

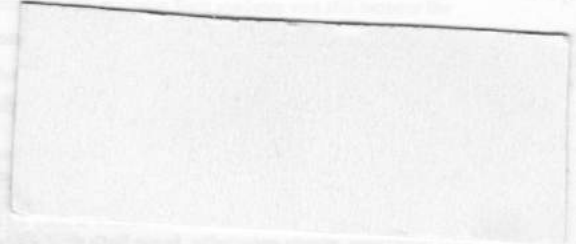
# The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol 16 No 10 Happy Solstice December 2001



...a volunteer effort made possible by friends and neighbors and by your tax dollars. Also (thanks to Larry Wilson and Great Works Internet) on the web at [www.gwi.net/arrowsic](http://www.gwi.net/arrowsic)

**"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind" -Mahatma Gandhi**



## Report from the Arrowsic Fire Department

The Arrowsic Fire Department has been holding training sessions for members on the second Saturday morning of each month this fall. These training sessions will continue through the winter and spring. We also held a successful Open House on Saturday, October 13 with activities for children, displays of fire equipment, the new tanker, and lots of informational handouts.


During November, the AFD responded to eight fire calls. Two were in Arrowsic, five in Woolwich and one in Georgetown.

Two fires started from hot wood ashes, one dryer fire, one deer hit, one car rollover, one burn without a permit and two calls were called off before we got to the fire. One firefighter helped her neighbor rescue two kittens out of a tree.

Between three and eight firefighters responded to each call with an average of four to five. Volunteers responding included: Chief Ike Heffron, Assistant Chief Donna Blanchette, Captain Sue Lizotte, Captain Dick Newcomb, Dale Carlton, Phine Ewing, Roger Heard, Sukey Heard, Herb Hewlett, Mike Kreindler, John Rollins, Liz Rollins, Nancy Sferra, and Phil Packard

**Message from Chief Heffron: "Please hold your wood ashes in a metal can for three days before dumping them to be sure they are out. Hot ashes caused two recent fires.**

Come one and all to  
**Solstice  
 Celebration**



Saturday, December  
 22nd  
 at 3 pm  
 at the Arrowsic Town Hall

*rehearsal at 2pm 12/19 2001*

### Referendum Vote results November 6, 2001

	Arrowsic		Georgetown	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Affordable Housing	89	38	150	86
Biomedical Research	83	44	163	72
Transportation	102	28	186	49
School Renovation	98	30	178	59
Water Quality	91	38	168	66
State Universities	97	30	161	72

**HEY ALL YOU DOGS OUT THERE---YES, I MEAN YOU! Time to get legal! Your 2002 license fees are due in December. Tell your chauffeur to bring your rabies and neutering certificates along with a check to Phine Ewing, Town Clerk during Town Hall Hours**

# Results from Arrowsic Residents On Union 47 Survey of June 2001

Jody Jones 443-3697 Nancy Brown Stump 442-7527 Eloise Vitelli 443-4660

THANK YOU to all residents who filled out and returned the questionnaire on "Future middle and high school options" that we mailed out last June. At a little over 30% (180 surveys sent to residences and 70 returned), we had the highest return rate of all the Union 47 towns! As your School Committee, we found the results very interesting and informative. After we tallied up the results, Union 47 asked the University of Maine to review the results including those of other towns to see if any conclusions could be drawn. We learned that although the results were great for getting a sense of what is on people's minds regarding educational options, there is a true science behind developing quantitative questionnaires that we did not have the expertise to develop. We couldn't draw any firm conclusions as to what direction the community wanted us to go. As you read through the results, keep in mind that any costs expended by our town for education are always voted on at town meeting. If a regional school were proposed for Union 47 and/or Union 48, each town would decide individually if they wanted to participate.

**Question 1: Is the lack of educational governance (no voting presence regarding academic program offerings in Bath) an issue for you?**

YES: 43 NO: 22 UNDECIDED/NEED MORE INFO: 5

- Yes very much so. Looking into creating our own school might at the very least cause Bath to offer us some say if we don't leave.
- Yes, although I have no children, I would object had I any.
- A voting representation should be made: Despite the small number of students to the whole we still pay the administration costs etc, some level of how our tax dollars are spent should be voted.
- I do not have children at this time, but in the future it may be an issue for me.
- After school programs, sports especially, favor Bath students over community students. I would favor a later start to the school day with most after school activities, especially sports, preceding the school day.
- I feel it would be a benefit for Arrowsic residents to be a part of the school Union 47-but not necessarily to other schools if outside Union 47 or if private schools.
- As a resident of Arrowsic, it is a bargain for by town to pay tuition to approved schools. The costs of constructing, maintaining, and operating a middle/high school would be much greater than the tuition we pay.

>No, but it may be for parents and I support their concerns.

>Yes. It seems like taxation without representation.

