

Town of Portage Lake

2015 Annual Report

For Year Ended December 31, 2015

Portage Lake Meetings & Special Dates

SELECTPERSON'S MEETING- 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm
phone: 435-4361

PLANNING BOARD- 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm

BOARD OF APPEALS- meetings are as needed.

Contact Margaret Pierce Mon & Thurs 12:30-4:30
or by appointment 435-4361

TOURISM COMMITTEE- meetings are as needed

**Whoopie Pie Festival-Aug*

Contact: Anita Theriault 435-4311

HOUSING COMMITTEE- Wednesday's as needed

Secretary/Treasurer- Jen Curran phone: 227-0045

ATV CLUB- 1st Tues of each month at 6:30 at Municipal Building

**Chicken BBQ-June*

Chicken Stew & Ployes-Oct

President- Alyce Byrant-Reece phone: 435-2010

SNOWMOBILE CLUB- meet 1st Fri of each month (Sept-Apr) at

Dean's Hotel 6:30 pm

**Radar Runs & Pie Auction-Feb Pig Roast-Aug*

President- Jen Curran phone: 227-0045

OVER 50's GROUP- Last Tues of each month

**Pot Luck Lunch 11:30 am at Municipal Building*

Contacts: Donna Martin 435-7108 & Jean Clark 435-8034

HISTORICAL SOCIETY- 4th Monday of each month (Mar-Oct)

**Ham Dinner-June*

President- Corrine Routhier email: arouthier@roadrunner.com

**Cover photo courtesy of Larry Duchette*

2015 Town Report Dedication



Christy A. Dicker

For her dedication to the Town of Portage Lake, serving as a member of the Board of Selectpersons beginning in 1999 until 2013, and a member of the Beautification Committee and Budget Committee. Christy donated much of her time and energy for the betterment of the Town government and for the community at large. She was a valuable asset in all aspects, and she is greatly missed.

DIRECTORY OF TOWN OFFICIALS

SELECT PERSONS

Assessors- Overseers of the Poor

David M. Pierce (Chairperson)

Home 435-6709

Term Expires March 2017

Daniel C. Higgins

Home 435-6444

Term Expires March 2016

Barry J. Kenney

Home 267-1559

Term Expires March 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Larry Duchette- Town Manager

Tax Collector

Road Commissioner

Welfare Director

Fire Warden

Dep. Clerk

Dep. Treasurer

Corrine M. Routhier- Treasurer

Dep. Clerk

Dep. Tax Collector

Registrar of Voters

Nashville Tax Collector

Nashville Dep Town Clerk

Taunja Jandreau- Town Clerk

Dep. Treasurer

Dep. Tax Collector

Facilitator of Elections

Nashville Town Clerk

Nashville Registrar of

Voters

Maggie Pierce- Code Enforcement Officer

Building Inspector

Health Officer- Portage &

Nashville

Plumbing Inspector-

Portage & Nashville

Joseph Chouinard- Animal Control Officer-

Portage & Nashville

Brian Cote- Fire Chief

2015 BUDGET COMMITTEE

Patrick Raymond
Roland Caron
Raymond Cyr

Anita Theriault
Judy Moreau
Hollie Umphrey

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Anita Theriault
Taunja Jandreau

Corrine Routhier
Sheila Kelley

PORTAGE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Dr. Gehrig Johnson- Superintendent
David Farnum Term Expires 2016
Melissa Boutot Term Expires 2018
Robert A. Reece, Chair Term Expires 2017

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

Linda T. Caron- 2016 Terri DeMerchant- 2016
Ottis Nelson- 2017 Darey Gagnon- 2018
Patrick Kelley, Chair- 2017

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Patrick Raymond, Chair- 2017
Michael Bartlett- 2016
Brian Cote- 2018

Recreation Department

VACANT, Director

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS

In order to have a good cross representation of as many ideas as possible of the people of this community, any person interested in serving on any of the committees or boards listed below should fill out the application below and return to the Portage Lake Town Office. We currently have the following vacancies which need to be filled:

1 Appeals Board Member Alternate

1 Planning Board Member Alternate

Recreation Director

Detach and return this portion to the Town Office

I would be interested in serving on the following committees or boards when position is available.

_____ Beautification Committee

_____ Planning Board

_____ Board of Appeals

_____ Recreation

_____ Budget Advisory Committee

Full Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

MANAGER'S ADDRESS

2016

I would first like to remember all of the family members we have lost this past year. I will not post their names as we all have our own memories of the wonderful people that have gone to a better place.

Our year has been filled with changes in staffing and we continue to make the office more efficient. We have taken over the clerical duties for Nashville Plantation and both communities are working well to make this a seamless transition. Our paving project went well but slower than expected. 13 new culverts were installed and a plan is in place to finish all of the culverts on Cottage Road in preparation of our next major paving project. This summer we will install portable speed bumps at various locations in hopes of slowing some of the traffic down to a respectful speed.

With the improvements to the Municipal building we have significantly reduced the cost of heat and lights. Our hope is to finish the updates to the building over the next two years. The Seaplane base received a new porch roof and will have the coordinate's painted on the roof this summer. I would like to thank the many volunteers that continue to make Portage such a special place to live and play.

In closing I would like to thank Kathy Gagnon for her 18 years of service to the Town of Portage Lake and wish her the best in her new adventures.

Respectfully

Lawrence Duchette
Town Manager
Portage Lake, Me 04768



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

Dear Citizens of Portage:

Maine has a long tradition of civil participation in both state and local government, and I thank you for being informed and involved citizens.

My vision for Maine is prosperity, not poverty. For this reason, one of my top priorities is the reduction and eventual elimination of the income tax. Some are pushing to raise the minimum wage, but I want Mainers to earn a maximum wage. Reducing the income tax is the biggest and most immediate pay raise for all hard-working Mainers.

Not only does an income tax cut put more money back in your pockets, but it will also attract businesses that can offer good-paying careers to keep our young people here in Maine. It shows the nation that we are serious about wanting people and businesses to come—and stay—in Maine.

Another of my priorities is to lower the cost of student debt in Maine. If young people are struggling with too much student debt, they are unable to afford homes or vehicles. We are now offering programs to help them lower their debt, stay in Maine, begin their careers and start families.

