

# The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around & About Arrowsic

Volume 39, Number 2

Summer 2025



## Hook, Line and ... Gone!

The wreck of the Hook, Line and Sinker that landed on Arrowsic's northern shore last winter has been removed and is now being dismantled for eventual disposal.

It's been a long, twisty road to get here, and we had help from many people along the way. I am going to try to call them all out here (and hope I don't miss anyone.)

### Thanks go to:

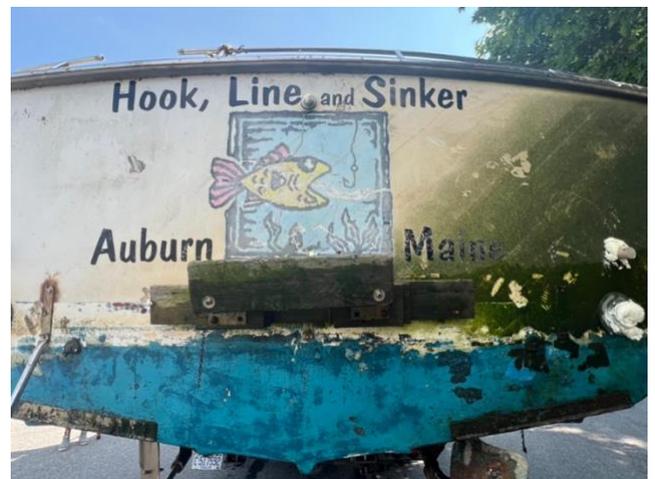
Allison Hepler, our State Representative; Kristin Collins, our Town lawyer; Joel Merry and the Sagadahoc Sheriff's Dept; and John Noll from Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands for helping us navigate the legal process.

BIW, Reed and Reed, and two anonymous donors for helping us with the cost of the removal.

Bob Nelson for his patience, guidance, and support while it sat on his shore.

SeaTow and Kings Tide Marine for performing the difficult work of getting it off the mud flats.

All of you who voted to spend town funds on something none of us thought we should be responsible for. (The Town's cost ended up at \$8,175.)



*Hook, Line and Sinker*  
(Photos by Cpl. Ryan Kaake, Bath Police Dept.)

Dee Dee and Jennifer for supporting me at every turn.

The prankster who put the "Historic Shipwreck" sign up when we all needed something to smile about.

And to Wendy, who put up with me, who kept me on track every time I missed something, who pushed me when I wanted to put off doing the hard work, and who gave me consistent advice on the best way forward.

—Walter Briggs



Blue Herons (Photo by Kathy Roy)

## Arrowsic Education Committee Silent Auction

On Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Arrowsic Education Committee held its second Silent Auction at the Arrowsic Fire Station. Many residents donated items and/or came to place bids.

Net proceeds from the auction were \$3,060.55, which will be used to award scholarships to Arrowsic's graduating high school seniors who plan to pursue further education.

Due to the amount of work required to stage the Silent Auction, the Education Committee made the decision to hold the event every other year. The next auction is tentatively scheduled for June 2027. In alternating years, the yard sale will be held. It is tentatively scheduled for September 2026.

Arrowsic ball caps in dusty red are available and sales support the Education Committee Scholarship Fund. The cost of a ball cap is \$28, with \$10 of the proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. A ball cap may be purchased by contacting Brenda Wojciechowski at [bjbwojo@yahoo.com](mailto:bjbwojo@yahoo.com).

Finally, the Education Committee welcomes all who wish to either join the committee or volunteer to help at events. Please contact Denise Parker at [denise.parker@arrowsic.org](mailto:denise.parker@arrowsic.org) for information.

—Denise Parker





*The Morning of the Celebratory Harvest*



*Southern Most Picture Post*



*July Photo of Encroaching Vegetation from Southern Post*

## **In the Spring, Arrowsic Counts Fish!**

Up and down the coast, the spring alewife migration was heavily influenced by the regular, steady rains. Here in Arrowsic, the rain provided good flow and water depth in Sewall Creek as the fish made their way up to Sewall Pond to spawn. Cool water temperatures resulted in an average number of adults this season—our plucky volunteers counted 17,720 fish. Torrential downpours skunked our annual Celebratory Harvest. After passing a few fish into the pond, we called it a day.

At the Annual Meeting in June, an amendment to the Fish Commission enabling ordinance passed unanimously. Two very generous volunteers, Vince Capone and Wendy Van Dyke, have been sworn in as Alternates.

The Sewall Creek Restoration project continues. Conductivity and water depth monitoring with data loggers is ongoing. Vegetation growth and stream encroachment are also being monitored using three picture post locations. Photos are taken from these locations at least once a month through the growth season and into the fall.

We are hoping these additional data will help identify the best course of action to make fish passage more efficient, especially for out-migrating young-of-the-year.

Anyone who wants to take a photo or count fish—please contact a Fish Commissioner—you are welcome!