>Yes. I think we (and all of the towns) should have a voice. Didn't we used to? What happened?

>No. The fact that children can choose which school they wish to go to is "educational governance".

>Yes. Not an issue at this time, not an issue when our kids were in school, but potentially an issue.

>Yes. Somewhat, but not enough to abandon school choice. Besides the things you listed, there are lots of other ways to have an effect on your school. Being involved with the PTA, your child's teachers, etc can be very effective.

>No. No. Our experience with 2 kids attending Bath schools K-12 is that we've had as much representation as we've ever needed. We've been active in PTSA, have spoken at school board meetings and city budget hearings and have volunteered in sundry ways. The teachers and administrators always seem to appreciate the "diversity" from outlying towns and have always been attentive to our concerns.

>No. Having no children in the school system, I am not familiar with any problems.

>Yes. One reason it's an issue is that it upsets people so much they're far less effective than they might be with coping with it.

**Question 2: If a new regional middle or high school is built, Union 47 will no longer pay tuition for its students to attend other grade 7-12 schools. Would you support this change to a regional middle school-high school concept?**

YES: 22 NO: 30 UNDECIDED/NEED MORE INFO: 18

- I think the best-case scenario would be if the Bath School Department was open to a regional middle school and high school with equal representation by both Bath and Union 47.
- Need cost evaluation.
- Just high school
- Pros & cons each way.
- I like the idea of parents having choices for their children. No one school is the correct one for all children.
- Most likely I would not support this change, as it would eliminate school choice.

>Yes, I no longer have school age kids.

>Undecided. There's much to be said for a choice- no school is "best" for all children.

>No. Absolutely not, this is a terrible idea!

>No. Won't someone pay for the construction and operation? We might be better off paying tuition.

>Yes. Just as we don't support Bush proposed tuition reimbursements for private schools if poor people don't like substandard schools.

>No. I am very committed to having a choice; I like the ability to research various schools to find the best solutions for my children. I do not want to give that up, which is what a regional school would do.

>No. No. Building a new school seems too extravagant and like it would contribute to sprawl. I don't know much about it.

>Undecided. Am inclined to vote against new construction. Would prefer to be investing in improving the present system.

Question 3: Would you support the cost of construction for a new regional middle school if State funding was approved?

YES: 27 NO: 26 UNDECIDED/NEED MORE INFO: 16

- This is a law and laws can be changed.
- Just High school
- Not really at this point.
- Just because you can doesn't mean you should.
- In recent times a lot of money has been spent on the regional schools we have.
- If school choice was retained. Different students have different needs. Choice is important.

>No. Maine is aging, population of Arrowsic is going down, we do not need more schools and more taxes.

>Undecided. Only if it can be demonstrated that there is a real need of a new school: i.e. current facilities at full capacity.

>Definitely a middle school, possibly a high school. I would like to see physically separate buildings. I don't think 12 year olds should be in a huge school with 18 yr. olds.

>Yes. Probably, but reluctantly.

>No. This is a worse idea than #2. We do not need a new school of our own.

>No. No. (Again) Too extravagant and would contribute to sprawl.

>Undecided. Again, I would probably not support new construction. There are so many present schools in much greater need of state funding.

Question 4: Do you support the concept of a regional middle school-high school for only Union 47 students? This would represent a middle school of 150-200 students and a high school of 350-400 students.

YES: 20 NO: 34 UNDECIDED/NEED MORE INFO: 16

- Yes, especially if Morse and U47 High could share their areas of expertise (ie let students at one school take courses at the other that aren't available at their own school.
- Yes, but a larger school would be better.
- Depends on costs.
- Just High school.
- Would prefer a smaller school but that might not get as much funding as (arrow pointing to #5).
- A small school can only provide limited course offerings compared to a larger system; However, larger is not always better. To many towns, any no equal voting rights leads to what we have now. Costs should be based on students sent not divided by total operational budget divided by the number of towns. This leads to a small town like Arrowsic paying more per student than a larger town. Been thru that system in Regional School from where I moved. Not fair with students in the system. I'm looking at the tax cost more than the education. Would like to talk to you more on this if you wish.
- Not really at this point. See "2"
- I would think eventually, this may become a necessity anyway, and at the rate Union 47 towns are being built up, that time might not be far off.
- I would like to see Bath, Wiscasset, and perhaps other residents have the option of choosing this new school.

>No. Doesn't seem economically feasible.

>Sounds like a great idea, but I'd want to hear parents' thoughts.

>Undecided. Maybe these schools are too small for adequate course offerings, esp.

Science and foreign languages.

>No. Too small a student base to give a broad selection of educational courses and experiences as well as athletic teams

>Undecided. Might be too small.

>Undecided. Only if a feasibility and demographics study showed a need for a new school- AND that it can be sustained without significant tax increases.

>No. Wake up, the students have it better with choice!

