

# Carrabassett Valley Connections

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**Board of Selectmen:** Robert Luce, Chair • John Beaupre • Lloyd Cuttler • Karen Campbell • Jay Reynolds

## Large Land Ownership in Carrabassett Valley

Submitted by Dave Cota

Carrabassett Valley is, of course, home to the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Resort and home to many other land based recreational amenities both public and private. Our Town also includes thousands of acres of productive forest land. We thought you might be interested to know about the ownership of this forestland and the owner's goals and objectives for this land. Most of the private land described below is classified under Maine's Tree Growth Tax Law. This enables the owner to pay substantially reduced property taxes

based on a complicated State formula based on long-term forest productivity versus current market value of the land. Tree Growth Classification is critical in maintaining forest lands in Maine. The State does provide some reimbursement to municipalities in Maine based on the amount of Tree Growth acreage within each community.

Carrabassett Valley is comprised of two former townships, Jerusalem and Crockertown that total approximately eighty square miles or 51,000 acres. This makes our community one of the

largest towns in Maine in area. Of this acreage, approximately 43,100 acres are owned by six of the largest landowners in Carrabassett Valley. These ownerships are depicted on the attached map. I discussed the goals and objectives for their ownership with representatives of each of owners and the following is a brief summary of the discussion.

**Penobscot Indian Nation (23,000 acres):** The Penobscot Nation purchased this land from Dead River ...*Continued on page 13*

## Planning for a New "Mountain" Fire Station Moving Forward Construction Planned for 2020

Submitted by Dave Cota

**We are pleased to say that Sugarloaf has generously agreed to donate the approximate two-acre lot that has been selected to build the new proposed fire station.** The site is off the Sugarloaf Access Road near the Sugarloaf salt-sand building. A building committee has been very involved this past year in the planning process for the proposed facility. The Town hired Plymouth Engineering to design the building and the Town has hired H.E. Callahan of Auburn as the construction manager

for this project (the same company the Town hired to build our Library/Community Center building). Company owner (and Sugarloaf), Christine Kendall, has been working with the Committee in developing an estimated cost for this project which is planned to be presented to the Town voters for consideration at the March 2020 annual Town meeting. If approved, it is anticipated that this facility will be built in 2020.

The new fire station, as currently designed, will be 84' x 76' or 6,384 sq. ft. and will have two



double deep truck bays and one single deep bay. Other features will include a training room, radio room, chief's offices for both Fire and Police, sleeping quarters, day room and kitchen, laundry and cleanup room, hose ...*Continued on page 5*

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Visit us online at:  
[www.carrabassettvalley.org](http://www.carrabassettvalley.org)

## News from the Town Manager

Submitted by Dave Cota, Town Manager

Another ski season will soon be upon us. We certainly hope it will match last year's incredible snow year! Our Town government has been very busy with many projects and initiatives. Topping the list of the larger items is planning involved with building a new "mountain" fire station in 2020. Other projects include completing a large airport obstruction removal (land clearing) project, developing proposed marijuana business regulation ordinances for Town voter's consideration, and the Town purchase of the so called 250-acre "Ted Jones Lot".

We are pleased to report that Sugarloaf has generously agreed to donate an approximate two-acre lot that has been selected to build the new proposed "mountain" fire station. The site is located off the Sugarloaf Access Road near the Sugarloaf salt-sand building. This is an exciting project that we look forward to (see related article). We have completed our airport obstruction removal project that consisted of clearing approximately five acres of trees around the airport that penetrated the F.A.A. required 20:1 runway approach slope. This eliminates F.A.A. safety concerns (see 'Airport News' article)

After a long process, the Town's Marijuana Business Regulation Committee has produced two ordinances that the Board of Selectmen have accepted with the intention of holding public hearing(s) in the near future. It is anticipated that these ordinances will be considered by the voters

at the annual March Town Meeting. The committee held ten committee meetings, two public hearings and an extensive public survey. The result is a draft 'Business Licensing Ordinance' and a draft ordinance that would make the necessary changes to the Town's zoning ordinance to accommodate the business licensing ordinance and to allow a limited amount of marijuana businesses. The Committee's draft ordinances do not reflect a recommendation as to whether or not the Town should approve these ordinances, but they reflect what the Committee believed to be representative of what should be voted upon based on all the public input and process to date. A copy of the current draft ordinances are on the Town's website ([www.carrabassetvalley.org](http://www.carrabassetvalley.org)) and updates will also be posted on this website.

At an October 14th special Town meeting, voters approved the purchase of the so called 250-acre "Ted Jones Lot" located approximately one-mile south of Valley Crossing. While we will continue to work with the Penobscot Indian Nation to obtain a long-term right of way easement to the property (approximately one-mile on the old railbed that extends south off the Carriage Road), this purchase has the potential to provide significant benefits for all parties involved. The Town is purchasing this land for \$180,000 (well below market value). As part of the original proposal, the non-profit Longfellow Mountains Heritage Trail (LMHT) is going to obtain a conservation easement on the property which allows the Town

to obtain a \$30,000 grant from the Maine Community Foundation thus reducing the Town's net purchasing cost to \$150,000 plus approximately \$10,000 in closing costs (survey, legal work, etc.). The conservation easement restricts the use

of the property to non-motorized uses (mountain biking, Nordic skiing, hiking, etc.) except e-bikes which will be allowed. It also allows the Town to manage the land for forest management purposes and it will allow LMHT to build a section of trail through the property that could eventually link Carrabasset Valley with Kingfield.

Other recent projects and priorities include continued mountain bike trail development, improvements to the Outdoor Center (see related article), Town Park and the Information Center along with sprucing up the Transfer Station and continued assistance to both the J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club and the Carrabasset ATV Club (see related articles). The Town's mountain bike trail crew has created another wonderful trail at the Outdoor Center (the Par 3 trail) and completed considerable trail maintenance. Sugarloaf and the Town were involved with the development of a new trail and related features on the "Snubber" ski life line. Both new trails add to an already impressive trail system which brings more and more people back here in the summer and fall months.

We have recently built an addition to the Town Park pavilion primarily for the Town's popular summer Outdoor Adventure Camp and we have recently built a storage garage for our growing recreational programs at the Town Office complex. We finally installed a new well and septic system at the Information Center and plan to make some interior improvements to the building in the near future.

Lots of happenings in our Town! Please take the time to read the various updates in this newsletter from our Town departments and entities, local clubs and organizations, Sugarloaf and our many partners. Collaboration is alive and well in Carrabasset Valley. Finally, we owe a huge thank you to Marcia White who is "retiring" from running the Town's summer Outdoor Adventure Camp. So many youths in our area have participated in this amazing program in the twenty plus years of Marcia's leadership tenure. Due to her dedication and hard work, this program is the best of its kind anywhere.

Hope to see you on the slopes this winter. ■

## News from the Code Enforcement Department

Submitted by Code Enforcement Officer Chris Parks

I am happy to report, though some of the affected owners might not be as excited, that eight replacement septic systems occurred this season eliminating those circa 1970's steel waste tanks and systems installed before modern rules where developed. Many more systems remain to be updated but I trust that will come with time. This might not seem very exciting, but it means that eight properties (plus their neighbors) can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that the toilet will flush and that the water from the sink tap is protected from old malfunctioning systems. Building inspection and code enforcement has kept me busy since I officially took office in January as Billy phased out of that role and the days pass quickly as I work to greet those who visit with questions of where their septic tank is located, whether they can build this or that, or what's going on in their neighborhood.

Across town, several homes are wrapping up and readying for occupation this fall while a handful have started with contractors working to welcome the owners as soon as they can complete work. Development on the Mountain is rumored to have new development proposals in the near future with the wholesome ownership of Boyne. Elsewhere, several of our large landowners continue to manage their timberlands with ongoing forest harvesting. Additionally, many existing homes and

condos units have also seen substantial interior renovations, which allow their owners to enjoy the investments they have made as either fulltime or part-time residents in our community and enjoy life as it should be. That being said, I encourage all of you to check around your property and spend a little time during the year, whichever season, ensuring the deck steps are solid, your septic tank has been pumped in recent memory, or that the foundation drains are clear and helping keep ground water out of your investments during all seasons. Ongoing property maintenance, like mowing my lawn on a weekly basis, might not be the best way I like to spend my time, but it is important to ensure that all aspects of our properties are in good working order. Sometimes I encounter someone that hopes their problem will just go away or get better, but unless we work to keep things in good working order, it's highly unlikely that someone else will come in and fix everything for us. I would ask all of you to keep your eyes open and work toward keeping all aspects in good repair such as replacing a burned out light bulb with energy efficient LED bulb, keeping a charged fire extinguisher on hand, keeping your egress routes clear of clutter, keeping smoke alarm batteries current, and supporting your local association's efforts to fund maintenance and repair efforts.

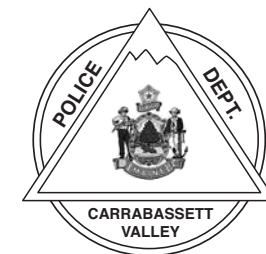


Completion of the remaining 10 units of the Allagash Drive Condominiums on West Mountain.

Lastly, I would like to ask for all of us to ensure that as we prepare for winter, clean up in spring, or do maintenance during summer, that we keep fall leaves, raked-up piles of winter sand and brush trimmings out of drainage ways, brooks and streams. I find that these areas often serve as dumping grounds but don't protect our drainage systems and often cause damage, and they are not the appropriate place to deposit these unwanted materials. After last season's deep snowfall, I would also suggest you look around your properties and make sure the well heads, propane tanks and other obstructions are well marked to help keep the plowing contractor putting snow where you want it and not where it creates problems (and keep a path open to your propane tanks and oil fills for our hard working delivery folks!). Have a great winter season! ■

## Notes from the Carrabasset Valley Police Department

Submitted by Police Chief Mark Lopez



Hello from the Carrabasset Valley Police Department. We are extremely proud of our role in the community and strive to provide professional and courteous Police and Security services to our residents and guests. We are excited to start the 2019-2020 winter ski season.

We continue to install and monitor fire, intrusion, low temperature and water alarms. We are happy to announce a new cellular option that will eliminate the need for a land line telephone to monitor alarms. This option has been in service

for 3 years and is working very nicely and is saving our customers money. So if any customers are looking to rid themselves of a landline please call to inquire.

We offer lock and unlock services for homes and vehicles. We will store keys at our Department for homeowners in case of lock outs or to allow access to repairmen when the homeowner is away. We have a ski registration program so please come in to register your skis. The Department also takes care of most lost and found items. We routinely return cell phones, wallets, credit cards and just about anything else that can be lost. So please call if you have lost or misplaced an item. We also have a drop off box for old prescriptions at the

Police Department you may need to get rid of.

We are now on social media. Join us on Facebook to catch up on what is going on with the Department and the Valley. As always there has been some movement with the Department so stop in and say Hello and meet our staff.

We are located in the Village West building with the big clock. ■

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View From Spaulding Mountain

## News from the Carrabasset Valley Fire Department

Submitted by Courtney Knapp, Chief

Everyday our Fire Department faces new challenges. Planning and Training are essential to meet the future demands. We have had an active training schedule this year. We are planning a full-scale evacuation drill at the Grand Summit Hotel in early November.

In light of recent tragic events in Farmington that took the life of one and injured six of our fellow fire fighters as a result of an LP Gas Explosion we have reviewed our response to LP Gas Emergen-



cies. We have taken all complaints of smell of gas seriously but have not always worn full personal protective gear when monitoring for a gas leak. Going forward all CVFD Fire Fighters will don full personal protective equipment. The Police Department has been instructed to evacuate all occupants from the area that the smell of gas complaint comes from. We have notified the Property Maintenance personal to dial 911 when they encounter what may be a gas leak. LP Gas is widely used at Sugarloaf and other areas in town. The gas companies that service our area are very responsible and safety is paramount.

