

The Arrowsic Arrow

News Around & About Arrowsic

Volume 40, Number 2

Summer 2026



Sunrise over the Sasanoa (Photo by Kathy Roy)

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Results of the July 2025 Arrowsic Pesticides Survey

Dear Arrowsic Friends and Neighbors:

The article in the spring issue of *The Arrowsic Arrow* briefly touched on the townwide pesticides survey conducted by the Arrowsic Conservation Commission (ACC) last summer. With this new communication, a slightly deeper dive will be taken with a few more details. However, and most important, following your reading of this summary, you will have the entire, unedited results of the survey for your review (*see link below**). When you have finished, please send any comments, feedback, or questions to : conserve@arrowsic.org.

We Have Learned a Lot:

- Thank you to the 79 households that responded to the survey. This represents 30% of the town population. Where 25% is considered a statistically valid return, we can feel all the more confident that the data gathered is a representative sampling of our town.
- Major pests of concern:
 - A large majority of the town, 72%, considers ticks the primary concern, where winter moth, mosquitos, and browntail moth came in at just below 50%, and mammals and invasive plants at just above 30%.
 - Several comments indicated a general tolerance for perceived pests that did not require any action.
- Of 79 responses, 51% said they apply pesticides.
- Of 35 responses, 66% indicated insecticides are the primary pesticide used.
- Of 35 responses, 63% use synthetic pesticides, and 49% use organic pesticides.
- 54% of households apply pesticides themselves, 31% hire a professional applicator, and 14% do both.
- Of 35 responses, 57% of pesticide applications are targeted/spot, and 31% are broadcast.
- Several comments expressed concern about neighbors' pesticide applications.
- 78% of households are concerned about the potential human health and environmental impact of pesticide use, while 19% are not concerned. One comment expressed "extreme" concern.



Blacklegged ticks. From left, the larva, nymph, adult female, and adult male. (Photo Credit: [Fairfax County/Flickr/Creative Common](#))

In the near future, probably late summer, early fall, the ACC will be hosting presentations on how to respond to the various pests identified, *in the least toxic way*.

In the context of all this, something to consider: The Precautionary Principle, adopted by governments around the world, takes a very simple, but powerful approach: "When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically."

*When there's doubt, don't do it.
Think First, Spray Last!*

The intention of this principle is to protect the health of ourselves, our families, the food web, and the environment—and, in the case of Arrowsic, the island's water source.

It can take many years of research and testing to prove the danger of a particular chemical and, by that time, irreparable damage may already have occurred. Take the examples of DDT, where the facts of its persistence and how harmful it was to the environment, took almost 40 years to be fully realized. And PFAS, the scourge that's upon us now, the so-called "forever chemicals," finally being banned all over the world after more than 80 years in use—with Maine leading the way.

Pesticides are toxic chemicals, and can often have unintended consequences, making them a prime example of where the Precautionary Principle could be of great benefit to our civilization and our planet. In fact, the European Union and Canada have adopted it, and it has been codified in Norway's constitution.

***Link to the Arrowsic Pesticides Survey**

Thank you again for caring for our island.

—The Arrowsic Conservation Commission



Sandfly Bay, Otago (Photo ©David Dobbs)

Town Solar Project

The Town is excited to announce the installation of an 18.4 kW, 40-panel solar array on the Fire Station roof. Installation is expected to be completed by mid-September. Once operational, the system will generate enough clean electricity to offset the Town's annual electrical costs. The array has also been sized to provide the additional electricity needed for two heat pumps—one at the Fire Station and one at Town Hall—which the Town has requested funding for through a State energy efficiency grant.

This remarkable project has been made possible by the generosity of Ben Kahrl, whose donation was made in honor of his mother, Judy Kahrl, and Mark Jorgensen.

The total cost of the solar installation is \$48,887. Through a combination of a 40% federal rebate and revenue generated from the sale of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), the Town's net cost is expected to be approximately \$3,500.

This project represents an important investment in Arrowsic's future—reducing municipal operating costs, lowering our carbon footprint, and demonstrating how community generosity, careful planning, and outside funding can work together to create lasting benefits for everyone.

—Nick Stoneman

A Story: Town Meeting

Betty Jane Norton and her husband Phil had just moved to the small town of Sagadahoc, Maine with their eight-year-old daughter, Rae. So far, they knew four people: First Selectman, Frank Lewis, who had delivered a booklet of ordinances then talked an hour about his boat; Pam Ridge who had sold the Nortons their building lot; Bob and Judy Conner who Phil had helped frame their barn.

Though Frank had been sure to mention Sagadahoc's Town Meeting, Betty and Phil had not been tempted to attend. They changed their minds, however, on Saturday morning when they saw the crowded town parking lot and both roadsides lined with cars except for one free place just beyond Barret's mailbox on the other side of Rt. 129.

"I'm going for it," Betty said, slowing and turning the car hard, never figuring on the huge pothole just off the edge of the tar. Folks had been complaining about that hole since the end of March when all the ice and snow had melted off. The road commission had filled it twice with crushed stones, and twice a pregnant snapping turtle had dug the stones back out.

Frank Lewis had heard the screeching tires, but had not registered any calls for help. He seemed to think the crisis confronting them was inside the hall, not out. Town Meeting had been in progress for over half an hour, but in that time only Louise Card had been elected to moderate, while Frank had won the uncontested bid for another three-year term as Selectman.

Louise focused on the greater assembly. "Now, as you all consider who you would nominate to do what job, be reminded that the state has training for this and all other jobs. The first offering is a three-day workshop in August that the town pays for, and there's another in October. I've heard these are informed sessions with lawyers and municipal officers ready to answer your questions. With this in mind, I will be taking nominations for town tax collector."

