

Carrabassett Valley Connections

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

New Carrabassett Valley Fire Station Completed

Submitted by Dave Cota



wonderful new facility (please bring a mask). The building includes double deep truck bays, a training room, sleeping quarters, radio/communications room, Fire Chief's office, day room, laundry and cleanup room, new hose

drying racks, a mezzanine area for storage, high efficiency heating and cooling and LED lighting.

As the Town's fire department is a call department with a paid part-time Chief, the new station will not be manned. Fire, police and ambulance emergency calls should always be placed via 911. The Sugarloaf Security and Communications Center on the mountain is manned 24/7 and can be reached by visiting their office or by calling 237-3200.

There are three key folks to thank for their involvement in this project. Our Construction Manager, H.E. Callahan Co. of Auburn, Maine worked closely with the Town every step of the way and was extremely accommodating to work with. All of their subcontractors (Jordan Excavation did all the site work) performed high quality work and we are very happy with the finished product. Thank you to Sugarloaf and Boyne for the donation of the land and many hours of site engineering for this project. We also owe a special thanks to Courtney Knapp, our Fire Chief, who's expertise and countless hours of involvement were essential to the success of this project. Also, thanks to you the taxpayers of Carrabassett Valley, and to the Board of Selectmen for your support. We now have a facility we can all be proud of and that will serve the needs of our growing Town for many years.

This project also paves the way for Sugarloaf to obtain use and ownership of the current "mountain" fire station which consists of two large garage bay areas in Sugarloaf's maintenance garage facility. The fire department will continue to operate the "Village" fire station located in the Town Office building in the Valley. ■

The Town's new Fire Station located on 5002 Backburn Way off the Sugarloaf Access Road is completed. The building was constructed on a 2-acre site near the Sugarloaf salt sand storage facility. The fire department is moving into the building the first week in November and some form of open house is planned for Saturday November 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Please join us! Following COVID-19 guidelines small groups of people will be admitted into this 6,400 sq. ft. building at a time to tour this

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Visit us online at: www.carrabassettvalley.org

News from the Town Manager

Hope you are all safe and well in these crazy times. Our Town facilities have remained open with proper protocols during COVID-19. The Town Office is open and the library (limited hours) and the Anti-Gravity Center remain open with guidelines in place. Check the Town website (www.carrabassetvalley.org) for hours of operation which may change. The Transfer Station is open during regular hours (Thursday through Monday 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.). We continue to accept recycling materials and we have reopened the "Swap Shop" with guidelines (masks required; only two people in the building; gloves recommended).

While COVID-19 has changed part of our operations and agenda, we have remained busy with a number of projects, initiatives and issues. Some of the more notable are as follows:

Sugarloaf Explorer Transportation

System: Due to COVID-19, unfortunately some major changes to the transportation system are being implemented. The biggest changes are the elimination of night time service and operating the buses at one-half capacity (although more buses will be deployed to help offset this). Please

see the enclosed article 'Sugarloaf Explorer' for more information. Things may change as we get closer to ski season but this is where we are at this time with CDC and State guidelines. We advise you to check Twitter for up to date information @SugarloafBus or on line at SugarloafExplorer.com.

New "Mountain" Fire Station: The new fire station building project is completed. It's located just off the Sugarloaf Access Road near the Sugarloaf salt-sand facility. We are very pleased with the results. Thanks are due to our Fire Chief Courtney Knapp for his tireless involvement, to H.E. Callahan our construction manager/builder and to Sugarloaf/Boyer for the donation of the land and site engineering for the project. We are holding an open house (with protocols in place) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday November 28th. Please come join us!

New Airport Project: We have just received a \$165,000 F.A.A. grant to design, permit and put out to bid a new Taxi Lane project at the airport that will allow further development of hangars at the airport. We continue to receive significant interest for new hangar development.



Submitted by Dave Cota, Town Manager

The actual construction project will require an additional grant and probably will not start until fall of 2021 or summer of 2022.

Relationship with the Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN) and use of their lands in Carrabasset Valley.

As you may know, PIN owns 24,000 acres in CV or just under one-half of the total land base in our Town. Approximately two months ago PIN posted no trespassing signs on their roads here with the exception of the Carriage Road. They have recently allowed the ATV and snowmobile trails here to reopen for which we are very grateful. As of Nov. 1st we have not heard as to whether or not our request for use of mountain bike and Nordic ski trails on their lands will be allowed. We continue to try to open a dialogue with PIN representatives to understand their concerns and to discuss our relationship and how we can move forward for the mutual benefit of both the Penobscot Nation and the Town. If PIN agrees to meet with us that discussion would include a discussion of converting their Carrabasset Valley land into Federal Trust Lands as they wish to do. During the recent State Legislative Session, the Legislative Judiciary Committee considered

three legislative bills (LD's) that would have drastically reshaped the 1980 Indian Lands Claim Settlement Implementing Act. These LD's (1392, 2118 and 2094) would have allowed for a much easier path for the Indian Tribes in Maine to convert their "Fee Lands" in Maine to "Federal Trust Lands" without a vote of the municipality in which these lands are located. While too complicated to explain in this brief article, Carrabasset Valley would be one of only a few municipalities in Maine that would be affected and would easily be the most impacted town in the State. Depending on what conditions are placed into these LD's, the Town could lose the ability to regulate land use on these 24,000 acres. In



addition, PIN would no longer pay property taxes to the Town. Proposed LD #1392 essentially would have allowed a path for gaming to be allowed on Trust Lands. These legislative bills were not approved by the legislature as the legislature did not reconvene this year. If you are interested in reading more about these proposals you can go to the State website (maine.gov) and to the Legislature and to the Judiciary Committee where you will find these LD's. This is shaping up to be an interesting process in the next legislative session in January as we expect to see these or similar legislative bills introduced. From the Town's perspective, our most important consideration is continued use of trail systems (ATV, snowmobile, mountain bike and Nordic) that cross the PIN lands. Again, we are very appreciative of past and present annual Use Permits from PIN for use of their lands for trails and we hope to be able to open up a dialogue with the Nation in the near future.

New Town Public Lot and Mountain Bike Trail Development:

In January, the Town purchased the so-called 225-acre 'Jones Public Lot' which is located approximately one-mile south of the Carriage Road in Valley Crossing off the old rail bed. Our trail crew led by Josh Tausen and Spencer Lee have recently built over a mile of new mountain bike trail on this lot. We hope to be able to secure a permanent easement or use permit from PIN to be able to access this lot from the Carriage Road. New mountain bike

trail development is now taking place on the State of Maine 'Wyman Lot' which will provide access to substantial additional trail development on the State owned 'Crocker Mountain Conservation Land' located in CV in the future.

At the annual Town Meeting in March, the voters approved ordinances that will **allow up to two retail marijuana stores** in the Town's 'Valley Center' zoning district. These licenses will be determined by lottery and lottery forms and related requirements are now available and must be submitted to the Town Office no later 2:00 p.m. February 4th, 2021 (please check the Town

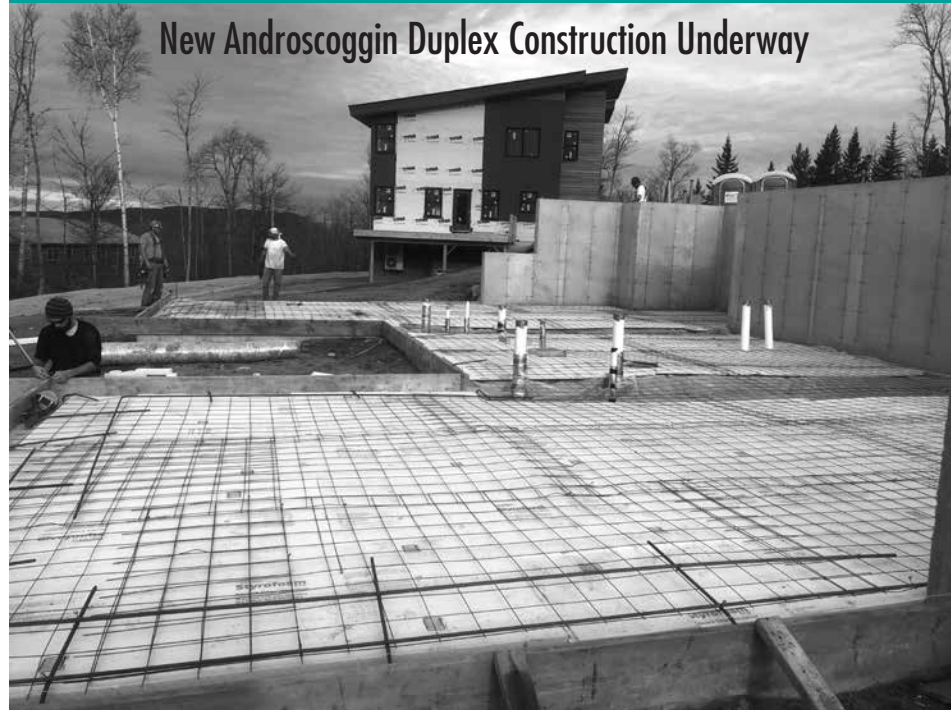


website for additional information).

