

Carrabassett Valley Connections

Published annually by the town of Carrabassett Valley, Maine



Select Board: Robert Luce, Chair • John Beaupre • Lloyd Cuttler • Karen Campbell • Jay Reynolds

Happy 50th Birthday Carrabassett Valley!

The New Town Seal

Submitted by Wendy Russell

Carrabassett Valley is considered to be a very young town compared to the other almost 500 municipalities in Maine. Kittery being the oldest, settled in 1623 and incorporated in 1647. According to my research, Chebeague Island is the youngest being incorporated on July 1, 2007. Carrabassett Valley became incorporated as a Town in March of 1972, making this year the town's fiftieth birthday!

Now being fifty years young, we decided it was time that we develop and adopt an official Town Seal. Up until now we have been using a very basic seal for official documents. Town Manager, Dave Cota and the Select Board deemed it an important piece of the town turning fifty and set out to accomplish that in 2022. We enlisted the assistance of lifelong Sugarloafer Michele "Bagels" Carey, who currently works at SignWorks in Farmington. They have been in business serving the Carrabassett Valley community since 1983.

"I am honored for the opportunity to create an imprint of Carrabassett Valley, as it is very much imprinted on me. Having grown up playing along the river and on the endless trails, in the shadow



of Bigelow and Sugarloaf Mountains, I gained a deep love and respect for nature, dogs, and community, and realized my passions for skiing and good lookin' signs -thank you Mike Monahan! (Mike Monahan created SignWorks where Michele currently spends her working hours)

Looking back 50 years, I wonder if our Town's forefathers would have thought that Carrabassett Valley would come this far? From what I hear around town from some of them, they would certainly never have thought they'd still be here today!

We are thankful for them and this special place, Carrabassett Valley and we hope our new Town Seal represents that. ■

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With an official population of only 783 people, Carrabasset Valley is a small town in regards to year-round population but certainly not in activity, innovation, and the fun factor. Following is a summary of some of the projects the community of Carrabasset Valley has been involved in since the fall of 2021 when the last newsletter went out. Also be sure to read through the articles that others have provided detailing their year as we all work to make the Valley a great place to live, work, play and visit!

Housing

Select person John Beaupre has been working with a group of about twenty people from the region to make affordable housing available to the people who work in our region. Back last winter the Select Board hired Camoin Associates to study the housing problem in our region. We want to emphasize "region" here because the problem is not just a Carrabasset Valley problem but is really one that impacts all of our neighboring communities and some would say the whole State.

In March of 2022 Camoin provided the Committee and Town with a report detailing the extent of the problem. One of the most telling statistics was that only 17% of the housing sold in our region was affordable to a family earning the median family income in our region of \$53,000. In Eustis where 28 properties were sold in 2021, none of the properties sold were affordable to a family earning \$53,000. The study also found that the need for housing included an estimated 225-338 units for seasonal workers; 64-192 units of rental housing for year-round workers; and, 40-120 homeowner units.

As of this writing, the Committee is in the process of finding funding to begin our first project. We are hopeful that a request to the Franklin County Commissioners for funding from Federal ARPA funds the County received will be approved this

fall. With some luck, we hope to have a project under construction by the summer of 2023. It is exciting to note that Eustis, Kingfield, Coplin Plantation, and Carrabasset Valley have all signed memorandums of understanding to work together on this very important issue.

Electrical Vehicle Chargers

The joint effort between the Town and Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation (SMC) resulted in four new EV chargers being installed at the golf course. The chargers were paid for with a grant from the State's Community Resilience Partnership and were greatly appreciated. The chargers have been installed and are in operation. The Town is now working to provide chargers at the Outdoor Center through the same grant process. Although there is a possibility this could happen before the winter of 2022/23 it is more likely that it won't be until the spring of 2023 in time for the mountain biking season!

Penobscot Indian Nation Access Postings

Over the past couple of months, we have had some encouraging communications with the Penobscot Indian Nation and hold out hope that some of the trails that cross their property in Carrabasset Valley will be open again to public access. We will of course keep you informed if we do receive their permission again to use their land. We remain appreciative of the access our community had for many years to this property for recreation and hope that we can again enjoy this privilege.

Outdoor Center

The Town and Sugarloaf are working on a new wax building at the Outdoor Center which will be ready for this winter. We are continuing to work with SMC to add snowmaking to 2.6 kilometers of trail. This would allow us to host more competitions and make the trail system more resilient to weather events. The snowmaking project is still

a couple of years out but remains very much a priority for both the Town and SMC.

We have also made arrangements for the University of Maine Engineering program to look into the feasibility and cost of adding a roof over the ice rink. Students select a project as their program capstone and then work in groups to design and cost out the project. If the project is selected, we think the students will provide us with good and hopefully creative information which we can use to help make a decision on continuing the project. We have also asked them to look into adding refrigeration but that is not the primary focus of the work. As with the snowmaking, a roof over the rink would make it more resilient to weather events and create a large venue for events at the Outdoor Center, particularly during the summer and fall months.

This spring the Town also completed the installation of fourteen new concrete bridges on the trail system. These bridges will last for many years replacing bridges that were at the end of their life expectancy.

By the time you read this article, Town Manager Dave Cota will have returned from hiking the 2600 miles of Pacific Crest Trail, an accomplishment that amazes me whenever I think about it. Please see the article Dave wrote about his trip which is included in this newsletter.

While Dave was away, I was given the tremendous opportunity to sit in for him. My wife Teri and I decided to make CV our home when we retired in 2021 after many years of only enjoying the area on weekends and holidays. It really is a great place to live and I learned that the Town is served ably by a very committed and competent group of employees, Select people, and volunteers. I appreciate the chance I got to get to know the community better and for all the help I received. ■



Oregon on the Columbia River about to walk across the famous 'Bridge of the Gods' into Washington State. When you read this article, if all goes well, I would have hiked the last 500 miles to Canada to complete what has been an amazing adventure.



In 1975, after college and a year before I started my career I "thru hiked" the 2,000-mile Appalachian Trail. The experience was life changing and provided me with a sense of adventure that has served me well both personally and professionally. As a result of that experience, I also developed the desire to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), which extends from the Mexican Border in the small U.S. town of Campo sixty miles east of San Diego to the Canadian Border at the Manning Provincial Park. The trail extends 2,653 miles across the Sierra and Cascade mountains and many of their sub-ranges.

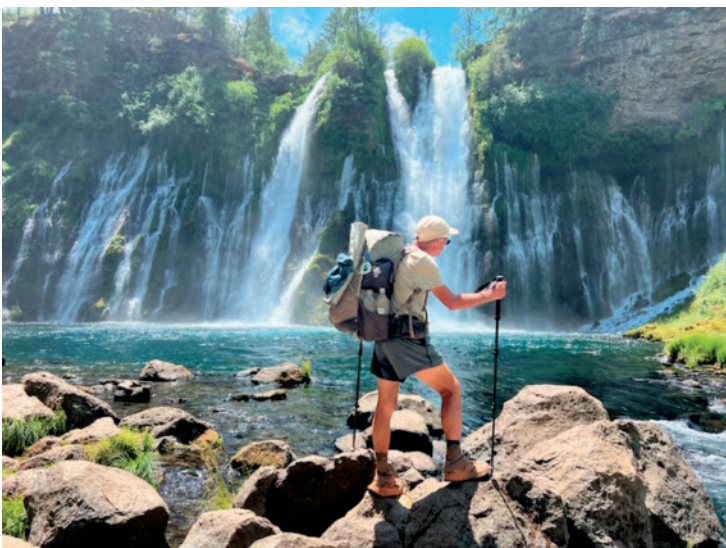
I've hiked through some of our country's most spectacular landscapes from the first 700 miles of "high desert" to 400 miles of the "High Sierra", across beautiful northern California and the State of Oregon. Unfortunately, we had to move ahead of some trail closures in Oregon due to dangerous forest fires. I also hiked through a fair amount of previously burned forest which is really startling to see and experience just how serious the whole "western fire" situation is.

I want to thank our Select Board, our wonderful town employees, and Mark Green who did such a great job in filling my position while I was away. There were times when my journey was very difficult physically, mentally, and emotionally. The amount of encouragement I received from family, friends, co-workers, and some of you along the way was overwhelming and really helped me pursue my goal.

So, after discussions with our Town Select Board last fall, I was graciously offered an opportunity to take a leave of absence for six months. I started "my journey" on March 31st. As I am writing this article on August 12th, I'm in Cascade Locks,

In addition to the incredible landscape that I have seen, I've also met a lot of other "thru hikers", most in their 20's and 30's, (I was among the very oldest) and many from all over the world primarily from Germany, Switzerland, and Australia. If I've learned anything from this adventure, it's that if these young folk represent our future, we have a lot of good to look forward to.

If you are interested in viewing some of the pictures of "my journey" I believe you can still see them by searching "Dave C on the Pacific Crest Trail" on a Facebook page I posted to every two or three weeks during my adventure. If you want more information on the PCT you can go onto the Pacific Crest Trail Association website (hit the "map" link and you can view or download a map of the entire trail). I look forward to seeing many of you back in Carrabasset Valley. ■



News from the Code Enforcement Department

Submitted by Chris Parks, Code Enforcement Officer

Following trends from the last few years, construction of new homes and condo renovations has remained strong from last fall thru this summer with interest continuing at a slower but steady pace. I expect to see condo renovations to continue with ownership transfers wishing to modernize their new property and the demand for property remains strong according to the local realtors.

To touch on Building Codes, the State has established the Bureau of Building Codes and Standards as part of the Fire Marshall's Office and they are continually reviewing building codes as part of their rule-making processes. We as a Town adopted the state's MUBEC Building Codes starting in 2013 and I am steadily working with builders to move forward in compliance with those rules such as the Building Energy Code. Builders are not mandated to complete any training and often don't find time to complete any on their own behalf. I have found some resistance

to changing 'how its always been done' and I am working with builders to explain newer building and energy code requirements; the resistance is largely a result that although the MUBEC Codes are mandated by State Law, small municipalities were not required to adopt and enforce the codes and our efforts to adhere to the mandated codes are seen as a disparity, especially when compared to the neighboring unorganized municipalities.

Aside from the construction of homes and condos, there has been plenty of activity occurring around town; this includes the construction of a solar farm getting underway at the northwest end of town on Sanitary District land. (located a good distance removed out in the woods behind the CVOA shooting range) The expansion of airplane taxi lanes at the Sugarloaf Regional Airport to accommodate future hangar construction, continued replacement of recreational trail bridges within the Outdoor Center Trail network of xc ski and bike trails, Sugarloaf's snowmaking upgrade with the

construction of an on-mountain booster pump station, the continuation of timberland management and tree harvesting by the large landowners and the long-awaited start of construction at Judson's Plaza. The owner expects to be offering leasable commercial space to desiring businesses seeking to serve residents and guests of our community.