Not one hand went up, not one finger rose. But Frank sprang up and snapped his suspenders. "Good people of Sagadahoc, if we are going to give our kids a good education, if we're going to have safe roads and a snowplow contract, or convince someone to haul our trash..." Frank could see his wife signaling him to keep an even keel like they had practiced. "But damn it," Frank blurted. "If you want to keep taxes down then don't vote for warrant items that you believe are too costly. Don't not elect a tax collector. That's like...that's like..."

"Cutting off your nose to spite your mouth!" said the second selectman. A few laughed.

Millicent, known to most as Penny, lifted her hand. "The town tax year starts July first if I am not mistaken."

"Correct," said Frank. "And that is next week," Millicent confirmed. "Correct," said Louise. "So why have we waited until this Saturday forenoon, this late to try and find a tax collector?"

"If by 'we' you mean the Selectmen," Frank bristled, "we have been trying all year to find people to run for every position, but folks new to town say they aren't ready, and those who have done it up to now, say they are burned out, which they must be, since no one ran against me, which is highly unusual."

A few folks laughed at that, but most stared dead ahead and watched mosquitoes land on their neighbors' necks and arms. It was all too familiar. Every year the same folks stepped to the plate, then after years of service they would tire and retire so someone would dust off their personal agenda and get someone else all worked up, then each would nominate the other to office and both would decline the nomination and the hall would go silent like now.

Frank had argued last year for growth; he was excited by the promise of three new subdivisions, which he believed at the time, would translate into more taxable property. Only trouble was, both low and high-end properties took time to get built, especially given the wave of owner-builders that had entered Sagadahoc and towns around. Building one's own home it turned out, was hard on marriages, couples split up, dreams got deferred, and before you realized it, there were new residents wearing down the roads and sending their kids to school and having their trash hauled, but not really swelling the town's worth.

Frank suddenly yearned for nothing more than to be out on his boat. He knew folks would tolerate only about three more beats worth of his unpersuasive argumentation. "One," he counted to himself. "Two..." And then, lo and behold, the door opened and there they were, Betty and Phil Norton stepping into the back of the Sagadahoc Town Hall. Betty even gave her name; said she was a resident as of last night. "Then let me register you," said Erlene Brown. "That is if you want to speak and vote."

"Right now?"

"Right now," Erlene told her and when they got that done, the Moderator signaled that Betty had the floor and could ask if it was at all possible to get some assistance dealing with the mess she had caused on the State Road when she had jammed her car into a pot hole guarded by an angry snapping turtle.

"Phil thinks I may have wrecked the tie rod," Betty moaned. "Could be the shocks," Leon Boyd said, asking to be excused so he could check. "Tell me about this turtle," said Robyn Cane as Betty walked past. "Were there red spots on its carapace?"

"Just some blood on the broken shell." Robyn tucked in the tails to her shirt and stepped out of the Hall. "I'll give you all fifteen minutes," called Louise Card, pounding the gavel and allowing Leon time with the Norton's car. (Find the entire story [on The Arrowsic Arrow](#) subpage on the Town's website.

—Nancy Brown Stump (1949-2025)

The short story by Nancy Stump, [Town Meeting](#), an exploration of the challenges of small-town life based on her experiences in Arrowsic, is published in [Benediction](#) printed by Bath Printing Company.

The Gift

(I wrote this poem to thank Nancy Brown Stump for giving us her newly-published book [Benediction](#) to read before her death. This book and a posthumously-published work by Nancy is available at the Patten Free Library. I shared this little observation with her before she died. She was always so encouraging of other's writing efforts.)

Our friend gave us a book she wrote
Full of memories and dreams of an exotic place
With carefully chosen words that worked
the wonder and flavor of somewhere I have never been
into a tapestry of images and experiences that taste of then and now and never.

—Sukey Heard

Community News



Stanley Lane passed away peacefully on May 31, 2026, at the age of 84. He was born on February 5, 1942, in Flushing, Queens, New York, to Janet and Jesse Lane. Stan graduated from The Ohio State University, where he swam butterfly on the varsity swim team, and received his master's degree from SUNY Buffalo. Following his education, he built a successful career in property and casualty insurance. In addition to his devotion to family, Stan was an avid volunteer. He spent many years as a first responder with the Putnam Valley Fire Department in New York and later served with the Westport Island and Arrowsic Fire Departments in Maine. He was also a dedicated member of Lincoln County Search and Rescue, where he volunteered alongside his beloved dog, Gracie. Stan will be remembered for his unique sense of humor, kindness, wisdom, and unwavering willingness to help others. Through his illness, Stan never lost his sense of humor. He touched countless lives through his service, friendship, and the love and support he generously shared with family and friends. Stan shared his life with his beloved wife, Norma Dreyfus. Together they built a family that was the center of his world.



Pauline Adrienne McLuer, 75, passed away on Monday, April 6, 2026. She was born and raised in Lewiston, a daughter of Ernest and Noella (Caron) Giguere. Pauline spent 35 years at Midcoast Hospital in Brunswick as a nurse. While there, she worked in Medical/Surgical, Intensive Care, and Emergency departments. She happily retired from nursing in 2020. She was married to the love of her life and tester of her patience, John McLuer for 53 years. Together they traveled throughout the United States, living in many states while raising their daughter. They settled back in Maine but still traveled for family and fun. She enjoyed her family, friends, hot air balloons, Heartland, and their cats and dogs. Nursing, traveling, and her family were her passions.



Richard Troy Swearingen passed away April 8, 2026. Troy, born in Bath on September 17, 1949, graduated from Morse High School in 1967 and served six years in the Army National Guard. He spent 44 years at Bath Iron Works, retiring in 2013. Troy was known for his humor, storytelling, and strong work ethic. He was devoted to his family, especially his two grandsons. An outdoorsman and skilled handyman, he enjoyed fishing, skiing, gardening, caring for wildlife, and tackling projects. For more than 30 years, he shared life and many travels with his companion, Susan Curtis, and leaves behind family and many dear friends.