As part of a State, if not national, trend we are seeing more people moving to desirable more rural destination resort areas like Carrabasset Valley as a result of the pandemic. We have seen a fairly substantial increase in the number of people either buying real estate (what's available to buy) or moving to their second homes here. Both the golf course and our trail systems have seen a significant crease in use. Our student enrollment has increased a whopping 59% (49 to 78) over this time last year. While the increased economic activity is certainly welcomed, we will see an increase in our property tax rate next year due to the number of students we now pay tuition for. Whether the increase in resident students is temporary due to the pandemic or permanent remains to be seen. Our property tax rate will still be among the lowest in the State but again, as a property taxpayer in Carrabasset Valley you will see a bump in taxes next year.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to Lori Hocking who was the Town's Treasurer here for the past thirteen years. Lori has moved to the mid-coast area with her husband. We are pleased to welcome Sacha Gillespie who is our new Town Treasurer.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have (207-235-2645 or towncvtm@roadrunner.com). Let's hope for good ski season! ■



New Androscoggin Duplex Construction Underway

Home Construction around the Valley and Mountain have been strong with more than 22 new dwelling units in various stages of completion and there appears to be many more ready to start in Spring 2021. The busy construction of new homes is ranging from West Mountain to Spruce Knoll, Sugarloaf Village, several previously unbuilt house lots at the top of Bigelow Hill to Redington East. Many are owned by folks that have enjoyed the area for a long time and decided now is the time to build their dream home. I also expect to see new activity next spring at the south end of Town with some new homes starting to be built in the previously approved 22 lot subdivision on Zion Way. Sugarloaf is working toward preparing submission of their expansion plans to the Planning Board and they indicate they are working with engineering consultants and would like to present plans over the winter, which will unlock more potential house lots to allow more folks to call the Mountain their home.

I hear reports of folks asking “who can I get to . . . ?” as it seems many of the local tradesmen (builders, electricians, plumbers, septic designers) are booked out for weeks, and the trades are just as busy elsewhere. I encourage folks to be patient as I hear from the tradesmen that unfortunately they can’t manage to call back every voicemail they get but are trying to respond

as best they can to help our community. I would like to strongly ask that folks do not take on DIY projects because they cannot find tradesmen, especially if they live in one of the many condo associations around Town. That will only lead to unfinished work and potential dangers for the owners as well as their neighbors living next door or downstairs.

I have heard many reports from our various

neighborhoods of complaints of noisy neighbors, vehicles speeding down the narrow gravel private roads, trash/litter being thrown from vehicles, etc. with concerns that transient guests of short-term-rentals (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.) are likely the culprit. I have been asked to look into what a short-term rental ordinance might address by looking at other resort communities around Maine to see if this may be beneficial and I will bring my findings to the Planning Board for further discussion. I would strongly request that any of you whom share your space with friends, relatives, or transient guests take the effort to share that they are representing you in your community and that you stress the importance of driving and acting respectfully as if they lived here and walked with the pets and children along our peaceful neighborhood streets.

Beavers along the Narrow Gauge Pathway

During the summer, we found that a pair of beavers had taken up residency in an old bog south of the Riverside 1900 Cabin. They did what they do best and quickly built a dam that brought the water level up close to the surface of the pathway. They also started building a dam further downstream as a cross culvert under the pathway that was headed toward flooding the



“Beaver Deciever”



One of our beaver friends near the newly installed “water leveler”.

trail as well. We asked Maine Wildlife Biologists to visit the site and discuss remedial options. The biologists shared that it was too late in the summer to relocate the pair as there would not be enough time for them to reestablish a

new home before winter. They suggested that we install structural measures to coexist and limit their flood potential, or we could wait until trapping season in November. Even if the critters were removed, the sites showed signs of periodic

occupations by past beavers and likely would be reoccupied again. The decision was made to work with a local Animal Damage Control Agent and install structural measures to allow the beavers to coexist with the pathway users. A “water leveler” was installed at the upper dam so that the beavers can build up to an elevation that provides them the pool of water they need for daily life. If they dammed above that height then the water will safely flow through a culvert with the inlet protected by a metal cage to keep from flooding the pathway. A traditional “Beaver Deceiver” was installed at the lower cross-culvert, which creates a cage around the culvert inlet. As the biologists noted that the immediate surrounding forest was mostly softwood varieties, it is unlikely that the hardwood-loving beavers could create enough of a debris dam around the “deceiver” to cause a problem that can’t be averted with periodic debris removal during seasonal checks.

We have heard from many trail users that they enjoy watching the beavers, and have wanted to know how we were going to address the situation. We are pleased to offer the opportunity to coexist with the wildlife while enjoying adjacent recreational offerings year-round. ■

Greetings from the School Department! The following is a summary of the Carrabassett Valley student enrollment as of September 28, 2020: Kingfield Elementary School, fourteen students; Stratton Elementary School, nineteen students; Mt. Abram High School, eleven students; Carrabassett Valley Academy, 23 full year students and an additional 20 half year students equaling 10 additional tuitions. This is a total of 73 students K-12, a substantial increase of students over last year’s fall enrollments of 54 students K-12. This is the first year that our total student enrollment has increased since 2015 of a high of 66 students. For the past five years Carrabassett Valley had been following the State’s demographic trend of a decreasing student enrollment K-12. However, with the present pandemic we have seen this sudden and unexpected increase in our enrollments. Consequently, this increase in students

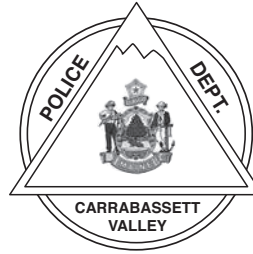
will have a substantial impact on our budget this year as well as in the future if we maintain these increased enrollment numbers.

Since last spring we have added two new School Committee members: Meredith Swallow and Erin Demshar, replacing two long term retiring members Kim Kerring and Jen McCormack. The School Committee would like to thank Kim and Jen for their service over these past years. Other members of the Committee are Steve Arner Chair, Danielle London Vice Chair, and Deirdre Frey. Also, as some of you may have known, I had planned to retire this past year, but because of COVID-19 and all the disruption and uncertainty of the situation the school committee and I felt it would be better to have some consistency at this time and I have decided to stay this year. The Committee hopes to start the hiring process again sometime mid year.

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. Karen Campbell is our bus driver and she will be driving the Carrabassett bus to the Stratton elementary school. We also have contract with the Stratton School Department who picks up the Carrabassett Valley students going to SAD # 58 schools as they go south through town, as we did last year. If for any reason you need to speak with any of us, we can be contacted by calling Wendy Russell at the Town Office at 235-2645.

The School Committee meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of each month at the town office. Please check the Town website for the monthly agenda and meeting dates and time. All are welcome to attend. ■

Notes from the Carrabasset Valley Police Department



Hello from the Carrabasset Valley Police Department. Covid-19 has certainly made our summer interesting but we are still here, and extremely proud of our role in the community, and strive to provide professional and courteous Police and Security services to our residents and guests in these trying times.

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 4 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.

Submitted by Police Chief Mark Lopez

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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News from the Carrabasset Valley Fire Department

The past nine months have been the most challenging my career. We have been faced with the greatest health emergency in modern times. COVID 19 is a very contagious disease that has killed many folks in our country and continues to rage. As a First Responder Agency we have had to develop additional policies and procedures that protect our fire fighters when responding to both fire and medical events. Maine EMS has provided a continuous stream of information daily and weekly with the best-known facts from Maine CDC. Also, Personal Protective Equipment has been provided at no charge. Our town will see some added challenges with the winter season. We definitely want folks to come and recreate as the tourism business is our life blood. Sugarloaf has created COVID 19 guidelines for their guests. We can all make this work and be safe.

On a much brighter note, we are near completion of a new fire station. This project is the result of many years of planning. At the annual 2020 town meeting, voters gave approval for construction of a new public safety building. We started construction on May 4th with Jordan Lumber clearing and preparing the two-acre site which was donated by Sugarloaf. H E Callahan, our

construction manager, has been onsite from the beginning. H E Callahan owner Christine Kendall has provided the highest level of expertise. As of this writing mid-October, we are a couple of weeks from moving in. Plymouth Engineering our building designer has given the town an asset to be proud of. We are currently planning an open house Saturday November 28th. Our fire fighters will escort small groups on walking tours that will meet COVID 19 guidelines. We do encourage folks to stop by when some of us are there as well. Lastly, I would like to point out that we have been staffing our existing Mountain Station at night during the ski season and will continue in our new station located

Submitted by Courtney Knapp, Chief

on the Access Road at Backburn Way (formerly known as the Salt Sand Road). The Valley Station at the Town Office will remain in service with our Squad and Engine. I want to talk the voters and taxpayers for making this dream come true finally possible! ■



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 staffed 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 have been challenging for everyone during these COVID-19 times. I would

like to take a moment and update you on the steps NorthStar has taken to protect you and our providers.