Our residents and guests play a very important role by reporting any smell of gas or odor they do not recognize. Dial 911. We recommend home and condominium owners install a gas detector if you use LP Gas to heat or cook with. One last point re-

lating to LP Gas. It is unlawfully to have gas grills on decks of condominiums and storage of that grill gas tank in condominiums is prohibited.

Additional Fire Safety Issues that you should review. Working Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors save lives and are required in all living areas.

Proper disposal of wood ashes will prevent fires that can be devastating.

We have made great progress with planning, design and permitting for the construction of the new Mountain Fire Station. The town is close to acquiring the two-acre parcel on the access road. Our construction management company H E Callahan from Auburn, Maine is near completion of the project budget. Plymouth Engineering has provided the design for new facility. We will need town approval to proceed with actual construction. ■

## 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 Carrabasset 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 one-paramedic ambulance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. During the ski season NorthStar provides an additional ambulance from 9am to 5pm during weekends and vacation weeks. These two ambulances respond 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. We also have several EMS providers who monitor the radio waves and respond from home as needed.

This past year we had two long time EMTs Greg Drummond and Barry London retire from NorthStar.

Greg Drummond got his start at Sugarloaf Rescue in 1991. Greg moved up from first responder to EMT and then WEMT. He has responded to calls in all parts of our coverage area at all hours of the night. The majority of the responses have taken place in the more remote places of our coverage area.

Barry London has over 30 years' experience in the pre-hospital medicine. Barry wears many hats around the area, principal at Stratton Schools, NorthStar Wilderness EMT, Franklin Search and Rescue and Sugarloaf Ski patroller. Barry continues to pass on his knowledge to new and old EMS providers by teaching wilderness and ski patrol classes in the area.



Long-Time Retired EMT's Left to Right:  
Greg Drummond, Pete Boucher and Barry London

Barry and Greg will be missed and we wish them a happy retirement!

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 please call my office at 779-2400 as always, NorthStar is proud to be **your** ambulance service. ■

## "Fire Station" Continued from cover...

drying racks, mezzanine area for storage, stand by emergency generator, high efficiency heating and cooling, and the building will be fully sprinkled.

To date, the Town has appropriated \$250,000 in a new fire station reserve fund. While we are waiting for final estimates, we believe the new station will cost in the vicinity of \$1.4M. In each of the last two years, the Town appropriated \$60,000 for this project reserve. With an additional appropriation in 2020, we estimate the annual debt payments for borrowing the remaining needed funding for the project will approximate

the annual appropriations (\$60,000) the Town has made. Essentially, while we will need to appropriate the amount of the annual debt service payments, it will not require an increase in property taxes over what we've been appropriating for this needed project.

As some of you may know, the current "mountain fire station" is located in two of the Sugarloaf garage maintenance building bays (behind the administration building). Moving out of these bays will provide Sugarloaf with more needed garage space. The new fire station will provide our fire department with a modern functional

facility located near a large majority of our home and property ownership allowing the Town to continue to provide firefighting and life safety functions well into the future. We would like to thank Sugarloaf Mt. Resort for providing the land for this project and for their all their assistance. We also want to thank Fire Chief Courtney Knapp for all his work and dedication in helping develop this project. After forty-two years of service on the Fire Department, thirty-seven years as Chief, the proposed new fire station will be a dream come true for him. ■

## Sugarloaf Regional Airport News

Submitted by Dave Cota



The Airport continues to grow in interest and activity. Two businesses are now located there and a new hangar is being constructed. People are taking flying lessons and, at times, scenic ride opportunities are provided. We continue to receive interest from pilots interested in keeping their planes at the airport. The Town no longer

has land lease lots available. The Town's Airport Committee is currently working with the Town's Airport Engineering Consultant on a plan to build a new apron and taxiway area that would provide for airport "T-Hangar" space and additional leased lots for private hangars. The location for this project would be north of the existing hangars (on the right driving into the airport) on some of the land that the Town acquired for this purpose in 2014. A concept plan will soon be finalized for the Town's consideration. It is anticipated that it may take two to three years to complete a new apron/taxiway area project utilizing F.A.A., State and local funding. The completion of the fuel farm project (providing fuel) two years ago has been successful in increasing activity at the airport.

We recently completed a major airport obstruction (clearing) project. These clearing projects are never fun and I want to thank all the affected airport adjacent property owners for their patience. The plan going forward is to mow or brush cut these defined areas to avoid future expensive tree clearing projects. We were fortunate this time around to receive 95% F.A.A./State grant funding for this project that will be unavailable in the future. Somewhat related to this project, we wish to thank Dead River Company for the improvements to their gas bulk plant located near the Town Office.

The airport is an important Town asset both for transportation and for recreation. It's great to see the increased activity there. ■

## Young Eagles Take Flight at Sugarloaf Regional Airport



On August 3, 2019 in conjunction with the Carrabasset Valley Summer Festival activities local pilots conducted Young Eagles flights to introduce young people ages 8 to 17 to aviation. The Young Eagles Program was launched by the EAA

(Experimental Aircraft Association) in 1992 and has flown over 2.2 million Young Eagles Flights with the support of volunteer pilots and ground support personnel!

Young Eagles were introduced to aviation by first attending a short ground school conducted by experienced pilots. This included the use of several aircraft on static display allowing them to explore what controls the airplane in flight. After completing the ground school and safety briefing the Young Eagles were assigned a pilot and airplane.

The Young Eagles flights were about 30 minutes

long and took a path from the Sugarloaf Airport to the base area of Sugarloaf Mountain and then to Eustis and back to the airport over Flagstaff lake. Many local volunteers in addition to the pilots helped with the success of the program. The photo below (and many other similar) is the reason the volunteers donate their time and expense to support the Young Eagles Program.

The weather was perfect for the flights with light winds, blue skies and many smiles! The pilots took 18 local area young people for flights that day and we hope that next year we can introduce many more young people to aviation. ■

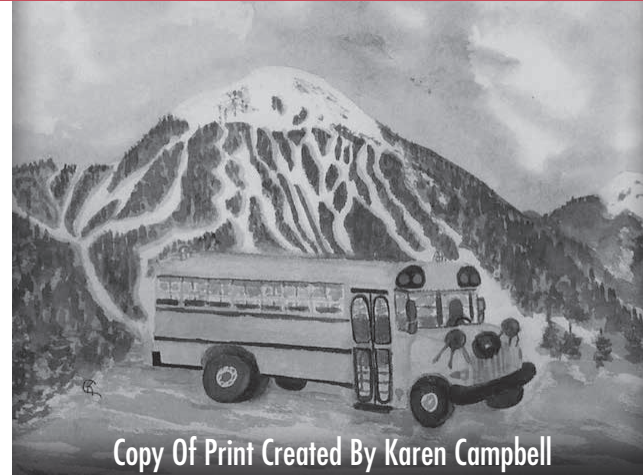
## News from the Carrabasset Valley School Department

Submitted by George Joseph, Superintendent of Schools

Greetings from the School Department! The following is a summary of the Carrabasset Valley student enrollment as of September 15, 2019: Kingfield Elementary School, twenty-two students; Stratton Elementary School, eight students; Mt. Abram High School, seven students; Carrabasset Valley Academy, twelve students, and one student attending Waterville Valley Academy in New Hampshire an out of State school. This is a total of 42 students K-12. This is an increase of six students from last year's fall enrollment of 38 students K-12. Carrabasset Valley student enrollments continues to fluctuate over the past several years, with a high of 66 in 2016 and a low of 38 students in school year 2018-2019.

I am pleased to report again that we have had no staff changes this year. Brian Foster is our special education consultant. Wendy Russell is the School Department's administrative assistant,

and Karen Campbell is our bus driver. Karen will be driving the Carrabasset bus to the Stratton elementary school. As in the past several years, we will continue to contract with the Stratton School Department to pick up Carrabasset Valley students, who will be attending MSAD #58 schools as the Stratton bus goes south through town. If for any reason you need to speak with any of us, we can be contacted by calling Wendy Russell the School Departments administrative assistant at the Town Office at 235-2645. One noteworthy change is Todd Sanders is the new Superintendent in SAD #58 who is replacing Susan Pratt who has retired.



Copy Of Print Created By Karen Campbell

The School Committee meetings are usually held the third Thursday of each month at the town office. School committee members are Deirdre Frey, Danielle London, Jennifer McCormack, Kim Kearing, and Stephen Arner. Please check the Town web site for the monthly agenda and meeting date. All are welcome to attend. ■

## News from the Western Maine Center for Children

Submitted by Marcia White  
WMCFC Board Chair, Volunteer Director

It has been a very busy year at WMCFC with many days operating at our 20-child license capacity, and waitlists in place through the first 8 months of the year. We are currently at a low enrollment point, yet are hopeful that the winter will bring more children our way. We still experience

some staffing challenges with finding qualified staff that live close enough to Carrabasset Valley for a reasonable commute. We are always in need of substitute care providers to cover sick or personal days for regular staff. If you have any leads or interest yourself, give us a call!



We are grateful to have the support from the Town of Carrabasset Valley residents who have voted the last three years to provide our classroom and play space rent-free, enabling us to keep our parent fees down and our fundraising needs to \$12,000-\$15,000. We also received support funding from the Town of Eustis, where many of our families reside.

Our main fundraiser is The Annual Homecoming Auction in October. We collect items

all year round, so if you have an item or service, or Sugarloaf memorabilia for 2020 please let us know!

WMCFC received a grant in 2018 from The Sugarloaf Region Charitable Trust which enabled us to upgrade our infant/toddler equipment, gardening and art supplies, and purchase Muddy Buddy rain suits so we can get outside comfortably on the wetter days. We are always open to new grant opportunities and private donations with the hope of offering wages and benefits more reflective of the commitment and importance of this work. We are excited following the Maine Community Foundation strategic goal of improving Early Childhood Education and Care, and hope that this will enhance program quality statewide, and particularly in rural areas.

We look forward to many more years of guiding our youngest Sugarloafers on their individual paths to greatness! ■

Contact us at: [westernmainekids@gmail.com](mailto:westernmainekids@gmail.com)

## Carrabasset Valley Public Library Update

Submitted by Andrea DeBiase, Library Director

The Carrabasset Valley Public Library celebrates its 10th anniversary in February of 2020!

The CV Library offers a wide variety of items and services, and offers 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. You are welcome to use the lobby with access to the Internet M-F 8-5...even if the library is closed. The Carrabasset Valley Public Library Facebook page shares current information. Find the library link on the town website at [www.carrabassetvalley.org](http://www.carrabassetvalley.org).

CV Public Library attendance in 2018 grew to more than 6,700 visits, with more than 2,000 additional people using the Lobby and Begin Family Community Room facilities. The library has registered over 4,600 members since moving into our new building in 2010! All registered library members can download free audiobooks and eBooks through the Maine State Library. Stop by for your FREE library membership number to access this free service; search [download.maineinonet.org](http://download.maineinonet.org). Use of the cloudLibrary app makes the Maine Download Library easy to use. We also have three Kindles for lending, and an iPad for in-house use. The lobby gallery provides a beautiful venue for local artists to display their work. The library has hosted over 50 artists over the past 10 years. Lineup for 2019-20 includes Jessica Beer (Sep/Oct), Karen Campbell (Oct/Nov), Jillian Herrigel (Jan/Feb, 2020), and Morgain Bailey (Mar/Apr,

2020). CVA students exhibit in May. Contact the library if you are interested in showing your art solo or as part of the summer locals exhibit.

**What's New?** The library purchased a pass to lend to library members that provides free admission of occupants of up to 1 ton/17 passenger vehicle to day use facilities of Maine State Parks and Historic Sites. The library also has passes to the Children's Museum of Maine and the Western Maine Play Museum in Wilton.