*—The Fish Commission*

## WaterWise – Groundwater Study Update

Almost 40 people joined the *WaterWise* kickoff meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> at the Arrowsic Town Hall (photo below). Together, we learned how the \$170,000 Community Action Grant that was jointly awarded to Georgetown and Arrowsic will be used to study our groundwater, why it matters, and how to participate. If you couldn't make it, the one-hour presentation can be viewed from the [Arrowsic Resilience Committee](#) page or by [clicking here](#).

### How to participate

The project includes a well and septic survey and a town-wide water sampling program. The more people who participate, the better the data on our town. Everyone who fills out a Well/Septic survey is eligible for a free water test of their well. Your individual water test results will remain confidential and aggregated to help us assess the quality and quantity of our groundwater. Although the July 31 deadline for this

year's sampling has passed, you can still participate since we will be doing additional sampling in 2026. Anyone who hasn't yet done a survey, please do so by [clicking here](#) (or go to the [ARC web page](#)). Paper surveys are also available at the town hall. If you don't know the answer to a question, leave it blank. You'll still be part of the study.

### How it works

Water samples can be taken by homeowners or trained *WaterWise* volunteers. Volunteers include Clarke Cooper, Phine Ewing, Jody Jones, Karen Robbins, and Paul Schlein. Water sampling kits will be available at the town hall and will include "chain of custody" labels and forms that match each homeowner's survey.

**The tricky part is samples must stay cool *and* arrive at the lab in Wiscasset within 24 hours of taking the sample.** The *WaterWise* team will have refrigeration/coolers available at the Town Hall during specified drop-off dates so we can deliver them to the lab. Details of the sampling schedule will be posted on the ARC website page, announced in the weekly town newsletter, or shared by a *WaterWise* team member reaching out directly to those who need assistance.

### Sampling Results

We hope to have the following parameters included in your water sample test (\$95 value): total coliform and E. coli, pH, nitrate, nitrite, hardness, chloride, sodium, copper, iron, manganese, magnesium, calcium, fluoride, and arsenic. Keep in mind parameters may be adjusted for budgeting purposes and depend on the total number of participants. Each participating well owner will be emailed with their



water test results. If the test results indicate any water quality concerns, Carol White, our hydrogeologist, will contact you to explain the issue and assist with finding a solution.

In 2026, we plan to work with the Arrowsic Conservation Commission (ACC) to identify additional sites for more comprehensive testing or retesting. Parameters may include one or more of the following (\$150 - \$1,500 value): lead, uranium, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, herbicides, radon, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (aka PFAS). The ACC is sending out a survey on pesticide use and we urge you to participate to help us identify sites for this type of testing.

### **Current Status**

As of July 31, 41% of Arrowsic's households had turned in a survey ~ which is halfway to our goal of 80% so keep those surveys coming in. Questions? Email Carol White ([carol@cawhitemaine.com](mailto:carol@cawhitemaine.com)) or Jody Jones ([jodyinarrowsic@gmail.com](mailto:jodyinarrowsic@gmail.com)).

Huge thanks to all who have already turned in a survey. You are part of creating a more sustainable future.

—Arrowsic Resilience Committee

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## **Town Meeting**

Select Board member Dee Dee Jorgensen opened the meeting with a moment of silence in honor and memory of Judy Kahrl to whom this year's town report is dedicated.

**All sixty-one warrant articles** passed unanimously. Under Eloise Vitelli's guidance the meeting concluded in under two hours. Special attention was given to the grants received this year from the Firehouse Subs and Tabitha & Steven King Foundations for twelve new sets of turnout gear, a specialized washer, and a dryer cabinet for the Arrowsic Volunteer Fire Department.

**The Roads Commissioner** described upcoming projects, including paving Stafford Lane to improve access to the Fire Station in all seasons. He mentioned that the Maine Department of Transportation has postponed the much anticipated work along the marsh on Route 127 to fiscal year 2027.

**The removal of Hook, Line and Sinker**, the abandoned boat at the north shore, was discussed next. Funding was offered by unnamed donors and included the possibility of Bath Iron Works helping as well, if the town was "willing to put some skin in the game". The town approved an amount of up to \$14,000 for the removal which has since been completed.

After a break and delicious, sweet refreshments, **Arrowsic Broadband (AB)** Commissioner Vince Capone gave a quick summary of the status of broadband in Arrowsic and asked residents to consider staying with the AB and our internet provider Axiom Technologies instead of switching to a competitor who has strung lines on Central Maine Power and Consolidated Communications Inc. poles over the past few months. The AB is starting to investigate the possibility of selling the network to a consumer-minded partner as questions of insurance and possible future storm damage linger.

**The support for the Patten Free Library** passed unanimously. Sukey Heard is now a regular member of the Patten Free Library Board and invited all residents to check out the multitude of summer events and reading programs. In other news, the town seeks to **reassess property values**, a requirement for full reimbursement by the State for homestead exemption.