Currently we have a solid inventory of the appropriate personal protective equipment for the hospital and NorthStar. Maine Health has done an excellent job of securing these supplies during the pandemic. We are also daily monitoring the use to ensure that we have adequate inventory.

Currently all on duty NorthStar employees are practicing universal masking. We are wearing masks during all patient encounters or while out in the public. We are also requiring all patients to wear a surgical mask during transport.

In the past once the ambulance arrived on scene both providers would approach the patient and begin care and treatment. We now have modified this approach. The current approach is one provider will make contact with the patient and maintain a safe distance and assess the possibility of being a risk of having COVID 19. If it is determined that there is a potential the provider will don a higher level of personal protection equipment, N95 respirator, gown, and face shield.

Once at the emergency department we will coordinate with the nursing staff on the best way to safely transition care into the ED department.

All NorthStar and hospital employees are required to complete a health screening at the beginning of their shift. This just adds another layer of protection for everyone.

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



The picture shows crew training in PPE to move a COVID patient into the ED.

The Carrabasset Valley Public Library & Community Center celebrated its 10th anniversary in February of 2020!

The CV Library provides a wide variety of materials and services, while offering free memberships for everyone. Our cozy environment is stocked with books, DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, public computers, magazines, newspapers, puzzles and a variety of children's materials. In normal times, the building is open to the public, but amidst the pandemic we have taken steps to provide a safe plan for people to borrow and enjoy our materials, in addition to the online opportunities for accessing free eBooks, audiobooks and streaming movies. The lobby is closed to the public at this time; however, staff is available during all open hours and guests are advised to make appointments to come inside for short visits to browse and check out materials, or use the computer; services such as printing, copying and faxing are still provided. The library is also offering curbside service to anyone who feels more comfortable with an outside pick-up or drop-off. We quarantine all items upon return to ensure that materials are safe when they are returned back into circulation. The Carrabasset Valley Public Library Facebook page shares current information and updates as our situation unfolds. Find the library link on the town website at www.carrabassetvalley.org.

CV Public Library attendance in 2019 increased again to more than **6,800** visits, with approximately 2,000 additional people using the Lobby and Begin Family Community Room facilities. The library has registered over 4,800 members since

moving into our new building! Library members can download free audiobooks and eBooks through the Maine State Library; stop by for your FREE library membership to access this free service—search download.maineinonet.org. Using the cloudLibrary app makes the Maine Infonet Download Library easy to use. We also have three Kindles for lending and an iPad for in-library use. The lobby gallery provides a beautiful venue for local artists to display their work. The library has hosted over 54 artists during the past 10 years. Recently we hosted Jillian Herrigel, Morgain Bailey, Patty Thomas and Karen Campbell for solo shows and this summer welcomed two new artists: Dorothy Breen and Carly Roberts, to our returning favorites exhibiting in our Summer Local Artists' Exhibit. Lineup for 2020-21 looks a bit different as we move forward with uncertainty. The artists who are exhibiting this summer have agreed to continue into the fall until we find more stability in scheduling new artists. Please contact the library if you are interested in showing your art solo or as part of the summer locals' exhibit.

What's New? We will soon provide an official outdoor **Library Book Return** so you can return your items safely at any time of the day or night! Free streaming services are available through Kanopy.com with your library membership. A reminder that for the second year, the library purchased a pass to lend to library members which provides free admission for occupants of up to a *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

OPEN HOURS

WINTER: Tue - Sat: 10 - 5
SPRING & FALL: Tue - Fri: 10 - 5 & Sat: 10 - 3
SUMMER: Wed - Fri: 10 - 5 & Sat: 10 - 3

Wilton, which will be available as soon as these facilities reopen to the public.

The **Begin Family Community Room** has been used regularly for dozens of town meetings, association and committee meetings, clubs, free tax help, classes, parties, memorials and celebrations, as well as serving as a gathering space for a variety of groups & organizations. Wine & cheese receptions are normally hosted for each exhibiting artist and free movies shown on the *big screen*. Other community room uses include programs and events for the public. The most recent events included: Chewonki's OWLS OF MAINE, Talk Saves Lives, Storyteller Jennifer Armstrong, Maine Holistic Vets, Internet Safety Program, Maine Wildlife Talk with Ed Robinson, and Rob Duquette & Amanda Panda shared their children's music program. We hosted book talks with Maine authors: Mark Brockmann, Roger Guay, Bruce Pratt and Margaret Yocum. AARP volunteers were providing tax help for free in February and March when we closed to the public. Children's authors Pam Matthews (as Fly Rod Crosby) shared her program for all ages here in the Begin Room, and Michelle Houts provided 4 programs for local K-4 students at the Stratton and Kingfield schools sponsored by the library's Maggie Trafton Memorial Fund! The Summer Reading Program (SRP) theme this year was: *Imagine Your Story!* The library offers incentives to encourage the joy of reading—all the children received book bags, stickers, bookmarks and a pencil. Library programs will be online until further notice. On September 10, we hosted a virtual author talk with Nancy Marshall while she discussed her new book: *Grow your Audience, Grow your Brand*. Participants heard some very useful tips from Nancy, and we all enjoyed her humorous approach!

Library attendance has continued to grow, and we hope that soon we can enjoy the fireplace together



er again on cold winter mornings and families will be free to gather in the children's area. Internet access continues to provide up to 100 Mbps high speed bandwidth, so everyone has access to free Wi-Fi all around the parking lot, from your car and on the patio 24/7, click on "Library" — there is no password. Hopefully sooner rather than later, we will be safe from the risk of spreading COVID-19 and we can again enjoy lounging with the newspaper in the living room area of our library, playing a game or climbing on the boat!

For now, things look a little different but you can still borrow all of your favorite things from our collection including puzzles, books and DVDs! The Library Board has decided not to hold the annual book and bake sale this Homecoming Weekend at Sugarloaf. If you need reading material you can always make an appointment here at the library or visit the **Little Free Library** on the green by the town office. Take a book ~ Share a book! The *Carrabasset Library Community Garden* volunteers have grown and delivered fresh

vegetables for neighbors in need since 2014.

Please contact Library Director, Andrea DeBiase, at **237-3535** or email: cvlibrary3209@gmail.com for information about accessing our online public catalog, free streaming services, audiobooks and ebooks, 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. Be well and stay safe. ■

News from the Antigravity Complex & Recreation Department Submitted by Deb Bowker, Recreation Director

Our Summer Program highlights included Red Cross Swim Lessons, Lap Swim, Free Swim, Private Swim Lessons and Outdoor Adventure Swim Lessons. Both Pool Directors Kyle Farrington Certified Pool Operator & Elise McKendry aced working within the COVID-19 guidelines. They had tremendous support from Red Cross Certified colleagues Alice Cockerham, Grace Pepin, Lance Dolan, Mimi Esch Levanos and Jen Pageot.

Outdoor Adventure programming, under the direction of Anne Poirier Flight, had to take on a whole new look. Families pitched in and transported their children to and from the area facilities and trail heads. Daily activities were scheduled with no more than fifteen participants at a time.

The Alden MacDonald Junior Golf Program with participants ages five and above, and teaching Pros Zack Zondlo & Indiana Jones, finished in September. Golf Pro Scott Hoisington also taught youth lessons at Moose Meadows.

We hosted two weeks of Youth Mountain Bike Camps for youth's grades six through twelve led

by Registered Maine Guide Katie Casey and IMBA certified instructor Kerry Ouellette. Andy Gillespie, Lance Dolan and Harry Walters assisted with the program which took place at the Outdoor Center. We want to extend a very special thanks to our local Carrabasset Valley Regional Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association for contributing financially to camp operations.

Also, tennis instructor Chris Prudenté held youth, adult, seniors and a mixed doubles program three days a week throughout the summer.

Whitewater Guide Sterling Smith with Scott Hoisington, Leah Ross and town and lifeguards oversaw a wonderful Paddleboard & Kayaking program on Flagstaff Lake.

Unfortunately, the Fourth of July as well as Summerfest were cancelled due to the current pandemic and social distancing for gatherings. Trainings and certifications in First Aid/ CPR, Lifeguard Classes, Water Safety Classes and Rock Climbing were provided for the staff.

Riverside Park athletic field has had a makeover

in terms of a turf renovation. We have enjoyed the addition of the pavilion to the park and have heavily used our new recreation storage garage.

What's Happening at the Antigravity Complex

New CDC Safety protocols are in place and as time passes, adjustments to our protocols will be made. Currently, masks are mandatory. You must bring your own workout mat, skateboard and helmet along with pads. Basketballs & specialty equipment must be brought as well. At present there will be no public trampoline time due to COVID-19. Private trampoline and skateboard lessons with instructor Alex Lund need to be booked two days in advance.

Instructor Frank Bianco will return to instruct a TRX Suspension Class while Terrie Hoops is offering a Yoga Flow & Chair Yoga Class. Nicole Pineau will be offering Vinyasa Yoga classes. We would be thrilled to enlist an indoor cycle/spin coach! Our operational hours can be found on the Town website. ■

Antigravity Complex Annual Membership Rates

Membership includes access to the Fisher Gymnasium, Dupree Skatepark & Bowl & Fitness Mezzanine for ages 13+

Individual Taxpayer: \$100 Annually
Family Taxpayer Membership: \$235 Annually
(Includes 2 Adults/3 Youth). Additional youth - \$25 per youth.