The **Begin Family Community Room** is regularly used for dozens of town meetings, association and committee meetings, clubs, free tax help, classes, parties, memorials and celebrations, as well as serving as a meeting space for a variety of groups & organizations. Wine & cheese receptions are hosted for each exhibiting artist and free movies are also shown on the *big screen*. Other community room uses include programs and events for the public. The most recent events included: *Chewonki's TIDE POOLS OF MAINE* program, *Rob Duquette* Family Music, Film screening -Ashley Bryan: *I Know a Man*, and Western Maine Law Attorney Steve Arner and CV Police Chief Mark Lopez teamed up to answer questions about law enforcement in Maine. Americorps volunteers offered free technology help on Fridays! AARP volunteers did taxes for free from February to April. We hosted 11 book talks with Maine authors: Gail Rowe, Paul Doiron, Ruth Watson, Sarah Carlson, Megan Roberts, James Hornor, Carey Kish, Amanda Given and Greg



### OPEN HOURS

WINTER: Tue-Sat: 10-5; Sun: 12-3

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

SUMMER: Wed-Fri: 10-5 & Sat: 10-3

Westrich. Children's authors Pam Matthews (as Fly Rod Crosby) and Chris Van Dusen, provided programs for local K-4 students sponsored by the Maggie Trafton Memorial Fund! The *Summer Reading Program (SRP)* theme this year was: *A Universe of Stories!* The library offers incentives to celebrate the joy of reading—20 children signed up this summer. SRP participants received book bags, a free book and ticket voucher to a Portland Sea Dogs baseball game. Weekly make-and-take activities were available in the children's area.

The library attendance has grown steadily, the fireplace beckons on cold winter mornings and families gather in the children's area; the self-employed have a place to work, internet access provides up to 100 Mbps high speed bandwidth, readers lounge while others enjoy a game or puzzle. You can enjoy Wi-Fi, coffee and the newspaper in the living room area or on the patio. The *Carrabasset Library Community Garden* volunteers have grown and delivered fresh vegetables for neighbors through the Eustis/Stratton Food Bank since 2014. Each fall during Homecoming Weekend at Sugarloaf, the library holds a huge used book sale at the base lodge, and a Pie & Bake sale at the library. Bakers and books sorters needed. Take time to visit the *Little Free Library* on the green by the town office. All materials and labor donated by the Fournier Family! Take a book ~ Share a book!

Please contact Library Director, Andrea DeBiase, at 237-3535 or email: [cvalibrary3209@gmail.com](mailto:cvalibrary3209@gmail.com) for information about accessing our online public catalog, free audiobooks and ebooks, volunteering, 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. ■

**Customer Service... and the Art of Avoidance**

*Cus-tom-er (noun): a buyer, a person or company that buys goods or services.*

*Ser-vice (noun): work done by somebody for somebody else as a job, duty, punishment, or favor.*

*Art (noun): The skill or ability to do something well; - the art of conversation.*

*A-void-ance (noun): act of not going near; the act of keeping away from somebody or something.*



We have an in-house policy at the Carrabasset Valley Sanitary District to avoid direct contact with our customers. My Staff is passionate about this. It has nothing to do with avoiding work and other related responsibilities. Just ask, we will tell you that, "we-are-right-out-straight." As we see it, the art of avoiding our customers is the end result of properly maintaining the sewerage infrastructure. Doing so helps us to avoid those situations that would cause our customers to contact the District due to a *loss of service*. Regrettably, a few of you are aware that sewer problems can lead to a build-up - of many things - including anxiety.

Prior to municipal sewer systems, excreta piled up in the privies of homes and businesses - essentially a deep hole in the ground where chamber pots and other household wastes were deposited. When the privies were full, the "Night Soil Men" were called in. Night Soil Men was the name euphemistically given to human waste collectors because they serviced their customer's privies under the cloak of darkness, assuring that polite society was spared from confronting its own feces as the men carted their crap away. This is not to say that they went totally unnoticed; the sheer volume of waste and number of poop wagons rattling through streets, under the cover of darkness, left a trail of ooze and stench in their wake. The Night Soil Men scooped the excrement from the privies with long-handled dippers then dumped it into barrels on their wagons. It was then transport-

ed to designated dumping areas; typically off a pier or onto a wetland. In some situations, this led to contaminated water wells, cholera epidemics and most certainly polluted water ways.

In Washington DC, circa 1841, the city's dumping ground was a fallow field just up the street from the White House; creating a Washingtonian Marsh full of Putrefied Waste. . . (At this point- you should understand that I could enthusiastically take this article in a totally different direction but, due to my position as an appointed public official- I will refrain). It has been suggested, that this may have been a contributing factor to the untimely death of Pres. Harrison in 1841, given that the water source servicing the White House was just the few blocks downstream from the aforementioned dumping grounds.

Much of the District's collection system maintenance is performed when the slopes are closed to skiing. You may not see us but, rest assured we are here, on duty or on call 24-7; doing everything in our power to avoid direct contact with you, our valued customers.

There is one forced exception to this policy of practiced avoidance. Once annually, during Homecoming Weekend, the Porcelain Gods have deemed it necessary that an emissary of the District is to meet with the Presidents Association. "It's an opportunity," they said. "You know, Public Relations. . . you can update our "polite society"

regarding the services we provide." For those of you who do not attend the aforementioned meeting, I'll leave you with what I have often left them. . . The Carrabasset Valley Sanitary District is in excellent working order. The District continues to efficiently and effectively collect, transport and treat your sewage. The District is prepared and ready for continued growth in the community. We hope you have an excellent ski season and let's hope we have no reason to meet again over the coming year.

All kidding aside, if you have any question or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the District at 237-3642. We are here as a resource regarding sewer related issues so long as it does not pertain to In-house Policies, Public Relations or expanded Customer Services. . .

The District Trustee Meeting schedule for 2020 is as follows: March 10, May 12, Aug 11 & Nov 10. All meetings are at 3:00 p.m. at the District's Office. ■



*Anyone who can solve the problems of water will be worthy of two Nobel prizes - one for peace and one for science. - John F. Kennedy*

**Drinking Water Disinfection**

In the early 1900s, life was very different in the United States. Many people thought that the taste of the water determined its purity, not knowing that even the best tasting water could contain disease causing organisms. Waterborne diseases like typhoid fever and dysentery were a common part of life and a common cause of death too. Cities started disinfecting drinking water supplies to kill bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms that cause disease and immediate illness. Eventually, all cities that get drinking water from lakes or rivers started to disinfect.

Disinfection makes our water safer to drink, so we do not have to worry about the waterborne diseases of the past. Both the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control regard disinfection of drinking water as one of the most important advances in public health.

Public water systems play an essential role in protecting public health through treatment and disinfection processes. The most common method of disinfection is through the addition of chlorine to drinking water supplies. Chlorine effectively kills waterborne bacteria and viruses and continues to keep the water safe as it travels from the treatment plant to the consumer's tap.

**Disinfection Byproducts**

Although chlorine has been a literal lifesaver with regard to drinking water, it also has the potential to form byproducts that can cause harmful health effects. Chlorine can react with organic materials in water to form disinfection byproducts (DBPs).

The formation of DBPs is usually a greater concern for water systems that use surface water, such as rivers, lakes, and streams, as their source. Surface water sources are more likely to contain the organic materials that combine with chlorine to form DBPs.

Scientists have identified hundreds of DBPs. Several types of DBPs have limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): trihalomethanes (THMs), haloacetic acids (HAAs), chlorite, and bromate. EPA set these limits by balancing the health benefits of water disinfection with the risk of exposure to disinfection byproducts.

All public water systems that disinfect must regularly test their treated water to determine if regulated DBPs are present and at what levels. If they are above the limits set by EPA, the water system must take action to reduce the DBPs. Actions could include adjustments to organics removal processes, disinfection dose and location, and distribution system management. The water system must also notify all of their customers of the DBP levels.

**Sugarloaf Community Water System**

Historically, Sugarloaf Water Association (SWA) has managed DBPs limits set by the EPA by limiting the use of surface water when it contains elevated levels of organic materials due to snow melt and rain runoff. SWA also minimizes DBP formation through managing the distribution system in ways that keep water age to a minimum. The EPA has set the limit for the Locational Running Annual Average (LRAA) of the last four quarters for HAAs at 60 parts per billion (ppb). The majority of individual quarterly test results for HAAs have historically been well below 60 ppb. SWAs LRAA for HAAs exceeded 60 ppb in 4th quarter of 2018 as high water demand required SWA to

treat surface water high in organic matter from unseasonably warm weather and rain runoff. The LRAA is likely to remain above 60 ppb until the 4th quarter 2018 test is dropped from the LRAA in December, 2019. SWA will issue a public notice to our customers each quarter until the LRAA is below 60 ppb.

SWA is working with Wright Pierce Engineering to optimize our surface water treatment process. Further, SWA has begun the construction of a new 300,000 gallon reservoir that will allow our operators to store more ground water from deep bedrock wells to meet high water demands, and rely less on treating surface water. Through enhanced surface water treatment and additional ground water storage, SWA expects to reduce DBPs in our treated surface water to levels well within EPA limits.

The World Health Organization states, "In all circumstances, disinfection efficiency should not be compromised in trying to meet guidelines for DBPs, including chlorination byproducts, or in trying to reduce concentrations of these substances." The risk of not disinfecting drinking water and exposing people to microorganisms that can cause illnesses outweighs the long-term, low level risk of DBPs, particularly at the low levels typically found in U.S. water supplies.

For additional information on DBPs you can visit the Maine Drinking Water Program website or the US EPAs website.

Our team of water professionals wants our customers to know that we are committed to providing safe drinking water and we will resolve this issue. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this water quality challenge. ■



Summer Kids Paddling Program

Summer program highlights included Red Cross Swim Lessons Lap Swim, Free Swim, Private Swim Lessons and Outdoor Adventure Camp Swim Lessons at the Samantha Wright Memorial Pool. A very special thank you is extended to our Pool Director Kyle Farrington and Red Cross Certified colleagues Emma Kearing, Luke Kearing, Henry Kearing, Elise McKendry, Alice Cockerham Grace Letcher, Joe Maldonado & Jen Pageot. Emily & Elise Luce were also in the wings helping us to move forward with our transition.

Outdoor Adventure Camp under the direction of Marcia White, Anne Poirier Flight & Andrea Drumstas; The Alden MacDonald Junior Golf Program with Pros Zack Zondlo & Indiana Jones, Travel Golf with Pro Scott Hoisington & Assistant Noah Koenig, Youth Mountain Bike Camps with Maine Guide Katie Casey and IMBA certified instructor

Kerry Ouellette with assistants such as Andy Gillespie, Lance Dolan, Harry Walters & Myles McKenzie left no rock unturned.

Sterling Smith our Whitewater Guide worked closely with the lifeguard Staff and Andy Gillespie to provide a wonderful Paddleboard & Kayaking program. Specialty classes such as First aid & CPR, Lifeguard Classes, Water Safety Classes & Whitewater Guide Training & Mountain Bike Trail Construction Safety were provided for our staff. The Fourth of July celebration Summerfest and Fly In invited new and old friends to return to the valley.