The Planning Board has been reviewing some potential changes to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to match with State adopted statutes that are recommended and supported by MDEP, and the Sugarloaf West Mountain Expansion Subdivision Project has been in front of the Board seeking Preliminary Plan Approval while Sugarloaf works to obtain various State approvals simultaneously with the hope of clearing infrastructure and new trail corridors this winter in preparation to start earthwork in Spring of 2023. ■

News from the Carrabassett Valley School Department

Submitted by Dr. Regina Campbell, CV School Superintendent

Greetings from the Carrabassett Valley School Department! As I start my second year as your superintendent, I would like to thank you for the warm welcome that I have received and your support of the school budget. I have met with many teachers of our students and have been impressed with their enthusiasm and dedication.

I would also like to thank you for your participation in our Educational Forums throughout the year, despite Covid! The information generated at those forums will help the School Committee, Steve Arner, Chairman, Danielle London, Vice Chairman, Erin Demshar, Deirdre Frey and Meredith Swallow move forward in their planning for the future educational opportunities for our students. The Committee is planning to host another Educational Forum this fall, inviting all stakeholders, to continue this work. The date and time of the meeting will be posted on the Town's website.

Brian Foster continues to serve as our Special Education consultant. Wendy Russell is the school department's administrative assistant, and Karen Campbell is our bus driver. Karen is driving our new bus to the Stratton Elementary School and is to be commended for her dedication to keeping her riders safe, especially in these challenging times. As was the case last year, we contract with the Stratton School Department to pick up the Carrabassett Valley students going to SAD # 58 schools as they head south through town.

Last year saw an increase in student enrollment, largely due to Covid, and this year seems to be the same. Due to the restructuring in MSAD 58, there has been a substantial increase in students attending the School. As of the start of school, our student enrollment is as follows.

Kingfield Elementary School 2; Stratton School 31; Strong Middle School 1; Mt. Blue High School 1; Mt. Abram High School 7; Rangeley High School 1; Carrabassett Valley Academy

(grades 7-12 only) 26 full-time with 12 additional students planning on starting November 1st. This is a total of 81 full/part-time students, an increase over last fall's enrollment of 77 full/part-time students in Pre-K-12.

The School Committee Meeting dates and agenda are posted on the Town website. Please call Wendy Russell at the Town Office if you wish to contact the School Committee at 235-2645 or, wrussell@carrabassettvalley.org In addition, you can contact me at drcampbell@carrabassettvalley.org

Good luck to all of us in this new school year and please stay healthy! ■

Greetings, Valley residents and returning Sugarloafers'. First, to introduce myself, my name is Mike Rogers. I have 44+ years of experience in property tax administration in the State of Maine. In 2019, my wife and I were fortunate to finally realize a long-time goal. We now own a property in the vicinity of the Valley and the area of western mountains.

Following the retirement of long-time Valley employee and local icon Bill Gilmore, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be your assessor in this incredible family centric community that values every aspect of the slogans, Welcome "the way life should be" and "from here on your life will never be the same".

The early spring and summer seasons have been

busy with processing and quantifying the large number of property transactions and reviewing the construction activity that occurred over the past year. Sales volume has been extremely high over the past two and half years. Sale prices continue to sustain a high sale value, though the number of sale transactions has slowly declined during the first half of this year, especially when compared to the activity of the past two years.

As a result of this active sales market, a necessity to review and update all property values is imminent to maintain an equitable standing with the State of Maine, Assessment Standards. A future goal over the next several months in close coordination with local officials is to analyze and review all current and past area market conditions

to formulate a plan to address local assessed values.

For eligible year-round Valley residents, Homestead and Property Tax Stabilization applications are readily available in our office or online at: <https://www.carrabassetvalley.org/departments/assessing-department/>

As the weather starts to slowly cool and the leaves are hinting at displaying their vibrant colors, I'm eagerly looking forward to our winter blanket of white.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have, regarding our community's assessment administration. cvasessor@roadrunner.com ■

News from the Carrabassett History Committee

Submitted by Jean Luce, History Committee Chair

Did you go to the Carrabassett Festival this summer? And, did you see the Carrabassett Valley History Committee display table? When in July 1987, Richard Branson and Per Lindstrom flew in the basket of the Virgin Atlantic from Sugarloaf, Village on the Green to the British Isles with several hundred people gathered at the 4:00 am send-off. Probably no one realized it was the beginning of Branson's amazing career. He went on to create the Virgin Air Airlines and future public flights into space. The memorabilia was on display at the Town's 50th Anniversary.

1900's

Mr. and Mrs. B.N. Merrill of Kingfield are running the boarding house which has been built to accommodate the men at the upper mill [in Crockertown]. Mr. Greenlaw who went away just before Christmas, returned Monday. He has been bothered about the mill. . . . The parties first agreed to put one in have failed to come up to agreement, so it is said. The company appears to have an office built immediately. It is a busy place here and will be more so as time goes on. Mr. Ansel Eames of Flagstaff is working for Mr. Jacobs on the station building. — Phillips Phonograph, January 12, 1900. Last Monday, the Crockertown mill

was shut down on account of the breaking of the cable. Monday night about 20 of the employees of the mill went to Stratton and brought home a terrible "load," some being drunk, others were carrying it with them. During the evening, things got very much stirred up. They enjoyed singing, buck and wing dancing, and in fact everything was going on full blast. The rioting became so hot that the proprietor of the boarding house, Mr. Robert Fossey, drove to Kingfield, and he together with Deputy Sheriff Bert Small settled the affray. Up to this writing, only one arrest has been made. — Phillips Phonograph, September 28

Before there was the SugarBowl bowling alley,

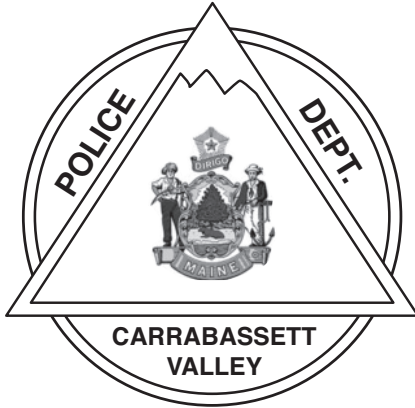
and earlier the inn of Chateau des Tagues, in the 1930s and 1940s, across the road on the same piece of property was this store/restaurant/office of Record's Sporting Camps, which also included six cabins along the Huse Mill Road

These are among the stories our history is made of. Much more is included in the book manuscript that our writer, Ginny Wright, has been producing. The finishing touches are being done to complete the contract unanimously approved and funded by the voters in 2019. Today the committee is in the process of acquiring a publisher so we can share it all with you. ■



Notes from the Carrabassett Valley Police Department

Submitted by Police Chief Mark Lopez



Hello from the Carrabassett Valley Police Department.

A very busy summer in the Valley. We had three major bike events and celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the town. The Police Department

still installs and monitors alarm systems to protect your property. The rates are very competitive and well worth the peace of mind. Our alarm services not only protect your property from theft and fire but can include water damage and carbon monoxide. We also offer a cellular option that can replace your need for a landline telephone. Call us for information.

The Carrabassett Valley Police Department also maintains keys for owners in the event of lockouts. If you would like to store a spare key with our department in the event of a lockout or to assist with accessing your home when you are not here (for deliveries or maintenance needs) contact us.

CVPD also keeps lost and found items so please contact us in the event of lost items on the Mountain. We maintain a ski/snowboard registration program as well.

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns and follow us on Facebook for various updates and information about happenings within the department. ■

Sincerely, Chief Mark Lopez

CARRABASSETT VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

9000 Main St. Village West

Carrabassett Valley, Maine 04947

Voice: 207-237-3200

Email: mlopez@sugarloaf.com

Fax: 207-237-6911

NorthStar EMS – Regionally Strong, Locally Active

Submitted by Mike Senecal, NorthStar Director

I always like to start the newsletter by reminding everyone who and what **NorthStar** is about. NorthStar is a regional Emergency Medical Service and one of the largest ambulance services in Maine. NorthStar operates five strategically located bases, including Carrabassett Valley (located adjacent to the Town Office and Fire Department). With this great regional strength, we respond not only to local emergencies and medical calls but also provide support and backup to the entire 2,800-square-mile coverage area. This assures that no matter where one ambulance is, there will always be another available for the next call.

NorthStar provides a paramedic-level staffed ambulance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. During the ski season, NorthStar provides an additional ambulance from 9 am to 5 pm during weekends and vacation weeks. These two ambulances responded to over 500 requests for service during the year. We also increase our staffing during special events in our area to help maintain appropriate ambulance coverage and have several EMS providers who monitor the radio waves and respond from home as needed.

In the healthcare world, we are finally settling into the new normal after the effect of the

pandemic. We continue to screen all patients for COVID and take the appropriate steps to ensure patient and caregiver safety. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the office.

For the second year in a row, NorthStar has received a \$200,000 SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) EMS training grant. We have used the grant to provide valuable EMS training at no cost to the greater Franklin Community. The training has included continuing education classes, CPR classes, Treatment of Opioid abuse and mental health emergencies, EMT licensure, Swift Water Rescue, and the EMS Conference held at Franklin Memorial Hospital.

The grant has been successful in training and recruiting EMS professionals to

work at NorthStar and the local fire departments around Franklin County. The impact of the training will help strengthen our emergency response for years to come.

Thank you for making us a part of your community. We'd love to hear from you (other than through 911, of course!). If you have any questions about COVID-19 or NorthStar please call my office at 779-2400 as always, NorthStar is proud to be your ambulance service. ■



Although Our Fire Department faces new challenges every day, the biggest obstacle is staffing. We like many Fire and Rescue Organizations have relied on a citizen force to make up our call staff. As time goes on available folks to train and respond to emergencies have decreased greatly. Nearly all our current members live in Kingfield and Eustis. Only three of us live in Carrabassett Valley year-round, in addition to three more winter residents. This nonresident call force does result in slower response times. To meet the staffing requirements, we have had overnight per diem coverage at the Mountain Station during the ski season Friday and Saturday plus holiday and vacation periods since 1983. We have started per

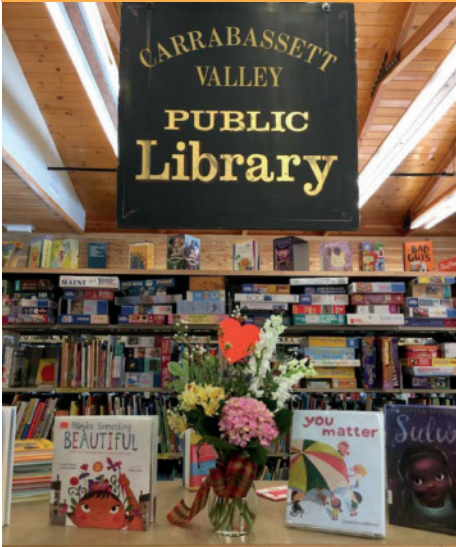
diem station weekend day coverage. We have developed a collaborative effort with Eustis Fire Department which has paid station day coverage Monday thru Friday to respond to either town automatically should there be a need. I also provide station coverage during the week. I wish to recognize a young man who provides our paid staff station coverage every weekend. His name is Frank Provencher. Frank is a senior at Mt. Abram High School. Frank is a highly motivated 18 year old who is a fully trained fire fighter and is qualified to operate all our equipment. Short of full-time paid fire fighters we will be expanding our paid per diem to cover more days. Our goal is to provide the highest level of Public Safety to our

residents and guests. We are a small organization with a huge responsibility.