To provide good-paying jobs for our young people, we must also work hard to reduce our energy costs. High energy costs are a major factor in driving out manufacturers, mills and other businesses that need low-cost electricity. I am committed to lowering the cost of energy, not only to attract job creators, but also to allow Maine people to heat and power their homes affordably and effectively.

And finally, we are making progress to address the drug pandemic in our state. It is my most important duty to keep the Maine people safe. While education, treatment and prevention efforts are important, we must get the dealers off the streets. I am pleased the Legislature has finally agreed to fund my proposal for more drug agents to stem the supply of deadly opiates flowing into our communities, but our law enforcement agencies are still understaffed. We must do more.

It is a pleasure serving as your Governor. If ever I can be of assistance to you or if you have any questions or suggestions, I encourage you to contact my office by calling 287-3531 or by visiting our website at www.maine.gov/governor.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments from 2015.

Growing the economy by encouraging job creation was and remains my top priority. The tax-relief bill signed into law at the close of last year contains three key provisions I authored to help foster job creation and provide small businesses with the certainty they need to invest, grow, and, most important, hire new workers. Another provision I authored that became law last year gives a boost to both Maine's economy and traffic safety. This provision permanently changed the federal law that previously had forced the heaviest trucks onto our country roads and downtown streets, rather than allowing them to use Maine's federal Interstates. In addition, I was glad to help secure another significant award for the University of Maine's deepwater offshore wind initiative, which has the potential to advance an emerging industry and create thousands of good jobs in our state.

Maine's historic contributions to our nation's defense must continue. In 2015, I secured funding toward a much-needed additional Navy destroyer, likely to be built at Bath Iron Works. Modernization projects at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that I have long advocated for were also completed, as were projects for the Maine National Guard.

I was also deeply involved in crafting the new education reform law to better empower states and communities in setting educational policy for their students. The law also extends a program I co-authored that provides additional assistance to rural schools, which has greatly benefitted our state. A \$250 tax deduction I authored in 2002 for teachers who spend their own money on classroom supplies was also made permanent last year.

As a result of a scientific evaluation of the nutritional value of potatoes required by a law that I wrote, the wholesome fresh potato finally was included in the federal WIC nutrition program. I also worked on other issues important to Maine's farmers and growers, including research on wild blueberries and pollinating bees.

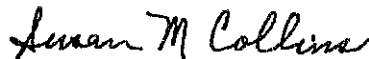
As Chairman of the Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, I have made combating veterans' homelessness a priority. This year's housing funding law includes \$60 million for 8,000 new supportive housing vouchers for homeless veterans. Since this program began in 2008, the number of homeless veterans nationwide has dropped by one third. Maine has received nearly 200 vouchers to support homeless veterans.

Last year, I became Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee. My top three priorities for the committee are retirement security, investing more in biomedical research, and fighting fraud and financial abuses targeting our nation's seniors. I advocated for the \$2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health to advance research on such diseases as diabetes and Alzheimer's. The Senate also unanimously passed my bill to support family caregivers. The Aging Committee's toll-free hotline (1-855-303-9470) makes it easier for senior citizens to report suspected fraud and receive assistance and has already received more than 1,000 calls.

A Maine value that always guides me is our unsurpassed work ethic. As 2015 ended, I cast my 6,072nd consecutive vote, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve Maine in the United States Senate. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices, or visit my website at www.collins.senate.gov. May 2016 be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

John L. Martin

P. O. Box 250

Eagle Lake, ME 04739

Residence: (207) 444-5556

Business: (207) 834-7568

Fax: (207) 444-5588

John.Martin@legislature.maine.gov

LETTER TO THE TOWN OF PORTAGE LAKE

Dear Neighbors:

It continues to be an honor to serve as your State Representative. During the 2016 legislative session we will discuss urgent legislation and bills carried over from 2015. All legislative work is scheduled to be completed by mid-April.

Our top priorities for this session include strengthening the economy, growing good-paying jobs and solving the state's drug crisis. We are also committed to ensuring the release of the voter-approved Land for Maine's Future bonds, growing the agricultural sector and investing in broadband and renewable energy so we can boost Maine's economy.

I am committed to prioritizing education funding and ensuring that our schools and children are taken care of. Last year, we passed a biennial budget that invested an additional \$80 million for K-12 public education.

Whether we are dealing with the above issues or any other topic, I am always ready to work with all of my colleagues, regardless of party affiliation, to make sure we're doing the best work we can for the people of our district and all the people of Maine.

Please feel free to contact me about any issues that are important to you or if you are having trouble with any state agencies.

You may reach me at home at 444-5556, or in Augusta at 1-800-423-2900.

Sincerely,

John Martin

State Representative

District 151 Allagash, Ashland, Eagle Lake, Fort Kent, Masardis, New Canada, Portage Lake, St. Francis, Wallagrass and Plantations of Garfield, Nashville, Oxbow, St. John and Winterville, plus the unorganized territory of Northwest Aroostook

*127th Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 1*

*Senator Peter Edgecomb
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505 Office
(207) 496-3188 Home*

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am so grateful that you've selected me to represent you in the Maine Senate for my first term. I am honored that you've put your trust in me and I will continue to work tirelessly for the betterment of you and your neighbors, as well as for the great state of Maine. Please let me provide you with a recap of the first session of the 127th Legislature as well as my hopes for the second session, which will begin in January 2016.

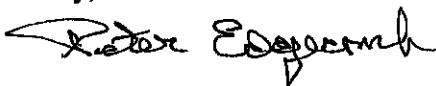
The most important item on our to-do list is clear: our state needs more jobs at all levels of the pay scale, so it is our responsibility and my solemn promise to work to expand economic opportunity for all Mainers. To this end, my fellow legislators and I accomplished a great deal during the first session of the 127th Legislature.

We passed a biennial budget that ensured that more Maine families received a tax cut than did in the "largest tax cut in Maine history" in 2011. That same budget stopped taxes on military pensions, restructured portions of our welfare system, increased funding for nursing homes, and put more funding towards eliminating waitlists for services for brain-injured and intellectually disabled Mainers.

I'm looking forward to watching how the significant changes we've already made will better the everyday lives of Mainers. I serve in Augusta because I believe that I can have an impact on the direction of our district and state. As you know, more changes are necessary. During the second session of the legislature, we need to make progress towards addressing the cost of energy in this state. There are a number of bills that have been proposed that would change the way our state's energy system works, and I look forward to putting my own energy into legislation that would lower your energy costs. I also believe that working to provide support to areas hard-hit by recent mill closings should be a focus of the 2016 session and I look forward to getting back to work.