Joseph John Tardiff Jr. passed away on June 16, 2026, in his home. He was a devoted father, proud grandfather, and great grandfather. Joseph dedicated 34 years of his career to Bath Savings Institute Bank, where he worked as a Facilities Maintenance Technician. Known for his steady work ethic, reliability, and commitment to keeping the bank's facilities running smoothly, he retired after more than three decades of loyal service. A lifelong resident of Sagadahoc County, Joseph touched many lives through his kindness, quiet humor, and the simple joys he cherished. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, and he found comfort in the music he loved.

Meet Your Arrowsic Neighbors - Keith and Maria Salcines of Fogwood Gardens

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Keith Salcines to talk about his family flower farm on Old Stage Road. Keith, along with his wife Maria and son Sawyer (who were away visiting family at the time of the interview), work together to grow a range of annual and perennial flowers here in Arrowsic. (Maria Salcines was a "Featured Artist" in *The Arrowsic Arrow* and her work also appeared subsequently in the newsletter.)

They haven't been here all that long, but they have already transformed the property into a flower wonderland. Although the property is comprised of about four acres, the area being cultivated totals about a third of an acre, with more planned for the future. This concentrated micro-farming using no-till techniques consumes fewer resources and yields a wide array of beautiful blooms. They use organic practices in raising the flowers and sustainable mechanics (meaning no single use materials such as floral foam) to craft arrangements, as sustainability is important to them.

You may have seen their booth at the Bath Farmer's Market - Fogwood Gardens - selling fresh and dried flower arrangements. Keith says he loves being at the Market, meeting neighbors and visitors and talking about what they are doing at the farm. They have plans for constructing a small farm stand on their property in the near future but will remain a staple at both the winter and summer markets in Bath.

Keith explained that at Fogwood Gardens the fresh and dried flowers are arranged by his wife Maria, who is quite artistic. In addition to her beautiful bouquets, she is a very talented ceramics artist. Her flowers are not just for the Farmer's Market, she also provides flowers for special events, including weddings throughout New England, and for displays in stores and offices. Her work with both fresh and dried flowers is stunning. If you haven't thought about it, dried bouquets are both lovely and last forever; a worthwhile investment to bring year-round cheer to your home or office.

Maria is very excited about an event planned for September at the Maine Maritime Museum. "Slow Flowers" will take place on the grounds of the Maritime Museum, and she is actively seeking other floral artists to work with her to create floral sculptures that tell a story. They will build arrangements using local seasonal flowers and sustainable mechanics. Maria hopes that this and other special events will foster a connection to locally sourced flowers from Maine farms.

While summer is definitely a very busy time on the farm, it is a true year-round operation. There is one heated greenhouse on the property with plans to grow 15,000 tulips for the Market over the winter. Winter market offerings will focus on dried arrangements. Maria also offers classes in floral design.

Keith and Maria love living in Arrowsic and are happy to be raising their son in such a lovely community. More information about the farm is available on its website fogwoodgardens.com. Next time you see them at the Market stop by and say hello.

—Karen Mignone



(Photo by Maria Salcines)

Do you know someone (including you) who had or has an interesting background, an unusual job or hobby, some unique travel experiences or other life experiences that would be interesting to share with neighbors? Each edition of the Arrow will hold space for just such an article. You can propose someone, or yourself, and send the information to Karin at kasadtler@yahoo.com. If you know of someone who would write such an article send that along too - or Karin will ask another neighbor to interview the subject and write it up.

The articles do not need to be lengthy, just a brief look at an interesting aspect of the life of an Arrowsic neighbor. Everyone can participate. We look forward to learning more about the people who inhabit our beautiful island.

Once in a Lifetime



I was engaging in small talk with my grandparents while on an evening stroll to get the mail. The sun was shining and the monotonous trees were shifting with the wind. My Dad smiled down at me and said, “race to the mailbox, 3, 2, 1,” I sprinted past my dad and saw... A wing waving in the air, a beaked head peaking over a stone wall. Yellow eyes, a white feathered head, and a golden yellow beak as sharp as a knife. The bald eagle realized I was there, it froze. The second eagle jumped up, I thought this one was a golden eagle, it spread its wings flying south abandoning the furious fight that had just ended! The bald eagle on the other hand hopped onto the stone wall examining us. It too spread its wings, but this time flying northwest right above our heads, maybe ten ft. I rushed forward eager to find

out what on earth just happened! Upon the shrub-strewn ground were numerous feathers and tufts of eagle downing. The lawn of the house that this curious battle happened on was owned by one of my grandparent’s friends, who ironically is on the editorial team of this newspaper.



We knocked on the door, hoping to banter about what just happened, and get a camera to take photographs of the feathers. No answer. We walk on, looking for another of my grandparent’s friends to ask for a camera when... Vroooooom. A car rolls up beside our tiny group, and a window rolls down. It’s my grandparent’s friend, I tell her a shorter and simplified version of the story, then ask, “sooo, can I have a photo?” “yes”, exhilaration ran through my body. I dashed back to the house. After getting a camera, I pointed to the feathers

and tufts of downing I wanted to photograph and then took the photos. After that I heard, “you should write about this in the Arrow”, and that is how you heard about this once in a lifetime experience. An enraged eagle brawl.



—Kailani Karris (age 11)

Featured Artist: Jeanne McNutt

Artist's Statement

With an impulsive nature when it comes to watercolor, I'm not one who deeply examines why or how I paint what I paint. I just know that quickly getting an image down on paper is a meditation. I'm as they say, "in the moment," where judgement has no agency. My work is personal, interpretive and hopefully relatable. The end product isn't predictable, but when the process is immediate, and almost unconscious, welcome surprises often follow.



Fall on Spinney Mill

Jeanne and her husband Dale, a designer/writer, moved to Spinney Mill Rd. in 2024 from Pittsburgh, PA, to be closer to their daughter Camille and her family on the island. Loving Arrowsic and its rich, natural environment, they've discovered they're among an abundance of interesting, creative, and caring neighbors.