>No. I think a larger system could provide a more comprehensive program

>No. Absolutely not.

>No. No. I'd be saddened if a school was built away from a city center where school can be part of the community.

Question 5: ...  
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Question 5: Do you support the concept of an expanded regional middle school-high school for Union 47 and Union 48 (Alna, Dresden and Westport) given the likelihood of State funding for broader regional educational solutions? This would represent a middle school of 250-300 students and a high school of 400-450 students.

YES:22 NO: 39 UNDECIDED/NEED MORE INFO:20

- This (questions 2-5) does not mean that I feel strongly that we should have our own 7-12 school, just that I would support it.
  - Depends on costs.
  - Based on the developmental level of students in Jr. high and high school, I do not believe the central school system is a good ideal. Developmentally speaking, teens learn better in smaller groups. Also, I think you're opening the door to increased school violence with a lot of students in one place.
  - I prefer this larger size.
  - I think all students would benefit from a more diverse student both which would naturally result from a larger enrollment.
  - Not really, at this point. See "2"
  - This is a more interesting option - though it still excludes Bath students and still reduces the choices families can make.
  - I would prefer this larger size.
- >Undecided. If it would not involve building a new school, I would support this, maybe.
- >Undecided. Same as above. (Only if a feasibility and demographics study showed need and w/o significant tax increases.)
- >Undecided. Might be good. How long would the bus ride be?
- >Undecided. Would have to determine if this regional middle-high school would be more of an educational benefit than present system
- >Yes. But I want to hear parents' thoughts.
- >Yes. Makes more sense- but I don't like all the transportation difficulties it would involve- and don't think the squabbling and politicking will disappear.
- >Undecided. Location would be important. I generally view smaller as better for younger kids.
- >I support it more so than a regional school for just Union #47.
- >No. Too big- not an advantage for the children.
- >Undecided. Prefer smaller school.
- >No. No. Busing might be "too much time on the bus", to me it would be stressful to drive to an outlying school for extracurricular events. Are student populations expected to remain constant, increase, decrease?

General Comments:

- Please, no ugly school in the middle of a field.
  - I have always been impressed by the positive, energetic, child-centered, progressive, proactive stance of Union 47. I am perplexed as to why Bath has continuously chosen against collaborating with us. The solution would be my first choice. Without that option, I am excited at the prospect of a Union 47 High School only. I would be concerned about the transition when a new school would be built. Once a student is part of a Bath school (or another school in Arrowsic's case) I would think that change would be difficult. I feel as though Middle and High schools are drastically different. Combining them together as one unit is, I feel, a mistake.
  - This is not an objective survey! It is clearly looking for support of a new school. If that is what you are selling, then I'll listen to your proposal. School money is the bulk of our property tax, yet there is no choice for how it is spent. Arrowsic votes down any proposal to spend money, but approves the school budget without question. Please publish this survey. Students should perform a community service in Arrowsic in return for our tax dollars. Thank you.
- >Thanks.
- >I believe Arrowsic students attending Bath schools are getting the best education available.
- >There should be two columns for husband and wife as views may differ.
- >I support leaving things the way they are. We have two children going through the Bath system and have no problems at all. If you have problems, go to the superintendent or principal.
- >What is wrong with things as they stand now? There are lots of choices available now and that would disappear- please leave things alone. We have a good deal now- having our "own" school would not give us more control- I think that we have more control now because we can choose where to send our children- I would hate to lose that option for my child. If we choose to be involved in the schools we have now (as parents), we can be influential in a more meaningful way.

Together, Father and Son made each other happier and they lived in a safer house from then on, at least for one year!



I feel safe now.



The key to less fires is prevention!

Brian Carlton

Brian M. Carlton

## AUTO REGISTRATIONS

Many apologies for not having this month's car registrations listed. We will print December and January in the next Arrow. Meanwhile, you better go out and check your license plates to see if yours is due. Thanks

## Public Service Announcements

### Pine Tree Society

From Bill Bunter 443-2559:

**Pine Tree Society**, 149 Front St. Bath Maine operates a project known as "The Kids Project." It is headed by Teresa Barrow who can be contacted at 443 - 3341. Our mission is to build custom "adaptive" furniture to assist the handicapped child & adult to better meet life's challenges. You may contact Ms Barrow for a catalogue or discuss a need for a custom piece. Generally the cost is about 50% of adaptive furniture from commercial sources. The recipient need not reside in this area. For example, right now we have an order from the Houlton School system for two kindergarten size chairs w/ lap belts and adjustable legs that are custom designed for youngsters w/ Cerebral Palsy. We will even consider building a product for someone "From Away" just contact Teresa.