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

Day Rates: Per Activity - \$7 Youth, \$10 Adult
Antigravity Complex Multi-Passes: Youth & Adult rates vary.

Hourly Instructor Rates:
• Trampoline (7 person maximum - \$70) • Climbing Wall (4 person maximum - \$70) • Skateboard Lesson (3 person maximum - \$55)
Fitness Classes & Personal Training Determined by the Instructors

“I accept the challenge to stretch my mind and body in new directions, to build friendships, to respect and improve the environment and to live in the outside safely and happily ever after”

This summer Outdoor Adventure Camp restructured and created a program to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to local kids. Out of this, OAP; Outdoor Adventure Programming was born.

OAP ran for six weeks; July 6th–August 14th. Each day of the week had a planned activity and campers signed up per day depending upon the activity that interested them? This kept group sizes small and campers happy. Our goal more than ever this year reflected part of our mission statement, “. . . to live in the outside safely and happily ever after”.



One day a week we hiked to KC’s Kreativity Center for an afternoon filled of creativity and imagination. Thank you KC for all of the creative inspiration!

Our Peak Baggers (hiking group) spent time in the Bigelow Preserve, hiking to Horns Pond and another ambitious hike over Cranberry Peak. The beauty and natural state of the preserve is one we all appreciate and cherish. We thank the people who fought to put the land in a preserve so future generations (like us) can enjoy its natural beauty.

Our Rough Riders (Mountain Biking group) grew this year with close to ten new bikers joining us! Thank you to the trail crew for the development and maintenance of these loved trails. Rough Riders also visited Freeman Ridge Bike Park for a full day of fun and adventures. This year we had the opportunity to help out with trail maintenance, seeing firsthand what it takes to create and care for the trails. Thank you Spencer for your time, energy, and for sharing your passion with us!

The success of OAP could not have been possible without the contributions and dedication of many people. I would like to thank:

- The Carrabassett Valley Select People, for your guidance and support.



- The CV Recreation Committee.
- The CV taxpayers, for making this all possible.
- All of the parents for helping out with transportation and logistics this summer.
- Marcia White for her continual guidance.
- The amazing and talented pool staff.

- The outstanding group of counselors - you are the backbone of camp!
 - All of the campers - you are the pulse, you energize and inspire us daily :-)
- Thank you all for a fun and safe summer! ■



Photo Credit: Kristin Ziehler

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.

For the third season in a row, winter trail grooming generated a lot of excitement within the riding community. The first half of the 2019/2020 winter season saw average precipitation, and like always the riding experience is very dependent on dedicated volunteers getting on the trails at just the right time. All of these grooming efforts are

completed by volunteers. Many thanks to those folks that make that winter riding happen.

The winter Fat Tire race went off in early February, possibly the best edition yet. The weather is always a huge factor in these races, and this year it cooperated providing a great riding surface on a fun course. Fun was had by all and money was raised for winter trail grooming operations. Big thanks to all the volunteers coming out and helping with the event, and our partner Sugarloaf for co-hosting and producing.

Every spring brings different weather to the Carrabassett Region. In 2020 the season got

off to a quick start with dry conditions early on, which is not always the case. This was much welcomed with outdoor recreation being one of the few things remaining semi-normal in the pandemic-stricken world.

Structured group workdays were put on hold for most of the year, but a new "DIY" approach to trail work was implemented with great success. Many folks got out on the trails when they had time available to remove blowdowns, rake trails and perform a general spring clean-up. Many thanks to all the folks that dedicate their time to keeping trails in good riding order.

This was the first full year having Kingfield Trail Builders under the CRNEMBA umbrella. The opportunity to expand the network down river and into Kingfield is an exciting opportunity and would create a unique experience in the region. Different efforts have been underway in Kingfield itself to create fun community trail connections and riding opportunities. We look forward to increased growth and development in this area in years to come.

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 new membership and support. Please visit Carrabassettnemba.org for additional information on membership and the local mountain biking community. ■

See you on the trails!



News from the Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association

Submitted by Cindy Foster, Secretary



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 2020, CVOA offers a full calendar of activities. During the past year, we held numerous events, led by many different members and involving hundreds of people. We skied at Val Gardena Italy, Jackson Hole and three ski areas near Quebec City. There were hikes and snowshoe treks, cookie swaps & potluck dinners, and a weekly bowling competition. We are having a 2021 ski trip to Aspen Snowmass and postponed until 2022 ski trips to Big Sky and Snowbird Alta.

Well over a 100 members enjoyed our big anni-

versary celebration, **Celebrate CVOA ~20th in 2020** in the King Pine Room on January 18 honoring our founding members, sharing a wonderful meal, dancing and having a great time with entertainment from a top notch Elvis impersonator.

Another aspect of CVOA is its community service. Members participated in the annual Route 27 cleanup. We made charitable donations to the Mt. Abram Ski Team

for competition approved helmets and to the Sugarloaf Ski Club King's Kids program. When Covid-19 closed the mountain, we devised a plan to assist local workers and families who abruptly lost their jobs and partnered with the Sugarloaf Area Christian Ministry raising substantial dollars for their 2020 Community Fund. 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 facility offers Rifle and Pistol Ranges, Trap and Five-Stand Fields, and an Archery Range. The range is open to the public during scheduled events. Our latest project is to add a Fifty Yard Rifle Range. The range holds weekend and mid-week Five Stand and trap shoots from May through October. Other special events and educational classes are listed on our Facebook page, CVOA Shooting Range, and our website, CVOArange.com.

Because CVOA is entirely volunteer run, we have been able to keep the annual dues at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples and families. Any member who would like to use the range pays an additional \$30. Our monthly newsletter, sent electronically to all current members, informs us of 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 and our CVOA Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/carrabasset> ■





Maine Huts & Trails brings people together on the trails and in our fabulous huts. Like the hikers, bikers, and cross-country skiers and snowshoers finding their way on Carrabassett Valley's prized trails, Maine Huts & Trails continues to find its way, tenaciously navigating COVID's challenges that are now keeping us all apart.

As evidenced by the number of people on the trails, we are clearly wanting of time outdoors seeking adventures that reenergize us, help us reconnect with who we are as individuals, connect us as a community, and engage us in all that the natural environment has to offer.

Our lights are on at Maine Huts & Trails because of generous contributions, bold creativity, and a willingness to try new things. Volunteer caretakers have welcomed guests, kept the fires warm, and cleared and groomed the trails. Together we have created opportunities for friends and families to find wonderful ways to have a great

time - safely. We are profoundly grateful for every volunteer hour, every contribution, and all the voices of support from Carrabassett Valley and beyond enabling us to bridge to a bright future for Maine Huts & Trails.

We have approached the year steadfast in our commitment to providing outdoor opportunities for which there seems a greater need than ever before. We announced on a Wednesday in May that Flagstaff Hut was available for family groups to rent, and within 48 hours Flagstaff Hut's weekly opportunities were booked through to mid-October. Leading with safety in mind, and thanks again to amazing volunteers, we brought family groups together to experience unique, safe, and socially distanced getaways in a spectacular remote setting. The huts look great and the trails look great. COVID has put limits on what we can do, but it hasn't tamped down appreciation for what we do have and our collective enthusiasm to get outside.

Maine Huts & Trails is focused on three priorities as we look forward to what we all hope to be busy, active, and safe months ahead. First, to continue to provide opportunities to savor the richness of the western Maine backcountry on safe and stunning trails, accented by the appeal of our

remote lodges. Second, to be ready to relaunch an even more robust Maine Huts & Trails as soon as people feel comfortable safely re-emerging from social distancing. Third, COVID's occupancy limitations mean that food and lodging revenues will be severely limited; therefore, in order to achieve the first two priorities, we are going to be fundraising in creative ways to help us bridge to the other side of COVID.

Ensuring COVID safety, supporting winter logistics at the huts, and making the economic numbers work all at the same time is really tricky. Consequently, our winter plan is to open only Stratton Brook Hut for outdoor/indoor weekend and holiday hot lunches and beverages. We will be out grooming the Maine Hut Trail as well as coordinating closely with the Town and CRNEMBA to prepare a host of trail options to cross country ski, snowshoe, fat-bike, and winter hike. We will groom to Stratton Brook Hut where warm fires will welcome winter adventurers for a hearty, remote and safely social distanced food and beverage experience. Grooming will extend to the Airport Trailhead, and out toward Poplar Stream Hut and back. Please know, if there are opportunities to create, we're working hard to provide every chance we can for people to get outside, spread-out, be active, and have fun.

Behind the scenes we also continue to work hard to strengthen Maine Huts & Trails as an organization, to build and strengthen partnerships, and to better position ourselves to benefit the region and Maine for generations to come.