We are reviewing the latest Sugarloaf Development Plan to create a plan that addresses the impact it will have on Public Safety. Sugarloaf's Proposal is very exciting. One project I am working closely with the Planning Board on is to adopt an Ordinance that would require a Sprinkler System in all new construction in town. The Maine State Fire Marshall Joe Thomas and his folks will be scheduling a demonstration of the effectiveness of fire sprinklers in the home. This event will be sometime next month at the new Mountain Fire Station. We will invite interested parties and stakeholders to come. Sprinklers put out fires, not men and equipment. ■



Frank at the Mountain Fire Station



The CV Public Library provides a wide variety of materials and services while offering free memberships for everyone. Our cozy environment is stocked with books, DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, public computers, magazines, newspapers, puzzles, and a variety of children's materials. Services such as printing, copying, and faxing are also available. The Carrabassett Valley Public Library **Facebook** page shares current information and update. For more information: <https://www.carrabassettvalley.org/departments/carrabassett-valley-public-library/>

Since May of 2021, we have been open regular hours and welcoming guests without appointments. The Third Thursday @ 3 Community Book Club has not missed a meeting either on zoom or the patio, often happening simultaneously! Library members can download free audiobooks and eBooks through the Maine State Library; stop by for your FREE library membership to access this service—search download.maineinfonet.org. Using the cloudLibrary app makes it easy to use the Maine Infonet Download Library. Who doesn't love FREE eBooks and audiobooks! We also have Kindles for lending and an iPad for in-library use. The lobby gallery



provides a beautiful venue for local artists to display their work. The library has hosted over 64 artists during the past 11 years. Recent artists include Joe Gambino, Barry White, Peggy Bishop and currently, Greg Thomas. Please contact the library if you are interested in showing your art in our lobby gallery.

What's New? During the summer of 2021, the CVPL received a \$2000 grant from the Maine State Library through the ARPA. The Library purchased an **OWL conferencing unit** to share with other community groups. The Meeting Owl Pro has a 360° camera, mic, and speaker device that immerses remote participants in the meeting. It features a 1080p output resolution and an 18' mic pickup range to support large meeting rooms and boardrooms. This allows for hybrid meetings and gives remote attendees the video conferencing experience they need to truly contribute to their team. The library also purchased a **mobile PA system** and a **patio heater** so the library can do programs outside! The library also purchased 2 new **HOTSPOTS** for patrons to borrow if they do not have the internet at home! We also have a pass you can borrow for Maine State Parks, the Children's Museum and Theater of Maine, and the Western Maine Play Museum in Wilton. **Internet infrastructure was upgraded to provide up to 800 Mbps high speed bandwidth, so everyone has access to free Wi-Fi available 24/7.**

Bendable Maine, a lifelong learning system, has **launched as of August 2022!** The Maine State Library and the **Drucker Institute** bring Bendable, to the residents of Maine. What would you like to learn? Most courses are free so check out the digital platform at <https://maine.bendable.com>.

The **Begin Family Community Room** rentals have slowed recently but we are learning to live with covid. AARP volunteers provided free tax help during February-April. Recent events have been a mix of virtual programs and we held our first in-person program in July! Maine Audubon's Nick Lund shared a beautiful slideshow presentation called: *Birds of Carrabassett Valley*. James Adams Taylor Goodwin gave a talk entitled: *Two Smokes and Tell Them you love them . . . and mean it!* Movies can be shown on the big screen again!

OPEN HOURS

SPRING, SUMMER & FALL:

Tue - Fri: 10-5 & Sat: 10-3

WINTER: Tue - Sat: 10-5

The Summer Reading Program (SRP) theme this year was: *Oceans of Possibilities!* Library Director, Andrea DeBiase hosted storytimes inside and out for the public as well as childcare participants. Chewonki came to the park with a program called *Animal Adaptations*. Judy Pancoast, a Grammy-nominated children's musician performed a lively show in the town park for summer campers and the public! This event was made possible by the Maggie Trafton Memorial Fund. The library offers incentives to encourage the joy of reading—so all the children received a free book bag, a book of their choosing—purchased through our partnership with Scholastic Literacy Program—a coloring & activity book, a door hanger, stickers, bookmarks, and a pencil!

The Library Board is again holding its annual Used Book Sale at the CV Library (inside and outside) this Homecoming Weekend, not at Sugarloaf. Instead of a price list, you may choose your books and leave a donation of your choice. Proceeds from the sale during Homecoming weekend are shared with the local food banks. You may also find the perfect choice at the **Little Free Library** on the green by the town office. Take a book ~ Share a book!

Please contact Library Director, Andrea DeBiase, at **237-3535** or email: cvlibrary3209@gmail.com for more information about purchasing a Forever Stone for the patio or donating to the library; we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization; all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you soon. ■



Summer Aquatic program highlights included Red Cross Swim Lessons, Outdoor Adventure Camp Swim Lessons, Free Swim, Lap Swim, and Water Aerobics. Additionally, we were busy facilitating Outdoor Adventure Camp, The Alden MacDonald Junior Golf Program, Travel Golf, Mountain Bike Camp, and Paddle. We held our annual Fourth of July Celebration and celebrated the Town of Carrabassett Valley's 50th Anniversary at Summerfest.

Antigravity Complex winter offerings will include the return of co-ed volleyball, skateboard, and trampoline lessons with Alex Lund and Climbing Wall lessons with Sterling Smith, Dave Clark & Francois Moretto. Program Assistant Leah Ross will coordinate After School Programming.

Mountain Bike Crew Trail Boss Josh Tauses and staff have been doing an outstanding job maintaining the trail network along with cutting a trail corridor in the Wyman region.

Antigravity Complex Fitness: We are hiring Personal Trainers & Certified Instructors to teach Pilates, Yoga, Spinning Cardio/Core & TRX Classes for our winter season! For more info. contact: dbowker3@roadrunner.com

If you are looking for specialized Trampoline, Skateboard, or Climbing Wall instruction we can accommodate you. Please call us at 207-237-5566. Visit our Town website at www.carrabassettvalley.org ■



The Carrabassett Back Country Cycle Challenge took place on Saturday, July 16, 2022. More than 509 racers ascended and descended the 25-, 50- & 100-kilometer race course. A special note of thanks to our business sponsors, police, patrollers, trail crews, course volunteers, and race committee for a job well done.



**Antigravity Complex, 3207 Carrabassett Drive
October 31, 2022- April 23, 2023**

Monday - Thursday: 6:00am – 10:00am & 3:00pm – 9:00pm

Friday: 6:00am – 10:00am & 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturday: 6:00am – 1:00pm & 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am – 9:00pm

EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION SCHOOL VACATION WEEKS

**STRENGTHENING MAINE COMMUNITIES
THROUGH OUTSIDE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.....**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR PLANNING PARTNERS



Community & Business....

Antigravity Complex Annual Membership Rates

Memberships include access to the gymnasium, locker room skate park, and fitness mezzanine.

New Rates as of Nov. 1, 2022

Individual Taxpayer: \$125 Annually

Family Taxpayer Membership: \$275 Annually

(Includes 2 Adults/3 Youth). Each additional child is \$25 per child.

Access to the Olympic Trampolines, Climbing Wall and Fitness classes are an additional cost.

OAC Pledge: *“I Accept the challenge: to stretch my mind and body in new directions, to build friendships, to respect and improve the environment, and to live in the outside safely and happily ever after.”*

It was another fun-filled summer at Outdoor Adventure Camp. With a record number of early applications, groups were at capacity and the CV Riverside Park was filled with laughter and excitement for 6 weeks.

Weekly themes revolved around nature, animals, music, and CV's 50th Birthday and encompassed guest speakers, presenters, and artists.



Presenters & Guests ~

Nick Lund, Sugarloafer and Advocacy & Outreach Manager for Maine Audubon took all of our groups out birding. While cultivating skills of observation, exploration, and listening, Nick reminded us of what makes our little corner of the world so special.



Children's musician Judy Pancoast had a rocking live performance at the CV park. Chewonki was back this year with their Animal Adaptation presentation. These programs were sponsored by the CV Library and made possible by the Maggie Trafton Memorial Fund.

Save the Monarchs!

Stewardship and caring for the world around us is an OAC trait. When we heard the unfortunate news that the migratory Monarch Butterfly was placed on the Red List of threatened species and classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, campers took action. Making signs for the park, campers educated the public about our local Monarch habitat and feeding ground.

Rough Riders, ride with Gratitude

Rough Riders, our camp Mountain Bike group, once again saw record numbers of bikers taking to the trail. Some weeks over half of our campers ages 6-13 signed up to ride. Riders took the



Borderlands 'Ride with Gratitude' pledge. Their philosophy aligns with OAC's regarding Respecting the Gift, Protecting Nature, Caring for Others, and Being the Example. We are grateful for our ride leaders, parent volunteers, and the amazing trail network here in the Valley.

That's a lot of pocket change!

Our yearly Penny challenge raised \$400.00 for the Franklin County Animal Shelter. This was a unanimous vote among the teams to donate to this organization and to aid them in continuing their mission of helping animals in need.

Staying Connected ~

To see more photos from the summer and to check out the Lost & Found, please visit our webpage: <https://www.carrabassettvalley.org/departments/recreation-department/outdoor-adventure-camp/> Also, check back in March for information regarding applications for OAC 2023.



Rough Riders

Gratitude ~

We would like to thank everyone who helps make camp possible; our community partners, parent volunteers, and the generosity of the Carrabassett Valley taxpayers.

To our amazing team of staff, counselors, CIT's, and all the campers, you are what makes OAC what it is. Your energy is contagious... YOU ROCK! Thank you for another fun filled and memorable summer. ■



Carrabassett Valley Annual Summerfest

Submitted by Karen Campbell, Chair



Happy Birthday Town of Carrabassett Valley Summerfest 2022!