You have my humble and sincere thanks for allowing me to represent you in Augusta. Please feel free to contact me at 287-1505 or peter.edgecomb@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions, or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely,



Peter Edgecomb
State Senator, District 1

*Peter.Edgecomb@legislature.maine.gov
Fax: (207) 287-1527 * TTY (207) 287-1583 * Message Service 1-800-423-6900 * Web Site: legislature.maine.gov/senate*

ANGUS S. KING, JR.
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344
Website: <http://www.King.Senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Dear Friends of Portage Lake:

It has been a privilege to serve the State of Maine since being sworn into the U.S. Senate.

Much of my time in Washington this past year has been devoted to the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. Protecting our homeland and the people of Maine from terrorism and violence remains one of my top priorities. Through my work on the Armed Services Committee, I was able to secure several provisions in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act that benefit Maine. The legislation authorizes the construction of an additional DDG-51 Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer that could be built at Bath Iron Works and expands the HUBZone program to stimulate economic growth at former military installations like the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Returning control to teachers, school districts, and states has also been a primary concern of mine. I am encouraged that the Every Student Succeeds Act has become law. It eliminates the burdensome requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and ensures access to a quality education for all students. A provision I helped author in the bill will give states the opportunity to pilot the use of their own proficiency-based assessments in lieu of federally-mandated standardized tests. Also included in the bill are several measures I secured to promote local input, fund education technology initiatives, and explore new strategies to increase student access to the internet outside of school.

Communities across Maine have taken bold action to improve their broadband connectivity, and I have been proud to foster federal support for these types of projects. My amendments to the Every Student Succeeds Act will promote the type of work already occurring in Washington County, where students who lack broadband access are able to check out mobile hotspots from their local libraries. Additionally, a bill I co-sponsored, the Community Broadband Act, helped pave the way for the FCC to enact rules protecting the ability of municipalities to invest in better broadband. I am excited by Maine's leadership on this important economic development issue and will continue to support local efforts in this area.

After extensive negotiations, the Senate passed a five-year transportation bill that will increase highway and transit funding in Maine and provide stability to improve our transportation infrastructure. The legislation contains provisions I cosponsored to cut red tape and improve predictability and timeliness by streamlining the federal permitting process for large infrastructure projects. Also incorporated in this bill are my provisions to relieve financial regulations on Maine's community banks and credit unions and to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, a critical tool that supports communities and small business across the state.

Following my inquiries in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the National Park Service has announced they will begin exploring strategies to allow park visitors to purchase electronic passes online and will pilot the program at Acadia National Park. These passes would improve access to our nation's most treasured landscapes and would generate resources for years to come. I remain deeply engaged in preserving Maine's natural beauty and strengthening our outdoor recreation economy.

It is with solemn responsibility that I have focused my energy addressing the opioid epidemic in Maine. This work includes convening roundtables with a wide-range of health care and law enforcement professionals to combat addiction; introducing a proposal to safely dispose of excess prescription drugs; cosponsoring a

AUGUSTA
4 Gabriel Drive, Suite F1
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

PRESQUE ISLE
169 Academy Street, Suite A
Presque Isle, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

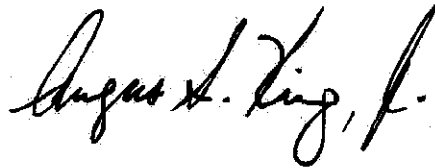
SCARBOROUGH
383 US Route 1, Suite 1C
Scarborough, ME 04074
(207) 883-1588

Senate-passed bill that addresses mothers struggling with addiction and the alarming effect it has on newborns; cosponsoring the TREAT Act, which expands the ability of medical specialists to provide life-saving medication-assisted therapies for patients battling heroin and prescription drug addiction; and calling on the Commander of U.S. Southern Command to increase efforts to stop the flow of heroin at our southern border.

I like to think of Maine as a big small town – and in a small town, the leaders are accessible and eager to listen. In that spirit, I've made it a priority to stay connected with people from all over Maine who e-mail, write, and call with suggestions or questions. If I can ever assist in your interaction with a federal agency, or you have thoughts, concerns, or personal input on a matter that is currently before Congress I hope you will contact me, let me know where you stand, and engage in this critical part of democracy. Please call my toll-free line at **1-800-432-1599** or one of my offices: Augusta (207) 622-8292, Presque Isle (207) 764-5124, Scarborough (207) 883-1588, or Washington, D.C. (202) 224-5344. You can also write me on our website at www.king.senate.gov/contact.

As always, I am honored to represent the people of Maine and look forward to working with you for the betterment of our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus S. King, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

TOWN CLERK REPORT

You may notice that this year's Clerk's Report is slightly different than those in the past; in May of 2015 I was hired as Town Clerk for Portage Lake. After several years of being a stay at home mom, a part-time job close to home was enticing to me. The first week "on the job" I had to travel to Houlton for 3 days of Motor Vehicle training and left there wondering what I had gotten myself into. It has been a learning experience for sure. Processing tax payments, motor vehicle registration and handling elections are just a few of the day-to-day transactions that can happen here at the Town Office. I've enjoyed getting to meet people from the community and being a part of events like the Suicide Prevention Walk, Community Christmas Party and Whoopie Pie Festival. I am pleased to say I survived my first election and was so thankful it was not a Presidential Election. It has been a pleasure working with the "Town Office Crew" and I am thankful for their support and patience.

*Sincerely,
Taunja Jandreau
Town Clerk*

2015 Election Information	
Town Meeting	Info N/A
School Board	10 total votes
General Election	71 total votes

Maine Law requires that all vehicles 1995 and newer must have a title. When registering a new vehicle, here is a brief list of common items that are required in order for the Town to process your registration:

- Current insurance card
- Old registration if transferring any excise tax credit
- Current mileage
- Bill of sale and seller's title signed over to you (if private sale)
- Proof of sales tax paid and title application (if dealer sale)

When registering a recreational vehicle such as a boat, ATV or snowmobile bring your old registration to renew.