—Jeanne McNutt



Reid State Park No. 1



Reid State Park No. 2

(Jeanne McNutt)

Scholarship Yard Sale



(Photos by Denise Parker and Karin Sadtler)

The Education Committee recently held its always popular biennial yard sale at the Arrowsic Fire Station. We were lucky that the weather cooperated with no rain and not too much heat.

With the Town Hall unavailable this year, we took a new approach to collecting and sorting by using a very large rental truck. This allowed us to collect and store donations and provided transport for post-sale donation runs to ReStore and other charitable organizations.

Every time we do a project we learn valuable lessons. This year we learned to avoid scheduling our event during elections and town meeting week! Although it was a last-minute scramble the truck actually proved to be an excellent addition to the process.

We had a lot of unique items donated by the very generous townspeople and realized over \$2100 to support the scholarship awards to our graduating Seniors. This year each of Arrowsic's three 2026 graduates will receive \$3000. This increase was approved at the Annual Town Meeting in June. We look forward to hearing about our students as they proceed through their collegiate life.

We appreciate the support of the townspeople. It is always a good day interacting with our friends and neighbors. A special thank you to all our volunteers for helping us during setup and cleanup.

—Arrowsic Education Committee



Hello Clynk Users and Supporters of the Arrowsic Fire Department (AFD)

AFD Fire Chief Dale Carlton has been returning bottles and cans from our recycling shed to redemption centers for over 20 years. When local redemption centers closed, we started using **Clynk**, an innovative, environmentally responsible and community-friendly recycling company headquartered in South Portland.

If you would like to recycle your redeemable bottles and cans through the fire department, here is how it works:

- Find AFD Clynk tags/stickers and Clynk bags at the little recycling shed by the Town Hall.
- Or buy your own Clynk bags at Hannaford's: 10 bags for \$2.49.
- Place your mix of redeemable plastic, aluminum, and glass beverage containers inside the bag. The containers must be completely empty, and barcodes must be legible. Only collect redeemable items. Not all beverage containers qualify. **Clynk asks to leave caps on, glass bottles intact and cans uncrushed.**
- Fill the bag, but don't overstuff it (maximum weight 20 lbs.) and tie a double knot to prevent item loss.
- Securely apply an AFD Clynk sticker from the recycling shed, if it's not already affixed to the bag.
- You can also drop off your bags at small collection centers outside a participating Hannaford Supermarket, like the one at Cook's Corner.
- Scan the tag/sticker, the small glass door will unlock, and you can deposit your bag.

Before dropping off your next Clynk bag, please make sure it contains only **beverage containers** that are redeemable in Maine. Many other beverage containers are recyclable, but Clynk bags are designed specifically for **redeemable** beverage containers and should not hold any other items.

Thank you for your support.

—Arrowsic Fire Department

Types of beverages **covered** under Maine's Bottle Bill

- Spirits, including "nips"
- Wine
- Beer
- Hard cider
- Wine coolers
- Soda
- Non-carbonated water
- Smiling Hill Farm milk bottles, rinsed, with caps on, max 6 bottles per Clynk bag

Types of beverages **not covered** under Maine's Bottle Bill

- Milk, dairy-derived products
- Maine-produced apple cider or blueberry juice
- Seafood, meat, or vegetable broths or soups
- Instant drink powders
- Products designed to be consumed in a frozen state
- Liquid syrups, concentrates, or extracts

Thank You Arrowsic!



(Photo Caroline Kurrus)

The board of Citizens for Squirrel Point (CSP)—the organization responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Squirrel Point Light Station—would like to express its gratitude to the Citizens of Arrowsic for voting in favor of an increase in funding for 2026 at town meeting on June 11th. The Squirrel Point light tower, bell house, and

keeper's house are all in need of extensive repairs and the board has begun a capital campaign to raise \$210,000 over the course of three years to be able to fund this work as quoted by Hoagland Restoration, the specialist carpentry firm that restored one of the two Range Lights. The enthusiastic support of the townspeople of Arrowsic is an important and much-appreciated contribution to this effort.

The board would also like to thank the Arrowsic fire department for their invaluable assistance in burning brush piles at the Squirrel Point Station this past May, which made it possible to complete the job under the safest possible conditions. Finally, many thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers who turned out for the May 30th workday. The brush piles have begun growing again and the basement of the keeper's house has been cleared of detritus!

As summer begins, CSP is looking forward to three keeper's house projects: Hoagland Restoration's work on the roof trim (beginning this July); Blaiklock Carpentry's restoration of the east side windows; and volunteer scraping and painting of the east side. Anyone interested in participating in the latter project should email CSP at info@squirrelpoint.org.

—*Citizens for Squirrel Point*

Arrowsic Roads Study Update

The Town's grant from Maine Department of Transportation and the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund has been completed with all reports and reimbursements filed with the State. The final reports from Inter-Fluve are now available through the [Road Commission](#) page on the Town's website or by following these links for [Spinney Mill](#) and [Indian Rest](#) Roads. These reports provide the basis for seeking additional funding for improvements to both of these crossings. Two additional proposals (one for each road) have been recently submitted to the same fund to assist finalizing engineering and design work.

This study was a scoping project that will kickoff the design work for two highly vulnerable Town road crossings. The studies were the first steps in developing infrastructure that will reduce public safety risk by creating resilient crossings in the (hopefully) near future. The conceptually designed crossings have specifically been shaped to meet the 2100 goals of the Maine Climate Action Plan. The alternatives include options for raising the height of the road surface, increasing the size of culvert or bridge structures to facilitate flow, and/or moving the road alignment in order to increase the resilience of the sites to storm and flooding impacts. These plans will enable the Town to select alternatives that best meet the Town's needs and can realistically be funded.