**What's Happening:** Youth Gymnastics, youth Holiday Crafts & a Trampoline program will take place Wednesdays in November and Alex Lund will offer private skateboard & trampoline les-

**Antigravity Recreational Complex**  
3207 Carrabassett Drive  
(207) 237-5566  
www.carrabassettvalley.org

**Hours of Operation:**  
**November 4, 2019 - April 20, 2020**  
Monday-Thursday: 6-10am & 3-9pm  
Friday: 6-10am & 4-9pm  
Saturday: 6am-1pm & 4-9pm  
Sunday: 7am-9pm

**(Extended Hours During School Vacation)**

sons. Frank Bianco will be back with his Saturday morning TRX Suspension Class and Megan Maguire will offer Pilate's, A Pound Class & a Strength Class during the week. Sarah Sindo will join us at the completion of her Level 2 Yoga Certification. We would be ecstatic if we could recruit an indoor cycle/spin coach! We are fortunate that Sarah Plummer will return to teach indoor cycle/spin Holiday vacation weeks. Please stop by and visit our Cardio- Fitness Mezzanine or first floor spin room and get a great workout developing your strength, flexibility and cardio fitness level gets those legs ready for ski and boarding season. ■

### Antigravity Complex Annual Membership Rates

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

**Individual Taxpayer:** \$100 for one year

**Family Taxpayer Membership:** Includes 2 Adults and 3 children, \$235 for one year. Each additional child \$25 per child.

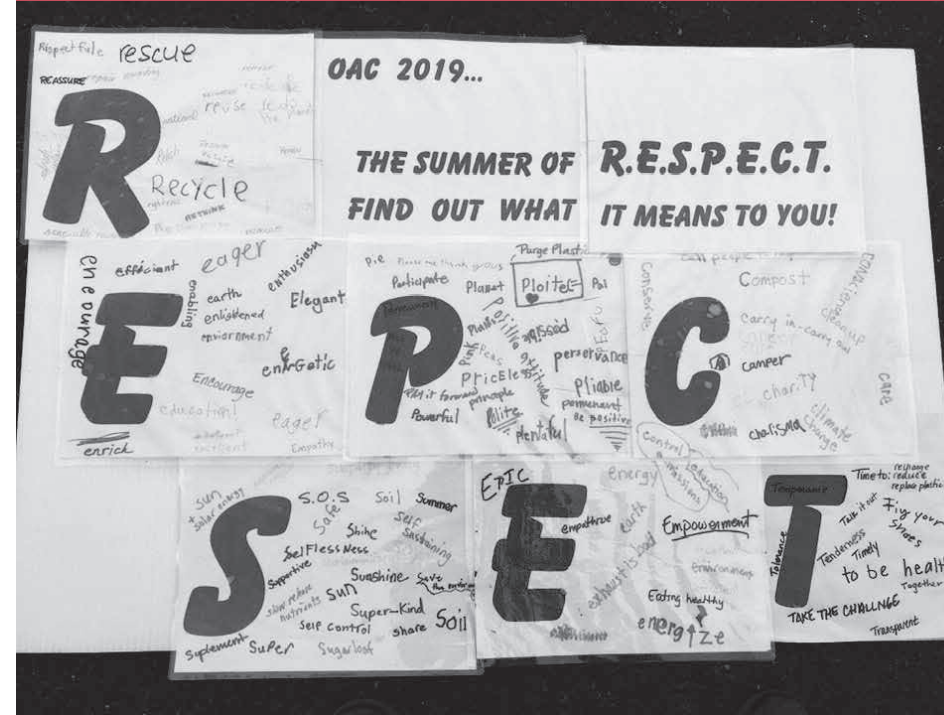
*Access to the Olympic Trampolines, Climbing Wall and Fitness classes are offered at an additional cost.*

**Day Rates:** Youth \$7 & Adult \$10 per activity

**Antigravity Complex Multi-Passes:** 12 visits for the price of 10, Youth and Adult Rates

**Hourly Private Instruction per Instructor:**

Trampoline (10-person maximum \$70) Climbing Wall (4-person maximum \$70) Skateboard Lesson (3-person maximum \$55)



Our overall theme this year was **The Summer of R.E.S.P.E.C.T.** Each week, campers and staff started with one letter of the word "respect" and brainstormed words and actions that begin with that letter that are ways to show respect for our earth's resources, people, animals, and ourselves. As you can see, many poignant words were noted, which lead to insightful conversations.

We also hiked and explored, slept outside and

star gazed, painted many rocks and artistic creations, grew pea shoots to eat, played games of all kinds, stretched and exercised, rock climbed and mountain biked, golfed and swung tennis rackets, paddle boarded and kayaked, made duct tape wallets and friendship bracelets, skateboarded and rollerbladed, ate healthy lunches and made compost, enjoyed professional theater and our own theatrics, and swam, swam, and swam

some more. All of this was made possible by you, the Carrabassett Valley taxpayers, who help us keep the fees low enough so that no child is left out. A top-notch staff of counselors, all the Recreation Department staff at the Samantha Wright Memorial Pool and the Anti-Gravity Complex, and the Administrative Town staff and community members work together on the delivery. Transportation help comes from Sugarloaf, the CV School Department and the Town of Kingfield.

In 1998, my first year at Outdoor Adventure Camp, the world was a very different place. Whether it was really a better place or we were just naive, doesn't really matter... we are where we are today. I do think that people now realize that each of their actions has an impact, and that each of us can choose what direction we want our impact to move toward, as well as what values we want to reinforce and strengthen with our choices. My hope is that all campers at OAC have found positive building blocks in themselves and around them, to help turn our planet and the people on it, in a more positive trajectory. I hope that they continue to live the pledge we recite at each camp day at circle-up:

"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 forever."

Thank you for the support, trust, and privilege to be a part of this most rewarding effort. ■



Summer Camp AT Hike



CVOA is an active club of outdoor enthusiasts. Twenty years strong in 2020, our mission has been simple and straight-forward from the beginning: To foster and promote the conservation of our natural resources and the creation of recreational opportunities in our region.

Having grown from a dozen members in 2000 to well-over 1,000 members in 2019, CVOA offers a full calendar of events. During the past year, we held 20 different events, led by 16 different members and involving over 630 people. We skied at Big Sky, Steamboat, Sun Valley and Mont Sainte Anne & Le Massif in Quebec. There

was a hut-to-hut cross-country ski adventure with Maine Huts and Trails, hikes and snowshoe treks, cookie swaps & potluck dinners, and even a weekly bowling competition.

At our annual meeting in March, over 90 members devoured a delicious meal at the Sugarloaf Hotel, and enjoyed a delightful presentation by Sugarloaf's own, Maine award-winning author LE Hughes who entertained us with excerpts from her *Maine Stories* book.

Coming up in 2020 will be our big anniversary celebration, **Celebrate CVOA ~20th in 2020** in the King Pine Room on January 18. Following that will begin our winter ski trips - to Val Gardena, Italy in late January, to Mont Sainte Anne, Le Massif and Stoneham in Quebec mid-February, and to Jackson Hole, Wyoming in late February. We will be working closely with our new Adventure Coordinator, Patti Johnston in the coming months to plan even more events for the season.



Another aspect of CVOA is its community service. Members participated in the annual Route 27 cleanup in May and stocked the trout pond at the Outdoor Center for catch-and-release fishing. We made a charitable donation to the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center in March for their programming. Our donation policy which guides our contributions states that requests must reflect our mission statement. It is available on our web site, and includes an application form, guidelines & criteria.

CVOA has a top-notch shooting range in a first-rate setting overlooking the majestic Bigelows. Our range offers rifle and pistol ranges, trap and five-stand fields, and a 3D archery course. The range is open to the public during scheduled events. Our latest project completed in late 2018 used huge volumes of materials to increase the berm heights at the pistol and rifle ranges. Also new this year is a relocated sign-in kiosk, first-aid boxes and security cameras. The range holds weekend and mid-week Five Stand and trap shoots from May through October.

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 also like to use the range pays an additional \$30. Our monthly newsletter, sent electronically to all current members, informs us of all 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](http://www.cvoutdoors.com). ■

*“Land” Continued from cover...* Company in 1981 with funds they received from the Indian Lands Claim Settlement. Over the years, they have generously allowed recreational use of their lands primarily based on Use Permits obtained annually by the Town, snowmobile, ATV, and mountain bike clubs. They also own almost the entire gravel section of the 4.5-mile Carriage Road. The Town requests annual Use Permits for public use of this road which remains an important part of our access to recreational opportunities. The Town pays for road maintenance of this road in the summer and fall months. The roads are typically open, with the exception of “mud season” when they are gated. In recognition of this important relationship between the Town and the Penobscot Nation the Town and Sugarloaf provide some recreational opportunities for Tribal members and give to their youth organizations.

In terms of forest land management, the primary focus has been to manage the timberlands to generate a fairly even revenue stream, in a sustainable manner. Harvest levels have stayed reasonably steady over the years with some major highs and lows due to market conditions, weather, and landowner needs. Harvest typically occur every year and are active year round except for “mud season”. Penobscot Nation is very active in timber harvesting their Carrabassett land. With this large acreage they usually harvest wood every year. They meet with the Town's Planning Board annually to seek required wood harvesting permits that comply with the Town's and the State's wood harvesting requirements. As with any larger timberland owner who chooses to keep their lands taxed under the State of Maine Tree Growth Law, they are required to have forest management plans. Currently, the Penobscot's are in the process of developing a new Forest Management Plan for their ownership in Carrabassett Valley that will cover the next 10 years or more.

**State of Maine (9,760 acres):** The State acquired 9,343 of their Carrabassett Valley acreage from then Plum Creek Company in 2013 as part of the 12,045-acre Crocker Mountain Conservation Project that was engineered by the Trust for Public Lands (and endorsed by the Town). The State's Bureau of Public Lands is the management entity for this land and their policy is primarily driven by their public lands policy specifically, the 'Crocker Mountain Unit Manage-

ment Plan', last updated in 2015 which is an amendment to their fifteen-year 'Flagstaff Region Management Plan'. This plan will be subject to a comprehensive review in 2022. A review of current issues and progress on implementing these plan recommendations are undertaken as part of mandated five-year reviews and updates to the regional plan. These reviews go through a public process involving a committee with local representation. A copy of the forty-page Crocker Mountain Unit Management Plan can be viewed on the State's website ([maine.gov](http://maine.gov)). The Crocker Mountain Conservation Project was a very involved public process and part of the outcome was the development of a Memorandum of Understanding that outlined the concept for multi-uses that were then incorporated into these management plans. Managed uses include public access, wildlife habitat and ecological protection, scenic protection, production of forest products, maintenance and development of trails (motorized and non-motorized), water quality protection and other purposes.

**Sugarloaf Mt. Corp. (5,208 acres):** Sugarloaf, as you know, has gone through several ownerships since its inception in 1951. It is now owned by Boyne Resorts. Sugarloaf is managed as ski and four-season resort and convention center. Their lands are managed for residential development growth, potential additional ski trail development and maintenance, other recreational opportunities that may develop and for forest management. Sugarloaf has a forest management plan that is implemented.