It so happened that one warrant article magically disappeared in the final version of the Town Report, and a **special** town meeting will be announced to see if the town will vote to collect all Watercraft Excise Taxes in a dedicated Water Access Fund.

**Next year's town meeting is planned for Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 6:30pm at the Fire Station.**

—Karin Sadtler

## Opinion

### Why We are Saying NO to Fidium

The town-owned internet system is managed on our behalf by our local Arrowsic Broadband (AB). They contract with Axiom to provide the service. The AB works for us and we're hoping residents will think twice before signing up with Fidium. Here are a few reasons we are saying NO to Fidium:

- Our high-speed internet has worked exceedingly well, and the one time we had an issue, Axiom was able to fix it quickly.
- I can call any local Arrowsic Broadband member when I have a question about my service.
- Consolidated Communications (owners of Fidium) was asked to provide the town with broadband services, and they refused, and they show up now?
- If we were to “switch” to Fidium for their advertised low prices, I’m confident we would eventually experience a “bait and switch,” with skyrocketing prices, as they work to put our locally owned AB out of business.
- Fidium lost all credibility for us when they strung their cables two feet lower than allowed and failed to properly fix the issue when requested. The result was a delivery truck snagging the wires (see photo). Right now, certain deliveries cannot be made, including fuel. As of this writing, it still isn’t fixed.

We’re staying local and hope you will too.

—Jody Jones and Jack Witham



**spectrum**  
generations

### Become a Meals on Wheels Driver in Brunswick!

Join our wonderful group of volunteers in Brunswick Maine in delivering Meals on Wheels to homebound individuals. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, pass a background check, lift up to 50lbs, and have a reliable vehicle. Volunteers will receive mileage reimbursement at the current company rate per mile driven.

Where: 35 Union St, Brunswick ME

When: Wednesdays starting at 9 a.m. - time varies per route



www.spectrumgenerations.org  
207-620-1684

## Recycle Your Bottles to Aid the Arrowsic Fire Department

The Arrowsic Fire Department (AFD) has long recycled our deposit cans and bottles to raise money to buy equipment, but due to a decline in recycling centers, it has arranged with Clynk to handle all our returns. However, all bottles and cans need to be in Clynk bags to be recycled through this process.

### Here is how it works

- Pick up a Clynk bag from the recycling shed, Town Hall, or the swap barn. Each bag is tagged, so that its contents are credited to the AFD.
- Fill your bag with your returnable plastic, aluminum, or glass beverage containers, including deposit-paid wine and liquor bottles, and tie tightly.
- Each bag should weigh no more than 20 lbs. and include no more than 135 cans, 120 plastic bottles, or 10 wine and liquor bottles.
- Do not crush the cans or tear off the labels from bottles, as the UPC labels must be readable.
- **Return your bag either to the recycling shed or even better to any Hannaford store's Clynk center.** The doors to the recycle department open when you scan the label. Sometimes you must try more than one door.

If you have time to drop it off yourself, it will help the department greatly and is much appreciated. If it has the AFD's Clynk sticker, we will automatically get the credit for the returns. Thank you!!

Sit back and relax, knowing that your containers will be responsibly recycled while helping your fire department update equipment.

—Dale Carlton [Fire Chief, AFD]

## Update – Volunteer Transportation

Our volunteer transportation program in Woolwich and Georgetown is growing steadily. With 23 drivers and 24 riders we have completed 41 roundtrips and covered 1847 miles. In Arrowsic, fully vetted drivers are ready to offer rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping, or to see a friend when you cannot drive yourself and when your family, friends, and neighbors are unavailable. Get in touch to register when the time is right for you at [arrowsictransportation@gmail.com](mailto:arrowsictransportation@gmail.com).

—Karin Sadtler for Age-Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec



**ASK JORDAN**  
ALMOST ANYTHING!  
A PUBLIC COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

PLEASE JOIN DEMOCRATIC  
U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE  
**JORDAN WOOD**  
FOR A COMMUNITY  
CONVERSATION  
**ARROWSIC, ME**

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED  
THURSDAY AUGUST 28, 2025  
5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM

ADDRESS PROVIDED  
UPON RSVP

PLEASE RSVP HERE:  
<http://bit.ly/40SpXqn>

The event is open to the public, but capacity is limited!  
If capacity is reached, only those with RSVPs will be admitted.  
For more information, please email: [events@electjordan.com](mailto:events@electjordan.com)

ELECTJORDAN.COM

PAID FOR BY JORDAN FOR MAINE

**JORDAN WOOD**  
FOR SENATE

## Featured Artist: Reid Park

Naming a place as the featured artist may sound strange, but that may be because most of us have been culturally conditioned to view humans as the agent that acts on things and nature and that these are passive objects. We don't have to go far to see the flaw of this perception. Just think of how that invisible virus that caused Covid wreaked havoc on the entire globe and almost everyone's life and produced endless tragedies.