To sign up as a volunteer or to make a contribution, please visit our website: www.mainehuts.org

Thank you, Carrabassett Valley, for all of your incredible support for Maine Huts & Trails. ■

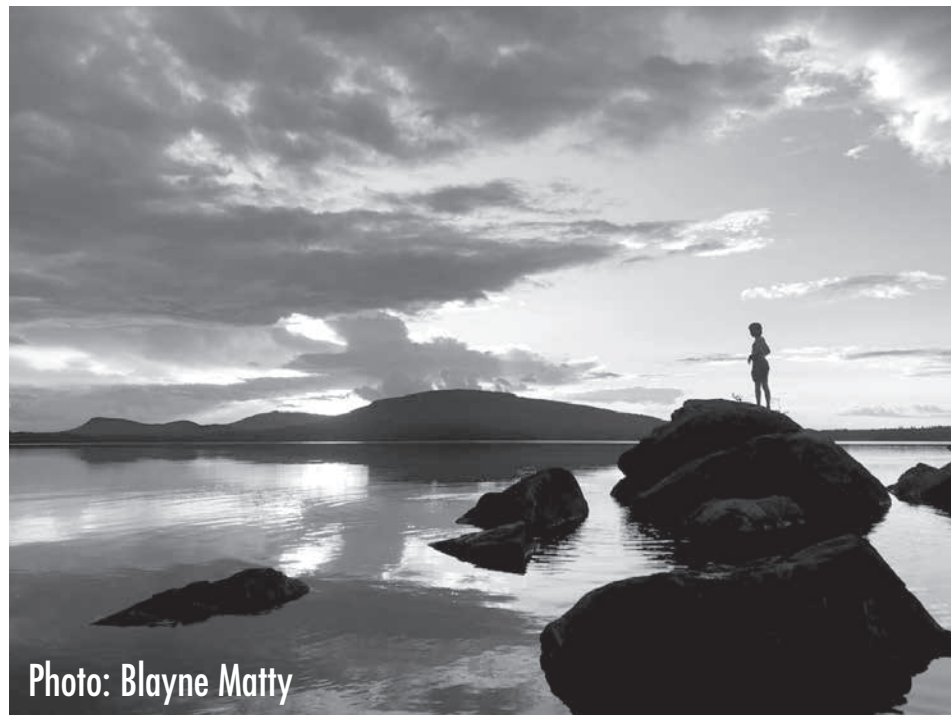


Photo: Blayne Matty



ADAPTIVE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER



5 YEARS AND COUNTING...

We are celebrating FIVE years since we opened our doors to the Carrabassett Valley community, as well as visitors and participants from Maine and throughout New England! Getting to share all this region has to offer through exploration and education has allowed us to experience first hand the positive impact accessible recreation has for families and individuals of all abilities!

FIVE YEARS, FIVE HIGHLIGHTS

1. We have developed year-round activities for people of all abilities. Our core programs include Horizons Sailing, Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Water Sports, Rock Climbing, Music, and Theater!
2. We proudly serve over 750 people annually, and counting!
3. We have built partnerships with over 30 organizations across Maine!
4. We're excited to be opening a second day-program location in Brunswick, the AOEC Southern Campus!
5. Lastly, we are fortunate to have built an amazing community of volunteers, participants, families, and friends that all make the AOEC possible!

We are incredibly lucky to call Carrabassett Valley our home base and recreation paradise! We look forward to many years ahead!

For additional info on the AOEC and our programs, events, and volunteer opportunities please check out our website at www.adaptiveoutdoorededucationcenter.org

What's New and Noteworthy at Sugarloaf

Sugarloaf Prepares for 20/21 Season Amid Pandemic

Following the abrupt end to the 2019/20 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sugarloaf has its sights set on the 2020/21 ski and snowboard season, with many new policy changes and upgrades to help keep guests, team members, and community members safe and healthy throughout the winter.

In September, the resort published a comprehensive winter outlook detailing changes to different areas of resort operation. This plan was developed throughout the summer in accordance with State of Maine and CDC guidelines, and follows the National Ski Areas Association "Ski Well Be Well" guidelines for safe ski area operation. The full outlook can be found at www.sugarloaf.com/winter-operations.

Resort-Wide Policies: Face Masks, Social Distancing, and More

Across the resort, Sugarloaf is now requiring face coverings in all indoor areas, as well as outdoors

in any situation where adequate social distancing will be difficult to maintain, such as lift lines or while riding a chairlift. Standard winter neck gators satisfy this requirement, as long as they cover both the nose and the mouth.

Guests are also asked to maintain a distance of at least six feet from anyone outside their family or group, in accordance with CDC guidelines. The resort has installed signage in high traffic locations to demarcate six-foot distances.

Hand sanitizing stations have also been installed throughout the resort to provide more opportunities for guests and staff to clean their hands before and after entering any indoor area.

In accordance with the most recent state guidelines, Sugarloaf is not planning any large-scale gatherings or events, though this could change as guidance from health authorities' changes.

Infrastructure Upgrades

Sugarloaf made a number of investments over the summer to help reduce contact between staff and guests, including a new Radio Frequency

Identification (RFID) ticketing system. The new system will allow guests who have purchased ticket products online will be able to pick them up at automated kiosks, and ticket checking at lifts will be done automatically by the RFID gate, using the radio frequency from a chip inside the ticket.

The resort also invested in a new point of sale system for its restaurants, which will provide contactless payment options, and will allow guests to place orders online.

At Bullwinkle's, a new temporary building and bathroom facility will add additional space for guests to warm up and use the bathroom, while capacity is limited in the main building. An additional temporary bathroom facility will also be installed at the Base Lodge.

Indoor Restrictions

Following current State of Maine guidelines, capacity will be strictly limited in all indoor areas, including the Base Lodge. Gear storage and changing will not be permitted in the Base Lodge this season (with the exception of seasonal locker

renters), and guests will be encouraged to boot up at their cars and bring with them only what they can carry throughout the day.

All ticket sales and Guest Services needs will be managed through the outdoor ticket windows at the Base Lodge, and online ticket purchasers will be encouraged to utilize the new Online Express Kiosks.

Sugarloaf parking lot shuttles will be restricted to 50% capacity, as required by the State of Maine, and will be cleaned after every drop-off. Sugarloaf Explorer shuttles, which are operated by Western

Sugarloaf 2030

Maine Transportation, will follow the same procedures, and will have a new drop-off location in the Hotel Parking Lot (formerly the 60-minute parking area).

In February of 2020, Sugarloaf unveiled the Sugarloaf 2030 Road Map — an updated vision for the resort's future. And while some projects outlined in the plan have been delayed a year due to the pandemic, the ultimate vision remains unchanged.

The centerpiece of the 2030 vision is the new West Mountain development, which will include a new lift, new alpine trails with snowmaking, and new real estate development. In addition, the development will provide new summer opportunities, with a new downhill mountain bike park, and upgrades to Bullwinkle's that will allow it to operate during the summer months.

For complete details on the Sugarloaf 2030 plan, visit www.sugarloaf2030.com ■

Sugarloaf Explorer 2020 – 2021 Season Changes

Submitted by Bill Aikey

The upcoming season will see changes for the Sugarloaf Explorer system. In an effort to keep our operators safe and provide safe transit for our riders while abiding by Federal and State guidelines for transit we are implementing new protocols. In "Normal" years, during Peak Hours, we had a capacity of 30 passengers on our new buses. This includes 24 seated riders and 6 standees.

In the age of "COVID" there will be significant changes to Explorer operations this season. CDC Guidelines require that we limit capacity to accommodate social distancing. Buses will be limited to 50% of seated capacity (24 passenger bus = 12), masks must be worn by all passengers and high contact areas must be wiped down after every run. The buses must also be disinfected at the end of the shift. To allow time for the buses to be cleaned, we will be unable to operate the 20-minute schedule during morning peak time.

This further reduces capacity.

To try to offset some of the reduction of capacity, we will be adding an additional 5 buses on Weekends and Holidays, this will bring the number of buses up to 15, as well as increasing the number of buses during the week from 5 to 6. We are also extending our Weekend / Holiday hours. The new hours will be 7:15 – 6:00pm to try to ensure everyone has a chance to get to the mountain and home. However, there will be trade-offs. **We will not be providing any evening service this season.** All of our evening resources will be reassigned to the day-time to accommodate skiers with as little delay as possible and to provide sufficient resources for daily disinfecting of the buses. In order to disinfect buses for the next day. We are obligated to adhere to the CDC Protocols for public transit. The risk of being out of compliance is simply too high.

