

Volume 32, Number 3
Winter 2018



Approaching the Arrowsic Bridge (photo: Paul Schlein)

Select Election

Residents gathered at the town hall at 7:00 Dec 6 for a special town meeting to elect a select person to serve the remainder of Bill Savedoff's term until June 20, 2022.

The evening started with Senator Eloise Vitelli presenting the legislature's Al Smith Community Spirit Award to Mary Louise Blanchard for her work establishing the AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program in the Mid-Coast. The program provides free assistance to residents in filing their taxes.

Select person Michele Gaillard then noted how grateful she and fellow select person Sukey Heard were for Bill's service to the town and the board: 'Had we interviewed him for the job, his impressive education and professional background might have said "overqualified", but Bill immediately brought his considerable skills and talents to bear on a number of issues, large and small, that were of importance to Arrowsic.'

'Bill carried a lot of water for the Town,' Michele continued, '(he was also in the fire department). Most notably, his ability to identify and analyze issues, formulate competing solutions, communicate options, build consensus, and follow through with decisions. Bill shepherded numerous projects that could have been



Mary Louise Blanchard receives Al Smith Award from Eloise Vitelli (photo: Sukey Heard)

controversial but because of his transparent and even-handed guidance, were almost universally approved and accepted. Bill combined strong administrative skills with a belief that positive results come from personal interactions. He was also just nice to have around.'

Town Clerk Barbara Boyce then called the meeting to order at 7:10. Eloise Vitelli was elected moderator and called for nominations. Walter Briggs, 154 Spinney Mill Road, was nominated and elected unanimously, 33-0. Thanking people for their support, Briggs noted that it was a privilege to serve, having lived in Arrowsic since 1995 and raising four children here.

Vitelli then called for a motion to adjourn at 7:20, and after saying goodbye, residents left for home.



—submitted by Tom Spear

*Walter Briggs
(photo: Wendy Briggs)*

How Arrowsic Voted

U.S. Senate

✓Angus King (I)	229	69.6%
Eric Brakey (R)	66	20.1%
Zak Ringelstein (D)	34	10.3%

U.S. House District 1

✓Chellie Pingree (D)	232	71.2%
Mark Holbrook (R)	75	23%
Martin Grohman (I)	19	5.8%

Governor

✓Janet Mills (D)	225	69.7%
Shawn Moody (R)	85	26.3%
Terry Hayes (I)	13	4%

State House District 53

✓Allison Hepler (D)	245	76.1%
Jeffrey Pierce (R)	77	23.9%

State Senate District 23

✓Eloise Vitelli (D)	243	74.5%
Richard Donaldson (R)	83	25.5%

District Attorney District 6

✓Natasha Irving (D)	204	61.4%
Jonathan Liberman (R)	112	33.7%

County Treasurer

✓Sarah Ward (D)	281	84.6%
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Registrar of Deeds

✓Lynn Moore (R)	235	70.8%
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Question 1 Tax to Fund Home Healthcare

Yes	114	34.9%
✓No	213	65.1%

Question 2 Wastewater Facility Bonds

✓Yes	219	67%
No	108	33%

Question 3 Infrastructure Bonds

✓Yes	254	77.2%
No	75	22.8%

Question 4 Public University Bonds

✓Yes	210	63.8%
No	119	36.2%

Question 5 Community College Bonds

✓Yes	234	70.9%
No	96	29.1%

—submitted by Karin Sadtler & Tom Spear

Ahoy! Kennebec Rowing

For many years, I came to Arrowsic just for a couple of weeks in the summertime. We still lived in Germany then, but during one of my visits about 5 years ago, a friend mentioned how much she enjoyed rowing on the Kennebec. She shared the contact information for Chuck in Phippsburg, who is at the heart of a loosey-goosey community-oriented rowing program.

Chuck designs and builds open-water rowing boats for community rowing programs on the Massachusetts coast and ours was the prototype for his sliding seat four-with-cox design. Four of us sit facing backwards, one oar each, and the coxswain navigates from the stern. The sliding seats allow a very efficient use of our leg muscles, which produce about 70% of the propelling power. In this boat an experienced crew can reach and maintain a speed of about 6 knots over a long distance. From May to October we meet for rows on Friday or Saturday at Morse Cove on Phippsburg's Fiddler's Reach. Sometimes we go on day rows; we have been around Arrowsic, to Muscongus Bay, Damariscotta Lake and on Merrymeeting Bay. Depending on the calendar we add specials, like 'full moon' and 'stargazer' rows.