Many thinkers now tell us that nature has agency, that it acts on us in specific ways, and that our perceptions and practices are very much a result of this interaction. When artists paint, say, a certain natural view, the painting is the outcome of collaboration, or negotiations between the artists and many aspects of the view: light (clouds, sun), weather (wind, rain, snow) season, topography, vegetation, etc. Ideally, artists respond to and memorialize what they paint, they look and listen and wait until the place or the thing they want to paint trusts them enough to reveal what slumbers inside it.



*Polly*

*Mona*

*Barbara*

In this issue we have three Arrowsic artists: Barbara Feldman, Polly Moutevelis-Burgess, and Mona Schlein (see photo). They are part of a painting group working with Livy Glaubitz, whose work has appeared in previous issues of the *Arrow*. They painted this view at Reid Park, and each wrote a statement about how she thought/ felt while painting.

—Sharif Elmusa



*Barbara Feldman*

## **Barbara Feldman**

### **Rocks and Roses**

Sky, ocean, rocks, sand, and roses challenged me this day at Reid. Placing an island in the distance helped in creating a sense of perspective. Raindrops could have been a real problem, especially for a watercolor, but added unexpected interest to the sky.

Happy accidents, they say. Making a decision not to get too worried about the outcome does make a difference, at least most days. Mood along with the situation impacts the outcome in my work. I do value painting with this supportive group as their encouragement, suggestions, and willingness to share knowledge assists in my progress.



*Polly Moutevelis-Burgess*

## **Polly Moutevelis-Burgess**

Painting outside has transformed the intensity of my experience of nature. I spontaneously focused on this scene and was drawn in by my memory of the beauty and joy I experienced in my younger years of sailing around other Maine Islands.

As a novice painter and new to plein air painting, I was initially intimidated by the task. Now I love it. This form of painting is inspirational, heightens my senses, and enhances my observation skills in seeing, interpreting colors, values, and the nuances of light and shadow. Also, I am forced not to overthink because of the effects of weather and changing light and time constraints.

In this painting I tried to capture the effects of the “hazy” weather created from the Canadian fires. I also was experimenting with the blending of colors to reflect the various shades of greens and blues. My focus was to bring the viewer deep into the picture.

Best of all is the deep friendship that was created with my talented neighborhood artists, getting helpful tips, feedback, shared laughter, and kind encouragement.



*Mona Schlein*

## **Mona Schlein**

My work is a journey in learning, creating, and friendship. The Wednesday painting group is the nurturing, safe environment where I learn the craft of watercolor and its complexities.

I focus on an aspect of color mixing and layering or an element of composition such as sky or where the water meets land. The pieces are like draft sketches and not finished products. The talent, sharing, personal work and process of my Arrowsic art partners is the essence of these Wednesday mornings.

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## **Community News**

**Kaleb Arthur Donovan**, 28, passed away suddenly on December 5, 2024. Kaleb, born in El Paso, TX, on August 28, 1996, grew up with a strong sense of adventure and a love for the outdoors. He was a man who cherished life's simple pleasures—riding motorcycles, snowmobiling, spending time in the woods hunting and fishing, relaxing at camp, or playing with his children at home. He proudly served

in several units within the Maine Army National Guard. Kaleb's passing leaves a hole in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be forever missed and remembered for his fierce loyalty, the love he gave, the life he lived, and the absolute joy he brought to everyone around him. Kaleb was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend. Kaleb was the son of Linda and Tim Kelly and a former resident of Arrowsic.

Mark and I moved to Maine early this summer to be closer to his family and our friends from Maine Maritime Academy. Mark has been spending summers up here his whole life and went to Maine Maritime Academy, graduating in 2018. We have always loved the northeast and got married in Maine last October. We fell in love with the area, the access to the coast, and the calm quiet we felt driving around. We can't wait to be more involved in the community.

—Danielle and Mark Harper

Our granddaughter, **Caitlin Elizabeth Pieh, married Matthew Lee Atkins** at a very small, riverside ceremony in our front yard on a rainy Monday, May 19, 2025. It was the third family wedding we have had at our place. The couple, their parents, and two sets of their living grandparents—ten people—gathered to celebrate the occasion. We were honored to host the event. Matt and Caitlin will continue to live in California. They love Maine and will visit regularly.

—Jerry and Lucy Pieh



*Rob as a Young Man  
(Photo Courtesy of His Family)*

Long time resident, **Rob Shultz**, passed away in Falmouth on May 15<sup>th</sup> after a long illness. Originally from Pennsylvania, Rob arrived in Arrowsic over 40 years ago with his new family as part of his involvement with the

Shelter Institute in Bath, where he became one of the house-building school's beloved teachers. Rob's specialty of yurt-building expanded to include timber frame homes, and he eventually developed his business as a successful contractor building homes and additions throughout mid-coast Maine.