—Jack Witham



A bike suspended over a closed bike shop in Portland, Maine (Photo ©David Dobbs)

Arrowsic Connected



As someone who grew up completely reliant on cars (and the parents who drove them) to get anywhere with more of a town center than the Old Stage/127 intersection, I have since come to know and love the alternative: a world in which feet, bikes, busses, and trains are convenient, realistic choices for commutes, groceries, appointments, and adventures.

You might think these types of choices could never be possible in Arrowsic, but I think that's false! Age-Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec (AFCLK) is already providing rides for folks who otherwise could not make essential trips - that's groundwork for a full-on shuttle. By 2040, more than one in three Sagadahoc County residents will be over age 65. I suspect Arrowsic helps tip those scales. We need to start revisioning what mobility looks like as we age.

Essential Rides for Everyday Living with AFCLK in Woolwich

In the past 12 months 14 drivers completed 363 round trips with 23 clients driving 7829 miles in 490 volunteer hours.

Furthermore, key amenities are only a few miles away in Bath. Plenty of folks could or would bike to the store or the library or the Dairy Queen (ice cream is a key amenity!), if only 127 had shoulders designated as bike lanes. Would Arrowsic attract younger families, would more children grow up with the pines and salt marsh and Sewall Pond if there were safer roads and easier access to service centers? Affordable housing is the elephant here, but housing and transportation are intertwined.

Gas prices are volatile, we know we have to get off fossil fuels, cars are expensive - on average, the cost of owning a car in Sagadahoc County is nearly \$11,000 annually—and we are entering an era where e-bikes could make a lot of sense for a lot of folks.

So, what are we doing to even begin addressing these issues?

One thing every person in Arrowsic can do this year is participate in Bath's Master Transportation Plan.

Maine DOT is studying all forms of transportation in Bath, and importantly, in the immediate region. This broader study area includes the island and peninsula communities that rely on Bath as a service center - AKA us. The plan, currently in its beginning stages, will collect and analyze data and local perspectives, emphasize safety, connectivity, and sustainability, and provide tangible recommendations for future improvements.

How can you make sure your imaginings for the future of Arrowsic mobility are heard?

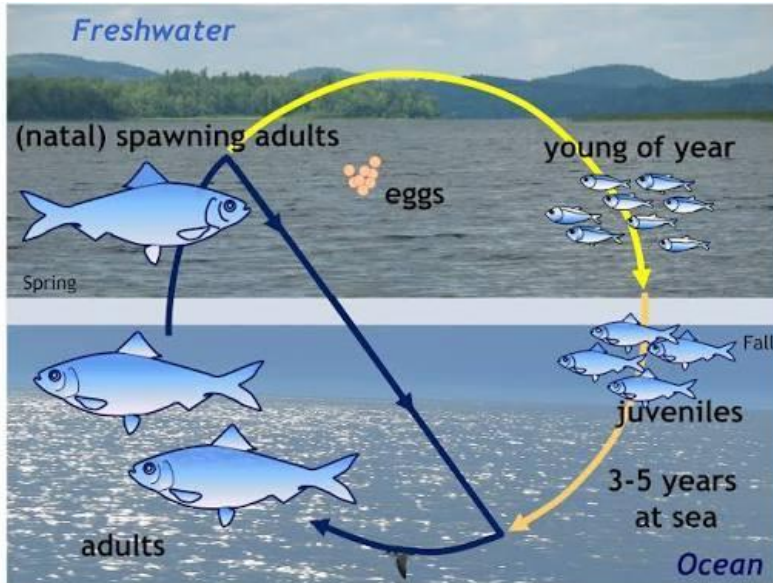
1. [Submit comment](#) via the [City of Bath Master Transportation Plan StoryMap](#).
2. Email comments to Bath's Sustainability Director, Rod Melanson, at rmelanson@cityofbathmaine.gov.
3. Attend the DOT's two public meetings in the next year, likely in December 2026 and March 2027.

Arrowsic voices are critical in a discussion about regional connectivity. Please share your visions for a safer, more sustainable future that enhances mobility (and adventure! Don't forget about adventure!) for more ages and abilities.

—Amelia Neilson

News from the Fish Commission

The 2026 Celebratory Alewife Harvest took place on May 16, a beautiful day—quite the contrast to last year’s attempted harvest during torrential downpours. Kids of all ages joined in counting the 800+ alewives caught in the trap and carefully lifting them into the pond. Fifty-four fish were harvested for smoking or pickling (and eating), garden fertilizer, and education. Members of the Arrowsic Fish Commission were on hand to oversee and help. Lori True served as photographer.



Courtesy Maine DMR

Alewives are an anadromous fish, a species of river herring, that spawn and hatch in freshwater and yet spend most of their lives at sea. Alewives are used for lobster bait, but not those from Arrowsic. When the 2026 juveniles leave Sewall Pond, we won’t expect to see them back until 2029 at the earliest. How will we know it’s the same fish? By their scales!

During the course of the annual fish count, which generally runs from the third week of April to the third week of May, the fish are counted when they are netted from the trap at the mouth of Sewall Pond where they have come back from the sea to spawn. From about 100 fish, scale samples are taken for analysis by scientists at Maine’s Department of Marine Resources (DMR). The scales tell us how old the fish are.



Commissioners counting individual fish before passing them into the pond.

Arrowsic Fish Commissioner Wendy Van Dyke, who is also a master naturalist, conducted an alewife education program in partnership with the teachers at the Georgetown Community School. The students learned more about the life cycle of this iconic fish. They also learned how many different creatures are ready to eat alewives – whether as eggs, or larvae, or juveniles, or as adults—and how amazing it is that any survive to come back to Arrowsic to spawn.

So why do we call it a Celebratory Harvest? Because we are celebrating the return of alewives to Sewall Pond and the fact that there are now enough returning for DMR to give our town permission to harvest some each year.

Once upon a time, there were more than 1000 river herring runs on the east coast of the US. Hundreds of millions of fish swam up the rivers each spring to spawn

and leave again. Damming and overfishing over time dropped the number of runs to fewer than one hundred. The Arrowsic alewife in-migration dropped to nearly nothing.