Once the boat is launched, we take our assigned seats and leave the dock. The tide usually dictates which course we take. We try to do the hard part first and come back with the tide. If you live near the western shore of Arrowsic you may have seen us out there. Sometimes it seems that we are the only ones on the water. The Kennebec can be challenging and the conditions are different almost every time. It can feel like flat water rowing on a lake. At other times we hit 1-2 ft. waves, white caps, cross winds and strong currents. We use eddies to our advantage and try to stay out of standing waves. The boat's performance, lateral stability and buoyancy are amazing. We had fun doing a self-rescue drill once on a warm day on Damariscotta Lake. The gig floats even when it is full of water and is still 'rowable'.

A great mix of people of all ages, professional background, interests and rowing skills is part of this friendly community.

Learning to row and spending time on the Kennebec have been truly wonderful. Rowing offers a very satisfying physical work out in combination with an almost meditative experience when the crew finds its rhythm. To top this off, we see the shoreline with its seasonal changes and watch eagles, seals, monarchs and swimming squirrels while we are on the river.

And yes, we do take water breaks and talk! Curious? Our community rowing program welcomes new rowers. If you think you might be interested in trying it out, please contact me at kasadtler@yahoo.com.

—submitted by Karin Sadtler

From the Shellfish Committee

The Arrowsic Shellfish Conservation Committee works to conserve the town's shellfish population, to make clam licenses available to commercial and local diggers, and to educate the community about life in the intertidal zone.



Ralph Pope discusses life in the intertidal zone at Clam Camp
(photo: Lisa Margonelli)

of seaweed, Ralph Pope. The following day artist Jackie Johnson taught watercolor techniques to kids and adults in the same location on private property in Georgetown. Jackie explained that when it comes to watercolor paintings, you need to look at a scene and break down its component parts. All child participants received a Clam Camp certificate—printed by Bath Printing Company—upon completion.

This year, the Shellfish Conservation Committee did not do either of its usual surveys of green crabs (in the rivers) or clams (in the mud). We will resume these fun activities next summer—along with some other possible projects. Anyone is welcome to join our meetings, which are scheduled to be held at 6 pm at the Town Hall on Dec 11, 2018; and March 12, May 14 and September 10 in 2019. If you are interested in joining in or want clam-related information, please write to clams@arrowsic.org.

In May, Arrowsic commercial clam digger Wendell Cressey, with the support of the Manomet Foundation, installed an experimental clam farm at North Squirrel Point flats. Wendell planted 167,000 clams under nets in short order. Over the summer the clams grew impressively, reaching an average of 1.2 inches before nets were removed to prepare for winter ice flows. If all goes well, these clams may be ready to harvest next fall—which could mean that Arrowsic is a pretty decent place to farm clams.

In August, the ASCC and the Education Committee combined forces to host two days of Clam Camp. On August 18, a crowd of more than a dozen kids and adults went out scavenging in an intertidal treasure hunt lead by the town's Pied Piper



Watercolor painting at Clam Camp (photo: Camille Kauffunger)

—submitted by Lisa Margonelli

Thank you Conservation Walkers!

The Nov. 11 Conservation walk happened on the last beautiful fall day before snow and winter set in. It was clear and sunny, and everything was clean and sparkling after heavy rains the days before. We had a great walk on an old road through conservation land near the duck camps. It was a perfect adventure, including huge ant mounds, grassy tracks and an old foundation that most of us had never seen before. We decided to go bushwhacking and explore an old cemetery overlooking the Back River marsh, with a burbling brook running down the hillside adjacent to it. What a setting.

In trying to see the name on the back of a gravestone, I tripped over an old wire buried in the leaves, and fell on my ankle. Ouch! From there, the Conservation walk turned into quite a different adventure, with the walkers drawing on all their wilderness first aid knowledge to bind up the ankle with scarves and bandannas, sharing jackets and remaining scarves to keep me warm, and then figuring out how to get me out of there. The way was uphill, over the burbling brook, over fallen logs, around and through the trees and eventually to the Duck Camp road. It wasn't easy!