Rob influenced much of our community over the years including renovating an old farmhouse and

building a large pond next to the Spinney Mill marsh. To this day, the neighborhood continues to ice-skate on the heart-shaped pond inspired by Rob's vision.

Over the years as a general contractor, he left a legacy of a number of homes that many of us live in today. On a personal note, the first time I met Rob, he pointed out how he had worked on my home for its previous owner.

Rob contributed his efforts to the Town as the General Contractor for the new Fire Station and is remembered with a plaque in the building. As his business wound down, he remained active and involved, always ready to assist others in their renovation or construction projects.

Rob leaves his children, Emma Sewall Buttfield in Falmouth, Thatcher Shultz in New York City, and Calla Maria Barton in Portland.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to [\*The Range Light Keepers\*](#) in Arrowsic.

—Malcolm Persen

**Oslo Bird Weeks**, daughter of Carla Jane Weeks and Brian Thomas Christopher, was born June 19, 2025.

Phil Davis, Director of Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency, attended the *WaterWise* kickoff event (page 4) at Town Hall on July 8<sup>th</sup> in the company of his beautiful, nine-month-old **golden retriever "Chaos"**.



Undergoing special training, this dog is the only crisis response dog in Maine and one of only two in the Northeast of the United States. He was wearing his service dog vest with pride. It reads, "Please pet me". As he spends his days with Phil, there will be many opportunities to meet this wonderful service dog and enjoy its deeply calming presence.



## Arrowsic Votes!

Turnout for the June 10, 2025, Regional School Unit 1 (RSU1) Budget Referendum was low. Fifty-nine voters cast a ballot for a participation rate of 14%.

1.Question 1: RSU1 Budget Validation. 56 Yes, 3 No

2.Question 2: RSU1 Budget Validation Process. 40 Yes, 15 No, 4 Blank

## Upcoming Election, Tuesday, November 4, 2025, General Referendum Election

The following "Citizen Initiative Petitions" have been approved by the Maine Secretary of State and will appear on the November 4, 2025, ballot.

Title: "An Act to Protect Maine Communities by Enacting the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act"

Question: "Do you want to allow courts to temporarily prohibit a person from having dangerous weapons if law enforcement, family, or household members show that the person poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to themselves or others?"

Title: "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting"

Question: "Do you want to change Maine election laws to eliminate two days of absentee voting, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members, end ongoing absentee voter status for seniors and people with disabilities, ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, limit the number of drop boxes, require voters to show certain photo ID before voting, and make other changes to our elections?"

## Maine Political Parties

Did you know that Maine currently has five qualified parties: Democratic, Green Independent, Libertarian, No Labels, and Republican. (Note: although some unenrolled candidates choose to designate themselves as "Independent," there is no "Independent" party in Maine.)

## Registering to Vote

Do you need to register to vote? The following guides provide a wealth of information about registering to vote and voting in Maine's elections:

- Maine Voter Guide: Describes who can register, how to register, and how to vote.
- Voter Eligibility in Maine: Details the eligibility requirements to register and vote in Maine.
- Voter Rights: Provides an overview of voter rights in Maine.
- Register to Vote in Maine Online: Allows Mainers to register to vote online.

For in-person voter registration, contact Registrar, Vicky Stoneman, at [vicky.stoneman@arrowsic.org](mailto:vicky.stoneman@arrowsic.org).

## Poll Workers

Please consider committing four hours at the polls on election day. You may check in voters or count votes and will be paid \$15 an hour. Arrowsic especially needs Republican poll workers. Contact Barbara Boyce at [barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org](mailto:barbara.boyce@arrowsic.org) if you are interested.

## And in other News:

The Town of Arrowsic website has been updated to provide helpful information including:

- Links to online registration (renewals) for cars, trailers, boats, and ATVs.
- Forms for Homestead and Veterans Exemptions, Septic Reimbursement, and applications for Property Abatements.
- Minutes for Select Board, Committee, and Annual Meetings.
- Trash and recycling schedule.
- Emergency services.

Check it out at [www.arrowsic.org](http://www.arrowsic.org).

—Barbara Boyce [Town Clerk]

## News from Packard's Landing

In May, the Water Access Management Committee organized a community potluck and workday at Packard's Landing. We had a good turn out and completed much-needed work.

Invasive plants were removed and native shrubs with identifying labels were planted. We replaced an entry door in the barn, and the privy roof trim was prepped for a fresh coat of paint. Maybe the best part was sharing excellent food and company.

Committee members are working with a Bowdoin College student to install a historical walking path with plaques identifying key points in Arrowsic's history.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with basic maintenance of the Packard property going forward. If you are interested, please contact a member of the committee for more information.