Right now we have 24 volunteer woodworkers building catalogue items and custom orders. If you have woodworking or upholstering skills at any level we could use your help. Volunteers work at their own speed skill level & their own time schedule. All material is supplied so all we are asking for is a small part of your leisure time. Thank you

### Power Down

from Mother Jones Magazine July/August

More than 30 percent of America's computers are left running overnight and on the weekend, according to the US Dept of Energy. By turning them off we could shut down eight large power plants and cut carbon dioxide emissions by 7 million tons per year.

### About Drought

From Paul Schlein 443-3209:

**From what I have heard from inside sources**, the State feels the word to the public about drought is out and it doesn't want to do anything else to unduly alarm people at this point. If that is true, then why did a school (not local) just run its well system dry from using 10,000 gallons of water per day to water its sports fields?! (Unreported in the news).

In any case, the potential right now seems to be pretty serious until next spring--this week the State Drought Task Force said that 9+ inches of rain in a week are needed to get us out of this situation--not likely to happen before the ground is completely frozen. So I'm wondering if it wouldn't be a good idea to at least spread the word to our town about taking steps to conserve water. Would it be useful to put something on the website and in The Arrow?

Below is an article from the Bangor Daily News, attached is an article someone in my office wrote (as yet unpublished in our newsletter) with some info about what private homeowners can do, and here are a few things I took off the web that might be useful (as you can imagine, there's lots out there):

#### **How to Conserve Water Daily**

Because such a large percentage of the water use is in the bathroom, that is where water conservation efforts should begin. You can install a few simple, inexpensive devices in the bathroom that can save a lot of water with no change in your

lifestyle or your present habits. Many hardware and plumbing supply stores stock these items.

**Toilet dams or rock-filled containers** for conventional flush toilets: These devices can reduce the amount of water flowing out of the toilet by up to 25 percent without affecting its flushing ability. Never use a brick to accomplish the same effect - particles from it could harm your plumbing. Older toilets use five gallons of water per flush. Consider installing a new "low volume" toilet now on the market. Some of these use as little as a quart of water per flush! Almost all new toilets sold will be a low volume flush.

**Low-flow, water-saving shower heads:** This plumbing device reduces the amount of water flowing through your shower by up to 50 percent, but increases the velocity so the shower feels the same. This also saves hot water. You may even be able to avoid buying a larger water heater in the future. With the increasing cost of fuel, this can save \$!

**Faucet aerators:** These devices restrict the amount of water going through your faucet by up to 50 percent but add bubbles so the flow of water appears the same. They can be installed on all of your faucets, not just the ones in your bathroom.

**Here are some other relatively simple things you can do to further reduce water use:** Repair leaks in your faucets and toilets. A leaky faucet can waste 20 gallons or more per day. Leaky toilets, even though they are usually silent, can waste hundreds of gallons per day.

To find out if your toilet leaks, put a little food coloring in the tank. If, without flushing, color appears in the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired. Repairing a faucet is usually as simple as changing an inexpensive washer. Leaky toilets often can be repaired by adjusting the float arm or plunger ball.

Use your dishwasher and clothes washer only when you have a full load. If you are purchasing a new clothes washer, choose one with variable load or suds-saver options. Many dishwashers are also now available with water-saving options. If you already have these options, use them whenever possible.

If you are building a new home or remodeling an old one, consider installing "low flush" toilets. These toilets use one to two gallons per flush instead of the two to five gallons used by conventional toilets. They are readily available and, although they cost more, they can save a lot of money in the long run.

#### **Bathing and Personal Care Save Water Every Day**

a.. Don't let the water keep running when you brush your teeth. Instead, half fill a glass and use that water to wet your brush and rinse your mouth.

b.. Don't let the water run when you shave or wash your hands. Fill the basin and dip your razor or hands as needed.

c.. Don't flush the toilet unnecessarily. Older toilets use 5 to 7 gallons of water per flush. If possible, replace older toilets with new water-saving fixtures that use only 1 or 1.5 gallons per flush. Throw tissues, insects and other trash in the wastebasket, not the toilet.

d.. Turn the shower off while you shampoo your hair.

e.. Bathe small children together.

f.. Turn faucets off completely to avoid drips and slow leaks. Too much pressure or turning too tightly can damage valve seats.

Teach children water-saving techniques.

g.. Take short showers, not baths. Limit showers to 5 minutes or less.

h.. Install flow restrictors on individual water fixtures like showerheads and faucets. They automatically reduce flow and aerate the water.

i.. Turn the valves under the sink to reduce the rate of water flow.

j.. Partly fill the tub when you take a bath. A good rule is 5 inches.

k.. Substitute a basin sponge bath instead of a shower or tub bath sometimes.

l.. Collect the cold water in a bucket as you wait for shower water to heat up. Use it for watering plants.

m.. Reduce the amount of water the toilet uses by filling a 1 gallon plastic container with water and putting it in the tank to displace 1 gallon of water.=20

**If anyone makes skating rinks in their yards, this might not be a good year to do it.**