If Dealer Sale, bring the following items:

- Proof of sales tax paid
- Boat length and motor size (if registering a boat)

If Private Sale, bring the following items:

- Bill of sale with the serial number and the seller's name and address
- Boat length and motor size (if registering a boat)
- For trailer and boat sales, these must be separated on the bill of sale

Motor Vehicle Registrations sold in 2015	
Passenger Cars	310
Commercial Vehicles	94
Trailers	118
Motorcycles	14
Antique Vehicles	9

Recreational Vehicle Registrations sold in 2015	
Boats	174
ATV	57
Snowmobiles	87

The fees for licensing neutered/spayed dogs are \$6.00 and require a neutering/spaying certificate. Dogs that are not Neutered/Spayed or fail to provide a certificate are \$11.00. A rabies certificate (not the tag) is also required at the time of licensing. If a dog is not registered by January 31st, a \$25.00 late fee per dog will be assessed.

Dogs Licenses sold in 2015	
Spayed/Neutered	47
Unaltered	12
Kennels	2

Marriage licenses are \$40.00. Certified copies of birth, death and marriage certificates are \$15.00 for the first copy and \$6.00 for each additional copy of the same record.

Certified Copy of Vital Records Issued in 2015	
Marriage	5
Birth	10
Death	3

Vital Statics Report for 2015	
Marriages	2
Births	1 Female
Deaths	4 Males, 2 Females

For current Hunting & Fishing fees visit www.townofportage.org or stop into the Town Office and pick up a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife book.

Hunting & Fishing Licenses Sold in 2015		
	Resident	Non-Resident
Combination Hunting & Fishing	30	4
Hunting (16 yrs. +)	10	6
Fishing (16 yrs. +)	26	8
Junior Hunting (15 years & younger)	3	
Coyote	2	
Muzzleloading	3	
Small Game Hunting	3	5
Bear Permit	2	3
Turkey	2	1

TO THE CITIZENS OF PORTAGE LAKE

The Portage Lake Association is a local, non-incorporated organization that was formed in 1989 for the purpose of protecting the lake. For many years now, it placed a great deal of emphasis on educating both year-round and summer residents about the dangers posed to Portage Lake from both invasive water species and environmental factors such as lakeside application of phosphorous and other chemicals that can greatly degrade the water quality of the lake. That education has taken the form of information shared with the community through our annual newsletters, PLA-sponsored signage at strategic locations around the lake, and the personal communication efforts of our Courtesy Boat Inspectors that volunteer their time on weekends at the campground/boat launch.

As a result of our outreach, the membership in the Portage Lake Association has increased dramatically, and many members now make contributions over and above their annual dues for the purpose of further supporting our programs. As a result, we have accumulated an amount of funds that is larger than is normally associated of a small, non-incorporated organization. As we have pointed out to our members on a number of occasions, should Portage Lake experience an infestation of an invasive plant species such as Eurasian Milfoil in the future, the excess funds that we have accumulated would be spent very rapidly when applied to a lake wide remediation program.

We the Board of Directors along with the approval of the Selectmen and Town Manager have taken a large portion of the funds in on account within the books of the Town of Portage Lake. Withdrawals from this account in support of future PLA activities require approval of both the Town of Portage Lake and the PLA Board of Directors.

The Boat inspections for this year were 437 completed by 37 volunteers and our Lake Coordinator Ray Wakefield. Membership for this year was 142. The annual Loon count results of 17 adults and 0 chicks was done on July 18 by Susan Doyen and her group.

Summer 2016 will be the 10TH Anniversary of the Ring Of Fire.

The Portage Lake Association would like to thank everyone that participated in the 1ST Annual Portage Lake Chub Tournament. We had 41 entries and they caught a total of 377 LBS of Chub, Perch, Sunfish and Bullhead. Our goal is to take as many of these species out of our waterways as possible every year and hopefully make a difference in the quality of fish in Portage Lake. We are planning to have our 2nd Annual Tournament on the 3rd of July this year and hope to make it even more successful than last year. Our plan is to have a Children's, Adult and Party Boat category this year so everyone will have a chance to win a prize. FISH ON!!!

Sincerely,

Jim Kelley
President

Hello,

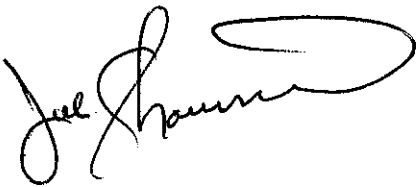
Thanks for all your help during the year of 2015. We had fewer calls in regard to dogs and cats running at large. All the dogs were reunited with their owners except for one which was never found.

I would like to mention however that I have seen an increase in the number of people driving their trucks with their dogs in the bed of the pick-ups, without taking the proper steps to prevent the dog from falling out.

Maine Law Section 2087: "A person driving an open vehicle may not transport a dog in the open portion of that vehicle on a public way unless the dog is protected in a manner that prevents it from falling, jumping or being thrown from the vehicle."

Please don't put your dog in the back of your truck.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Chouinard". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and a cursive "Chouinard".

Joe Chouinard

January 7, 2016

To the Residents of Portage Lake,

2015 was an average year with 26 applications varying from sheds, decks, garages, maintenance within the Shoreland and new homes. The Planning Board met to consider 3 applications within the Shoreland, continued to work on the proposed wind energy ordinance, researched current fee schedule and began reviewing the new Department of Environmental Protection Shoreland zoning Chapter 1000 changes. The Planning Board will continue to review the new changes and compare them to the current Portage Lake Shoreland zoning ordinance as well as participate in a Maine Department of Environmental Protection training to better understand the changes.

Sincerely,

Margaret M Pierce

Code Enforcement Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector and Local Health Officer



Portage Lake Fire Department 2015 Report

To the Residents and Taxpayers of Portage Lake:

I personally want to thank the Town Manager, Selectpersons, office personnel, and especially the residents of Portage Lake for your support in helping make this a successful year for the Portage Lake Fire Department.

This year, the Department sent new member Chris Walker down to the Central Fire Attack School to be SCBA certified. This is a start in the right direction to have all of the volunteer firefighters to be fully trained.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!! If anyone is interest in joining the Department, you can contact me or the Town Office. The PLFD meetings are held the first and third Mondays of every month at 7 pm at the fire house.

This year the Department responded to:

- 1 chimney fire
- 2 mutual aid calls to Ashland
- 1 electrical fire from a kitchen range
- 1 plugged furnace
- 1 faulty smoke alarm
- 1 car accident

Thank you for your continued support.