The Outerspace Band- Summerfest 2022

On August 6, 2022, we held the 16th Annual Carrabassett Summer Festival/50th Birthday Celebration. In case you haven't heard, Carrabassett turned 50 this past March 2022! The day was beautiful all be it an extremely hot summer day. This festival was started years ago by a bunch of long-time locals, looking to bring people to town in the summer. The festival benefits the Ayotte Scholarship Fund which supplies sporting gear and lessons to area youth. Since conception CSF has evolved and now invites multiple area fundraisers to come to participate and raise funds for their causes. This year we had the Mt. Abram



Parks family Susan Davis driving a Stanley Steamer Summerfest 2022

Lodge Masons and the Western Maine Center for Children selling lunch. The Stanley Museum gave rides in two Stanley Steamers. The Uncle Al fund sold t-shirts and hot sauce, and the Sugarloaf Ski Club and the Maine Ski & Snowboard Museum provided related information. The Carrabassett History Committee had a display that featured Richard Branson and Per Lindstrom in the Virgin Atlantic Hot Air Balloon ride that flew from Sugarloaf's Village on the Green to the British Isles in July of 1987. The memorabilia was on display at the festival to bring to light the upcoming release of the Town of Carrabassett Valley's History Book which will be released (hopefully) by the spring of 2023. (please contact the History Committee at cvhistory@roadrunner.com, for more information)

This Music Festival, Art Show, Fly in started off with 30 planes coming into the airport for breakfast. The goal was for 50 planes to fly over the Airport for the occasion, but despite our best efforts, we came up shy. It was a great effort by all

involved though! Meanwhile, next door @ KC's we set up tents, a stage, brought in porta-potties, picnic tables, twenty artists selling their wares, and Kenrick with his team of draft horses gave rides. There was face painting, food, and beverages, and two bands, including "The Outerspace Band". Two Stanley Steamers joined us and gave rides.

At the festival we started gathering items for a time capsule to be buried @ a later date. While we make plans for the burial of the time capsule in the near future, we are still collecting pieces to be included. If you have an item you would like to include, please bring it to the town office or reach out to Wendy Russell, Town Clerk at townofcv@roadrunner.com to make arrangements to include your contribution.

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed, helped, attended, danced, celebrated, and enjoyed our celebration. Put the first Saturday in August on your calendar, and we'll try not to have a 95-degree day in 2023. ■

Where did all the bikes come from!? There seem to be more and more bikes in the Valley each year. There is no doubt that the signature events that Sugarloaf, CRNEMBA, and the Town brought to the Valley this summer have been responsible for a big part of the increase. The Eastern States Cup (ESC), Carrabasset Backcountry Cycle Challenge (CBCC), NEMBAFest, and the Enduro World Series (EWS) brought thousands of riders to CVTrails and our community.

However, a lot can be chocked up to the fact that mountain biking may just be the perfect partner activity to skiing. It gets everyone outside and feeling that “good kind of tired” at the end of the day. It’s a great activity for the whole family that can be enjoyed by all ages. Whatever your ability level, you can challenge yourself, or just cruise around outside in the glory that is Carrabasset Valley.

I caught up with Sugarloaf’s Adam Craig for a recap of Sugarloaf’s two signature race events: *The ESC kicked off Sugarloaf’s gravity season with a great showing of riders from the Northeast and Canada. This was the second consecutive year this regional event was held at Sugarloaf. The race, one of four Enduro World Series qualifiers held in the U.S. this season, drew 330 Enduro racers and 140 Downhill racers for practice Friday-Saturday and racing Sunday, with great camping vibes all weekend. Next up was the event we’ve been building towards for two years, Round 6 of the Enduro World Series, following events in Whistler, BC, and Burke, Vermont. The 425 racers were split into elite and amateur groups, and every rider received one practice run on each of the five race stages. After (lift-assisted) practice most riders agreed this was some of the most unique, difficult, fun terrain they’ve*

seen on the World Series tour. Under the direction of Brenna Herridge and thanks to the support of 60 volunteers, Sugarloaf’s event and patrol staff, EWS Staff, and USA Cycling officials, the event went smoothly. Racers from around the world were challenged and inspired by the race courses, and some 3,000 spectators enjoyed the exciting action. Everyone seemed to appreciate Carrabasset Valley’s beautiful scenery and uniquely welcoming culture. Some of the closest competition was in the youth categories, and the event raised funds for the Town of Carrabasset Valley youth bike programming, the future is bright!

Special thanks to the Sugarloaf Mountain Operations, Ski Patrol, and Property Support departments for supporting mountain bike development. Our new MTB trail crew of Sam Rhoads and Carter Lawless worked tirelessly by hand and with a machine, this summer, accompanied by Ski Patrol (Connor, Sam, Nate, and Mocha) and volunteers at times, and we look forward to sharing the mountain trails with everyone willing to pedal up to them for the rest of the season, with more to come in 2023. None of this would be possible without the growing cycling culture here in Carrabasset Valley. Sugarloaf took a 20-yr hiatus from bike racing events. We’re excited to be back! . . . Thanks for the recap, Adam!

July saw the 11th edition of the Carrabasset Backcountry Cycle Challenge (CBCC). This has become an iconic race on the National Ultra Endurance Mountain Bike Race Series circuit. Registration was capped at 500 and sold out in only a few weeks to riders around the U.S. and Canada. This year saw a few new vendors, great local food, and offered an outstanding day of bike riding. Proceeds from the race are donated to

CRNEMBA for trail construction, maintenance, and local mountain bike programs. This event represents one of the most significant sources of funds for the trails.

NEMBAFest came to Carrabasset Valley for the first time in 2022 and

by all accounts, this singular North-eastern mountain bike event was a huge success.

More than 1,500 riders enjoyed the 21 skills clinics and 30 guided ride opportunities. Participants were treated to nearly 60 vendors exhibiting in the main event venue at the Outdoor Center and nightly concerts at the Sugarloaf base area. The concurrent Women’s Summit was a great success as well, drawing 70 attendees and 5 sponsors who donated products and funds to support speakers and programming. Thank you NEMBA, Sugarloaf, and the more than 100 volunteers for organizing and hosting such a great event!

These events and the undeniable appeal of mountain biking are only part of the story behind all those bikes. Unbeknownst to the casual visitor, an enormous effort has been underway behind the scenes to build the remarkable trail network that is CVTrails, bring us amazing events, and promote the uniquely inclusive riding community that exists here in the Valley.

No update can be complete without a recap of the work done by our professional trail crew and workday volunteers. Trail construction continued at an accelerated rate this season with efforts focused on the Stoney Brook area of the CVTrails network. Significant grants, coupled with funds from the Town and CRNEMBA have allowed an expanded trail crew and the collaborative purchase of a CAT 302Cr excavator, a small machine ideally suited for building and maintaining trails in our rugged Carrabasset Valley environment. Ownership of this piece of equipment will allow an extended build season and make possible completion of shoulder-season projects for which machine rental would be impractical. With yet a second excavator rented for a good part of this build season, significant progress has been made at Stoney Brook and by the time this newsletter goes to press, there will be two loops open for riding totaling about 2.5 miles in length. Professional trail builders Nate, Max, Will, Mike, Chas, Morgan, and Calvin, led by Spencer Lee



Riders having fun on CVTrails during a NEMBAFest Family Ride

EWS Racer On Course!



and Josh Tauses deserve a community shout-out for their hard work and dedication this summer. A cadre of volunteers supported weekend workdays and the newly created Thursday evening work sessions which have focused on bringing some older abandoned trails near the Outdoor Center back to life.

Winter biking continued to gain popularity with significant single-track regularly groomed by volunteers and opportunities to ride on the Maine Huts & Trails network and portions of the Sugarloaf Nordic network. Plans are in the works for some additional trail this coming season.

Aside from the usual mowing and raking, a

significant maintenance project was completed on the Snowbrook Trail this summer with more than 100 yards of material brought in by Alpine Earth Works to upgrade a perennially muddy section of the trail. Sugarloaf crews completed the earth-moving and tread forming work while CRNEMBA covered material costs; a solid example of the collaborative approach CVTC members have taken to ensure the best possible riding experience. Never heard of the CVTC? The Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee (CVTC) is charged with coordinating and guiding the development of trails, events, and culture centered around providing mountain biking opportunities for our residents, second homeowners, and visitors. This unique committee is comprised of representatives from the Town, CRNEMBA, Sugarloaf, and Maine Huts & Trails and operates within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) based on principles of mutual trust and respect.

The volunteer effort that continues to be invested in this endeavor cannot be overestimated. Why do we all do it? I was reminded of a big part of

the reason while recently guiding a family ride during NEMBAFest. Our group represented all ability and experience levels and ranged in age from my sixty years to five-year-old Caleb (who is undoubtedly destined to become a mountain biking phenom). We rode, we laughed, we talked about important stuff like the age of the surrounding mountains, how the big boulders around the pond got there, and why snakes like to sleep in the sun. Perhaps most importantly, we learned how a diverse group of people can all watch out for one another and just have a bloody good time riding bikes together! For a brief two hours, all was right in the world, no small thing these days.

Thanks to all the volunteers, landowners, community members, partners, and sponsors who have helped make all this possible. If you're not yet involved, consider becoming so. You can visit our website (carrabassettnemba.org) for a calendar of events, trail conditions, and other useful links. ■

~Ed Gervais (*with lots of help from our riding community*)

If you ride a bike, you are one of us.

News from the Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association

Submitted by Thom Johnston, President

CVOA is an active club of outdoor enthusiasts. Twenty-one years strong in 2022, our mission has been simple and straightforward from the beginning: To foster and promote the conservation of our natural resources and the creation of recreational opportunities in our region.

We have approximately 1,000 members, most of whom have contacts with Carrabassett Valley. Our most visible activity is the shooting range which is located on Route 27 north of the Sugarloaf Access Road. At our annual meeting this past March, our members recognized Neal Trask for his service to CVOA by naming the range in his honor. It is now known as the CVOA Neal Trask Shooting Range. This top-notch facility serves its members and is also open to the public on a scheduled basis. It offers rifle and pistol ranges, trap and five-stand fields, and an archery range. Last year we completed a berm project to improve the separation of our ranges. This spring and summer, we have upgraded the archery range. The range is open to the public during scheduled events and times. Some local and federal law enforcement

personnel use the range for practice and proficiency requirements. The Range holds weekend and mid-week Five Stand and trap shoots from May through October. Other special events and educational classes are listed on our Facebook page, CVOA Shooting Range, and our website, CVOArange.com. We are currently working on plans, perhaps for next summer, to modify the entrance to make it more accessible.

We hold many events, organized and led by our members and involving hundreds of people. We offer our members annual ski trips, hikes and snowshoe treks, day-long bike trips, golf outings, paddling, cookie swaps & potluck dinners, social gatherings, and bowling events. Our 2023 ski trips will take groups to Sun Valley in Idaho, Telluride in Colorado, and Whitefish in Montana. With easier crossing into Canada, we are also exploring a ski trip to Quebec City.