Lisa Margonelli and Karen Robbins carry Roz McLean
(photo: Bill Nickerson)

The group never faltered. Some scattered to find the road we had been walking on, one hiked to her house to get a splint, one went to find Duck Camp Rd, very muddy and potholed after the rains, to take him to his car which would become my way out. They were all amazing. The remaining members became crutches or a fireman's carry, or just encouraged and guided me around the uneven terrain. What a team!!

A huge thank you to all of you who were there for your clear thinking, willingness to be physically and psychologically supportive, and awesome problem solving. The impromptu wilderness rescue was successful! A plate and some screws later, I know that ankle will be as good as new in the spring, and I am looking forward to rediscovering just where we were on that hike and whose names were actually on those gravestones!

—submitted by Roz McLean

Broadband Update

This past summer and fall, the Three Bridged Islands Broadband Task Force has been busy moving the project along. We have two grant applications pending and appear to have a basic legal structure to move ahead with the project: 3 BIB Company, to be known as 3BI Broadband.

As of the Nov. 30 deadline given in the Request For Proposals, the Task Force received 4 proposals to build and/or operate a broadband internet system on the three islands of Arrowsic, Georgetown, and Southport. The proposed systems are entirely or mostly based on optical fiber, which will deliver the highest internet speeds and broadest range of internet-based services now and decades into the future.

The Task Force will review the proposals during the coming month or so. Their aim is to present a proposal to Town Meetings this coming spring, in hope of starting construction next summer.

Should you have any questions, observations, or suggestions, please feel free to contact one of the Arrowsic Task Force members: Ken Hnottavange-Telleen, Don Kornrumpf, or Will Neilson.

—submitted by Ken Hnottavange-Telleen

Lawn Care: Avian Friend or Foe?

by John Berry*

Sure, we all love green, healthy-looking lawns and we take great pains to achieve them. But how many of us stop to think, on a grass-roots level (pun intended!), about the adverse consequences those “great pains” levy on the surrounding environment, particularly the avian population?

A multi-‘cided’ problem

Pesticides are the fourth largest cause of bird mortality after windows, feral cats, and high-tension wires, according to the *Sibley Guide to Birds*.

Weed killers, fungicides, and insecticides can be highly toxic to birds, by directly poisoning them and by altering the ecosystem they depend on for survival. It’s estimated that at least 67 million birds die in the U.S. each year due to pesticide toxicity.

In addition to bird mortality, pesticides cause harm by:

- Killing insects that are eaten by birds.
- Accumulating in fish and small animals consumed by predatory birds.
- Killing plants that produce edible seeds.
- Causing nonlethal but dangerous health issues among avian survivors including: thinned eggshells, suppressed immune systems, and disorientation while migrating.

Even products labeled “nontoxic” affect the environment in ways we may not see or understand.

The domino effect

Overall, insecticides not only destroy the birds’ insect food, but they generally contaminate the air, plants, leaves, seeds and flowers. Fertilizers contribute to water pollution, another bane to avian health. At risk are lakes, streams and eventually the ocean—the endpoint of all watersheds—which are paramount to birds and their food sources.

According to the (USGS) National Wildlife Health Center, many birds die each year when they ingest pesticide granules or eat poisoned insects.

The pursuit of the ‘perfect’ lawn now drives many homeowners to use an unprecedented volume of herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, fertilizers and herbicide-fertilizer combinations known as weed and feed products that offer little or no benefit to turf.

There are an estimated 40 million acres of lawns in the U.S. and we put 80 million pounds of toxic products on them, a rate *ten times* higher than agricultural use.

However, there are ways to restore the balance of nature.

Eco-friendly Alternatives

To reduce or eliminate your use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides: use disease- and pest-resistant plants, cultivate native plant species, and reduce your lawn area.

Healthy lawns contain a variety of insects and their relatives, an important part of the natural balance. Bugs break down leaf litter or become a source of food for other insects, birds or mammals. If you manage your yard *naturally*, you can increase natural insect predators like ladybugs, praying mantises, frogs, toads and, of course, birds. Leaf mulches and compost also add nutrients to soil and eliminate the need for weed killers and fertilizers.