Chief Brian Cote

2015 BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

In 2015, the Beautification Committee once again purchased the half-barrels of flowers to put along Main Street, at the Pavilion, the beach and the campground/boat landing.

In November, we ordered 10 green holiday banners to put on some of the light poles. They have white Christmas trees and the words "Happy Holidays" on them. We only ordered 10 in order to test them out to see how durable they are in windy conditions here in Portage Lake. Only one was torn, so we feel they fared quite well. We are considering buying some more for the different seasons of the year.

Four more new LED Christmas ornament lights were purchased after Christmas at a considerable savings due to an after-Christmas sale. Along with being very pretty, they are incredibly energy efficient.

A small group of people showed up to help put lights on the Christmas tree and the reindeer in the Town Square. We again chose to put up the "Happy Holidays" lighted sign in the Town Square.

The Beautification Committee works hard to make Portage Lake a little brighter and better. The yearly budget for our Committee comes directly from you, the taxpayers, so we are in hopes that more people will come forward to help make decisions and to help with our projects.

Sincerely,

Anita Theriault
Beautification Committee chair

2015 TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT

Despite losing one of our most dedicated members, Wilza Robertson, on March 5, 2015, the Portage Lake Tourism Committee had a fairly busy year.

We printed a brochure listing activities taking place in the summer, including dates, times and contact people for these events. These were for the local residents and the surrounding areas. We also designed an information brochure which was professionally printed. These have been distributed by the Maine Tourism Association throughout the state. This brochure lists clubs & organizations in Portage Lake, with a narrative and photos of what our small community has to offer.

The Whoopie Pie Festival was held in August and was another successful event, thanks to Taunja Jandreau who took over the reins to continue Wilza's pet project.

The fireworks display in August was truly amazing again this year. So many positive comments were heard. Just a little over half of the cost for the fireworks came from donations and the balance was paid by the Tourism Committee.

The Tourism Committee sponsored the Town's Christmas Party on December 12 at the Town Hall. Although attendance was not very high, everyone there had a good time. Hopefully more people will attend the party in 2016. SANTA made an appearance, much to the delight of the children who were there. (Thank you Santa!)

Thank you to the people who helped with the events in 2015! We are in dire need of more members if we are to continue putting on these wonderful events. Please consider joining in to help our little community to keep on being "a little town that gets a lot done"!

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Theriault, Tourism Committee Treasurer & acting President

Over 50's Report 2015

We meet the last Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall for a pot-luck lunch and eat at 11:30. We ask that you BRING FOOD TO SHARE with your friends. Our dues are \$2.00 per year and 2015 had 40 paying dues with an average of 23 people attending. We had 39 attending our Picnic in July with only 12 attending in January, due to a storm.

Our Picnic in July at the Pavilion seems to be the most popular event with red hotdogs cooked over a wood fire. I appreciate the patience of all those attending this event. We do enjoy the Pavilion so much with it being able to be enclosed part way around.

Anyone over 50 is Welcome to join our group and we also welcome guests. If you are looking to visit and get to know the people of Portage, this is a great place to come share a meal.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas we do Holiday Meals with turkey and ham so that our Seniors get to celebrate the holidays with friends and have a good meal.

There are speakers that attend to inform Seniors of what may be of interest to us. If anyone would like to speak to the group, Please contact Donna Martin @ 435-7108.

We still have Ella Stevens taking care of the finances for us, Jean Clark leading the meetings and Donna Martin doing the Newsletter. Thanks to all who help keep this going.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Martin**

2015 PORTAGE LAKE ATV CLUB REPORT

To the Residents of Portage Lake,

Once again the wet conditions this spring and summer gave us a challenge to finish the Acadian Heritage trail. With the patience of our trail master, Kenny Fones, and the help of some of our members and other individuals we finally got the trail accomplished.

It took us as a club many hours and 19 months to get the trail accomplished so people can travel North. We appreciate the time and dedication by our ATV President, Alyce Bryant- Reece, and our Trail Master, Kenny Fones, to get this project completed. The bridge on the Acadian Trail was dedicated to Kenny for all his hard work.

We had a lot of expenses but are happy to report that we ended the year with a balance of \$4,683.25 in our account.

We would like to apologize to everyone for the neglect on the other local trails we have around town, one of our goals for next season is to give them some TLC. We want to say THANK YOU to all our members, especially our new members, officers, landowners, and the people of Portage Lake for all your support!

PORTAGE LAKE ATV CLUB OFFICERS

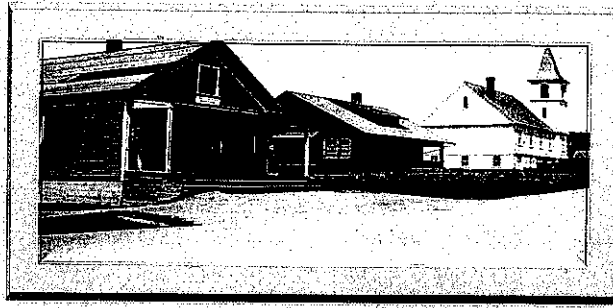
President	Alyce Bryant-Reece
Vice President	Darey Gagnon
Secretary	Rena Mae Belanger
Treasurer	Lucy Hutchinson
Trail Master	Ken Fones
Asst. Trail Master	Jeanne Jones
Grant Writer	Hollie Umphrey
Membership	Terry Demerchant

For a list of our 2016 Club Events visit our website at www.portagelakeatvclub.com

PLEASE RIDE SAFE
OBEY THE 15 MPH SPEED LIMITS ON OUR TOWN ROADS

Respectfully Submitted,
Rena Mae Belanger
Secretary

Portage Lake ATV Club
PO Box 145 Portage Lake, ME 04768
www.portagelakeatvclub.com
-OR- go to www.portage.org click on the Portage Lakers ATV Club link



Portage Lake Historical Society 2015 Report

2015 has been a year of changes for the Portage Lake Historical Society. With the passing of our beloved Wilza Robertson, a Board member and one of our “founding fathers”, we found ourselves faced with having to fill her shoes, and with the realization that we are losing our own history every day. Membership has been steady at about 32 members; our goal for 2016 is to increase that and try to pull in some younger people!