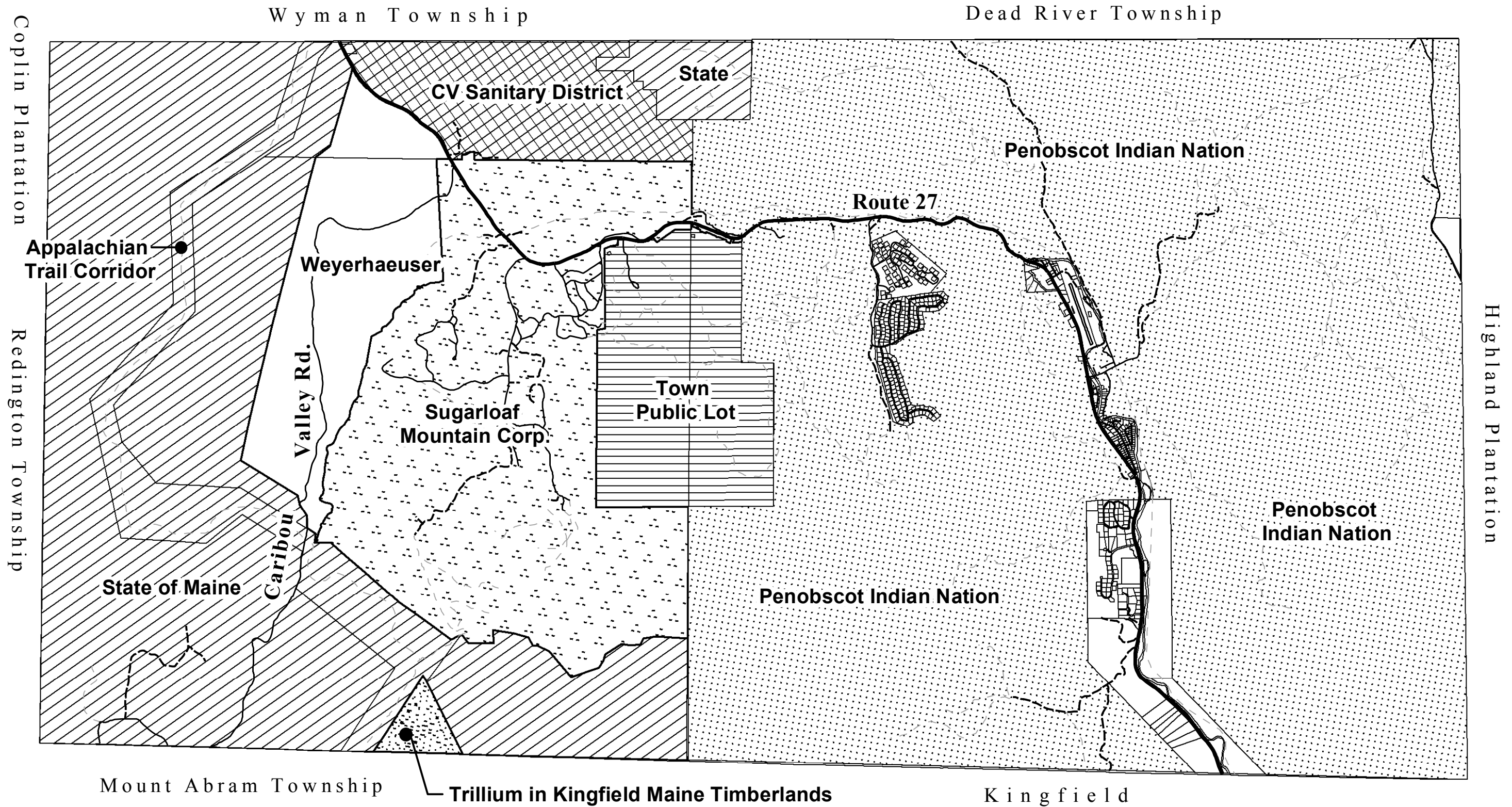
**Town of Carrabassett Valley (2,261 acres):** The Town's 2,133 public lot is comprised of the Town's 930 original "Town Lot" which the Town inherited in 1972 when the Town was incorporated and the 1,203 acre "State Lot" that was purchased from the State of Maine in the year 2000 (this was the original "Crockertown" public lot). The Town manages the combined 2,133-acre lot for recreation and forest management. Extensive trail systems have been developed on the lot and the forest land is managed sustainably by the Town's forest management consultant, American Forest Management Co., working with the Town's Public Lot Forest Management Committee. Forest inventories are updated, three-year management and harvest plans are proposed and annual public hearings are held to consider public

input. Our public lot is a major Town asset and revered by our citizens and taxpayers. The voters of the Town have consistently voted to expend all timber harvesting revenues from the public lot for trail development and maintenance on the lot. The Town has recently voted to purchase an approximate 250-acre lot located one mile south of Valley Crossing. The intent is to also manage this lot for recreation and forest management.

**Weyerhaeuser (2,108 acres):** Weyerhaeuser is the largest forest land owner in the United States with their cooperate offices in Seattle, WA. When asked about their forest management policies they responded as follows: "We believe forests can be managed sustainably, forever. As one of the world's largest private timberland owners, we turn this belief into action. In the United States, we own or have long-term leases on more than 12 million acres of timberlands in the Pacific Northwest, the Northeast and the South. In Canada, we manage millions of acres of publicly owned land under long-term provincial licenses. Our entire timberland portfolio is certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Forest Management standard.

We responsibly manage our forests to ensure a sustainable supply of wood for our customers, today and in the future, while protecting the other important benefits forests provide, such as clean water, clean air and habitat for wildlife. Much more information including our Vision and practices can be found online at [WY.com](http://WY.com). In Maine, our forest management plans are aimed at growing future value. Two big factors that foresters consider when planning are past harvest history and species composition. In CV, current harvests are releasing vigorous young hardwood and softwood saplings that grew from seeds and sprouts after the last harvest created openings that let sunlight reach the forest floor. This type of forest management is called a shelterwood system and has been used by many large landowners in CV. Foresters also pay special attention to protecting biodiversity, rare species, wildlife habitat, aesthetics and special sites."

**Carrabassett Valley Sanitary District (1,347 acres):** During the organization of the Carrabassett Valley Sanitary District in 1993, the District's Board of Trustees adopted a policy to promote public access to District land for sporting



# Large Landowners

Carrabassett Valley, Maine

2019





and recreational purposes. The District maintains land use agreements or leases with The J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club, The Carrabassett Valley ATV Club, The Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association, The Western Mountains Foundation's Maine Huts and Trails Project and the Mountain Bike Club. In addition, they are host to photographers, bird watchers and dozens of hunters annually. In 2007, on behalf of the State of Maine, The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Landowner Relations Program presented to the District, The Outstanding Municipal Landowner Award for allowing the public to use the property for outdoor

recreational purposes. The district also actively manages the land for forest management. According to reports from the Maine Forest Products Council ([maineforest.org](http://maineforest.org)) the State of Maine is 89% forested which is the largest percentage of any State in the Nation. They report that 17.6 million acres in Maine are forested with 15.9 million of that being private land and a little over 1.4 million acres being public land. Of this acreage, 8,348,230 are certified as sustainably managed and four million acres are now under permanent conservation statewide (more than Yellowstone and the Everglades National Parks combined),

much of which allows the continuation of forest management and recreation opportunities. There are approximately four thousand miles of snowmobile and six thousand miles of ATV trails in Maine and 95% of these are located on private land. Maine's tradition of working forests and private landowners allowing access is the basis of an outdoor recreation industry that generates more than one billion dollars in economic activity every year and continues to sustain thousands of jobs. With most of Carrabassett Valley being forested our large landowners are part of that important equation. ■

## News from the Mountain Bike Club (CRNEMBA)

*Submitted by Warren Gerow, Club President*

CRNEMBA is the local chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association, with "CR" standing for Carrabassett Region. CRNEMBA's focus is promoting and growing the local mountain bike scene through various avenues, on and off the trail.

Every year brings different weather to the Valley. In 2018, we had early dry spring conditions; however, 2019 was quite different with a wet spring. Luckily, delays in trail openings were minimal. Like every spring, there was a flurry of workdays early on to get trails ready for the season and then ready for the Carrabassett Backcountry Cycle Challenge in July. These workdays are fueled by hard-working volunteers, primarily on weekends. Many thanks to these folks who dedicate their time to the trails.

We were excited to announce in September that trail efforts in Kingfield are now under the CRNEMBA umbrella. Being our close neighbors to the south, this was a natural fit. Polly MacMichael of the former Kingfield Trail Builders committee has joined the CRNEMBA board of directors. The club leadership looks forward to working with Polly and the other team members in Kingfield to develop trails in the area.

The ninth edition of the Carrabassett Backcountry Cycle Challenge took place in July. The race is the largest fundraiser of the year for the club and again saw healthy growth with over 550 registered racers from around the US and Canada. This event is produced by a crew of volunteers and funds raised are donated to CRNEMBA for trail

construction, maintenance and local mountain bike programs. Thanks to all the volunteers, the community, and the partners, sponsors and landowners who make this event happen. Without you, it wouldn't exist.

For the second year in a row, winter trail grooming generated a lot of excitement within the riding community. The 2018/2019 winter season came very early allowing winter riding to get underway. Frequent and varying precipitation required significantly more grooming hours over the prior year. In addition, many hours went into shoveling bridges and snowshoeing trails prior to grooming efforts. All of these grooming efforts are completed by volunteers. Many thanks to those folks who make the winter riding happen.

Three Après Bike Socials were hosted over the spring/summer riding season. These events are a great way to connect with new and old riding buddies. In September we hosted our annual Carrabassett Adventure Ride and Party, which is part of NEMBA's KONA Mountain Bike Adventure Series. That same afternoon we saw a Maine High School mountain bike race take place on trails around the Outdoor Center. It was awesome



Tuesday Night Ride

to see 70 youth riders take to the trails. All in all, the weekend event was the biggest yet and we look forward to hosting it again on September 26, 2020 (including the high school race).

CRNEMBA is very appreciative of the continued support of the taxpayers of Carrabassett Valley, the community at large and our many partners, including the Town, Maine Huts & Trails, and Sugarloaf. We also need to extend a huge thanks to the many landowners who have allowed trails to be constructed on their lands and have continued to allow these recreational activities to be enjoyed by all. Without these permissions, our efforts and trail network would look significantly different. We also are greatly appreciative of the support shown by our membership, which continues to grow. We currently have over 200 members and are always looking for new membership and support. Please visit [carrabassettnemba.org](http://carrabassettnemba.org) for additional information on membership and the local mountain biking community. ■

**See you on the trails!**

## What's New and Noteworthy at Sugarloaf

### Off-season Improvements

A complete, floor-to-ceiling renovation of the Widowmaker bar and restaurant headlines the list of off-season improvements at Sugarloaf for the 2019-20 ski season, a list that also includes snowmaking upgrades, a new groomer, and much more.

Less than 12 hours after it closed for the season last spring, the Widowmaker, the long-time social hub of Sugarloaf, had been torn down to studs in preparation for a major renovation that has already breathed new life into a legendary Sugarloaf space.



New Widowmaker Logo

The highlights of the renovation include relocation of the bar and stage to open up the space and provide a better live music experience, a renovation of the Widowmaker Loft and addition of a new outdoor deck, and the relocation of the beer cooler from downstairs to streamline service. In addition, new HVAC will be installed, allowing the Widowmaker to be utilized during the summer months.

The new and improved Widowmaker will feature a whopping 46 taps serving the largest variety of Maine microwbrews in the Sugarloaf area. That nearly triples the number of taps in the old bar

configuration, allowing for faster service during busy times.

The Widowmaker will also be home to the complete Sugarloaf Mosaic — a giant image of the mountain built using more than 11,000 photos submitted to the project by Sugarloafers around the world. An iPad next to the installation will allow guests to locate their own image within the Mosaic on the wall.

Elsewhere on the mountain, considerable improvements were again made to the snowmaking system, including a new, larger air and water line on Narrow Gauge, which will allow snow to be made from top to bottom at one time. Snowmakers also installed 50 new HKD Klik Hydrants — a new hydrant technology that dramatically increases the speed at which guns can be turned on. Additional Klik Hydrants are planned in coming years.

The grooming department added a new Prinoth Bixon X park cat to its fleet this summer, which is specially designed to allow operators to better build and shape terrain park features.

Sugarloaf also began the first phase of a larger snowmaking project, which will include the construction of a new dam on Caribou Pond. This will allow snowmakers to control the flow of water on the West Branch of the Carrabassett River, provide a steady and reliable flow of water to supply the snowmaking pumphouse. Construction of the dam is scheduled to begin in summer 2020.