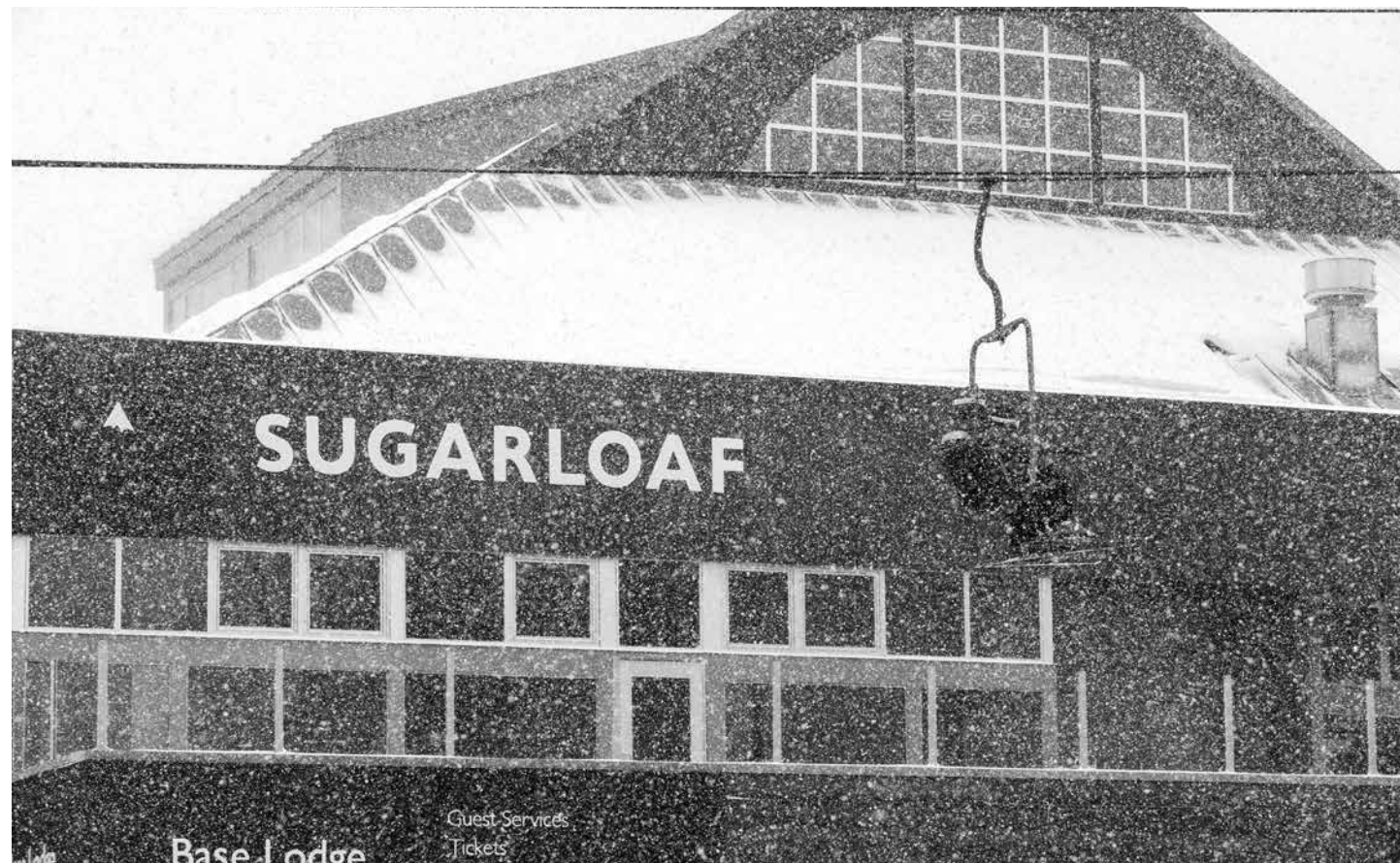
A FEW NOTES:

- Capacity will be indicated on each bus.
 - Masks must be worn while on the bus.
 - High contact areas on the bus will be cleaned after each run.
 - Seats will be designated to maintain social distancing.
 - When dropping off, passengers will be prohibited from boarding until the bus is cleaned.
 - Families with small children may ride together.
 - When boarding the bus, please load from back to front. When exiting, unload from front to back to minimize contact with other passengers.
 - Be sure you have the latest schedule.
- There have been significant changes.**
- Follow us on Twitter for up to date information @SugarloafBus

ALL PICKUPS AND DROPOFFS WILL BE IN PARKING LOT "A" ADJACENT TO THE HOTEL

This is based on the latest information. If there are any changes, we will let you know as soon as possible. We all have been living with this for the past six months and nothing here should come as a surprise. Be assured, we will adjust and adapt as conditions allow to be as efficient as possible. With a little patience we'll all get through this. ■

Western Maine Transportation and Sugarloaf Explorer follow all CDC Guidelines



With the growth of **mountain biking**, the Outdoor Center was a busy place this past summer and fall. Many families, second home owners, locals and visitors to our area are riding our impressive trail system. The collaboration, called the Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee (CVTC), now in year eleven, between the Town, the mountain bike club (CRNEMBA), Sugarloaf and Maine Huts and Trails has propelled our trail system into becoming one of the most prominent in all of New England. All this leads to great recreational opportunities for our residents and second home owners and significant additional economic activity. New and exciting trails have been built on the Town's new Jones Public Lot and close to one mile of new trail has been constructed on the "Wyman State Lot". It is anticipated that in 2021 additional trail mileage will be constructed on the Wyman State lot which will extend into the State of Maine Crocker Mountain conservation land parcel. This area will provide the opportunity for construction of up to an additional ten to fifteen miles of trail over the next several years. Much planning has been undertaken on 'Wyman/Crocker Mt. project' by the Club and our trail designer Josh Tausers working closely with State Bureau of Public Lands officials. With increased riding on existing trails and the construction of new trails, more resources will

need to be applied to trail maintenance. This may lead to at least a discussion of some form of trail fee system in the future.

Recent improvements to the Outdoor Center trail system consisted of the continuation of the trail bridge replacement project utilizing more permanent concrete panel bridges and the addition of a new trail signage system. The Town and Sugarloaf contributed to this year's bridge replacement project as ten new concrete panel bridges were installed. The Town, Club and Sugarloaf contributed to the new signage project which is nearing completion. Thanks to Tim Flight and others from the Club who contributed to the design and placement of the new signs.



Other improvements at the Outdoor Center include the construction of new parking lot lighting. This has been long overdue and eliminates the light poles in the middle of the parking lot and includes much more energy efficient lighting. Also, the drive-up turn-around area near the building was improved to include a separate exit and paved handicapped accessible parking. Both projects involved Town funding for all materials and Sugarloaf provided all the labor and equipment.

There has been recent talk of constructing a roof over the skating rink and providing snowmaking on the Nordic ski race course. The roof over the rink would not only provide a much more reliable skating surface but could also provide a weather proof outdoor venue for events in the summer and fall months. With climate change, snowmaking in early winter would be a big bonus for Nordic skiing and related events at the Outdoor Center. Both projects however, would be expensive and would need to be financed



primarily through the Town and may need to match existing Town expiring debt requirements. These projects would also need to be thoroughly discussed and approved by the voters of the Town in the future.

The Sugarloaf Outdoor Center is looking forward to a great **Nordic ski season** and we hope that you all take an opportunity to enjoy everything it has to offer. Nordic skiing has traditionally been the draw of the Center but with the desire to engage in more activities in addition to skiing, we urge people to try out our miles of snowshoe trails, ice skating and fat biking. The Outdoor Center is perfectly poised to give people a fun and safe outdoor experience.

The Outdoor Center will be following similar safety protocols as the Base Lodge in that overall capacity in the OC lodge will be limited and appropriate facial coverings will be required to enter. Since tables will need to be generously spaced out, seating in the Lodge will be limited. Bags will unfortunately not be allowed to be stored anywhere inside the lodge and food brought from home will also not be allowed in the building. We recommend that all visitors to the Outdoor Center keep their belongings and change at their vehicle. We look forward to some cold temps, early snow and hope you all have a wonderful and safe season."

Finally, thank you to Sugarloaf Management and Outdoor Center Winter Director Jamie Omo for continuing to groom trails at the Outdoor Center last spring long after the Center closed. We received many warm thankful comments from folks who desired to keep skiing at the Center in the "dark days" of the beginning of this Pandemic. It was truly heart felt to hear all those appreciative comments! ■



Hello, It wasn't until a moment ago, while visiting the bathroom adjacent to my office and discovering an empty cardboard roll hanging uselessly in the toilet paper dispenser, that the topic for this article occurred to me.

Are you ready for the next Toilet Paper (TP) shortage? Are you one of the millions of people globally that found yourself obsessed with your dwindling TP supply? Were you shocked to find that even the venerable Amazon Fulfillment Centers we not able to fulfil your needs or desires for a nice jumbo roll of 2-ply quilted Charmin? I was; or rather my wife was which of course means that I was, by default and association. She literally spent hours, searching the internet for a deal that just wasn't to be found, which allowed me, in my typical supportive fashion, to literally spend hours making alternate suggestions to her. "What about that big bag of coffee filters," I asked, "they're just taking up cupboard space ever since you bought the K-cup machine. They're cheap these days and large quantities can be stored in a small space." I'll bet that old saltine cracker tin would hold a bunch... or we could go to "Bed, Bath and Beyond" to get a bunch of sea sponges and dowels and make Spongia(s) like the ancient Romans. Soon after this suggestion, I noticed her sea sponge back scrubber had been removed from the bathroom. Apparently, she thought it would give me ideas... This went on for a few days,



eventually she asked, "When are you going to start taking this TP shortage seriously?" Risking life and harmony I replied, "Depends?"