By applying horticultural knowledge instead of pesticides and fertilizers, *YardScaping* practices can create quality turf that delivers recreational and eye-pleasing benefits, and is safe for birds and humans. For more information about *YardScaping* in Maine, go to:

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/yardscaping/lawn/index.htm>.

—submitted by Sandy Maggied Aukeman. Reprinted with permission of the author. This article originally appeared in The Call, the newsletter of Merrymeeting Audubon, Volume 48, Issue 2, Fall 2018.

Notes and Notices

Lost a Canoe?

A canoe was found floating upside down on the Back River on January 30th. I have it at my camp. You can contact Peyton Higgison at biffpeyton@comcast.net.

Patton Library Trustee:

It is the Town of Arrowsic's turn to appoint a resident to the Board of Trustees of the Patten Free Library for a one year term. Each town in the district has an opportunity on a rotating basis. If you are interested in serving, please contact one of the members of the Select Board.

The invitation card features a background of a waving American flag. In the upper left corner is the circular seal of Sagadahoc County, Maine, which includes a building and the text "COUNTY OF SAGADAHOC" and "MAINE 1854". To the right of the seal, the text reads: "Please join us for our annual Maine Spirit of America Foundation Award Ceremony Honoring Exceptional Volunteerism in Sagadahoc County". Below this, the date and time are listed: "Thursday, December 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.". The location is given as "Sagadahoc County Courthouse 752 High Street, Bath, Maine". It also mentions "Light refreshments to follow". A section titled "2018 Honorees" lists honorees from various towns: Bath, Darreby Ambler; Arrowsic, Elizabeth Rollins; Bowdoin, Susan Ferris; Bowdoinham, Brian Smith; Georgetown, Georgetown Volunteer Fire Dept.; Phippsburg, Merrill Chapin; Richmond, Charles Kincer; Topsham, Jane Scease; West Bath, Evelyn Desmond (Posthumously); and Woolwich, John Chapman. At the bottom, there is contact information: "FMI ~ Contact Mary Kay Blatz at Sagadahoc County Administration 207-443-8202 or admassist@sagcounty.com".

Election Workers Needed

Be a part of the excitement on election day. Election clerks and counters are needed for November and June elections. Election clerks check in voters prior to voting and usually work 4-hour shifts. Election counters are needed once the polls close for ballot counting which usually takes 2 to 3 hours. Clerks and counters are paid \$10 an hour.

As an election clerk or counter, you are representing the party in which you are enrolled, to provide a check and balance in the electoral process. To be an election clerk or counter you must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years of age
- Resident of the municipality
- Registered voter in the municipality
- Enrolled in 1 of the major or minor qualified parties (Democrat, Republican and Green Independent) – unless an unenrolled voter is appointed to fill a vacancy.

Contact the Town Clerk, Barbara Boyce at, 443-4609, or email, clerk@arrowsic.org if you are interested.

Holiday Greetings and Tips from the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

As 2019 approaches, the ARSWC would like to refresh everyone about responsible recycling. Here are holiday recycling tips as well as answers to some frequently asked recycling questions.

Important Recycling Reminders

- All containers with recycling must be clearly marked and kept a good distance away from trash containers in your driveway. Recycling stickers are available at the Town Shed and Town Hall.
- Be sure all recycling and trash containers are put out at curbside no later than 7:00 AM on the pickup day.
- **Never put recyclables in plastic bags;** plastic bags are not recyclable at curbside (*see below*).
- **Plastic bags of all shapes and sizes—are not recyclable**, even to hold recyclable items. Some stores will take and recycle clean, non-food-contaminated plastic bags (Brackett's, Shaw's and Target).
- **Coated paper products (a wax, plastic or foil lining)—are not recyclable.** This includes eggnog, juice, milk and soup cartons; aseptic packaging; coffee or soda cups; and coated paper plates.
- **Scrap metal—is not recyclable** at curbside, but it can be recycled at the Town Shed.
- In addition to scrap metal, our Town Shed accepts electronics, batteries, CDs/DVDs and cases, natural corks, electric cords and returnable bottles (for the Fire Department Boosters fund).

