

The Arrowsic Arrow September 2007

From The School Board

Dear Residents of Arrowsic,

As you may know, the school boards of Union 47 and Bath have been working for over two years on a plan to join together. Our primary goal was to raise the general level of education in the region, and a second major goal was to give the towns of SU47 governance at the Middle and High Schools that most of our children attend (Bath) .

Over the last 12 months, a Regional Task Force and then a Transition Team, authorized by U47 and Bath, have worked to find a way for us to merge. On November 6, you will vote on the result of those efforts - LD 910 - in a public referendum that would allow our towns and Bath to form a new kind of region.

At the same time, all school districts in Maine are currently wrestling with the most sweeping change to the State's education system in the last 100 years, due to a state law - LD 499 - that mandates consolidation from 290 school districts down to 80.

There are many differences between the two forms of regionalization, but the two primary ones are:

- Governance: 910 divides the region into 9 Wards that cut across town boundaries. 499 gives weighted votes to each municipality.
- Funding: 910 apportions the tax burden based on a unique formula that weights Property Value, Population, and Student Population each at 1/3. 499 apportions taxes as they are now, almost entirely based on property value.
- Other differences we will discuss in October include school choice and the assumption of Bath's school debt.

We have spent hundreds of hours sorting through everything that figures into our decision as a town, and we can tell you for certain that there is a lot of information, a lot of misinformation, and a lot that remains unknown about our future under any scenario. We continue to work on behalf of our children, parents and taxpayers to find the best path to recommend to you, the voter. We will send out a mailing in late October with a formal recommendation.

Please, please, please come to our town information meeting about this subject on October 15 from 6:30-8pm at the Town Hall. Feel free to call us with questions or concerns.

Respectfully yours,
Arrowsic School Committee
Francie Tolan, Tim Harkins, Walter Briggs

LD 499? / LD 910?

*Come to our town
information meeting
about this subject*

**October 15
6:30-8pm**

Town Hall

From Your Selectmen

Residents will be interested to know that there will be a municipal ballot question at the November 6th election that will ask voters if they favor joining a unit with other communities in the lower Kennebec River area to form a regional school unit. Because School Union 47 and the Bath Board of Education had already been involved with consolidation planning before the state mandated it, we are a little ahead of everyone else with our own special legislation. Please see notes from the School Committee.

The Selectmen were as distressed as many of you to learn that Arrowsic has been omitted from Verizon's new DSL expansion program. We have contacted Senator Benoit and Representative McDonald to see if they could help us in any way. Through Representative McDonald, we met with some representatives of Pioneer Wireless about the possibility of bringing DSL service to Arrowsic. They will probably be sending out information to residents. Doubtless other options will surface. If you would like to be part of the process to try to effect a change, please put your name on the petition at the Town Hall and posted outside in the kiosk outside. We will keep you posted.

The Town has signed a snow plow contract with Dick Holbrook & Sons of Woolwich. While we realize that it is impossible to keep the roads clean and dry 100% of the time, if there is a situation that warrants attention, you can contact the Holbrook office at 443-5988 (M-F 9am - 1). Evan's cell is 841-5741. Road Commissioner Jim Stump is 442-7527. Please do not park cars along the side of the roads.

Reminder: If you are applying to the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program, please use your NET tax bill amount (i.e. total bill minus abatement).'

Need a really big steel box?

With single stream recycling now in Arrowsic, the green recycling container at the Town Hall is no longer needed. The Selectmen would like to sell it and have it removed from the parking area. We have received an offer but would like to open it up to Arrowsic townspeople. If you are interested, please contact Michele Gaillard at 442-7443 or mgaillar@bowdoin.edu.

From your Town Clerk

Would whomever borrowed or moved thee town Cemetery Maps from Town Hall please return it to the Town Clerk. Thank you,

Heather Baker
Town Clerk

Citizens for Squirrel Point *Annual Meeting*

Tuesday Oct 23rd, 6:30pm
Arrowsic Town Hall
All Welcome

We will update the status of Squirrel Point project and issue elections/ For more information contact: Lee Johnson at arrowsiclee@zwi.net

Arrowsic History?