Another change for us was the inception of the Summer Historical Display in the voting room at the Town Hall. In 2015 the display’s theme was the “Portage Lake School Systems”. We had a lot of great donations to help make the display a success! Our theme for the 2016 display is going to be the Lumber/Logging industry in and around Portage Lake. We are always looking for donations for the display and help in setting it up. Even if you may not be a member of the Society, this history belongs to all of us and we all have a vested interest in keeping it alive.

In 2015, the Society spent approximately \$800 to purchase 44 black & white prints of scenes of Portage Lake from the early 1900s. These prints will be custom framed and displayed at the Portage Lake Municipal Building when the project is complete. We hope to have them all up for viewing by our Annual Ham Dinner at the Town Hall in June of 2016.

Some projects the Society has in the works is finding a permanent place we can call “home” for the many artifacts and other items that have been generously donated to the Society over the years. There are several older buildings in Portage Lake that would make a suitable home for the Society, and we actively considering them. Another project is a quarterly newsletter. In this newsletter, we plan to tell little snippets of Portage Lake’s history, but also document things going on now—because what we are doing right now will be of historical importance for others in the future.

The Society meets the 4th Monday of every month from March to October, but you don’t have to be a member to join us. We welcome anyone who is willing to promote Portage Lake’s history and celebrate it in a positive way. Look for upcoming events posted on our Facebook page (Portage Lake, Maine Historical Society) and on the website for the Town of Portage Lake under the Clubs/Organizations tab (www.townofportage.org).

Respectfully, Corrine Routhier, President

Officers: Sarah Brooks, Vice President
Barbara Pitcairn, Treasurer
Secretary—currently vacant

Board Members: Jim Dumond
Marcelle Gagnon
Betty Benson

Town of Portage Lake School Department

The Portage Lake School Department concluded its third fiscal year as an independent school entity on June 30, 2015.

The approved July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015 school budget for Portage Lake totaled \$734,223 and was funded by \$474,525 in property taxes, \$199,142 in state subsidies and \$60,556 brought forward from the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The current approved July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016 school budget is \$769,993 and is funded by \$459,525 in property taxes, \$215,188 in state subsidies and \$95,280 brought forward from last year. Please note that the amount required to be raised in property taxes for the school budget is again \$15,000 less than the prior year.

Portage began the current school year with 31 elementary and 11 secondary students. The enrollment numbers as of 01/12/16 were 26 and 11. The tuition rates for Portage students continues to increase as the expenses for SAD 32 remain level but their total student count continues to decrease.

An independent annual audit of the Portage Lake School Department was conducted by Felch & Company, LLC for the fiscal school year ended June 30, 2015. We were found to be in compliance with all laws and regulations and our financial information is accurate and complete. A copy of the audit is available for inspection at the town office.

Respectfully,

Melissa Boutot
David Farnum, Chairperson
Robert Reece

ANNUAL REPORT

NACSB FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 12/31/15

Net reported as of 12/31/14 **\$14,844.42**

Receipts: (Total Funds)

Oxbow Plantation	\$ 40.00
Ken's Septic	\$ 231.00
David Chasse	\$ 345.00
Town of Ashland	\$ 795.00
Garfield Plantation	\$ 65.00
Town of Masardis	\$ 210.00
Nashville Plantation	\$ 60.00
Town of Portage	<u>\$1,350.00</u>

Total Receipts: **\$ 3,096.00**

Plus deposit from Norstate CD: **\$ 3,500.00**

Disbursements:

Treasurer, State of Maine	\$ 394.00(Yearly License)
Maine Soil Testing	\$ 22.00(Soil Test)
Ashland Postmaster	\$ 32.54(Postage)
Stephen Sullivan	\$ 1,950.00(Yearly mowing)
Davis CPA	\$ 1,300.00(accountant)
Nashville PLT.	\$ 27.30(Real Estate Tax
Brenda Clark	\$ 400.00(Site Administrator)
Gil's Lock & Key	\$ 131.12(Changed Locks)
Ashland Snowmobile Club	\$ 455.00(Bush Hogged fields)

Total Disbursements: **\$ 4711.96**

Checkbook Balance as of 12/31/14 **\$ 2,028.39**

Plus Deposits: **\$ 6596.00**

Less Disbursements: **\$ 4711.96**

Checkbook Balance as of 12/31/15 **\$ 3,912.43**

Norstate (Fraser) CD **\$12,788.84**

Interest of: **\$ 84.19**

Withdrawal to checkbook: **\$ 3,500.00**

Balance as of CD 12/31/15: **\$ 9,373.03**

Norstate Savings: **\$ 27.19**

Net To Date: **\$ 13,312.65**

Decrease of: **(\$ 1,531.77)**

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Clark, Site Administrator

Ashland

Town of Ashland, P.O. Box 910, Ashland, ME 04732
(207) 435-2311 Fax (207) 435-2005
e-mail: manager@townofashland.org
www.townofashland.org

"Gateway to the North Maine Woods"



Incorporated February 18, 1862

To: Participating Towns and Plantations

September 10, 2015

RE: Ashland Ambulance Service

Ashland has experienced a 78% increase in educational costs over the past five years that has driven our mil rate to 27.5 mils and leaves the municipality fiscally unable to sustain the ambulance service without further assistance from the surrounding towns and plantations. Ashland needs to replace the Ambulance in the spring of 2016 and requests assistance from the participating communities to purchase this vehicle. The quote on a new ambulance is \$231,183.

The services newest ambulance was purchased in 2002, with approximately 150,000 miles of emergency service over county highways and logging roads. This, along with several moose and deer strikes have taken its toll on the ambulance and it has reached the point where its reliability is in question.

Ashland's ambulance service provides 24/7 paramedic staffing utilizing part time employees. The Ambulance Director works full time and fills in for shifts that he is unable to fill by part time employees.

The ambulance service covers 2563 square miles, providing service to Ashland, Masardis, Oxbow Plantation, Garfield Plantation, Nashville Plantation, Portage and the unorganized territories surrounding its coverage area. This area includes all the towns previously listed and encompasses from the bottom of Haystack on Route 163, the unorganized territory surrounding Scopan Lake, south on route 11 to Knowles Corner at the junction of routes 11 and 212, north on route 11 to the bottom of Soucy Hill and west to the Canadian border, covering the unorganized territories.