Holiday Recycling Tips

- **Broken Christmas tree lights—are not recyclable** at curbside, but they can be recycled at the Town Shed. Remove bulbs first and throw them in the trash, if possible.
- **Wrapping paper—is not recyclable.** Please reuse it or throw it in the trash.
- **Natural Christmas trees—are not recyclable** (other uses: mulch, animal habitat, kindling, sachets).

Find the 2019 Recycling/Trash Pickup Calendar and follow the latest guidelines for curbside recycling at our website (<http://arrowsic.org/recycle.html>).

Let's work together to make less waste in 2019! As always, we are here to help. Please contact Jon Biehler, jonbiehler@me.com, 442-8042, with any questions. We wish you a happy, healthy 2019!

—submitted by Katie Smith

Arts

The Arrow encourages contributions of all sorts—photographs, drawings, poetry, prose—to our expanded arts section from Arrowscans of all ages. Please send your contributions to pschlein@gmail.com.

Too Early



(photo: Phil Mason)

Winter arrives early...
Too early

Have a 4PM beverage
Have another

Didn't get the leaves off the deck or
Out of the yard

Go fetch more firewood
Blow your nose

Bring in firewood
Buy bread and milk

Get more firewood
Eat something

Nap

Bring in more firewood

Bring in more firewood
Bring in a plant you might save
You're probably wrong
Bring it in anyway

Gotta love Maine in the winter,
Even when it shows up early.

© 2018 Philip Mason

—submitted by Phil Mason

Settling in Arrowsic

For years, Arrowsic was the place we drove through to get to Georgetown. And even now, after five years of living here, most people in the wider area can't pronounce it.

It's a small island. The smallest town in the smallest county in one of the smaller states in the country, where folks gather in a town hall scarcely larger than a living room. 427 people in the last census, some of whom have been here for generations, while others are newer arrivals. But all come together for the annual town meeting to vote every penny in the town budget, over 50 articles in all.

We've moved here to retire after visiting Maine for generations. Why? Well there are the multiple shades of grey sky. The winters. And the browntail moths. But there are also the ever-changing reflections on the water. The craggy coastline. The boats going out in the fog. And the people who enrich each encounter with tales of local lore and people. Small place. Rich lives.

And then there are the tales etched in the landscape. Mosquito Run. Who would not want to live there? Mill Island, where timber was sown on the tides. Old Stage Road, as though there is a New Stage Road. Prebble Point. Spinney Mill Road, Iron Mine Road. Fredda's Lane. Fisher Eddy Road. Indian Rest. Stone Tree Road. Each encapsulates a place, a person, a history. We live across the road from the old Thomas Spear shipyard, a distant relative perhaps.

I grew up in a small New England town of 6,000 people, huge by Arrowsic standards, but then spent most of my life in much larger places around the world that quested after fifty flavors of cappuccino. Along the way, I also lived in a small village in Africa, where everyone knew what you did yesterday even if you did not.

Here there are neighbors who will paint the house. Help produce the local newsletter. Pull the dock in the fall and replace it in the spring. Or share solutions for global warming. I just discovered that our roofer built our house, so she knows how to fix it. I don't have to get apps for those.

We are from away, but look forward to joining this community. This landscape. This small world where people share few regrets about the lack of a mall.

—submitted by Tom Spear

[*editor's note:* Recently, the *Arrow* received a heartwarming message from Patty Olds, creator of the *Arrow*, and former treasurer and select person: 'I am so happy to see the Arrow live on, evolve, and adapt in such a wonderful way.... It feels like a truly representative picture of an incredible town whose residents care deeply about their community.']

Riddle of the Sphinx

So much good has happened
since the Sphinx fell silent.