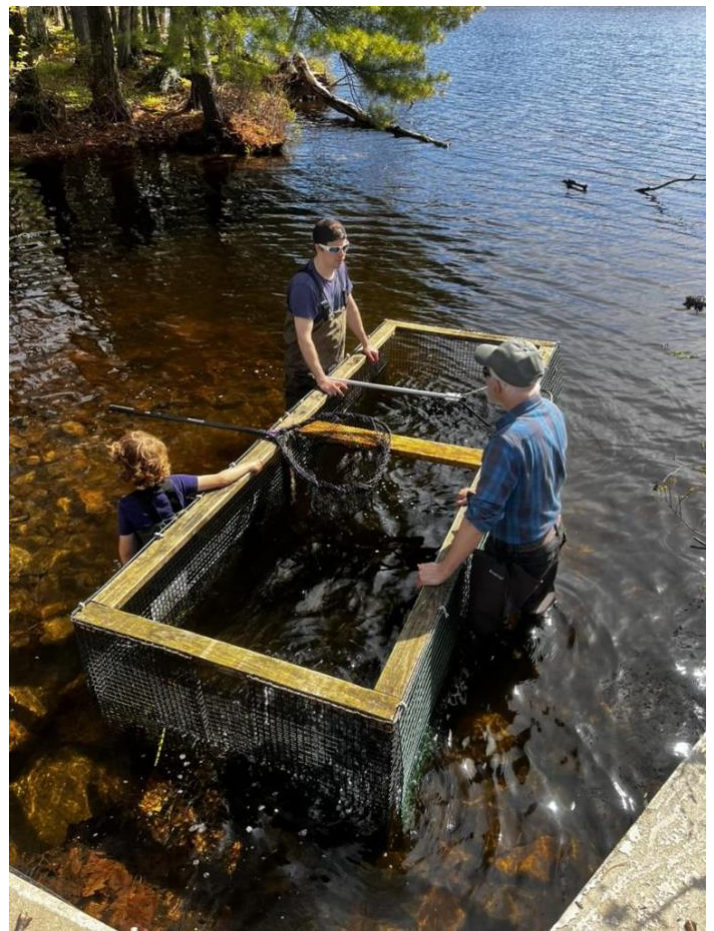
The efforts of dozens of people, hundreds of volunteer hours, and support from DMR have ensured that the alewives are running from the Atlantic, up the Kennebec, and up Sewall Creek to spawn. So we celebrate all the work, all the hope, and the alewives themselves—part of Arrowsic’s incredible natural resources.

—Fish Commission

On the Arrowsic Fish Commission’s website (<https://www.arrowsic.org/fish.html>), you can find more about restoring the alewife run and about Arrowsic’s alewives. There is still more to be done to ensure that the fish have safe and open passage up the creek. You can also sign up to volunteer to help count fish next spring and to monitor the juveniles leaving too.



Monitoring volunteers demonstrating scale sampling to the public.



Commissioners discuss the future restoration actions.

Lightning Struck Arrowsic Near Midnight on June 6, 2026



We weren't home, but we know this because it started a fire in our backyard. Luckily, our son Will was home, woke up when it struck and attempted to douse the fire with the garden hose. Unfortunately, he found no water pressure and thus, no water. (We discovered later that the lightning had melted the electrical connection to the well pump, effectively shutting off the water supply but preserving the pump itself.)

Our son then called 911 and several members of Arrowsic's Fire Dept. quickly arrived. The fire was burning in a tarp-covered Quonset hut in which we stored firewood. They helped Will move out other items stored in the hut: a tractor mower, a rototiller, a snowblower and a propane tank for the grill. (The fire was also about 30 feet from the back of our garage, where we have a standby generator and the two 100-gallon propane tanks that power it.)

Members of Bath Fire & Rescue also arrived, as did a Sagadahoc County sheriff. The fire was quickly subdued and the debris checked for smoldering embers. An inspection of the backyard revealed that the lightning had followed a large

tree root across the yard, gouging a trench in the grass. (See below for possible explanations.) It could have struck that tree, fried the attached trail camera, traveled through the tree root toward the well, knocked out our power and set our Quonset hut and firewood on fire. Such a surprising, random event that could have been a LOT worse.



We feel extremely fortunate and grateful for our volunteer fire department, whose rapid response prevented the fire from getting out of control. We are also grateful that Bath and Sagadahoc County backed up our local first responders. Although lightning strikes are unpredictable, we are at least now storing our firewood much further away from our propane tanks and fuel-powered equipment!

—Wendy Van Dyke and Gardi Fiske

New York Times, **SCIENCE WATCH;** **TRENCH REPORTED 'DUG' BY** **LIGHTNING**

Nov. 2, 1982

“An analysis of the event in the October issue of the journal *Weatherwise* proposes that the trench was blown out by steam produced almost instantaneously as the bolt traversed the moist ground.”

Trench dug by lightning in Arrowsic
(Photos by Gardi Fiske)



Cypress roots, Otago (Photo ©David Dobbs)

Annual Town Meeting, June 11, 2026



(Photo by Walter Briggs)

As a prelude to this year's town meeting, old and new residents gathered in front of the fire station for a lovely potluck dinner. Everyone, including the organizers Vicky and Nick Stoneman, enjoyed the company and delicious homemade food.

Before the official meeting started, the Water Access Committee, led for decades by Phine Ewing, and the Water Access Management Committee, led by Bob Ater,

received this year's Spirit of America Award. Both committees were recognized for their commitment and work to find and purchase Packard's Landing and complete all the tasks that were needed to provide saltwater boat access for the Town. "Hut ab", as a German would say, to all who participated in the effort.