**You are invited!**  
**Community Summer Potluck Brunch Gathering**  
**Saturday, August 23**  
**11:00-2:00**  
**(Rain Date 8/24)**

Bring your kayak, a chair or two, a dish or a dessert to share, and, of course, tell your friends to join you. We'll be set up by the launch area with tables and our canopy tent. We may even have a few musicians providing entertainment. And in case you were worried, this is purely a social event – so no volunteer work is involved.



So come for a paddle or a swim, meet with friends and make some new ones, and enjoy a Sunday outdoor potluck brunch experience. We look forward to seeing you there.

—Bob Ater

## 2025 Photo Contest

Scan for more information



### Contest Categories

- Youth
- Teens/Young Adult
- Adult Amateur
- Adult Professional

## PRIZES!

### Entry REQUIREMENTS

- Photo must include a person aged 50 or older
- Work must be original and unaltered
- Open to all photographers, professional and amateur, of all ages
- Please read all terms and conditions prior to submitting your entry

**Entry Deadline · · · September 28, 2025**

For more informations visit: [www.agefriendlylowerkennebec.org/photocontest](http://www.agefriendlylowerkennebec.org/photocontest)

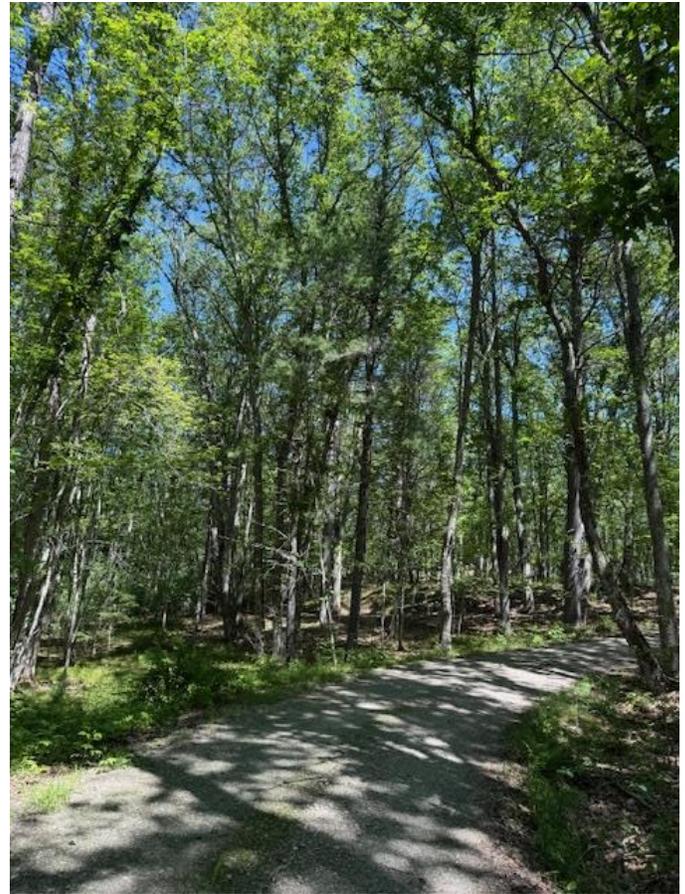
## Pesticide Survey Launched



*Exfoliation Early June*

You may already have heard that the Conservation Commission has launched a survey on pesticide use in Arrowsic. Several years of widespread forest defoliation by a revolving cast of invasive insects have resulted in increased sightings of pesticide companies working in town. We decided it would be good to know how widespread pesticide use may be, and for which species they are being used. Results from the survey will help us focus our research into the most widely used chemicals, and possible alternative approaches to more suitable control of these species.

The timing of this survey will also dovetail with the work of the Climate Resilience Committee's *WaterWise* project (page 4). Funding for *WaterWise* may provide the opportunity to offer well water testing to homeowners for traces of pesticides, if it seems warranted. Knowing which chemicals to test for will be key.



*Second Flush*

*(Photos by Phine Ewing)*

To take the survey, simply click on the following link:

[https://nyu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6nF7ICpiVCckqiy](https://nyu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6nF7ICpiVCckqiy). We hope everyone will take a moment to fill out this survey. It should take less than five minutes.



The link can also be accessed on the Conservation Commission website. For those who would prefer responding offline, paper copies will be available at the town hall and can be left in the town mailbox.

For more information, or help accessing a copy of the survey, please contact Phine Ewing at ([phineewing@gmail.com](mailto:phineewing@gmail.com)).

Thank you!

—Arrowsic Conservation Commission

## Happy Birthday, *Arrowsic Broadband*!

This summer marks one year since the completion of the town-owned *Arrowsic Broadband* network. Along with our partner, Axiom Technologies, we are currently providing customers with the lowest-cost 100/100 Mbps service in the state of Maine.