Off the hill, Sugarloaf will launch a new app for the 2019-20 season, which will provide visitors

with quicker and easier access to more reliable conditions information, including lift status, grooming lists, and trail openings and closings. The app will feature an interactive trail map and GPS tracking that will

### Key Event Dates:

- Nov 15 - Tentative Opening Day
- Dec 14 - Sugarloaf Tree Lighting Festival
- Jan 10-12 - Sugarloaf Together
- Jan 25 - Sugarloaf Charity Summit
- Feb 7-8 - Fire On The Mountain Festival
- March 6-7 - WinterKids Downhill 24
- March 21-22 - Sugarloaf Banked Slalom
- Apr 9-12 - Reggae Fest
- Apr 18 - East Coast Pond Skimming Championships

*For more information on off-season improvements or upcoming events, please visit [sugarloaf.com](http://sugarloaf.com).*

allow users to track their runs throughout the day. The app will be available on both iOS and Android, and will be released in late October or early November.

### In-season Excitement

Last winter saw a packed event lineup, with record breaking attendance at some longtime Sugarloaf classics, including Reggae Fest and the Sugarloaf Marathon.

Sugarloaf will look to continue that momentum this winter, with some new events and several improvements to others. In December, Sugarloaf will host the New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA) Eastern Cup — a premier Nordic ski racing event that is expected to draw as many as 500 racers from throughout the region. This will be the first NENSA event held at Sugarloaf in more than 25 years.

In January and February two new events last year will return for their second year — Sugarloaf Together, a partnership with Equality Maine, and the Fire on the Mountain Festival, and weekend tribute to the Grateful Dead. Tickets to both events will go on sale in November.

And following a record-shattering year in 2019, Reggae Fest will return for its 32 year this April. The Sugarloaf rite of passage continues to grow in size and popularity each year, and in 2020 will again feature a partnership with Baxter Outdoors. For more information on these events and more, visit [sugarloaf.com/events](http://sugarloaf.com/events) ■



Renovated Widowmaker Soft Opening



**Mountain bike trail development, a new trail signage project and facility improvements in 2019**

As some of you may know, the Outdoor Center is owned by the Town and has been leased to Sugarloaf in one form or another since 1987. The original building was built in 1975 on the so-called 1,203 "State Public Lot" that was leased by the Town and then purchased by the Town in the year 2000. The Town expanded the building in 1987 and the "State Lot" is now part of the Town's contiguous 2,133 public lot. We are approaching a milestone next year in that the \$420,000 debt the town incurred in purchasing the "State Lot" will be paid off. The purchase was

an incredible investment both for continued forest management and related revenues and for recreational development. Activity at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center continues to grow. Many events and functions are held there.

**Mountain Bike Trail Development:** The Town's mountain bike trail crew has created another wonderful trail at the Outdoor Center (the 1.5-mile Par 3 trail) and completed considerable trail maintenance and approximately 1.5 miles of trail rehab. Sugarloaf and the Town collaborated on the development of a new trail and related features on the 'Snubber' ski life line. The new trails add features and approximately two-miles to an already impressive trail system which brings more and more people here in the summer and fall months. Thank you to Josh Tausen, Spencer Lee and our trail crew for another great trail building season. Also, thank you to Sugarloaf for their investment and to the mountain bike club members (CRNEMBA) for many volunteer trail maintenance hours.

**Nordic Skiing:** Nordic Skiing continues to thrive there and mountain biking has seen a dramatic increase. The Outdoor Center's popularity as a hub of activity not only has increased with regards to mountain biking, weddings and other scheduled events, the Outdoor Center will be hosting a

NENSA qualifier race later in December. This race is expected to have upwards of 500 competitors and is the first step in rebuilding a strong tradition of Nordic ski racing at the Center.

**Facility Improvements:**

- A new Nordic Ski "timing shed" has been placed at the Outdoor Center
- A new generator has been installed at the Center which will provide full power during power outages.

(The Town uses the Outdoor Center lease funds from Sugarloaf to provide capital maintenance and improvements at the Center and the above improvements are examples of that).

- Extensive brush cutting is scheduled this fall to help widen some key trails
- Sugarloaf is retrofitting a mountain groomer for use at the outdoor center which will have a wider tiller and dual track setters. This will greatly improve the ability to offer consistent skiing and riding surfaces, especially during challenging weather periods.
- Considerable trail widening on the race loop to accommodate a larger field of racers and spectators.

**Trail Signage Project:** Beneficial to both Nordic Skiing and Mountain Biking a new trail signage project is currently underway at the Outdoor Center and surrounding trails. This is a very ambitious project that will combine both Nordic and mountain bike trails into one trail signage system that will provide trail names and ability level indicators for each trail. We are hopeful to have most of the Nordic ski trails completed this fall with some remaining work on the new signage system to be completed next summer. We wish to thank CV resident Tim Flight for all his volunteer assistance in working with a committee and organizing the signage scheme. This project was also, financially, a collaboration between the Town, the mountain bike club and Sugarloaf. More to come with this project next year also!

**Other Trail and Road Improvements and Initiatives:** Trail bridge projects included the replacement of two large bridge structures on the main service roads (current Trail 1 East and



Trail 1 West) and an additional bridge on current Trail 29. These were replaced with concrete panel bridges. This was our second year in a multi-year effort to replace all wooden deteriorating bridges with these concrete panel bridges that will last for many years. Funding for this project comes from tree harvesting revenues on the public lot. This year we were also able to replace the large stream crossing culvert on the Outdoor Center Road. This was a very involved project that should alleviate some serious flooding problems we experienced on that road during the two major

floods we had in the past seven years. We were able to secure some F.E.M.A. funding for this project. Also, this past summer we were able to receive legislative approval to the deed covenants in the Town's deed to the portion of the Town's public lot was previously owned by the State. The change now allows camping in vehicles (which was not allowed in the original deed from the State). This was more of a process than originally thought but we prevailed. Whether or not some form of a camp ground will be proposed at the Outdoor Center may or may not be for future discussion but the Town's deed to this land now allows it.

**Forest Management:** A new three-year forest management plan for the Town's public lot will be considered in the near future. We did not harvest wood on the lot this year as timing with our primary contractor did not allow it. We do anticipate timber harvesting approximately six-sixty acres in 2020 (that we proposed to do in 2019). As is the case every year a copy of the forestry plan will be posted on the Town website and a public hearing will be held to review the plan prior to

implementation. We have been very happy with the sustainable nature of our forestry program on the public lot (which is overseen by our Forestry Consultant, American Forest Management Company, and our local forestry committee. Forestry revenues (with Town meeting approval) are being expended on trail bridge and road improvements on the public lot. ■



**Sugarloaf Golf Course News**

It was a record season for golf at Sugarloaf Golf Club. Despite challenging weather conditions to start the season, we were able to provide an amazing golf experience for every guest throughout the season. We are very fortunate to have one of the best maintenance teams in the country to make it all possible.

We hosted another successful American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) Coca-Cola Championship. Caleb Manuel made it back-to-back-to-back for Mainers winning the boys division. This event would not be as successful without our dedicated volunteers. We are excited to announce that the AJGA will be returning again in 2020.

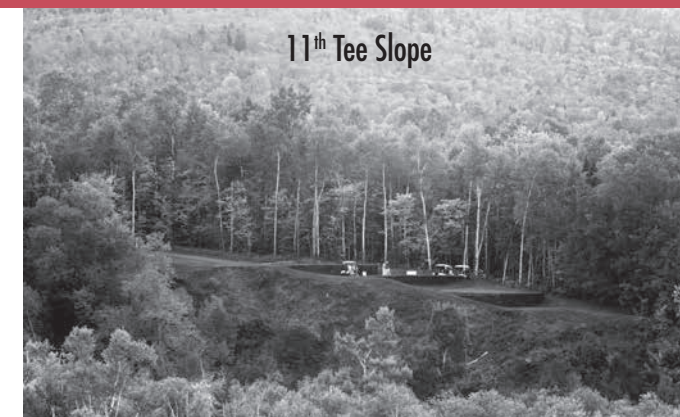
In our recap last year, we mentioned our goal of helping Mount Abram start a high school golf team. Well, we accomplished that goal and had enough players to start a co-op team from Mount Abram and CVA. Ben Debiase was able to make it to individual states and finished 4th for Class C. Congratulations to Ben Debiase on his great season.

We have new club champions this year. Jay Lashar, John Freeman, and Kelly Welch each won their club championship division. We would like to congratulate each champion on a well-deserved victory.

From hole in ones to career low rounds, there was a lot of excitement at Sugarloaf Golf Club. It might be a few months until we are swinging again but we can't wait until 2020.

As you may know, Sugarloaf Golf Course is owned by the Town of Carrabassett and is leased to Sugarloaf via a long-term lease. The Golf Course Greens Committee whose members include representation from Sugarloaf, the Town and golf course membership is an advisory committee that acts as liaison between Town and Sugarloaf regarding the lease and also recom-

**11<sup>th</sup> Tee Slope**



mends joint capital maintenance projects. Many successful projects have been completed over the years to maintain and enhance this top rated and high acclaimed golf course. High on the priority list going forward, perhaps as early as 2020, is an action plan to either attempt to repair the eroded high bank on the scenic and iconic 11th tee and/or move the tee further away from this slope. Over the coming months the Committee will be making recommendations in this regard and further information will be provided. ■



**Maine Huts & Trails: 2018 - 2019**

Eleven years ago, Maine Huts & Trails (MH&T) made a big step from an idea to an innovative enterprise designed to open opportunities for people to experience the majesty of western Maine's mountains, forests, and waters in a truly unique way. Our goals as a non-profit then, as they are now, were to inspire deeper connections to nature, to build an environmentally sustainable recreational trail infrastructure and promote a conservation ethic, and to draw visitors to the region, year-round, for the benefit of local economies and the state.

The organization succeeded on so many fronts. We've welcomed 78,000 overnight guests from 48 states, 9 Canadian provinces and 18 countries, hosted 325 school and youth groups, and engaged 400 volunteers, who provide more than 6,000 hours of service each year. We contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to local and regional small businesses, and we create career experiences in Maine's exciting outdoor recreation economy for upwards of 50 full and part time staff annually.



Trail Work Weekend at Poplar Hut

Today, as the organization reflects on a proud past, it is also confronting cumulative financial challenges – Maine Huts & Trails has come to a crossroads. Our ability to open the huts in any fashion and groom the trails during the 2019-2020 winter season is in jeopardy, sadly, due to a significant funding shortage. As of this writing, we are hoping to open huts on the popular self-service basis for the winter and support some limited grooming. The website will be kept up-to-date with the status of operations: [www.mainehuts.org](http://www.mainehuts.org)

MH&T was founded on the premise that private philanthropy would get the organization up and running, and from there operating revenues including lodging, meals, and retail sales would largely fund the organization's activities. Board and staff worked hard each year to prove the foundational economic model, yet over the last several years, the organization has struggled to make ends meet.

The focus for MH&T this past year has been all about identifying and initiating changed approaches to the organization's hospitality and mission impact work. We have adopted a sustainability plan that calls for changes to the MH&T business model that resets our path to a sound financial future. The plan prioritizes adding diverse new funding streams, focusing on outcomes, engaging promising financial collaborations, building our

fundraising capacity, and more strongly embracing our role as a community partner.

Partnerships have been an integral part of everything we have accomplished to date, and they will be even more essential going forward. As one example, the combined efforts of Carrabassett Valley, Sugarloaf, CRNEMBA, MH&T, and thousands of volunteer hours are enhancing the Carrabassett area as a summer and fall destination and elevating it as one of New England's premier mountain biking destinations. Similar efforts are underway on the Somerset County side of the Maine Hut Trail. This past year was our third year collaborating with the Chewonki Foundation on a terrific staff sharing partnership that provides outdoor educators with year-round jobs with benefits and enriches the MH&T guest experience. And 2019 also marked the third year of a ten-year agreement with Colby College that makes the huts and trails available to faculty and students as a center for inland studies. The partnership brings the college community to the huts and to the valley, links student interns to MH&T to pursue their academic interests, and enables faculty research. These are great partnerships, and they are an important part of MH&T's future.