Then the meeting fell silent to remember those who are no longer with us. Jody Jones spoke warmly of her friend, Nancy Brown Stump, who passed away last November. Jody spoke of Nancy's commitment to her family, the community, her art and her writing. Nancy's husband Jim mentioned that one of the many stories Nancy wrote was about the first town meeting they attended, and you can find the first part of the story in this issue of *The Arrowsic Arrow*.

Eloise Vitelli was elected as moderator, Barbara Boyce as town clerk, Eileen Bonine as treasurer, Rachel Strachan as tax collector, and Jennifer Geiger for another term as select person.

Warrant articles passed unanimously with only a few brief questions raised on specific items before votes were taken. The boat '*Hook, Line & Sinker*', stranded in the winter of 2025, made a ghostly comeback and the question whether the select board would entertain the idea of a harbor master for similar, future situations received an affirmative response.

At the end of the meeting Eloise Vitelli suggested that organizing childcare for next year would make it easier for families with young kids to participate. Next year's town meeting will be on Thursday, June 10th, 2027, at 6:30pm at the Arrowsic Fire Station.

—Karin Sadtler

Election Results

The 2026 Primary Election is finally in the books. Close races, where no candidate received a majority vote, occurred for the Republican and Democratic primary ballots for Governor triggering a ranked choice runoff. Results were released in the early morning hours of June 19.

Why does it take so long to get a result with ranked choice voting (RCV)? It is important that voters have confidence that their ballots are collected properly and are read correctly.

The state of Maine is divided into 430 towns, 23 cities and 29 plantations. The Secretary of State's office, with the assistance of the Maine State Police, collects the media from municipalities that use a tabulator and ballot boxes from hand count municipalities for delivery to Augusta for the run-off. (Approximately one third of Maine towns hand count their ballots.)

The "proofing" process involves double-checking that the votes cast on election day match what will be tabulated by the ranked-choice computer.

This process, while delaying results, ensures that the results accurately reflect voters' choices.

RCV nationwide:

- 28 states have at least one jurisdiction using RCV.
- 54 jurisdictions across the country have enacted or used RCV.
- Over 40 million ballots have been cast using RCV since 2004.

House District 49 Recount

District 49, which covers Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, West Bath and Woolwich, is currently represented by Rep. Allison Hepler (D) of Woolwich, who is terming out.

Nicolas Hamlin of West Bath and Suzanne Andresen of West Bath ran for the office on the Republican primary ballot. On election night Andresen was declared the winner with an 8-vote (609-601) margin.

Hamlin requested a recount which was completed on June 19 with Andresen declared the winner. Finals results: Andresen – 608, Hamlin 602.

Have a joyous and safe summer!

—Barbara Boyce [Town Clerk]



Snowy Egret (Photo by Kathy Roy)

STATE OF MAINE RETURN OF VOTES CAST - Democratic

MUNICIPALITY: Arrowsic - 1 (1-1)

UNITED STATES SENATOR

2 COSTELLO, DAVID A
31 MILLS, JANET T
153 PLATNER, GRAHAM C
0 LAFLAMME, ANDREA (Declared Write-In)
4 BLANK

GOVERNOR

40 BELLOWS, SHENNA
27 JACKSON, TROY DALE
6 KING, ANGUS III
48 PINGREE, HANNAH M
65 SHAH, NIRAV D
4 BLANK

REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS (District 1)

183 PINGREE, CHELLIE
7 BLANK

STATE SENATOR (District 24)

179 TEPLER, DENISE
11 BLANK

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LEGISLATURE (District 49)

168 VELLELLA, TRENT E
22 BLANK

COUNTY TREASURER

168 EATON, GAIL C
22 BLANK

DISTRICT ATTORNEY (District 6)

85 CRAY, BARBARA ANN
58 IRVING, NATASHA
47 BLANK

STATE OF MAINE RETURN OF VOTES CAST - Republican

MUNICIPALITY: Arrowsic - 1 (1-1)

UNITED STATES SENATOR

33 COLLINS, SUSAN M
1 BLANK

GOVERNOR

9 BUSH, JONATHAN J
16 CHARLES, ROBERT B
0 JONES, DAVID J
0 LIBBY, JAMES D
3 MASON, GARRETT PAUL
0 MCCARTHY, OWEN Z
3 MIDGLEY, BENJAMIN T
2 WESSELS, ROBERT J
1 BLANK

REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS (District 1)