Ashland will pay for 60% of the ambulance and is requesting assistance as outlined in the following chart for the balance of the purchase. The interest rate is estimated to be 3% but could change and affect the final values. For example; assuming a 7 year loan Portage would pay an additional \$4,798.09 a year above its existing stipend.

MUNICIPALITY	Amb Subsidy	% - S	Amount -S	Yearly Payments	
				7yrs	10yrs
ASHLAND	\$0	60%	\$138,709.80	\$22,263.80	\$16,261.02
PORTAGE	\$13,395	32%	\$ 29,849.83	\$4,791.09	\$3,499.31
MASARDIS	\$8,201	20%	\$ 18,275.36	\$2,933.31	\$2,142.43
GARFIELD PLT	\$2,658	6%	\$ 5,923.17	\$950.71	\$694.38
NASHVILLE PLT	\$3,416	8%	\$ 7,612.32	\$1,221.83	\$892.40
OXBOW PLT	\$2,002	5%	\$ 4,461.32	\$716.07	\$523.00
COUNTY	\$11,825	28%	\$ 26,351.20	\$4,229.53	\$3,089.16
Total	\$41,497	100%	\$231,183.00	\$37,106.34	\$27,101.70
Amount				\$259,744.38	\$271,017.00

Hopefully this will be agreeable to all and Ashland will be able to continue providing quality service to the neighboring communities. I'll need to know your feelings on this so we can proceed with the purchase after the next budget cycle.

Sincerely,

Ralph Dwyer



CAN AM CROWN, INC.

P.O. BOX 171, FORT KENT MILLS, ME 04744

Residents of Portage Lake:

It is hard for me, as President of the Can-Am Crown Sled Dog Races, to express my gratitude to the people of Portage Lake for the work they do each year for the 250-mile race that traverses across the fields and forests of northern Maine. The endeavors of your town and its people are second to none, and it would be difficult to run our race without your efforts.

Residents of Portage Lake have been instrumental in the Irving Woodlands 250-mile Can-Am Crown Sled Dog Races since their inception in 1992. Each year your efforts are lauded by our Board of Directors and more importantly by the mushers who partake of your hospitality and your efforts in the weeks before the race and through the weekend.

The work done by folks of your community have been a great part of the success of the 23-year history of the Can-Am Crown Sled Dog Races in northern Maine. The race could not be held without all the fine people from Portage Lake who help us as volunteers and the Town for its facilities for the weekend.

I and the Board of Directors of the Can-Am Crown Sled Dog Races give a heartfelt note of thanks to the Town and its residents for the work at Checkpoint Number One in the Irving Woodlands Inc. 250-mile race. Their work during Can-Am weekend, and in preparations in the previous weeks, is fantastic.

Their countless hours of work and efforts have saved us unknown hours of work. Realizing that working in cold and snow is not an easy thing to do in northern Maine; their efforts are even more noteworthy.

I would wish you pass on my feelings, and those of the Can-Am Crown Board of Directors, to the many people who have helped us. Their roles are invaluable to us.

It is nice to see these folks taking part in the community helping others from nearby communities. It tells much of the bright future they face.

Again thank you all. Sarah Brooks, the snowmobile and ATV Clubs, the ladies who do the food for volunteers and mushers and municipal officials are just wonderful.

Sincerely,

Beurmond J. Banville,
President, Can-Am Crown Sled Dog Races

Maine Acadian Heritage Council



Conseil d'héritage acadien du Maine

Volume 1, Issue 1-January 2016



President's Greeting

This year, the Maine Acadian Heritage Council took the unprecedented decision of not offering educational grants to individuals or organizations. Instead, it created a FREE training workshop for teachers of the St. John Valley, in conjunction with the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes of the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Teachers met for a week to explore Acadian history and culture; how and why Acadians settled in the St. John Valley; Acadians of the diaspora; and the Bloodless Aroostook War with visits to the three forts in the area: Fort Kent, Me; Fort P'tit Sault in Edmundston, NB, and Fort Ingall in Cabano, Qc. The MAHC plans to offer another such program for teachers and the public through UMFK during the Spring semester.

What does the future hold for MAHC and the Acadian people of the St. John Valley? The Congrès mondial acadien 2014 brought great visibility to Acadians of northern Maine. 97% of visitors said they would come back to this region because they loved the people. It's up to us to use this momentum to create something lasting that will both highlight our heritage and language while spurring economic and cultural development.

Lise Pelletier

Who is MAHC?

The Maine Acadian Heritage Council is a regional organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Acadian culture, language, and history throughout Northern Maine's St. John Valley. Its members include representatives of: all the municipalities, chambers of commerce, historical and cultural societies, and sponsors of the Upper St. John Valley. It also includes a representative of: the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the University of Maine System, Congressman Bruce Poliquin, and Senators Susan Collins and Angus King.

What is MAHC?

In 1990, the United States Congress passed the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Act establishing a role for the National Park Service to recognize the important contribution to American culture and history by the Acadians in Maine. In 1991, the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission, led by Senators George Mitchell and Bill Cohen, and Maine Speaker of the House John Martin, was developed to provide advice on the selection of sites for interpretation and preservation. In 1997, the National Park Service implemented the Maine Acadian Heritage Council as a nonprofit 501 (c) (3), as an umbrella organization coordinating the regional network of partnerships by which Maine Acadian culture is to be preserved and interpreted.

Since 1998, the MAHC has been fortunate to receive financial support from the National Park Service (NPS) on an annual basis, allowing the people of the St. John Valley to continue their work in preserving and promoting the Maine Acadian culture and its historic treasures.

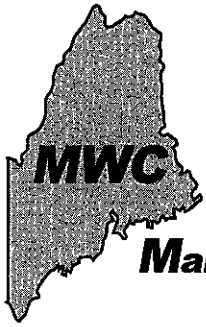
MAHC has also sponsored the following eight publications: St. John Valley Welcome Guide (1999); St. John Valley Cultural Directory (2000); Traditions d'icitte (2002); Heritage Sites of the St. John Valley (2007); Voici the Valley Cultureway (2007); Revue de la Société historique du Madawaska (2008); The Land In Between (2009); Destination Madawaska (2009)

Happy
New Year!