Another aspect of CVOA is its community service. Our members participate in the annual Route 27 cleanup. We made charitable donations to

Adaptive Outdoor Education Center to support its caregiver retreat, to the Town to

help support the restocking of the fishing pond, and to King's Kids. Our donation policy which guides our contributions states that requests must reflect our mission statement. It is available on our website and includes an application form, guidelines & criteria.

Because CVOA is entirely volunteer-run, we have been able to keep the annual dues at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples and families. Any member who would like to use the range pays an additional \$30. Our monthly newsletter, sent electronically to all current members, informs us of past and upcoming activities and news. If you are not already a member of CVOA, we welcome you to join us. We love to share our passion of having fun in the outdoors! Visit us at: www.cvoutdoors.com and look for us on Facebook. ■





Students from Hampshire College's Outdoor Program complete their Flagstaff Lake to Stratton Brook Hut-to-Hut trip to wrap up a wonderful Winter 21-22 season.

"What a dream it is to be in this beautiful place... Today we sit by the fire grateful for friendship and family. We sit among the trees, swallowed by mountains, grateful for the warmth, work, and togetherness MH&T has provided."

"Grateful for snowy mountains, fellow adventurers, and a caretaker who shares kindness & love with good food and a warm laugh."

"Ziggy Wiggy! We love this hut!"

Guests to the huts last winter from Maine, New England, and across the country contributed dozens and dozens of wonderful comments, just like these, celebrating the joys of winter in Carrabassett Valley, connecting with nature, and sharing a Maine Huts & Trails experience with family and friends - old and new.

With COVID suspending much of our hut experiences for a year and a half, we were delighted to

again welcome people inside the huts last winter for the much-loved overnights and delicious warm meals, a huge goal for MH&T in 2021 and 2022. We changed up a few things, streamlining our trip offerings, renting bunk rooms instead of individual bunks, and offering a hybrid combination of our full-service (meals provided) experience on the weekends and self-service (DIY) during the weekdays. Guest feedback was, indeed, consistently positive, celebratory – and hopeful.

While we, too, experienced staff hiring and retention challenges, our hut, and trail staff were fantastic, dedicated, and fun. They came to us from as close to home as Carrabassett Valley, North Anson, and Belgrade, and as far away as California and Arizona. Colleagues worked tirelessly and were always in good spirits to present and support the best possible Maine Huts & Trails experience.

But as anyone who peeked through the huts' kitchen doors observed, it wasn't always easy. As the winter season progressed and our hut staff ranks got thinner, our community stepped-in in any number of ways. You helped in the kitchen, kept the huts warm, swept, cleaned, and welcomed and smiled as every old friend and new came through the hut doors - a true "specialness" of the Maine Huts & Trails experience. We are very grateful to our MH&T community of friends, volunteers, and past hut staff who – you know who you are - gave of their time, talents, and enthusiasm to support the hut staff teams and demonstrated what a community resource Maine

Huts & Trails truly is.

It is for that reason, Maine Huts & Trails as a community resource, that staff, and board members remain laser-focused on strengthening the fundamentals for a strong, sustainable future for the organization. Our course is a marathon, not a sprint, and we are making real progress. We are fortified with a solid business plan that includes substantial changes to our expenses and revenue structure and prioritizes capital investments, including investments in our energy systems intended to increase the reliability of those systems, reduce costs, and lower our footprint on the environment.

We appreciate dearly the unyielding support of Carrabassett Valley's residents, leadership, staff, and – importantly – our landowner partners. We lean on the collective shoulders of our Carrabassett Valley Trail Committee partners: the town, Sugarloaf, and CRNEMBA, to expand, promote, and share a truly world-class recreation infrastructure and destination. We can't overstate the importance of partnerships in helping to get us where we are today. We are grateful to you all!

Our business plan calls for us to expand like an accordion over the course of the fall to prepare for the upcoming 2022-23 winter season. **We are hiring** full-time and part-time positions in the Kingfield office and the field, including overseeing winter operations, leading guest services, expanding partnerships, supporting hut and trail logistics, and grooming trails. We are going to keep a lot of what worked last winter and improve on the lessons learned.

This year Kingfield Elementary School, Carrabec High School, Friends School of Portland, Portland High School, Maine Coast Waldorf School, University of Maine Farmington, and multiple other schools and college-age programs from across New England enjoyed the huts as their classrooms and experiential education stage. As we look ahead, a truly exciting part of our plans is to make our western Maine landscape accessible, excite young minds, and unlock undiscovered passions that inspire people to take care of our environment and each other.

NEMBAFest-22 riders come together at Stratton Brook Hut.





Kingfield Elementary School students celebrate an adventure to Poplar Stream Hut.

Maine Huts & Trails is a non-profit experience and impact organization that depends on a combination of funding sources to operate, grow, and achieve our mission impact goals. The vision, goals, and aspirations that created Maine Huts & Trails are as alive and important today as they were at the organization's inception. Together we are creating an outdoor recreation destination of national significance. We have diversified and have made an unarguable positive contribution to economic development opportunities in Western Maine. We provide access to an amazing landscape for people of all ages and abilities, and we

lead by example as stewards of the environment and share a conservation ethic.

None of our past, present or future accomplishments would be possible without the many of you who have shared with us your generous financial support. If you'd like to help us in our next, exciting, forward-leaning chapter of our journey, visit us at <http://mainehuts.org> to donate or see a current list of volunteer opportunities. We thank everyone who has joined us and supported us on our journey to a strong, successful, and sustainable future. ■

Thank you!

News from the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center

Submitted by Kayla Miner



ADAPTIVE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER



The Adaptive Outdoor Education Center provides year-round adaptive recreation and education programs for people of all abilities. We have two locations in Maine - AOEC Carrabassett Valley where we provide low-cost, fully accessible lodging and programming, and our new AOEC Brunswick location which is a day-program and event center space, as well as home to other Maine nonprofits. The AOEC Brunswick is located on 17 acres, and we are currently developing the Enchanted Forest, which will include accessible hiking trails, a club house, and a wheelchair accessible disc golf course!

We have been so fortunate to call the Western Mountains of Maine home now for 7 years! Some of our local partnerships include the Anti-Gravity Complex to provide climbing programs, Sugarloaf Mountain for skiing, zip lining, and other activities, Petersen Water Skiing for water sports days, Mt Abram High School for programming, Carrabassett Valley Academy for alpine racing, and more! We are so appreciative of the support from the Town and community as we continue to grow our mission and reach! ■

**You can learn more about all that we do and how to get involved at:
www.adaptiveoutdooreducationcenter.org • infoAOEC@gmail.com • 207-237-2676**

Employee housing, new t-bar, and snowmaking upgrades top list of 2022 Sugarloaf investments

A busy summer at Sugarloaf was highlighted by high profile events and significant capital investments including the purchase of the Herbert Grand Hotel in Kingfield, which will provide expanded housing opportunities for Sugarloaf staff members beginning in the 2022/23 winter season.

Sugarloaf also partnered with CVA to install a new t-bar for race training and competitions, invested in substantial snowmaking upgrades that will increase snowmaking capacity by roughly 75%, and continued work on its West Mountain development, with initial construction expected to begin in late 2022 or early 2023.

"All of these projects address important needs for Sugarloaf and our community," Sugarloaf General Manager Karl Strand said. "We are eager to get started and excited about the direction we're headed in."

Summer Events

Competitive downhill mountain biking returned to Sugarloaf this summer with multiple high profile events, highlighted by the Enduro World Series on August 19-21. An estimated 3000 spectators took to the mountain to watch more than 500 of the world's best mountain bikers take on the new trails, designed and built by Adam Craig, a former Olympic mountain bike racer who is spearheading mountain bike initiatives at Sugarloaf.

In addition, the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center played host for the first time this summer to NEMBAfest — the annual New England Mountain Bike Association festival that draws thousands of mountain bikers from throughout the northeast.

Capital Investments

Herbert Hotel Purchase

The Herbert Grand Hotel is a historic hotel located in downtown Kingfield, featuring 26 guest rooms, communal areas, and a small restaurant. Sugarloaf entered into a purchase and sale agreement on the property in February 2022 and closed on the sale on April 11.

Sugarloaf expects Herbert to provide housing opportunities for as many as 40 seasonal staff over the course of the winter operating season.

"The Herbert is a beautiful building with a storied past, and we're excited to be stewards of this historically significant property," Strand said.

"Housing for seasonal staff has become a critical need for our community, and this investment is an important step in meeting that need. We're continuing to work with our community partners on additional solutions to meet the long-term housing needs of the community."

New Competition Surface Lift

Sugarloaf and Carrabassett Valley Academy are partnering to install a new, high-speed surface lift (t-bar) between the Competition Hill and Narrow Gauge trails, which will service alpine racers during training and competitions.

Currently, under construction, the new lift will be 1200 feet in length and rise 380 vertical feet, beginning just above Peavey Crosscut. The installation of the new lift will be coupled with trail widening on Competition Hill and snowmaking upgrades that will include fully automated snow guns.

These upgrades will create an ideal training environment for competitive alpine racers, providing more time on the snow by eliminating the need for athletes to ski all the way to the base of the mountain after each training run.

"Competitive ski racing is part of our DNA at Sugarloaf, and this project will only further Sugarloaf's standing as the premier alpine ski racing destination in the East," Strand said. "We are grateful for our partnership with CVA, which makes this project possible."

Snowmaking Upgrades

Sugarloaf's snowmaking system also saw significant upgrades this summer, with the construction of a new booster pump house on West Mountain, as well as the addition of new high-efficiency snow guns.

The new booster pump house is located near Bullwinkle's restaurant on West Mountain and will increase water pressure to snowguns across

the mountain. The new pump house, combined with the addition of 107 new high efficiency HKD snowguns will increase the number of guns the resort can run simultaneously under optimal conditions from roughly 130 to nearly 230. This will allow the resort to cover and open more terrain earlier in the season.

Sugarloaf has made significant investments over the past ten years to greatly improve the efficiency of its snowmaking system and has upgraded nearly its entire fleet of snowguns with high-efficiency HKD Impulse tower guns, which can make more snow with less energy than traditional ground guns.

West Mountain Expansion

Work also continued this summer on the highly anticipated West Mountain Expansion, which will see the development of roughly 450 acres on West Mountain with a new lift, new alpine trails with snowmaking, and roughly 200 new slopeside, ski-in/ski-out residences.

The project is currently in the permitting phase, with initial construction expected to begin in late 2022 or early 2023.

The new chairlift is a high-speed detachable quad that will be installed in summer 2023. The lift, formerly the Swift Current Quad from Big Sky Resort, will be completely retrofitted and rebuilt by Doppelmayr this summer and will feature a new drive, motor, electrical systems, and haul rope when it is installed at Sugarloaf. It will span 6000 feet and rise 1500 vertical feet from a base near West Mountain Road up to its unload terminal near Bullwinkle's restaurant. The lift will travel at 1000 feet per minute, completing the trip from bottom to top in roughly 6 minutes.