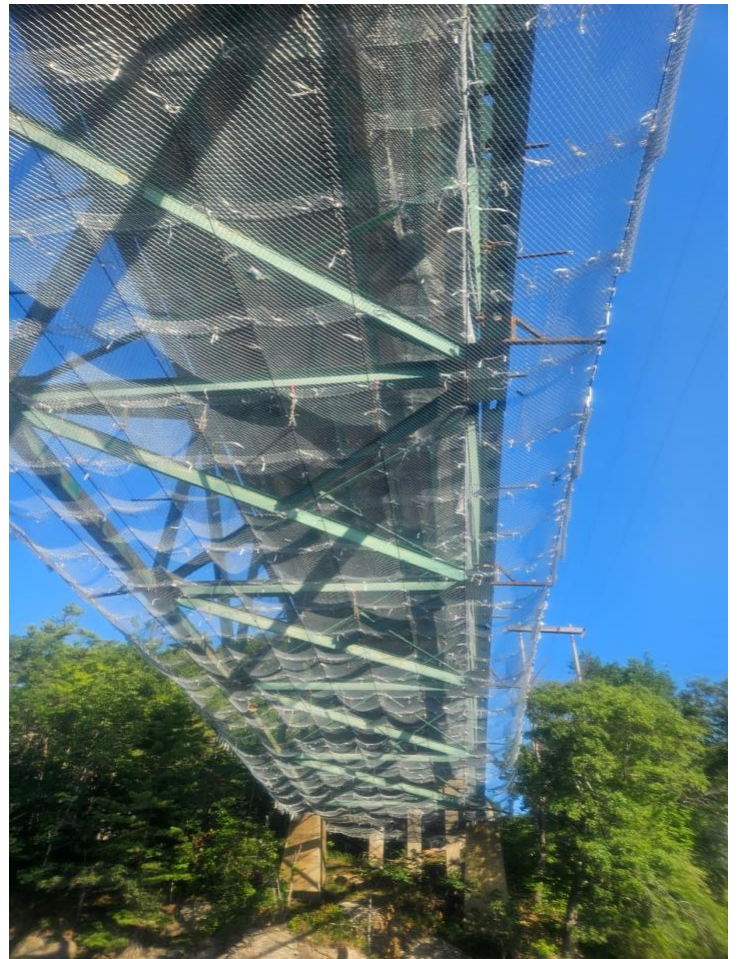
19 PIETROWICZ, JOSHUA JAMES
11 RUSSELL, RONALD C
4 BLANK

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LEGISLATURE (District 49)

13 ANDRESEN, SUZANNE R
19 HAMLIN, NICOLAS JOHN
2 BLANK

REGISTER OF DEEDS

29 MOORE, LYNN C
5 BLANK



Getting ready for painting, Max L. Wilder Memorial Bridge in July 2026 (Photos by Denise Parker)

MaineDOT to Work on Max L. Wilder Memorial Bridge



Drivers should plan for one-way alternating traffic.

WOOLWICH/ARROWSIC– June 16, 2026 – Starting June 16, the Maine Department of Transportation will begin a bridge painting project on the Max L. Wilder Memorial Bridge over the Sasanoa River which connects the towns of Woolwich and Arrowsic on Route 127. This project will help to preserve and extend the life of this bridge.

Drivers will encounter one lane of alternating traffic. Flaggers will be on site to direct traffic. The width of the roadway will be restricted to 12 feet, and the height will be restricted to 13 feet.

Work is expected to be completed by December 2026.

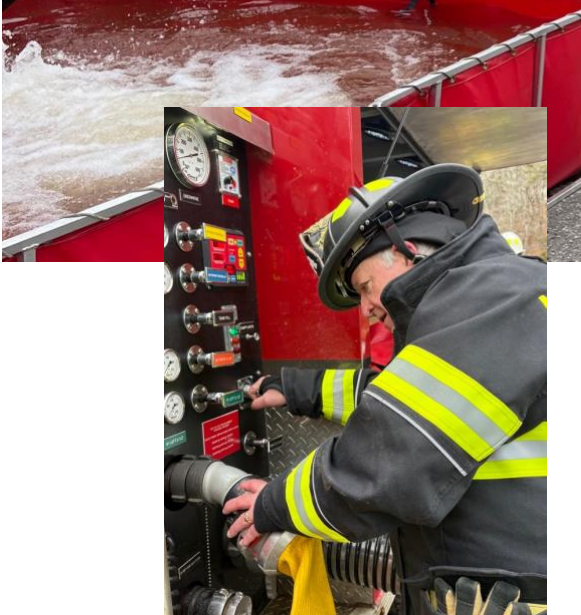
The contractor on this project is Royal Bridge Inc., of Palm Harbor, Florida.

The contract amount is \$4,465,700.

Arrowsic Fire Department



Could you
be part of
the fire and
emergency
response
team?



Scenes from Saturday trainings (Photos by Jeanne McNutt and Jon Biehler)

Visit us at the fire station on Stafford Lane during our **monthly training, held the third Saturday of each month from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

If you are physically capable, dependable, courageous, and able to stay calm under pressure, we encourage you to get involved. We especially welcome community members with a basic understanding of mechanical or power equipment, safe chainsaw skills, or an interest in becoming a firefighter. Basic Fire School and Firefighter I & II training are available in Maine, and our Saturday trainings are a great way to become familiar with the department, equipment, and team.

There is also an important support role for members who can respond when available, day or night, to assist emergency medical personnel during EMS calls in their neighborhood.

Contact Chief Dale Carlton at afd@arrowsic.org with any questions.

—Arrowsic Fire Department

Maine's First Ship (MFS) Makes Itself Known at SailBoston 2026



©2026 KeithSpiroPhoto

Sail Boston 2026: View from our deck surrounded by other tall ships

Ours is a small ship with mighty impact.

On July 8, 2026, Maine's First Ship, *Virginia*, departed Bath, Maine for the Tall Ships Parade taking place in Boston on July 11. By the time we arrived on July 10 we had scheduled out visits and travel that would place *Virginia* on a national stage. This trip was more than twice as long in distance and time than anything previously achieved.

Everywhere along our route we encountered well-wishers and the curious. To a person, each new encounter began with

comments about our pretty little ship, our gorgeous lines and the question, where we came from?

As always when we sail, onlookers take photos and post them online. Some make a point of sending them our way. SailBoston 2026 significantly increased the visibility online and onboard. Four days in Boston saw more than 2000 visitors step aboard.



©2026 KeithSpiroPhoto

Our Bos'n and MFS president dressed in 17th Century appropriate gear made by hand by our volunteer clothing crew.

As crew, we represent the more than 100 volunteers and the multitude of donors including the town of Arrowsic who stepped up and supported the vision of a reconstructed *Virginia* and its mission of maritime education. Bos'n and MFS president Jeremy Blaiklock, and board member Denise Parker are Arrowsic residents who have contributed over the long haul to bring this milestone achievement to realization.

Maine's First Ship continues to present history, ingenuity, and community in a powerful and uplifting way. Thank you Arrowsic for your support.

—Keith Spiro [Crew member, Volunteer, Communications Team]

See also Channel 5 Boston Video Coverage:

<https://youtu.be/kaVtURtC48k>

Visit the Freight Shed August 21, 2026, during Bath Artwalk. Keith Spiro will be showing and selling photos (with 50% of proceeds donated to MFS) and conducting an informal talk at 5:30pm about what it was like to participate in SailBoston 2026.