The longer he keeps his mouth closed
the more he becomes an accomplice. Yet,

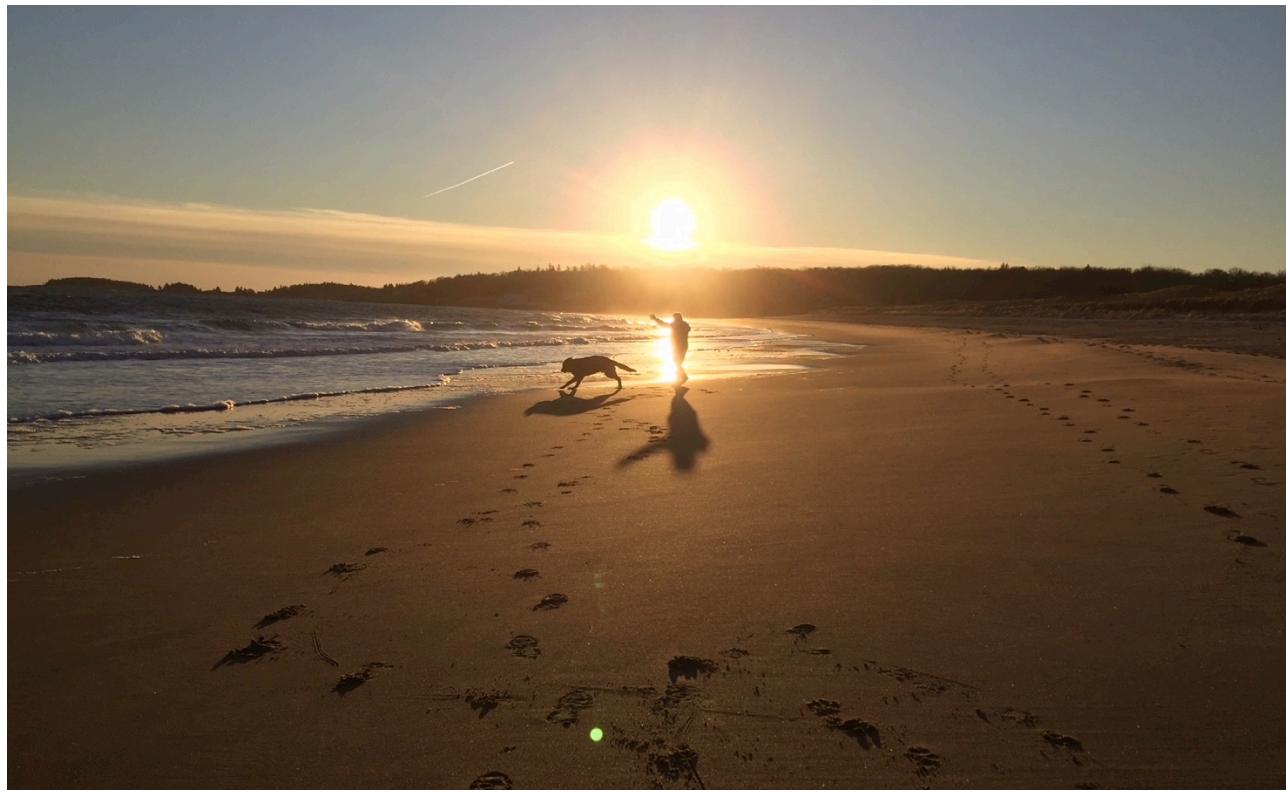
The longer he keeps his mouth closed
the more he becomes an ingrate.

if he lets out the long-awaited howl,
he becomes history!

So much evil has happened
since the Sphinx fell silent.

—submitted by Sharif S. Elmusa
<https://madamasr.com/en/contributor/sharif-elmusa>

Enjoying the Beach at Sundown



(photos: Sarah Stocker)

—submitted by Sarah Stocker

Coming Home



(photo: Phil Mason)

—submitted by Phil Mason

The Arrowsic Arrow is Arrowsic's independent newsletter, produced entirely through the efforts of volunteers. The newsletter is published quarterly, currently in Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Arrow is distributed via e-mail to all those on the Town of Arrowsic list or on paper to those who have asked to receive it in this way. The Town covers any costs for paper and postage. The Arrow is expensive and time-consuming to print and mail. If you can print your own copy, please contact Paul Schlein (below). All articles and notices are welcome. Notices should be limited to 100 words. Arrow Committee: Suzanne Gunston, Bob Kalish, Paul Schlein, Tom Spear, Karin Sadtler, and Nancy Brown Stump.

Production: Tom Spear

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