*Arrowsic Broadband* would like to thank the customers who support the town's network by subscribing through Axiom, as a portion of subscription fees flow back to *Arrowsic Broadband* and the town. This percentage of the Axiom subscriptions dedicated to the town is building a local fund to repair the network should storms damage the overhead lines, and to upgrade the *Arrowsic Broadband* equipment as it ages.

Despite low rates, Axiom has one of the best customer care ratings of internet service companies and has been quick to respond to the few issues customers have had. Axiom is currently upgrading its equipment to provide even more reliable service to its customers.

Surprisingly, and ironically, fiber internet competition has arrived on the island, with the competitor offering temporary low introductory rates that will undoubtedly increase. We have all seen their crews hanging additional cables on the poles in our neighborhood. If you value excellent customer service, consistently reasonable rates, and can support your town, consider sticking with *Arrowsic Broadband* from Axiom.



—The Arrowsic Broadband Commissioners

## The Arrowsic Community Swap Program: Giving New Life to Old Stuff

Community swap programs offer a practical way to reduce waste, make the most of local resources, and support neighbors—all while easing pressure on town recycling and trash services. The Arrowsic Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (ARSWC) introduced a community swap program a few years ago and it has proven a vital part of our town's suite of recycling resources. Instead of sending gently used items to the landfill or relying solely on recycling, Arrowsic residents can bring them to our "Swap Barn" or "Swap Shack" (located on Old Stage Road, just behind the town hall and fire station).



How does our swap program work?

- Drop off clean, usable household goods, small kitchen appliances in working condition, tools, toys, gardening equipment, and some construction materials
- Browse and take home anything you need – no money changes hands (unless you want to make small cash donations to the Arrowsic Education Fund)
- Come back often, as items not claimed after one year will be donated or repurposed at the discretion of the ARSWC

Our Swap Barn is open for donations and for browsing on Saturdays after recycling days, from 11am-1pm. The outdoor tool Swap Shack area is always open, but please check the signs for guidelines on what you can and can't leave there.

The ARSWC is currently evaluating ways to further improve our swap program – and we want to hear from you.



Please take a few minutes to participate in our **Arrowsic Community Swap Program survey** by August 8.

Your responses and ideas will be greatly appreciated.

—Arrowsic Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

## It's Brushfire Season

This time of year, many homeowners are eager to cut grass or burn dried leaves, dead branches, brush, and wood scraps, as regular property maintenance. Others want to build campfires or festive bonfires for friends and family. The Arrowsic Volunteer Fire Department urges you to first consider the risks to protect yourselves, your property, and your neighbors!



*In April, Joe Bonnett, Deputy Chief of the Arrowsic Fire Department, instructed volunteer members on brushfire gear and equipment. (Photo by Jeanne McNutt)*

According to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, almost nine out of ten wildfires nationwide are caused by humans. Additionally, as the climate warms and drought conditions are extended, brushfires are more prevalent. Especially in the spring even our marshes with expansive dry grasses are vulnerable to fast-spreading wildfires.

Because of the dangerous consequences of brushfires, Maine requires that residents apply for a **Burn Permit** to burn a brush pile and for all recreational fires larger than three feet high and three feet in diameter. A free application is provided online by the [Maine Forest Service](#), and if the daily fire danger rating is low, approved fires must be completed by 9am of the following day.

### Here's what to know to avoid causing a brushfire.

1. **Check weather and drought conditions:** Knowing this in advance can help you plan ahead to know when it's safe to have a fire. Avoid any activities that involve fire or sparks when it's hot, dry, and windy. Open burning can easily spread out of control.

- 2. Build your bonfire or campfire in an open location far away from flammable materials and vegetation:** Select a flat open location, where you've cleared away all flammable debris (dry leaves, pine needles, sticks, etc.) *at least 10 feet from a building structure*. **Do not** use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids to burn wood, brush, or other waste. Make sure you have a water source nearby, such as a garden hose...and NEVER leave your fire unattended.
- 3. Douse your burn pile or campfire until it's cold:** After dousing a fire with ample buckets of water, the site should be stirred and cold to the touch before you leave.
- 4. Keep vehicles off dry grass:** It's important to stay on established roads and never drive or park on dry grass. Remember, a hot exhaust can reach temps of 1,000+ degrees and could ignite dry vegetation. Maintain your vehicles and tow equipment.
- 5. Keep sparks away from dry vegetation:** Equipment that produces sparks—like welding tools, or lawnmowers that might strike a rock surface—should be used in a well-cleared area, far from vegetation and flammable materials.
- 6. Check conditions and regulations before you use fireworks:** Sparklers and other fireworks should always be used in an area far from flammable vegetation. (Note: Fireworks are illegal on federal lands. They start over 3,000 fires and send more than 10,000 people to the Emergency Room every year in the U.S.) See this [Maine Guide for Consumer Fireworks](#) for more information.
- 7. Keep matches and lighters away from children:** Children are naturally curious and can be adventurous. Responsibly store matches and lighters in safe places.