In the short-term, the priority is raising money to fund initial investments to get the organization back on stable footing. Contributions are certainly welcome – and we thank you, [mainehuts.secure.force.com/DonateForm](http://mainehuts.secure.force.com/DonateForm)

The MH&T brand is still great and the organization *will* get back in balance. Every action step on the plan is focused on achieving a sustainable future. Every touch with guests, donors, members, volunteers, and partners strives to build an ever-expanding cohort of people with a real connection to the organization and to Maine's western mountains.

Many hands built an organization to be proud of, and we are both optimistic and confident of a bright future for MH&T. We are sincerely grateful to you, our community, for joining our journey all these years. We have, in MH&T, a very special place for so many positive experiences outdoors across the Carrabassett region. ■



Another year in the books with many exciting announcements to share!

First things first, we've expanded our space on Outdoor Center Road to offer four private rooms with ensuite's for those guests seeking a bit more privacy. We still offer our hostel style lodging as well, and are able to sleep up to 25 people in total.

The addition also includes a full basement to store all of our adaptive equipment that we have acquired over the last four years, making our programs accessible for people of all abilities! Our programs now include a healthy mix of recreation opportunities, with our focus not just on the outdoors but also the arts, social connections to build community, and indoor activities.

**HORIZONS CLIMBING**

This program takes place at three gyms in Maine, year-round, and also includes summer outdoor climbing opportunities in partnership with Acadia Mountain Guides.

**HORIZONS SKIING**

A partnership with Sugarloaf Ski School to provide inclusive ski lessons for individuals with autism. The 2019/2020 season will be our third year running the program and we are so appreciative of the support, volunteers and excited skiers that have taken advantage of this great opportunity! We will also be expanding the program to New Hermon Mountain to offer adaptive ski lessons for all abilities and ages.

**HORIZONS SAILING**

A hugely popular program in the summer, our sailing program takes place at Sail Maine in Portland and Camp Capella in Dedham.

**HORIZONS MUSIC + THEATRE**

This program kicked off with a music festival at L.L. Bean, which has now become an annual event! We have on-going music programs in partnership with 317 Main St. in Yarmouth. We are also working with Maine State Music Theatre to build a 2020 Holiday Spectacular production with all performers being a part of the community we work with.

**APHASIA CENTER OF MAINE**

The 8th Annual Andre R. Hemond Aphasia Retreat will be held the first weekend of November at Oceanwood in Ocean Park. This retreat hosts over 100 people affected by Aphasia as well as the entire second year graduate students in Speech/Pathology from University of Maine. We have also developed an on-going program, Aphasia Connections, to keep our Aphasia community involved and active throughout the year.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES OFFERED:**

- Biking
- Nature Hikes
- Arts + Crafts
- Snowshoeing
- Nordic Skiing
- Fishing

**For additional information on the Center, programs, events, and volunteer opportunities check out our website at [www.adaptiveoutdooreducationcenter.org](http://www.adaptiveoutdooreducationcenter.org), call 207-237-2676 or email [infoAOEC@gmail.com](mailto:infoAOEC@gmail.com).**

## News from the Carrabasset Valley ATV Club

*Submitted by John McCatherin, Secretary-Treasurer*



Carrabasset Valley ATV Club Trailmaster Pete Boucher lines up the main supports for one of two new bridges built this year to replace stream crossings in the Rapid Stream Valley area near the Kingfield town line. In the background, Foster Robinson of Slopeside Excavation maneuvers the poles into their proper positions. The two new bridges each span about 25 feet across streams that have become environmental concerns because of changing flow directions and volumes. They are part of the 36-mile network of trails operated by the local ATV club.



Mike Young of the Kingfield Quad Runners ATV Club drives the first vehicle across the not-yet-finished bridge — one of two — replacing stream crossings on the Carrabasset Valley ATV Club's trail near the Kingfield town line in Rapid Stream Valley. Young was enroute to join the Carrabasset club's work crew, John McCatherin and Pete Boucher, finishing up the two new bridges.

A year ago we talked in this forum about the new trail between Carrabasset Valley and Lexington about to open up. And then the rains came.

This year we were faced with additional major construction to re-finish what we thought was done. And it worked.

In July we opened a new five-mile section of ATV Trail connecting our existing network from those it joins in Lexington and that opens up an additional link to Kingfield and, our primary goal, a new connection to the Moose Alley ATV Club in Bingham. From there riders from the valley can access the vast network of trails throughout Maine all the way to the Canadian borders to the north and east, just as they have been able to do to the west for years.

While the new Lexington trail has long been an objective of our club, it's not all we were faced with this year. Along with the usual "spring cleaning" — the endless clearing of the trail network from a winter that never seems to go gently — and never-ending maintenance of a 36-mile network, we added another major project this year.

In the section known as the Rapid Stream area, one of our major routes connects with the primary link to the Kingfield Quad Riders Club. Our trail winds from Rt. 27 near the south end of Spring Farm over 6 miles of what is sometimes called the Julie Pond Road and also referred to as the Owl's Head trail. Just before it reaches the Kingfield Town Line, it passes through a pair of stream crossings that in recent years have grown and meandered, creating environmental concerns which we dealt with head on.

Even though winter was in full season, we began work on the project with our trail partners, the J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club, whose groomer dragged in a half dozen utility poles to serve as the under-pinning of the new stream crossings. Come spring, Foster Robinson of Slopeside Excavation brought up additional poles behind his skidder-tractor.

And Club Trailmaster Pete Boucher using his own and the snowmobile club's heavy-duty ATV ferried in parts and supplies that would become part of

not one but two new bridges. Again, considering the distance into the site, that was a considerable project by itself.

With Foster Robinson setting the poles and Boucher and yours truly doing the grunt work, we soon had the framework for the two new bridges. What followed was several days of planking, building ramps and securing the bridges in place.

The first actual crossing by an ATV occurred when Mike Young of the Kingfield Quadrunners showed up to help with the decking.

On behalf of the club, thanks go out to Pete, Mike, President Neal Trask, and the whole family of Vice President Bill Ward whose son Matt spent a day working on the new bridges and whose wife Debbie provided yeoman's work in

setting up the club's new Facebook page. And as usual, our mapmaker Tom LaPointe was on hand when needed to help out in documenting our network. ■

## News from the J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club

*Submitted by Brenda Robbins, Club Secretary*



New Groomer For Upcoming Season

The J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club was formed in 1987 and has over 55+ miles of well-groomed maintained trails as well as part of the "Black Fly Loop", a vast network of more than 134 miles of trails considered to be the widest variety of riding in the East. The Club is located in the hub of snowmobiling. You start in Carrabasset Valley and ride to Eustis and then on to Rangeley and Canada or ride to Greenville, Farmington or New Hampshire! We are a 100% M.S.A. affiliated Snowmobile Club and are very proud to promote safe snowmobiling in our area. We offer a designated parking lot for our members, behind the snowmobile club and you can get fuel and food just up the road as well as connect to the trails using the multipurpose bridge that crosses the Carrabasset River.

Throughout the year, club members volunteer their time to build/repair bridges, cut trees,

clear brush, and install signs to prepare for the snowmobile season. Just as important, our volunteers maintain the club house and outbuildings (snowmobile and trailer storage sheds) as well as keep the driveway plowed for member's accessibility. Club membership continues to grow with over 100 members and because of their support, friendliness and desire to have fun we have much to offer. We have regular monthly meetings (1st Saturday of every month at 4 p.m.) during the winter months, organized club rides, and host an annual End of Season Dinner.

The J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club will officially kick off this year's 2019/2020 season with their Annual Homecoming BBQ on Saturday, October 12th from 11 to 2PM. This is a great opportunity for members and new members to stop by the clubhouse to pay their membership dues, meet the Officers, hear about this winter's trail

plans and see the new Groomer!

The J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club would like to thank our landowners, our business sponsors, the Town of Carrabasset Valley, and our Club Members and Officers. If it wasn't for all of you, we wouldn't have a club!

To learn more about the J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club, stop on your way through Carrabasset Valley. The club house is located next to the

Sugarbowl and has a supply of membership cards, trail maps and most likely you will meet one of our loyal club members who continuously work year-round. Or, contact the club's secretary, Brenda Robbins at [brobbin3@gmail.com](mailto:brobbin3@gmail.com), 207-592-3579. ■

If you would like to join, please send a check in the amount of \$38 which covers your MSA and J.V. Club dues to:

**J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club  
Valley Crossing #11  
Carrabasset Valley, ME 04947**



## CARRABASSETT VALLEY ACADEMY START HERE. STOP AT NOTHING.

### Camps

Did you know CVA offers about 40 camps throughout the year? A camp is a great opportunity for an athlete to give CVA a try without committing to a whole term or every weekend. Use the Camps page on our website to get updates about the camps offered in Alpine, Snowboarding, Skicross, Backcountry, and Freestyle.



### Weekend Program

Designed for skiers and snowboarders ages 7-19 who love to ski or snowboard, this year's program runs from December 7th to April 5th. Meet on Saturdays and Sundays, Christmas vacation and February vacation week for training with a weekend program coach in Alpine, Snowboard, Skicross, or Freestyle.

### CVA graduates coming back ... and giving back

This season seven former CVA students, who spent many of their formative years in Carrabassett Valley, are returning to help teach and train the next generation of Big Dogs. They're returning to the community who originally helped them follow their passion, and guiding a new generation to do the same. Go Big Dogs!

- Keegan Kilbride '14  
– Head Freeski Coach
- Garrett Lashar '00  
– Alpine Program Director
- Sierra Leavitt '11  
– Science and History Teacher
- Freddy McCarthy '12  
– Head Snowboardcross Coach
- Travis Plass '04  
– Head U19W Alpine Coach
- Kate Webber Punderson '89  
– Head of School
- Sean Sullivan '16  
– U16 Alpine Coach

SEE MORE ONLINE: VISIT [GOCVA.COM](http://GOCVA.COM) OR



### News from the Carrabassett History Committee

*Submitted by Jean Luce, Chairperson*

The Town's history committee has made significant progress this year enlarging the timeline, which is now in its own website: [history.carrabassettvalley.org](http://history.carrabassettvalley.org). This part of our project will continue to be expanded as we research more material, but we have reached a transition point in our work.

As we began expanding the details of specific stories, it became clear a narrative of all our material is just wanting to be written. Committee members have contributed a number of segments which now need to be tied together professionally. Consequently, we have put the word out through the library network and have found, not surprisingly, it will cost us. But our Town's 50th Anniversary

is in 2022! There is a real unique story to tell and we will be asking you to help fund it.

The timeline has received the benefit of work from former committee members John McCatherin, Al Diamon, and Steve Piece. We thank each of them for their contributions while now welcoming John Slagle on board for the next steps in our project. You can help also. Our email address is [cvhistory@roadrunner.com](mailto:cvhistory@roadrunner.com) and



An image of Carrabassett Drive in March of 1947. The image is taken from today's Route 27, near the present Sugarbowl, looking west. Photo courtesy of Susan Harrison

we would like to know of any information you could add. ■

### News from the Sugarloaf Christian Ministry

*Submitted by Gerry Baril, Ministry Chair*

Greetings to all of our mountain friends, good neighbors and the many generous supporters, without whom, our vision and mission, could never be realized, year-after-year. The Sugarloaf Christian Ministry board and Pastors, Rev. Dr. Pamela Morse and Rev. Earle Morse, warmly welcome all Sugarloafers, friends and visitors to this beautiful mountain community.

The Ministry is active year-round, providing support and encouragement to all ages and devoted to a number of volunteer community outreach services in and around the valley area. Emergency heating assistance during the winter months, clothing from the collection box at Ayotte's, food items for the local food pantries collected at Tin Mountain Round-Up, CVA Food Drive and the

Homecoming Library Book and Food sale are examples of the local services made possible by the many generous supporters of our Ministry. Around the globe, the many financial gifts donated to our Ministry, have allowed us to support humanitarian services in Africa, Honduras, Puerto Rico and Thailand. The Ministry is in association with American Baptist Churches of Maine and Skiers and Snowboarders for Christ, providing traditional and contemporary Christian ministries for all ages, on and off the slopes.