For additional information on the West Mountain Expansion, please visit www.sugarloaf2030.com ■

I know I have said this many times but I want to reiterate how proud I am to be a resident of Carrabassett Valley. We are fortunate to live in a community that is so progressive. A community that not only strives to help its own children but also the children of our neighboring communities.

Carrabassett Valley is also a community that recognizes and values strong partnerships with organizations that operate within our town. One such partnership is with the Sugarloaf Ski Club. Since the late 80s, the town of Carrabassett Valley has included in its budget several thousand dollars to be administered by the Sugarloaf Ski Club with the goal of helping area children with the costs associated with skiing and riding at Sugarloaf. The voters have approved \$20,000 for this purpose to be awarded during the 2023 season. The Town money is given exclusively to kids who reside in the RSU 58 and Stratton school districts. This area includes Eustis, Stratton, Strong, Kingfield, Carrabassett, Phillips, and several unorganized territories.

The money that the town provides is not the only money that is given out. The Sugarloaf Ski Club administers raise money for several funds that are designed to help local kids achieve their dreams of skiing and snowboarding. The funds and their

specific purposes are listed on our website www.sugarloafskiclub.org.

The most recent and largest of our funds is the 4-year-old King's Kids initiative. That fund has raised over a million dollars in 4 short years. This fund was started with a \$500,000 gift from the King & Jean Cummings Charitable Fund and matched with over \$500,000 in donations to a fund set up in the name of G. Norton Luce This endowment fund resides with the Maine Community Foundation and provides steady annual income for our financial awards. Because of the King's Kids initiative, we have been able to fund the "Boomauger" program which is a low-cost instructional program provided for local kids on Sunday afternoon. This program has grown from 40 participants to over 120 in just 4 seasons (including a season during Covid).

This season the club will award over \$80,000 to many deserving youngsters. Some of these children are as young as 3 years old and will participate in learn-to-ski and competition ski/ride programs such as Mini Cuffers, Bubblecuffers, CVAWP, and CVA. Money is also awarded to local schools to purchase Nordic equipment for students to use and to three area nonprofit ski slopes that provide low-cost access to the slopes.



Some of the children who receive scholarships will go on to compete and some have become Olympians. To get there it takes money. That is why, in the Spring, the Ski Club also awards what we call "Merit Grants" to our young skiers and Snowboarders who have excelled in their sport and need financial assistance in competing at a higher level.

We could not do as much as we do without the support of the Town of Carrabassett Valley. If you would like to learn more about our programs and how you can contribute, go to our website scholarship page. www.sugarloafskiclub.org ■

Thank You





The Sugarloaf Outdoor Center, over the past 12 months has seen a lot of activity from Nordic races, events, weddings, and mountain biking. Many of you may already know that this area that comprises the vast majority of the outdoor center is owned by the Town of Carrabassett Valley which Sugarloaf manages. The trails that emanate out from the Lodge create a network that connects multiple landowners who all share a passion for outdoor recreation and creates a unique experience for residents and visitors.

The key to the success of the OC, and the larger network of trails are the multiple relationships and consistent collaboration that exists. What always amazes people when I mention to them how the Golf Course, or the AGC, or the bike trails, or the Outdoor Center works, is that none of it would be possible without the support and considerable effort from the various stakeholders in the community. If you were to look at the Town's website under "Organizations", you will see a number of groups all partnering with the Town, all committed to creating venues and programming for residents, taxpayers, and guests alike. This list of groups, through their efforts of working together, are able to accomplish some remarkable things.

This past year, this spirit of collaboration has allowed the following to happen:

NEMBAFEST: The New England Mountain Bike Festival is the premiere annual event for New England's largest mountain bike association. This event which has traditionally been held in the Northeast Kingdom region of Vermont moved this season to Carrabassett Valley. The event exposed upwards of 1500+ riders and vendors to Carrabassett Valley's trails. Without the support of the Town, CRNEMBA, CV Trails, and others, it would have been impossible to make this great event happen.

Capital Region Nordic Alliance – Semper Fi: CRNA, based out of Albany, New York, the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center located right on the Outdoor Center access road, and the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center worked together to put on a week-long retreat for disabled veterans which culminated in a biathlon event. CRNA was so impressed with Carrabassett Valley and the support it received from all the local organizations that it has since relocated from Albany, NY to Maine and will continue to work with the AOEC and the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center to host programming for the disabled veteran community.

Snowmaking: Sugarloaf and the Town are currently in the process of planning for a snowmaking system on the 2.5k Race Loop for the 2024-25 season. This exciting project would help ensure a reliable snow surface from November into late march & April for race training and recreation.



Special Olympics: We are excited for the return of the Special Olympics which has been canceled for the past 2 years due to Covid. This event could not happen without the vast support it receives from Carrabassett residents & taxpayers, the AOEC, Maine Adaptive, Sugarloaf, multiple Maine law enforcement and public safety organizations, and the Town.

Future Projects: Over the remainder of the summer, Sugarloaf is working with the Town to rebuild the wax room and plan for electric vehicle chargers next season.

As you can see, while the OC is an amazing venue for Town residents and guests, it also serves as a vehicle to foster relationships and collaboration with multiple entities. We are thrilled to be a part of this vitality and look forward to the coming season and seeing you all at the Outdoor Center Lodge. ■

Sincerely,
Tom Butler, *Vice President of Skier Services*



Photos by Maine Drone Imaging



First Pearl -Sugarloaf Golf Club Hole 10

New Head Professional, Chaz Babin, arrived this summer ready to partner with Director of Golf: John DeBiase to ensure an overall fantastic experience for guests of the Sugarloaf Golf Club

The course opened in excellent shape due to the dedicated work of Ryan Blake: Superintendent, and Daniel Walker: Assistant Superintendent, and staff throughout the fall and winter.

The season kicked off on Memorial Day Weekend with a hugely successful Tin Mountain Round-Up to benefit the Stratton Food Bank.

The Sugarloaf Gold Club hosted the following events:

- *Titcomb Mountain Tournament*
- *Sugarloaf Ski Club Tournament*
- *Healthcare Classic*
- *State of Maine Championship*
- *American Junior Golf Association Tournament - 10th year!*
- *Seth Wescott Franklin County Chamber Tournament*
- *Swig'n Swing Tournament*
- *Fall Finale Golf Tournament* to benefit the Alden Macdonald Golf Foundation
- Head Professional Chaz Babin coordinated another successful Alden Macdonald junior golf instructional program!

Huge thanks to our amazing Pro Shop, Maintenance, and Strokes Bar & Grille staff for their hard work and dedication which contributed to making the Sugarloaf Golf Club a premiere golf destination in New England. Special thanks to our members and volunteers for their continued support. ■





“Clean water is not an expenditure of Federal funds; clean water is an investment in the future of our country.” ~ Bud Shuster

Happy Birthday Carrabassett

The 50th anniversary of Carrabassett Valley’s birth is shared by many other great endeavors. Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars, McDonalds McMuffin, Pong, the Skateboard, the Godfather, and the Digital watch are all 5 decades old this year. But, one endeavor that is dear to our team here at the Sugarloaf Water Association (SWA), is the half century old Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, the 20th century’s landmark water protection legislation. The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating pollution in U.S. waters. It gives Americans a right to waterways that are clean, biologically intact,



and safe for use. Maine’s own Ed Muskie was a prime architect of this landmark legislation. The Clean Water Act has served the lakes and rivers of Maine, including the Carrabassett, in countless ways.

The CWA was the cornerstone for the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 which continues to regulate drinking water in the United States today and which governs the water quality delivered to you when you are on the mountain.

The Cost of Water

Like many other basic services today, the cost of treating and delivering water will increase.

The costs to develop and protect source water, to treat, store, and distribute safe and reliable potable water are enormous. The SWA seeks grants and financial aid made possible through legislation like the CWA and Safe Drinking Water Act, whenever appropriate; however our water customers will always be the primary source of revenue for operating and maintaining the Sugarloaf resort community water system. The SWA is committed to adjusting rates and financing plans to support the full cost of providing the Sugarloaf resort community with safe reliable water into the future.

Like many other basic services today, our usage rates for delivering safe and dependable water will have to increase over time.

2022 Activities

This past year the Water Association has worked on a number of projects and plans that will improve our resort community’s public water system. These water system improvements include:

- Construction of a new water storage tank above the Timbers utilizing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program to obtain a low interest loan with partial principle forgiveness. Construction is slated to begin in the spring.
- The SWA obtained a 2022 Capacity Development grant through the Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) to explore for additional groundwater well locations to add to our supply mix.
- In cooperation with the mountain operations





team, the SWA will bury a new 4,000 foot water line from a well just above Bullwinkle's restaurant to our reservoir above Sandy River Circle.

- We have upgraded our surveillance camera server, added a camera and licenses with a 2021

Water System Asset Security (WSAS) grant from the Maine DWP.

- Replaced a 500 foot security fence protecting our Brackett Brook reservoir with a 2022 (WSAS) grant.
- After a successful 8 year rehabilitation program on a well that had developed elevated levels of chloride and sodium from years of stockpiling road deicing salt in the wellhead area, the Maine DWP has approved the reconnection of the well to our water system.

The Value of Water

When you consider the critical needs addressed by a community's water system, tap water will always be a tremendous value. You simply cannot put a price on a service that delivers public health, fire protection, economic development and quality of life.

Have Questions?

If you have questions regarding the Sugarloaf Water Association, please visit Sugarloafwater.net for contact information or to send us a message. Our website also includes a resource menu with links to many trusted drinking water resources like:

- Our annual Water Quality Report
- Local and federal regulatory agencies
- Water advocacy organizations
- Application for Service
- SWA's FAQ Page

Happy 50th Carrabassett Valley From Sugarloaf Water Association ■

News from the Lagoons

Submitted by David S. Keith, Sanitary District Supt.

Since the inception of this newsletter, whenever I read the masthead, "Carrabassett Valley Connections," I chuckle. The reason for this, I'm still growing up but, in my early years, I remember TV shows about people making connections. The Dating Game is a standout. This "making connections" theme has maintained its importance in American entertainment for decades. The Bachelor, The Bachelorette, and shows about hiring consultants to find your perfect mate. Even the internet got involved with match-making services; websites like eharmony, Match.Com, Christian singles, Date My Age, Ok-Cupid, Tinder, Grindr(!?), It's Just Lunch, Mexican-Cupid, Millionaire Matchmaker, and from the Ukraine... Girls Looking for Older Men. If you are becoming concerned about my apparent vast knowledge of this subject, rest assured that I Googled an index of the aforementioned sites while doing research for this article. I have never visited one

of these sites nor hired their services, although, the Ukrainian site sounds interesting and I'm a bit curious about Grindr (!?) - and my 8-minutes have elapsed.