If you have an interesting piece of Arrowsic history or documentation, Peter Goodwin is looking for a speaker or topic for the Town History Series at the Patten Free Library. If you have stories or documents to share, contact him at the Sagadahoc Preservation Room: 443-5141x18 or pgoodwin@patten.lib.me.us

From the Recycling Committee

1) Yellow decals for your recycling bins are available in the shed by the town hall, along with many informational handouts about solid waste & recycling issues. The shed is always open.

2) Fluorescent bulbs are becoming very popular and use less energy, but please remember that they are “universal waste” and cannot be placed in with the regular trash. This is true for the compact household bulbs as well as longer tube-style bulbs. Please see universal waste handouts in the shed for further info, which discusses Bath & West Bath drop-off options for these items.

3) Midcoast Hospital is having a medication collection day in November (exact date to be announced soon). This is the proper way to dispose of unneeded or expired medication. Please keep an eye out at our town hall kiosk and/or at the Bath City Hall for a flyer posting the exact date.

4) Consider stopping into the “ReStore” in Bath, across from Amato’s. They sell gently used materials at discounted prices, including hardware, building materials, office furniture, appliances, and many other household goods. They even have car headlight bulbs. They also accept many donated items, subject to approval. They are open to the public Thur.-Sat., and their phone # is 386-5087.

As always, thank you for your continued efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Questions? Please call John Hinds (443-4322), Roz McLean (386-0179), Heather Baker (443-1713), or Liz Ware (443-1490).

FYI – Deadlines for future issues of the Arrow will be 11/26/07, 2/25/08, 5/5/08, 8/26/08. If you would like to submit material please contact me at kennang@hughes.net, 442-8152 or leave materials in the box at Town Hall. Questions and comments are always welcome. Thanks, Maria Grill

Fiddler’s Reach Fog Bell Tower Restoration

If you’ve been on the Kennebec River this summer there is a good chance that you have seen the activity at the bell tower. With an enthusiasm that grows out of true commitment, the Range Light Keepers have replaced the entire bottom portion of the tower. New sills and joists with skillfully crafted joints were shaped to fit by Woolwich timber framer Ed Blaiklock, son of Bill and Noreen. Rotating crews of volunteers performed demolition, rigging, assembly and fastening. With the sub-floor complete, the old 10x10 bell fir beam was carefully extracted from its perch and a new 20-foot long beam was hoisted into position, all by hand. A supplemental stone masonry pier is rising from the ledge below to help support the weight of the 1400-pound bell, now on display at town hall.

The Maine Maritime Museum lighthouse tour boat keeps pace with the progress. We’re very proud of what we’ve accomplished this summer but there is much work yet to be done before the bell can be hung.

A \$5,000 grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission is in place to aid this project. It is a matching grant so we must raise a like amount from local sources. Please consider a donation to help restore this important piece of Arrowsic history. Now is the time to show your support. The Range Light Keepers are an IRS qualified 501(c)3 public charity for tax deductible donations.

The growing list of working volunteers includes: Ed Blaiklock, Herb Hewlett, Art Dresser, Larry Wilson, Peter Goodwin, Don Law, Michele Gaillard, Paul Kalkstein, Mike Kreindler and more to come. Special thanks to Andrea Hanson, Jim Spencer, and Fred and Georgia Downs. View our restoration progress online at www.rlk.org . Reach us at fogdog@rlk.org or Range Light Keepers, 58 Iron Mine Road, Arrowsic 04530.

Halloween Party!

Sunday, October 28th

2-4pm

Join us at Town Hall for games, stories, crafts and goodies. Call Francie Tolan 443-4893 or Maria Grill 442-8152 for more information.

Car Registrations

October

Baker, K.
Barnes, A.
Blanchard, H.
Brigggs adv
Brown, A.
Burke, J.
Carlton, A.
Dauphin, R.
Demers, T.
Demers, T.
Dunn, F.
Elwell, R.
Elwell, R.
Giberson, D.
Gill, D.
Grill, M.
Hewlett, H.
Jorgensen, M.
Kimbeall, S.
King, S.
Knight, M.
Kreindler, M.

Levesque, C.
Macleod, G.
Macleod, S.
Martin, A.
Mount, P.
Nelson, R.
Newcomb, D.
Packard, P.
Robinson, M.
Scott, N.
Stafford, M.
Stimpson, H.
Stone, P.
Tarbox, C.
Textor, M.