From September through June, 9:00 A.M. Sunday worship services are held at the Richard H. Bell Interfaith Chapel located in Parking Lot C. Two Christmas Eve Candlelight services are also held at the chapel, one at 7:00 P.M. and the other at 9:00 P.M.



From Christmas to Easter, the Ministry also provides outdoor Downhill Worship services each Sunday at 11:00 A.M. for skiers of intermediate ability. An Outdoor Easter Sunrise Service off the top of the SuperQuad and a

9:00 A.M. Easter Celebration at the chapel round out the heart of ski season on the mountain.

By mid-June, with help from Sugarloaf Mountain, local volunteers set up the stage, seating and sound equipment at the Sugarloaf Community Amphitheatre; better known as THE AMP, in preparation for July and August 11:00 A.M. worship services at an elevation of 3530 feet. We look forward to seeing many of our Sugarloaf friends at THE AMP this October 13th, for Homecoming 2019 service at 11:00 AM. Remember; Life looks different at THE AMP!

Be sure to check out our Memorial Plaque, displayed near the entrance to THE AMP, (to the right of the trail map sign off the SuperQuad), where Sugarloafers can remember loved ones with a personal message. The memorial plaques are available through Sugarloaf Christian Ministry for a donation of \$300, which helps offset Ministry expenses for the state-of-the-art audio system and other items used at THE AMP.

We invite you to browse our informational websites for further information and available services at [www.cvalleynetwork.org](http://www.cvalleynetwork.org) and [www.sugarloafministry.com](http://www.sugarloafministry.com) and to "like us" on Facebook. ■

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

## Maine's Northwestern Mountains, Come Play in Our Backyard - Flagstaff Area Business Association

The Maine's Northwestern Mountains Visitor's Center staff would like to express our thanks to the Carrabassett Valley Taxpayers and your Board of Selectpersons for again supporting our Regional Visitor's Center in 2019. A favorable vote at the March Carrabassett Valley Town Meeting approved "much needed" capital improvements and a \$6,000 investment allows us to market/promote the interest of businesses and residents throughout Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region for better economic opportunities for all.

**OUR MISSION:** Flagstaff Area Business Association promotes the economic welfare and goals of its surrounding communities by providing a forum for networking, cooperative advertising, community sponsorship, and the exchange of ideas to create and maintain the Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region as a thriving four-season tourist destination.

**OUR MESSAGE: Mountains of Possibilities ... Come Play in Our Backyard!** As a business association for 25 years, your continued support ensures greater accomplishments for member business owners, employees and families.

Maine's Northwestern Mountains is in the heart of 10 of Maine's 4,000' mountains and offers visitors, as well as residents, unending options to choose their own adventures. During the last twelve months, we have had over 2,400 visitors stop at the Center and over 2,500 potential visitors have contacted us by telephone or email to request a copy of Maine's Northwestern Mountains Visitor's Guide. We are on track in 2019 to distribute 26,000 Guides throughout the 50 states, thus introducing thousands of potential visitors to Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region.

Drop by for a visit and help us celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a Business Association. Your feedback and ideas are important and welcome. Joni Blanchard, Doug Archer and Richard

Fotter will be happy to welcome you, give you a package of Maine's Northwestern Mountains Breakfast Blend by Carrabassett Coffee for your breakfast enjoyment and explain how the Flagstaff Area Business Association is supporting the entire Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region. You may also contact us at (207) 235-6008 or visit us at [mainenorthwesternmountains.com](http://mainenorthwesternmountains.com) ■



## News from the Greater Franklin Development Council

Submitted by Charlie Woodworth, Executive Director



Dear Carrabassett Valley constituents,

As promised, here is an update on our work:

For the past twelve months we have been focused on our continued outreach effort to hear from business leaders, citizens and elected officials at all levels. These conversations have informed our work. There is universal understanding that a healthy economy follows in communities that devise comprehensive plans that lead to prioritized investments in themselves which affects "quality of place".

Our current initiatives are:

- **Delivering our county-wide broadband**

**plan** and bringing it to implementation. This is the cornerstone to our economic and community development. Our plan recognizes that connectivity will require a public/private partnership - providers and towns must share the cost to connect. We are reviewing provider's proposals for all corners of the county and expect to see implementation begin in 2020.

- **Workforce Development:** working with employers, trade schools, Adult Ed our Dept. of Labor and Career Centers to provide employers with an upskilled workforce and workers with opportunities at a career.
- **A regional Branding and Marketing initiative** that will organize and amplify the recreational assets and experiences that our region can offer. To drive measurable visitation later this month we will launch a website that will promote

select lodging entities to host corporate retreats. This will be the first "campaign" of an evolving marketing website.

- **A regional Arts, Cultural and Heritage plan** that has measured existing assets and found synergies amongst our myriad non-profit organizations. The goal is to have these communities working towards mutually beneficial initiatives, such as a county-wide online calendar that is updated by the member/users. This will help with planning as well as promotion of events.

Your feedback is important and welcome. If you want to hear more about these topics please contact me at [cwoodworth@greaterfranklin.com](mailto:cwoodworth@greaterfranklin.com)

If you would like more regular and in-depth updates on our work please sign up to receive our quarterly newsletter at our website [www.greaterfranklin.com](http://www.greaterfranklin.com) ■

## wskitv.com — Snowfields Productions

Submitted by Nadene McCloud

### WSKI-TV 17 and [wskitv.com](http://wskitv.com) celebrate Forty Years of giving our viewers information to Know Before You Go!

WSKI-TV has been serving our Mountain, then Town, then Region, since our inception on-Mountain via closed circuit cable as part of Sugarloaf's Marketing Department in 1979.

WSKI-TV became privately owned by the previous SMC employees, Nadene McLeod and Jeff Du-mais, operating as Snowfields Productions, after Chapter 11 caused Sugarloaf to cease operation of the station in 1986.

For over twenty years, we have been and are the most watched 'local' TV station in the State of Maine. WSKI-TV 17, on Spectrum Cable from Kingfield to Eustis, is #1 year after year in Nielsen market research ratings. We reach viewers while here visiting, as they're more apt to WATCH WSKI-TV 17, rather than whatever they do at their own home.

Television makes viewers want what they didn't know they want. Our sponsors/advertisers reap the rewards of our exposure as our viewers' receptivity to messages is also higher in their 'vacation state of mind', even if it's only on weekends when they can watch!

WSKI is proud to be one of a handful of small INDEPENDENT businesses in Carrabassett Valley who have survived for so long through hard work and determination. We have grown and thrived (albeit modestly) without a change of ownership,



because we are dedicated to IMPROVING the guests' (and locals') experience in the area, Turning Guests into Locals!

We are much more than a local cable TV station; we are true four-season destination TV. WSKI updates the weather forecast nonstop, and trail conditions for alpine and Nordic skiing, fat tire biking and snowmobiling in the winter; CV MTBing and area ATVing in the warmer months. We produce our hugely popular live shows full of interesting interviews and exclusive info in the winter, and all year, we cover with video productions, a variety of activities directly and indirectly publicizing our Town with so many reasons to visit, or move here, year-round.

Additionally, we promote and market Carrabassett Valley with all our local info, including videos, like no one else can, on our website [wskitv.com](http://wskitv.com) to be viewed anywhere at any time by anyone.

Our on-line presence garners over 5,000 views weekly in the summer and between 20,000-25,000 views per week on average in the winter (higher when we have a snowstorm). No other entity has so fully undertaken the task to get the word out about all that Carrabassett Valley offers,

including its 100+ km of mountain bike trails.

We want to encourage visitors to Stay Another Day by giving them plenty of ideas of things to do. WSKI enlightens visitors who are NOT mountain bikers, to consider adding a day of that sport to their stay because of what they've seen on WSKI-TV 17 with beginner terrain available and affordable rentals.

We want our winter viewers to realize we are a full season destination with so much to do for all ages outside in non-winter months, too, away from the crowds found elsewhere, from hiking to boating, motor and non-motorized forms of recreation, and the many options throughout the Maine High Peaks that winter visitors are generally unaware of.

If you are a local business owner, or a business owner from where so many of our audience of CV second homeowners call home, take advantage of our ability to bring new customers through your doors. [wskitv@wskitv.com](mailto:wskitv@wskitv.com) or 237-6895 for inquiries.

Thank you to the businesses whose marketing budget investment with WSKI results in increased business for themselves, and WSKI staying on the air for our audience. Our gratitude is ENORMOUS for the voters of CV supporting the Town's use of WSKI to promote all that is offered here. We trust we will continue to earn that vital support, and we look forward to continuing to be #1 rated for the next forty years. ■

**Stay Tuned!**

# Connections

1001 Carriage Road • Carrabassett Valley, ME 04947

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Farmington, ME  
Permit No. 30

www.carrabassettvalley.org

#### Town Manager

Dave Cota  
Ph. 207-235-2645  
e-mail: townm@roadrunner.com

#### Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Wendy Russell  
Ph. 207-235-2645  
e-mail: townclerk@roadrunner.com

#### Code Enforcement/Assessing

Bill Gilmore  
Ph. 207-235-2645  
e-mail: townce@roadrunner.com  
Chris Parks  
Ph. 207-235-2645  
e-mail: cvceo@roadrunner.com

#### Treasurer/Deputy Tax Collector

Lori Hocking  
Ph. 207-235-2645  
e-mail: townctax@roadrunner.com

#### Recreation Director

Deborah Bowker  
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e-mail: dbowker3@roadrunner.com

#### Fire Chief

Courtney Knapp  
Ph. 207-235-2991  
e-mail: countknapp@roadrunner.com

#### Police Chief

Mark Lopez  
Ph. 207-237-3200  
e-mail: mlopez@sugarloaf.com

For Emergencies Call: 237-3200 or 911

## Annual Newsletter

from the town of Carrabassett Valley

### Sugarloaf Explorer 2019 – 2020 Season

Submitted by Bill Aikey

This year is the 10th season of the Explorer Shuttle Service. Over that time, we've experienced tremendous growth, and last season we saw the number of passengers increase to almost 130K. The increase was across the board, weekdays, weekends and evenings.

To meet the increasing demand, we will be replacing 6 of our older coach buses with 6 new 24 passenger buses. The new design will be slightly larger and will meet the latest safety and ADA requirements. In addition, we will also be adding 2 large school type buses. The school buses will allow us to operate with chains when necessary. These additions will increase our overall capacity by approximately 15% and will help improve the overcrowding during the weekend, morning "Peak Times".

The 2019-2020 season will see a few route changes. Service to Gondola Village will be

"On Request". Service from Gondi Village will require a phone call to request pickup. Service to Gondi Village from the base will be on Route 1 (Mountainside) and you must let the driver know where you are headed. Drop off will be on the return trip coming down Mountainside Road. As long as the Inn can keep the driveway clear, we will continue to drive up to the entrance. If the driveway becomes impassable, all pickups will revert to the sign at the end of the driveway. As with Gondi Village, keeping the driveways clear is critical. Backing buses out, due to parking congestion, at the Inn and Gondi Village is simply too dangerous. Route 5 (Village on the Green), pickup for Niblick will be at the bottom of Niblick. The larger buses will not be able to make the turn at the top of the road.



The Farmington Express continues to be a success and will continue for the upcoming season. The Stratton Express, on the other hand, did not generate the ridership we were hoping for, and will be discontinued.

Schedules are available online at SugarloafExplorer.com and printed copies are available on all buses and around the resort. Service begins on November 28th for Explorer and the Farmington Express.

Follow us on Twitter @SugarloafBus for the latest information. See you on the hill! ■