cost, donation accepted.
- 3rd** **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 4th** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
Laughing Yoga with Karen Stultz Join us and discover the fast and easy way to reduce stress, and have fun doing it. Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 5th** **Arlington Grange Meeting**, Potluck Dinner 6 pm, meeting 7 pm - All are welcome
- 6th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 7th** **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 9th** **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 10th** **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 11th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 13th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 15th** **AUCTION**, Coopers Mills Fire Dept., 10 am
Sheepscot Church Craft and Yard Sale, Parking Lot between Kings Mills Union hall and Church. 10-3 pm
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm, Open to the public, all ages welcome
- 19th** **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 20th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 21st** **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 22nd** **Baked Bean Supper**, Arlington Grange Hall, Home made baked beans, hotdogs, rolls, salad, pies and desserts 4:30-6:30 pm
- 23rd** **Live Edge Music Festival**, Hidden Valley Nature Center 12-6pm. Four great bands will bring HVNC's out door pavilion to life with a stunning variety of music. Tickets are on sale at the restaurants as well as Sheepscot General, the Alna Store, Mexicali Blues, Ames Supply, and at <http://hvnc.org/annual-music-fest/>.
- 25th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 27th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
 We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.



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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

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