Questions? Call Dale Carlton, Arrowsic Fire Chief at 207-751-8273

—Jeanne McNutt



*Frank and Jon of the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee collected eleven televisions, four air conditioners, three refrigerators, one freezer, and one dehumidifier, and sent them off to be properly recycled.*

## Winter Moth (*Operophtera brumata*) in Arrowsic?

The winter moth, a leaf-feeding inchworm native to Europe, invaded North America in the 1930s and New England in the 1990s. After observing them last year, many of us were hopeful early in the spring that defoliation of the forest would not be as serious as it turned out to be.

**Winter Moth Biology:** Wingless females lay eggs on the stems of trees, eggs hatch in late April, and larvae bore in the expanding buds of their host trees causing severe damage. The caterpillars complete their development in late May and drop out of the canopies on silken threads to burrow into the soil and leave litter where they spin earthen cocoons until late November when the adults emerge and the cycle begins again. Males are observed flying throughout December, giving the winter moth its name.

**Biological Control:** In discussions about our most significant winter moth infestation yet, a Maine forest entomologist noted that multiple releases of the parasitic fly *Cyzenis albicans* have been made at *The Nature Conservancy's* wooded Basin Preserve in Phippsburg and in Boothbay, with one possible in Georgetown next year. These flies are a very effective biological control of the winter moth. They are considered a parasitoid, “an insect ... that completes its larval development within the body of another insect eventually killing it...” [Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Accessed 23 July 2025].



Source:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cyzenis\\_albicans\\_-\\_lindsey.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Cyzenis_albicans_-_lindsey.jpg)  
Accessed 8/1/2025

Adult females lay their eggs on leaves that are then consumed by the winter moth larvae. “The immature fly develops and forms a pupa inside the infected winter moth pupa, killing the moth in the process” [Biological Control of WINTER MOTH in Northeastern North America, 2018]. If you see this fly, please remember it's here to help. Check <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa/914944-Cyzenis-albicans> for more details.

— Karin Sadtler



Marsh Near Squirrel Point (Photo by Evan D'Souza)

## Town Hall History – Part 2 – “Remodeling”

In the previous issue (page 3), we recounted the historic origins of Town Hall. Not long after the 1979 “facelift”, a need to expand the structure emerged. The story resumes with quotes from the archives:

*“The most significant finding in the 1982 comprehensive plan is the astonishing rate of Arrowsic’s population growth. Between 1970 and 1980, population rose from 188 to 305 people, a 62% increase.”*

### RECOMMENDATION:

*“Plan on enlarging the Town Hall to meet the needs of the expanding population.”*

### **Proposed Comprehensive Plan Summary, March 1982**

Various concepts were explored, including one which would have resulted in a very different outcome to what we see today and in contrast to the one ultimately chosen:

*“The Selectpersons would like to offer a proposal for remodeling the Town Hall by changing its appearances to the shape of a salt box on either the north or south side of the building, as one option, or to lengthen it ... This would enlarge the present structure without destroying its simple New England appearance.”*

*“Even if this is felt to be too expensive a project at this time, replacement of the present toilet facilities is a must for the convenience of those working or meeting at the Town Hall. It is not pleasant for people to have to run outdoors or drive home to use a toilet.”* **Annual Town Report for 1989**

*“Thanks to the generous contributions of time and talent from many townspeople, the handicap-accessible bathroom and the renovated kitchen are at last a reality.”* **Annual Town Report for 1991**



The understated rear addition with its shed roof and stepped down form is tucked in and goes largely unnoticed. But it’s a significant part of Town Hall today.

—Michael Kreindler

## Water Testing for Kennebec Estuary Land Trust

For a couple of summers now, we have been testing Kennebec water in Arrowsic, one of twenty-three locations in the estuary. **We would like another volunteer or two to join us for monthly or biweekly sampling.** The entire process takes about 60-90 minutes and usually happens on a Wednesday morning. Previous results for salinity, pH, and dissolved oxygen can be found [here](#). Please contact Karin at [kasadtler@yahoo.com](mailto:kasadtler@yahoo.com) for more information.

—Karin Sadtler



Preble Point from the Air (Photo by Denise Parker)

The Arrowsic Arrow is Arrowsic's independent newsletter, produced through the efforts of volunteers. The newsletter is published three times a year in spring, summer and autumn. The Arrow is primarily distributed via e-mail to all those on the Town of Arrowsic email list or by mail to those who cannot access it online. The Town covers any costs for paper and postage. All articles and notices are welcome. Notices should be limited to 100 words. The Arrowsic Arrow Editorial Group: Sharif Elmusa, Denise Parker, and Karin Sadtler. Contact: Karin Sadtler [kasadtler@yahoo.com](mailto:kasadtler@yahoo.com). Past issues of the The Arrow can be found at [www.arrowsic.org](http://www.arrowsic.org).  
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