I have to admit that in the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, I was as concerned as she. Curiosity got the best of me and I started searching the internet for what people used before toilet paper. This gave me plenty of material suggestions for the aforementioned dialog with my wife. It also caused me to pause and wonder.



There were the usual references to cobs, the core of shelled ears of corn as well as the old Sears catalogs (before glossy paper). If you were in dire straits and scraping the bottom of the barrel, so to speak the other suggestions were included based upon climate and geography; moss, leaves, sand,

snow, clay, fruit skins and seashells and rocks.

I found an Ancient Greek proverb that emphasizes being frugal, which roughly translates to "three stones are enough to wipe one's arse." Apparently, stones and broken pottery were a common and accepted method in Ancient Greece. Some ceramic fragments were found to be inscribed with names, which some believe indicates that Greeks were, quite literally, soiling the name of someone they did not like.

Now, rest assured, the empty TP dispenser did not remain empty for long, thanks to my wife's efforts. She was able to source a supply of TP, 96 rolls to a case delivered for approx., \$1 per roll, and was kind enough to share the information with the Sanitary District. It seems she had an epiphany while canceling vacation plans. She realized if people were not traveling then hotels were not buzy. She called a local hotel supply company that was more than happy to do business... Brilliant!

In closing I would like to add, in March of 2020, an Australian newspaper added extra blank pages to their newspaper in response to the Toilet Paper shortage. So Hey Dave Cota! How about it! A couple of blank pages in the crease fold of Carrabassett Connections!... could become a collector's item.

...Oh, and things are fine at the District. ■

This part of the page has been intentionally left blank in case of another TP shortage emergency!



If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water. - Loran Eisely

Drinking Water & COVID-19



The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that the, "presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low." Water treatment plants use filters and disinfectants to remove or kill germs, like the virus that causes COVID-19.

The Environmental Protection Agency regulates water treatment plants to ensure that treated water is safe to drink. Currently, there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to people by drinking treated water. The EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual.

As "essential employees" our team was able to work though the resorts extended spring shutdown making sure that water services would continue uninterrupted. Our team used this extended slow time to harden our defenses against the pandemic; updating health and emergency response plans, and reconfiguring and enhancing our work environment to follow CDC guidelines for preventing the spread of the virus. Further our team has developed Standard Operating Procedures for disinfecting our work environments, distancing ourselves within our work spaces, and working remotely if and when necessary.

Drinking water and reliable water service is critical to fighting the pandemic. Washing hands, together with face coverings and social distancing are the things we all can do to be safe. Be assured, the SWA will be there to deliver safe, reliable water service to the Sugarloaf community this season.

As our facilities remain closed to the public to slow the spread of the Corona virus, we ask that you contact us by phone at 207.237.6865 or by email at water1@TDS.net.

DBP's and Enhanced TOC Removal



Our 2019-2020 season was very routine with only a small change in surface water treatment to increase Total Organic Carbon (TOC) removal. Because the season was cut short due to the pandemic, it will require a second season to realize the enhanced treatments full potential. However to be clear, the Sugarloaf Water Association resolved the drinking water standards violation regarding disinfection byproducts (DBP) in December 2019. Throughout 2020, the SWA water system is operating in full compliance with all federal and state drinking water requirements due to improvements made to the treatment process required when using the Carrabassett River source.

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.

For additional information on DBPs and TOCs you can visit the Maine Drinking Water Program website or the US EPA's website.

Team Work makes the Dream Work

Although the pandemic this spring has reduced access to some resources, our team has worked aggressively to complete many capital and preventative maintenance projects over the past twelve months. Capital projects included: all new turbidity meters at our filtration plant to improve the TOC treatment process and its reliability; rehabbed a recently acquired train car for additional equipment storage; painted our main office/shop facility and paved the driveway; installed a new sand filter on well #4 to increase production from that source; installed new pressure reducing valve at our PRV station on Crocker Mountain Rd. for improved reliability; and installed backup generator on well #7 to prevent water freezing due to power loss. Other work would include repairing inoperable isolation valves, installation of a new dead-end blow off valve, repair of a number of small water service line and main lateral leaks.

New Reservoir Tank Project

As with everything else, the pandemic has contributed to delays in construction of the new reservoir tank, but progress continues, we are coordinating efforts with SMC to accommodate the West Mountain development program. The project is currently scheduled to be complete in fall of 2021.

TEAM SWA

Our team wants our customers to know that we are committed to providing safe, reliable water service to the Sugarloaf community. ■

Eric, Josh, James, and Ryan

News from the Carrabassett Valley ATV Club

Submitted by John McCartherin, Secretary-Treasurer

Pretty much like the rest of the world, 2020 was a year of mixed emotions for the Carrabassett Valley ATV Club. It certainly had its ups and downs.

It kicked off with a couple of high points.

Late in 2019 we finished construction on the long-sought-after trail to Lexington, linking our club's trail network to one that opened up the northern and eastern parts of Maine and the huge network of riding there.

We held off the opening until this spring to give the trail time to cure over the winter. And this year's near-drought conditions turned muddy,

ruddy spots into dry trails. It opened to the accolades of many riders and the Happy Horse-shoe Campground in Lexington and Carrabassett Valley's Sugarbowl and Ayotte's Country Store, popular stops that cater to ATVs.

The 12.5 mile route starts on the Poplar Mountain Trail and on into Highland Plantation and Lexington where it joins the network of the Moose Alley ATV Riders Club that will link riders to Jackman and the Moosehead Lake area.

It also provides a new loop that will take you back into Kingfield and then via Rapid Stream Valley and the Owl's Head area reconnect to

Carrabassett Valley. The Kingfield Quad Runners ATV Club has branded it the Whiskey Jack trail in honor of the friendly Canadian jays who frequently visit us, particularly at meal time. In all, the new loop covers over 40 miles and takes you through some terrific country.

It was made possible through the generous permissions from landowners including the Penobscot Indian Nation, Lakeville Shores operated by Haynes Timberlands, Linkletter Timberlands and the DES & GAS Timberland Trust.

Another high point of the season was the inauguration of our new ATV Club building, housing supplies and equipment we use in the operation of the trail network. It was built by Club volunteers, under the watchful eye of Contractor Harvey Packard. It was funded, again, through the efforts of our volunteers and the Town of Carrabassett Valley recreation endowment fund and hopefully will house a working ATV for the club.

The town also permitted us the use of a small parcel of town land abutting the airport right-of-way and the trailhead area formerly known as the Black Fly field. It provides quick and easy access to all of our trails.

The downside of the year occurred on Sept. 1. The club decided to close down its trails because of the concern and confusion caused by posting of key roads leading to all of our trails. The no trespassing signs were placed by the Penobscot Indian Nation, reportedly because of misuse and abuse of its property in the area of the Huston Brook Road swimming hole.

We immediately requested that the Nation permit us to reopen the trails, which they granted on Sept. 30.

It's a vivid reminder that we are just guests on the property of those landowners who allow us to use their lands for our recreation. Keep that in mind the next time you're out there. And always ride safely. ■



News from the J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club

Submitted by Brenda Robbins, Club Secretary

The J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club was formed in 1987 and has over 55+ miles of well-groomed maintained trails. The majority of our trails are located on Penobscot Indian Tribal Lands and we would like to publicly thank them for their generous permission to use these lands. We are 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 where you start in Carrabassett 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. The club's location is very convenient for those who need fuel or food as well as the location connects to the trails using the multipurpose bridge that crosses the Carrabassett River.

The club's membership continues to grow year after year and to accommodate the multiple

requests for sled storage, the club decided to construct a 3rd Sled Storage building in time for the 2020/2021 season. For a minimal fee, members find storing their sleds at the club is a great benefit and convenience. 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, outbuildings as well as keep the driveway plowed for member's accessibility. The Club Officers meet regularly during the winter months on the 1st Saturday of every month at 4PM and members are welcome to attend.

The J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club officially kicked off this year's 2020/2021 season with their 33rd Annual Homecoming Weekend Open House on Saturday, October 10th. The club normally fires up the grill and serves a BBQ, but this year was different due to Covid! Homemade sandwiches, bags of chips, individually-wrapped

desserts and drinks were served. The good news is that it didn't stop folks from stopping by to hi, renew their membership and/or join the club while exercising social distancing!

To learn more about the J.V. Wing Snowmobile Club, stop on your way through Carrabassett 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. 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, Carrabassett Valley, ME 04947.**

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



NEWS FROM CARRABASSETT VALLEY ACADEMY



Congratulations to the Class of 2020! Commencement exercises were held August 1st in a blending of traditions and reflective of today's circumstances. Ten class members attended the ceremony in-person at the Richard Bell Chapel with their families. The other five members of the class participated online.