The Carrabassett Valley Sanitary District understands a lot about Connections, more specifically "Sewer Connections". When the District was chartered by the Board of Environmental Protection in 1993, the sewage collection system on Sugarloaf comprised of 800 residential connections and 30 commercial/institutional connections. In 1996, the number of permit applications for sewer connections increased. In the 10 years between 1997 and 2007, growth on the Mountain was outstanding. During that period, there were 342 new sewer service connections, 192 of them made in a 4-year run starting in 2003.

On January 1, 2022, we started the year with 1299 residential sewer connections, the district

is estimating the number to increase to 1305 by the end of 2022. This relatively steady growth has allowed the district to maintain very stable sewer rates. Rates, that when compared to others across the state, are lower than most communities including seasonal communities and other comparable(s). The steady growth within the district has been the key factor for our financial stability and effective operations.

Currently, on mountain, there are less than 85 unimproved lots available for new residential construction; all but one are privately owned. Most of these vacant lots are within Riverside and VOTG with a few scattered around Mountain-side. Therefore, the District is enthused with the preliminary plans for the Sugarloaf West Mountain Development. We are looking forward to the lift-off of these new residential offerings and wish all parties involved great success. ■



In August 2021, we received a 100% (\$632,500) grant from the FAA to cover the cost of adding two new taxiways that will enable us to add more hangars at the airport. There were 26 people on the list requesting hangars. In the late fall, construction began by cutting the trees in the area of development. Final approval and permits for the project were received in April 2022 and

construction began. Construction is substantially complete at this writing with only the painting of the center line on the pavement remaining. This is scheduled in the next few weeks as weather allows. Utilities for the new area are being designed and are expected to be available in the next month or so.

Three people have entered into a land lease with the Town to build box hangars along the west side of the development. Those hangars should be constructed within the next year. Additional space is available for ten nested T hangars between the two taxiways. This development is expected to proceed in the 2023 building season.

Hangar fourteen is nearing completion as I write, and occupancy is expected to take place soon after construction completion.

Life Flight of Maine has requested a frequency change for our AWOS station (Surface Weather Observation Station) so it won't interfere with communications around the airport on the same frequency. The FAA has approved the change, but the FCC has not, so this enhancement is stalled at this time. Life Flight has been in communication with the FCC and hopes to resolve the delay soon.

The FAA has provided Maine DOT with the Grant Offer for the AWOS-III statewide project. This would upgrade our AWOS-AV to an AWOS-III which includes ceiling height. An AWOS-III also is allowed more choices for frequencies than an



AWOS-AV but the project is just beginning so it will be some time before implementation.

In conjunction with the Carrabassett Valley Summer Festival the airport once again hosted a "Fly In" and "Young Eagles Event" on August 6th. For the first time this year, the "Fly In" included a breakfast for pilots and their passengers on the airport. This was a big attraction to pilots, and we had about 30 airplanes arrive for the event. About 22 airplanes were raising funds for Make A Wish. Local pilots donated rides for 30 children from ages 8-17 (Young Eagles). We had a volunteer ground staff that kept things organized and safe for the participants. There was a flight simulator available for children to practice their flying skills before or after their flight. All Young Eagles received an Airport T-shirt and a logbook and a certificate.

Two Flight schools continue to operate and train pilots at the airport with several new student

pilots learning to fly, adding an endorsement, or maintaining proficiency. Soon there will be aircraft maintenance available on the field in hangar #14.

In addition to the private development of hangars, several projects are being considered and prioritized for the airport in the next few years. Winter is hard on the pavement at the airport. To preserve it, crack sealing is common which extends the life of the pavement. The ramp area in front of the existing hangars needs sealing in the next year or so to prevent further deterioration. The runway cracks were sealed about four years ago which has extended its life substantially, however, it is showing a lot of deterioration due to the freeze-thaw cycles it has endured. Runway rehabilitation is expected to be required in the next few years. There is consideration of building an arrival/terminal building using grant money from the FAA Airport Terminal Program.

The airport receives an allocation of \$150,000 per year from the FAA's CIP (Capital Improvement Fund) normally. However, additional funding allocation via the BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) AIG (Airport Infrastructure Grants) is now available. All projects require approval for funding by the FAA which is a detailed process that takes many months and many meetings to receive approval. ■

News from the Carrabassett Valley ATV Club

Submitted by John McCartherin, Secretary-Treasurer

C.V. ATV Club Still Hopeful For Trail Reopening

Hope springs eternal.

That probably best sums up our feelings as we finish up another year without operations of our 35-mile trail system in and around Carrabassett Valley.

As you probably remember, the use of 27 miles of those trails was temporarily shut down in mid-season 2019 by the Penobscot Indian Nation, the landowner of about half the land in the town. Because of the pandemic and a subsequent decision by the Penobscot Nation, that continued to be the case through 2022.

The Carrabassett Valley ATV Club has been continuing to seek permission to reopen our trails, while at the same time defining our construction and maintenance program, identifying our equipment needs, and setting in place the mechanisms to finance all these activities.

Traditionally, our season has run from roughly Memorial Day weekend to the start of the Maine Deer Hunting Season, around the first of November.

So far, there have been no indications of if and when decisions about reuse might be made.

On the construction and maintenance side, Trail master Pete Boucher has identified eight different categories of needed construction, which include major maintenance or reconstruction of five bridges. These needs could change once we're able to get on the ground and see what additional damage was caused over this period of the closure.

At the moment we're looking at a total budget requirement of about \$20,000, most of which will be funded by state and local grants.

A previous budget included a request of \$15,000 to purchase the club's first major piece of equipment, a Polaris Ranger 1000, a heavy-duty, three-place ATV capable of hauling heavy loads of equipment and supplies up into the mountainous terrain that comprises most of our trails. Over the years members and volunteers have been reimbursed for the use of their machines, which generally were not of a heavy-duty nature. And infrequently we have borrowed a John Deer Gator with increased capability from the J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club but its availability

has been limited.

The cost of the ATV to the club was about \$7,500, less than half of the estimated \$19,000 list price thanks to the generous help from Friend & Friend Recreational Vehicles in Ellsworth and the Town of Carrabassett Valley and its Recreational Endowment Fund.

Unfortunately, the new machine was ordered prior to the trail closings and has seen little use since its arrival.

In anticipation of that purchase, the club, largely with volunteers, built a 12 X 20 foot workshop and garage on town property adjacent to the snowmobile club several years ago.

While I know many ATV-ers have been disappointed about the absence of riding in our network, it's important to note that for over ten years the Penobscot Indian Nation generously provided us the opportunity to develop our network on their beautiful property. It's important, while we continue to hope for reopening, to remember that and to continue to appreciate the gift they have provided to us over the years. ■

Carrabassett Valley Academy (CVA) would like to wish the Town of Carrabassett Valley a happy 50th and to thank the town, its residents, visitors, and taxpayers for their continued support of CVA.

At CVA, we just celebrated our 40th year and thank the community for celebrating along with us. This year, we received the best birthday present ever – our dreams being realized. For years, we’ve dreamt of expanding the training and race venue on Competition Hill and installing a surface lift for our athletes and visiting teams. We’ve looked forward to more training lanes, quicker turnaround times, increased snowmaking capacity, and early-season access to on-snow training. Now, that reality is here, with the help of the Podium Project campaign.

What is The Podium Project? The Podium Project is about "raising the bar" for student-athletes, and the community, by building the country's best ski and snowboard training venue, right here at Sugarloaf. It takes two excellent training and racing trails, Narrow Gauge and Competition Hill, to the next level by adding a high-speed surface lift and state-of-the-art snowmaking.

Thanks to the help of our sponsors, and the Town of Carrabassett Valley for their generous support, venue expansion and construction has already begun, and the surface lift will be spinning this winter. At 1200' length and 380' vertical gain, the new, high-speed surface lift will be located just above the Peavey Crosscut between Narrow Gauge and Comp Hill. Comp Hill will also be widened to accommodate more training space. Installing a high-speed T-bar will optimize athletes' time on snow and greatly improve training. Coupled with higher density snowmaking, and trail-widening, this will provide an ideal training environment for our student-athletes. The Podium Project will benefit the community, too. By creating a premier race training venue, CVA and Sugarloaf will attract more families and more talented athletes, who will invest in, and support, the local community. Associated growth will create an economic stimulus for local shops, restaurants, hotels, and other small businesses.

So how is the project progressing? The Podium Project is well underway! Trail work has already begun and Fall Line Construction, LLC has begun the installation of the T-bar and snowmaking

equipment. If you're out on the hill over the next few weeks, pop on by to see the progress!

The training venue transformations are funded through The Podium Project campaign, with donations from our generous supporters, including the Town of Carrabassett Valley, the Sugarloaf Ski Club, Sugarloaf, and many CVA friends, alumni, and parents. Colby College and the University of Maine Farmington are also important partners helping to make this dream a reality. For more information on The Podium Project campaign, go to www.gocva.com/the-podium-project.

Thank you to the Town of Carrabassett Valley for your continued support of CVA. We look forward to ringing in your 50th year with you! ■



40 Years Loving God and Neighbor

Welcome to Sugarloaf! Home to skiers, hikers, bikers, snowmobilers, and outdoor enthusiasts, who are forever young! As Sugarloaf Area Christian Ministry celebrates 40 years of spiritual and community service in and around Carrabassett Valley, the feeling is that maybe some of us are not so young anymore.

The beautiful chapel we have the honor and privilege to worship in was established in 1967 through the efforts of Dick Bell and other members of the Ski Club. During the fall of 1982, representatives of the Kingfield United Methodist Church and Sugarloaf locals seeking to address the spiritual needs in the community, and spirited by Reverend Skip Schwartz, established Sugarloaf Area Christian Ministry. Worship services began the first Sunday in December that year and Skip, the skiing minister, brought worship to the slopes via Downhill Worship, which is still provided today. Skip moved on to Loon Mountain, NH in the spring of 1990 which brought more changes to the Ministry.

Bill and Louise Chase of Carrabassett Valley, longtime members of the Ministry with Skip, were part of a search team for prospective new pastors. After a bag-lunch interview with

two young, and married, ministers, Pam and Earle Morse in Farmington, Bill summarized the interview in these few words; "We hit the jackpot!" Under their leadership and association with the American Baptist Churches of Maine, services began to be held year-round. Sugarloaf Area Christian Ministry continues to be the only year-round church in the valley. Our church is not measured by how many seats are filled on Sunday mornings, but by how we share and relate the good news of the Kingdom through words and actions beyond the chapel walls.