Big Dogs Seth Wescott and Kristean Porter Thorpe have been inducted to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Two-time Olympic snowboard champion Seth Wescott '95 and U.S. Ski Team Freestyle aerialist Kristean Porter Thorpe '89 join 3 other Big Dogs already in the Hall of Fame: Bode Miller '96, Kirsten Clark Rickenbach '95, and Julie Parisien Nuce '89. Election as an Honored Member of the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame is the highest honor in snowsports in America, involving over 400 industry advocates to help with the decision.



Enrollment Update

Again this year, student-athletes will participate in one of five programs: Alpine, Freestyle, Snowboard, Ski Cross or Backcountry. Of our 100 total students, about 1/2 are male, 1/2 are boarding, 27 are in middle school, and they represent 15 different states and countries.

Carrabassett Valley Academy's mission is to foster focused individual student-athlete development by providing the optimum balance between outstanding college preparatory academics, responsible community living and world-class athletic training in competitive skiing and snowboarding.

WEBSITE: GOCVA.COM

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: @GOCVA

News from the Carrabassett History Committee

Submitted by Jean Luce, Chairperson

The Carrabassett Valley History Committee sends a big thank you to all the voters at our March Town meeting. With your unanimous approval of the funding, we have contracted with a writer to help us proceed further with our project.

The Town has hired Virginia Wright, a recently retired senior editor/writer of Downeast Magazine. After signing our contract, she began working with our material, interviewing key people, and learning the Town geographically. As she gets

her arms around all this, there will be more researching and interviewing for Ginny and our committee. If any of you have or know families whose earlier generations used to hunt and fish in the valley before there was skiing (1920-40s) and might have stories, photos or memorabilia, please give Wendy at the Town Office contact information.

This is an extended project, time-wise. Our committee goal is to have a manuscript ready to

publish as a book. We will need future funding to move this forward into a book many can enjoy. The story of Carrabassett Valley is amazing. Please check out our website at <https://history.carrabassettvalley.org>

Committee members: Jean Luce - Chair, Don Fowler, Ted Jones, Wendy Russell, Tim Flight, John Slagle, John Beaupre. ■

Photo from the Author's Collection of Guy Rioux.



One the two Crocker Lumber Company portable mills in 1901 at Bigelow located across the road from the Bigelow station. Due to the stacked lumber in the background it is believed this is not the portable pulp mill. In the background is Sugar Loaf Mountain. (Authors Collection)

On March 8th, 2020, we sprung forward to Daylight Saving Time with prospects for great spring skiing, with the growing threat of COVID-19 to our social, health and financial wellbeing. On Sunday, March 15th, Sugarloaf Christian Ministry conducted our last in-person service at the Bell Chapel in accordance with CDC, WHO, state and local health guidelines. Hand sanitizers, limited gathering, social distancing, no hand shaking, no hugging allowed. The following day, March 16th, Sugarloaf began ramping down operations. There would be no spring skiing and no in-person church services at Sugarloaf. When we had to close the doors to in-person worship, we opened our hearts for the mountain with virtual spiritual and pastoral services and direct financial assistance to displaced workers and families.

On March 17th, the Ministry Board established the 2020 Community Fund with \$5000.00 start up money. The goal was to encourage the Sugarloaf community in giving to the fund to help support our neighbors from Kingfield, Carrabassett Valley, Stratton, Eustis and Coplin Plantation who worked in the Sugarloaf Region and were adverse-

ly affected by layoffs and business closings due to COVID-19. During March and April, we received donations totaling more than \$60,000.00 from over 300 individuals, and local organizations such as CVOA, the Sugarloaf Ski Club, the Carrabassett Region of NEMBA, the Sugarloaf Region Charitable Trust and more. Approximately 60 applications for the \$500.00 grants, to help with food, shelter, prescription drugs and fuel assistance were received with needs responded to by our loving pastor, Pam Morse. By the end of August, over 90 area neighbors/displaced employees had received financial assistance from ongoing 2020 Community Fund donations boosted by one \$8,000 donation from one family and \$23,000.00 donated to the fund by Sugarloaf from the net proceeds of a T-shirt fund raising event. In total, the fund has received over \$100,000 and we thank the Sugarloaf community on behalf of the recipients for their generosity.

The Ministry has also donated \$2500.00 to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem to help over 70 families with weekly food assistance. Another \$500.00 was donated to

the Stratton Food Pantry to help them locally. In August, another \$300.00 was donated to the Ministry to help UMEM fill 100 backpacks with school supplies, socks, underwear and other necessities for needy area school children.

For the first time in decades, Easter Sunrise Services on the mountain were cancelled, but Easter Sunday was celebrated via Zoom, with a backdrop of the morning's sunrise. Virtual Sunday services have continued and will do so until it is safe to resume in-person worship. The response has been positive, and attendance has been international. When we do return to the Bell Chapel, services will be enhanced by state-of-the-art audio-visual components, and other innovations seeking to make worship services more contemporary and engaging. Our co-pastor Earle Morse in collaboration with the Bell Chapel board and Sugarloaf has been hard at work on these projects. Hope to see you soon! ■

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

Rev. Dr. Pam Morse receiving a generous \$23,000 donation to the 2020 Community Fund from 320Ink of Westbrook who partnered with Sugarloaf in a t-shirt fundraiser for the Fund this summer. 100% of all gifts donated to this fund will be used to support local needs for food, prescriptions, rent, utilities etc.

Photo (left to right): Ethan Austin - Director of Marketing at Sugarloaf, Pam Morse - Co-Pastor Sugarloaf Christian Ministry, and Dru Nickerson - Owner of 320Ink



When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

For the 41 years of its existence, WSKI-TV makes local television fun to watch, that's why we're rated #1 year after year in our market.

WSKI-TV is also 100% a ski industry business, so dealing with unexpected complications from external causes is part of our nature.

COVID's a new one for all of us. As it continues to affect how we live & work, WSKI is doing what we do.

"Put our heads down, bums up, & get to work." That's what WSKI is doing to help our communities here in the Maine High Peaks during one of the biggest challenges of all our lives.

Since we were able to get out & about as the spring / summer progressed, our viewers have benefitted from updates from sponsors from Tea Pond to Turner. At a time when everyone had / has questions on hours / what type of services are available because all businesses had / have to make changes, WSKI ensures all our sponsors' information is constantly updated & shared with our viewers on channel 17 & online.

TV makes people want what they didn't yet know they wanted!

The explosion of people staying in homes, camps & condos this off-season is not like anything we have ever experienced here in Carrabassett. We trust our information is helpful to more people

year-round now more than ever. Our sponsor businesses are getting results their advertising dollars cannot buy anywhere else, from their exposure on WSKI-TV 17.

When there were so many questions about the PIN trail closure situation, we aired on Spectrum channel 17 & wskitv.com the information from CV Selectman Lloyd Cuttler when we asked him to address the subject because he has been involved in Town politics since before the Land Claims of 1979-80 gave 24,000 acres of CV to the Penobscots. We reiterated our mantra to all who enjoy this area, to **bring what they take & leave no trace** in ALL their adventures.

When things are difficult, strong people take action & do not despair.

Find out who is taking what action by watching WSKI! Ease your worries; Know Before You Go!

Remember the Billy Ocean tune from 1986? "When the going gets tough, the tough get going. When the going gets tough, the tough get ready... We've got something to tell you; We've got something to say. We're gonna keep this dream in motion; We'll never let nothing stand in our way. When the going gets tough, The tough get going." ■

Stay Tuned to WSKI.....!

- Turning Guests into Locals since 1986. WSKI-TV 17 the #1 Rated channel in the Maine High Peaks Region. We are the Insiders on the Outside: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Snowfields Productions, owners/operators of WSKI-TV 17 & wskitv.com 24/7 year round.

Full-Service Video Production also available.



Connections

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Town Clerk/Tax Collector

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Fire Chief

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Police Chief

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For Emergencies Call: 237-3200 or 911

Annual Newsletter

from the town of Carrabassett Valley

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 Town of Carrabassett Valley and their taxpayers for the renovations to our Office/Visitor's Center. We have all new display racks to display our member's business collateral and urge all to stop by and pick up a copy of the Official 2020 Maine's Northwestern Mountains Visitor's Guide. We will be happy to welcome you, listen to your ideas and feedback, and give you a package of

Maine's Northwestern Mountains Breakfast Blend by Carrabassett Coffee for your enjoyment.

FABA has spent considerable time on the SEO of our rebranded website and continues to engage in this process. This effort is starting to show up in our Google Analytic numbers from February to August 2020. Contacts of our members through our website has grown by almost 900% as compared to the same time frame last year. During this time, users of our website has grown by 400%. Even with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are approaching 2500 requests for our Visitor's Guide through our website along with "Visit Maine" and "Maine Lakes and Mountains" websites.

Our members provide information for visiting guests through brochures, maps and guides that encourage them to explore all that our area

has to offer. Recent studies show that brochures are the single greatest influencers of visitors during their trips and are #1 in delivering business to local attractions and services. Our members play an important role in the success of the local tourism industry by providing information that encourages longer stays, return visits, and positive trip reviews both online and to family and friends.

Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region is a special place to live, work and recreate. Please stay focused on your life and work, do not lose patience, and we will again be a thriving four-season tourist destination. ■