Throughout the years, the Ministry has sought to provide spiritual and personal support and encouragement to all ages and has been devoted to many volunteer community outreach services that have helped make a difference in preserving the quality of life in our mountain community we call home or a home away from home. No more was this synergy realized than the overwhelming response to the Ministry-initiated 2020 Commu-

Downhill Worship Service offers skiing and worship at Sugarloaf



Skip Schwartz conducts a Downhill Worship Service at Sugarloaf/USA.

nity Fund, the day after operations were shut down at Sugarloaf, on March 16, 2020, due to COVID-19. Financial donations, totaling more than \$120,000 from more than 300 supporters, provided cash assistance to over 100 area residents who'd applied and were all personally contacted by Rev. Dr. Pam Morse who administered the fund.

In-person attendance for Sunday Worship interrupted by COVID restrictions did not discourage the meeting of the faithful. Pam and Earle brought us together for worship remotely via ZOOM and rather than reducing the numbers attending worship, ZOOM increased attendance and introduced our Ministry to others who "clicked on" for the first time and are now full members. We know through faith and experience, that when a door of opportunity closes, God directs us to door number 2, 3, or elsewhere.

You are all invited to join us Homecoming Weekend, October 8-9, 2022, as we celebrate 40 years of loving God and Neighbor. There will be activities for young and old, and two services on Sunday. The traditional Sunday Worship at the Bell Chapel at 9:00 AM and the outdoor service at THE AMP at 11:00 AM. Please browse our informational websites for further information and available services at www.sugarloafministry.com and www.cvalleynetwork.org and/or "like us" on Facebook. ■

Come when you can, come as you are, all are welcome at God's house.





because we are a valuable source of local info not available anywhere else, for anyone looking to make Carrabassett their destination.

We ARE the Insiders on the Outside around here.

Started by Sugarloaf/USA as part of the Marketing Department in 1979, WSKI-TV became independently owned and operated by Snowfields Productions in 1986 following Chapter 11

'Hill' and throughout their time at Sugarloaf.

In October 2021 WSKI recorded, broadcast, and shared online the Sugarloaf Homecoming presentation to enable anyone interested, to hear and see what was said, safely, as ongoing COVID safety measures affected such events.

Throughout the sickness that came with the winter season, WSKI delivered our live shows every weekend and daily during vacation weeks, except for one weekend. Out of caution due to COVID, we kept the studio clear of others that Saturday and Sunday morning, while providing our weather & trail update as we do daily all winter in our pre-packaged Mountain Report morning shows that air 7:30-9:00 mid-week. That was a first, and we truly hope it was the last time our viewers miss out on our scheduled live Mountain Report on both Spectrum channel 17 and streaming at wskitv.com.

We Turn Guests into Locals.

WSKI-TV 17 and wskitv.com continue to serve Carrabassett Valley and our entire region with beneficial information and entertainment to improve our viewers' time in the Maine High Peaks.

Our job is to ensure guests have the best possible experience, so they return, again and again, stabilizing the local economy with the growth of more year-round jobs.

As we have with decades of audience measurement system ratings, WSKI remains the most watched TV station in our market. Our Watch & Win live shows and the Feb. vacation Scavenger Hunt, for example, enable our viewers to engage with us in fun ways unique to WSKI.

Our online audience grows greater every year

Bankruptcy by SMC in March of that year. Businesses from throughout the region and the State were able to get their message to our viewers on cable from that time.

Our sponsors keep us on the air; without the support of our advertisers, WSKI would not exist. We work hard to ensure their results from being seen on WSKI keep their support coming year after year.

WSKI is very effective as an 'In-Your-Face' way for Sugarloaf Retail, Food & Beverage, Real Estate, Perfect Turn, and other assets of Mountain Living, to present options and news that helps both their guests and their bottom line, because television makes people want what they didn't know they wanted!

'Know Before You Go'

Andy and Greg get Out & About to visit local businesses and attractions throughout the year for bonus info from sponsors to our viewers, in addition to Andy's range of videos of outdoor activities and events to explore.

A highlight of our live shows, our First Tracks Report with Kip Files (Seth Nickerson as back-up) remains hugely popular; before the lifts open, a ride up with Patrol for a really accurate account of conditions before 8 am and again later in the show, to give viewers an idea of what to expect, how to dress, where to head to first, and more. It is a true asset to the Sugarloaf experience, maybe even more so on those mornings, viewers are advised to 'have another cup of coffee before hurrying out!

WSKI's Quad Cam live stream is another way we let viewers anywhere around the world see in real time as well as timelapse, the weather, including temperature and wind details, the SuperQuad chairlift, and that fabulous view of the Mountain 24/7/365.

New businesses or 'weekenders' with ties to businesses whose hometowns might be Portland, or Boston, or Bangor are invited to use WSKI to



We especially enjoy sharing our interviews with Mountain Operations, from Snow-making to Ski Patrol. Our viewers consequently better understand what goes on behind the scenes and what to expect and why, on the

WSKI interviewing Dave Cota at the Town Park



WSKI Camera Equipment at the Outdoor Center

get the word out in an affordable and effective (and fun) way! Our proven effectiveness comes from our ability to target potential customers in a place where their minds are more receptive, free from the other distractions of Life At Home. We welcome new advertisers at any time of the year.

If you know of anyone who cannot get WSKI-TV 17 with Spectrum cable, PLEASE contact us so we can work with their Portland office to provide our information and entertainment. e-mail us: wskitv@wskitv.com

No matter where you are, view our latest local content on our YouTube channel: Snowfields 17.

PLEASE, when enjoying our backyard, Leave NO Trace.

Responsible recreation means educating our viewers that as local users ourselves, these intentions are of utmost importance. We at WSKI live by these principles of respecting our Planet, and the Landowners where we recreate. Please join us in that mindset when having fun anywhere in our region, which includes respecting all PIN Land closures throughout CV.

We are very grateful to CV residents who voted to continue the Town's support for our services! Places To Go. People To Know. Stay tuned; you WILL enjoy your time in Carrabassett more with WSKI. Thank you. ■

Now, Go Play Outside! *We'll see you out there.*

Maines Northwestern Mountains

Submitted by Doug Archer

As in past years, FABA, dba Maine's Northwestern Mountains, would like to express our sincere thanks to the Carrabassett Valley Taxpayers and the Board of Selectmen for supporting their Visitor's Center with a \$20,000 investment in 2022. As we all know, 2020-2021 were especially challenging years for all of our members. We are proud to serve Maine's tourism industry and to represent you, our taxpayers, and members, who make Maine a great place to live and visit.

"A study done at Bentley University says that the printed travel guides offer:

1. **Higher comprehension and recall than digital ads**
2. **Slower, more thoughtful reading than digital ads**
3. **Less distractions (pop-ups, cookies, etc.) than digital ads**
4. **More focused reader attention than digital ads**
5. **A safer place for readers than digital ads**
6. **70% of travelers pick up guides & brochures once they're in the market**

In the survey, the "International Association of Visitor Info Providers" expressed a preference for printed information over digitally presented information and that includes millennials. Travel Guides have also shown a 15% increase year over year and won't disappear at the click of a button!"

The Maine Office of Tourism statistics shows that there were 15.6M visitors to Maine in 2021, creating 14 billion dollars in revenue, thus supporting 143,000 jobs. Maine is home to over 150,000 small businesses, with about half of all workers in Maine employed by small businesses or owning a small business. With approximately 200+ small and diverse businesses in our Region, it is extremely necessary in the marketing of Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region to attract both tourists and potential residents to this area as a popular destination to live, work and recreate.

Maine's Northwestern Mountain's social media presence has increased dramatically! Comparing the six-month period January 1 - June 30, 2022, to July 1 - December 31, 2021, our Facebook page reach has increased 75%, page visits have increased 59% and new page likes have increased 81%. As these growing statistics show, with your support, it is important that we continue to promote the marketing of our communities and that member businesses grow and prosper, which is vital to Maine's Northwestern Mountains!

We continue to market our website thru printed ads in Visit Maine, Maine's Lakes & Mountains, Discover Maine, and West Coast Maine, and digital marketing thru our Facebook page. So far this year, our efforts have generated 23,514 new user visits to our website.

As a non-profit, member funded organization, one priority remains, serving as the voice of our members and to show support for the businesses who have always been there to support their communities and promote tourism, economic development, and home ownership which will grow the local economy. As visitor's come to our Region, it is imperative to provide them with information they need to experience all that we have to offer and want to come back again and again. Maine's Northwestern Mountains Visitor's Center is the hub of this Region, where visitors can get in-person and print information along with local recommendations for all their individual activities!

Doug and Joni look forward to your visit to our Visitor's Center, 1612 Carrabassett Drive, and the opportunity to discuss how your support and taxes are contributing to the future of Maine's Northwestern Mountains. You can pick up a copy of our newest Visitor's Guide and take home a sample of Carrabassett Valley Breakfast Blend coffee for your morning enjoyment. We can also be reached at 207-235-6008 or on our website: www.mainesnorthwesternmountains.com.

REMEMBER: ONE SMALL BUSINESS CANNOT MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE A STORM! ■

Connections

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www.carrabassettvalley.org

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Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Wendy Russell
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Code Enforcement/Assessing

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Mark Lopez
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For Emergencies Call: 237-3200 or 911

Annual Newsletter

from the town of Carrabassett Valley

Sugarloaf Explorer 2022 – 2023 Season

Submitted by Bill Aikey

Greetings from Sugarloaf Explorer,

This year represents the 15th season of the Explorer program. Since the beginning of the 2007 – 2008 season, we have experienced tremendous growth in the service area, the size of the fleet, and the people we serve. We've doubled the number of buses we operate on weekends, from 7 to 14, and increased our overall ridership from 75,000 in 2007 – 2008, to 145,000 for the 2019 – 2020 season (the last real season). In addition, in the past 2 years, we have purchased 13 new buses that are fully ADA compliant. We also added the Sugarloaf Express in 2017 to provide much needed employee transportation for Sugarloaf which operates between Farmington and Carrabassett Valley. Our thanks to the FTA, State of Maine, Town



of Carrabassett Valley, Sugarloaf Mountain, local businesses, and property owners for their continued support for the Sugarloaf Explorer and Express services.

After over 2 years of COVID, we're hoping to return to some type of normalcy for the upcoming season. Our plan is to resume evening service on Friday and Saturday nights. We also plan to add another route this year to accommodate the continued growth of the mountain. This will raise our number of routes to 14 on Weekends. These proposed changes are based on our ability to hire enough drivers and support staff. As everyone is well aware, the labor market remains tight. This is especially true for CDL drivers. Recruiting has already begun for the new season with CDL training being offered and paid for by WMTS, as well as sign-on bonuses for new hires and retention bonuses to returning staff.

The 2022 - 2023 Schedule will be available at the beginning of November, online @SugarloafExplorer.com, and by following the link on Sugarloaf's website. Printed copies will be available on the buses and around the resort.

Be sure to follow us online @SugarloafExplore.com and on Twitter @SugarloafBus for all the latest information. ■

Happy 50th Anniversary Carrabassett Valley!