2016

Bonne et
Heureuse Année

Et le Paradis à la fin de vos jours



Maine Woods Company LLC

February 10, 2016

To: Citizens of Portage Lake

On behalf of Maine Woods Company LLC, I wish to submit our annual summary of operations for 2015. It was a busy year for MWC with many capital expenditures for the continued quality improvement of our product. Along with the development of a Quality Assurance Program we invested 2.4 million dollars in capital improvements including 1.7 million on a new grading line for our kiln dried lumber. This grading line completed in late September has added 8 new jobs and has already brought us closer to achieving our goal of being one of the premier hardwood sawmills in the northeast.

Our Safety program has again paid off with a continued culture of safety resulting in no loss time accidents for 2015 and we had our membership in the OSHA SHARP program renewed for 2 more years.

The market for low grade lumber continued to drop throughout 2015 bringing lumber prices downward across all markets. This was caused by several factors, the poor housing markets both for new homes and remodeling, poor demand from China because of their weakening economy and our exchange rate with Canada which is a traditional market for flooring grade lumber. It has been a benefit to be affiliated with Moosewood Millworks that continues to grow their business based on the same quality concept. We have grown our marketing and sales staff to combat these issues.

We are very optimistic that the moves we have made have given us the tools to improve sales based on shipping a consistent, quality product to our customers resulting in repeat business.

All of us at MWC appreciate the continued support of all the citizens of Portage Lake.

Sincerely,

Jeff Poirier, Operations Manager

Maine Woods Company, LLC

**TIF Spreadsheet
Maine Woods Company, LLC**

1999 to 2019

Original Assessment: 1,087,170

Year	Original/ Current	Captured Assessed Val	Mil Rate	Taxes Before Disc.	2% Disc. on Current	Taxes After Discount	Town CAV %	Town Share	Payback Amt to Maine Woods
1999	1,087,170 7,402,800	6,315,630	0.0186	\$117,470.72	none	\$117,470.72	0%	\$0.00	\$117,470.72
2000	1,087,170 7,763,400	6,676,230	0.0136	\$90,796.73	none	\$90,796.73	0%	\$0.00	\$90,796.73
2001	1,087,170 8,563,870	7,476,700	0.0157	\$117,384.19	\$2,689.06	\$114,695.13	0%	\$0.00	\$114,695.13
2002	1,087,170 7,797,009	6,709,839	0.0173	\$116,080.21	\$2,697.77	\$113,382.45	0%	\$0.00	\$113,382.45
2003	1,087,170 8,134,491	7,047,321	0.0165	\$116,280.80	\$2,684.38	\$113,596.41	0%	\$0.00	\$113,596.41
2004	1,087,170 8,349,630	7,262,460	0.0163	\$118,378.10	\$2,721.98	\$115,656.12	25%	\$28,914.03	\$86,742.09
2005	1,087,170 9,565,873	8,478,703	0.0163	\$138,202.86	\$3,118.47	\$135,084.38	25%	\$33,771.10	\$101,313.29
2006SY	1,087,170 10,269,540	9,182,370	0.0081	\$74,377.20	\$1,663.67	\$72,713.53	25%	\$18,178.38	\$54,535.15
2006/2007	1,087,170 10,269,540	9,182,370	0.01655	\$151,968.22	\$3,399.22	\$148,569.01	25%	\$37,142.25	\$111,426.75
2007/2008	1,087,170 10,680,484	9,593,314	0.01755	\$168,362.66	none	\$168,362.66	25%	\$42,090.67	\$126,272.00
2008/2009	1,087,170 10,620,400	9,533,230	0.0146	\$139,185.16	\$3,101.16	\$136,084.00	50%	\$68,042.00	\$68,042.00
2009/2010	1,087,170 10,385,200	9,298,030	0.0141	\$131,102.22	\$2,928.63	\$128,173.60	50%	\$64,086.80	\$64,086.80
2010SY	1,087,170 8,633,500	7,546,330	0.0095	\$71,690.14	\$1,640.37	\$70,049.77	50%	\$35,024.89	\$35,024.89
2011	1,087,170 9,083,900	7,996,730	0.0171	\$136,744.08	\$3,106.69	\$133,637.39	50%	\$66,818.69	\$66,818.69
2012	1,087,170 8,337,400	7,250,230	0.01775	\$128,691.58	\$2,959.78	\$125,731.81	50%	\$62,865.90	\$62,865.90
2013*	1,087,170 7,676,400	6,589,230	0.0154	\$101,474.14	\$2,364.33	\$99,109.81	50%	\$49,554.91	\$49,554.91

6 mo.

6 mo.

Year	Original/ Current	Captured Assessed Val	Mil Rate	Taxes Before Disc.	2% Disc. on Current	Taxes After Discount	Town CAV %	Town Share	Payback Amt to Maine Woods
2014	1,087,170 7,248,500	6,161,330	0.014	\$86,258.62	\$2,029.58	\$84,229.04	75%	\$63,171.78	\$21,057.26
2015	1,087,170 6,988,900	5,901,730	0.01325	\$78,197.92	\$1,852.06	\$76,345.86	75%	\$57,259.40	\$19,086.47
2016		0		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	75%	\$0.00	\$0.00
2017		0		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	75%	\$0.00	\$0.00
2018		0		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	75%	\$0.00	\$0.00

*2013 This year the PP amt. was enough to trigger an Enhanced BETE reimbursement to the Town by the State

Calculate Taxable Valuation:	Captured Assessed Value:
RE Value (Current - original)	Current Value
+ PP (Assessed - BETE)	- Original Value
Total Taxable Valuation	Captured Assessed Value
2% discount is based on the current assessed value X the mil rate X 2%	

2019: 100% of taxes kept from Maine Woods Co. LLC, as TIF period of 20 years has expired (TIF ends October 19, 2018)

2015 TIF Report

The TIF Retained Revenues experienced some changes during fiscal year 2015, including the approved expenditure of a portion of the funds.

The current TIF Agreement with Maine Woods Company, LLC, which went into effect in 1999, provides for the town's TIF Retained Revenues to accumulate at the rate of 0% for the first five years, 25% for the second five years, 50% the next five and 75% during the last five years of the twenty-year TIF Agreement. 2015 was the 17th year of the agreement and the second year that Portage retained 75% of the mill's tax commitment.

The beginning balance for 2015 was \$145,687.88 (\$145,162.88 savings and \$525.00 checking).

\$57,259.40 was added to the account from the town's 75% portion of retained tax revenue for 2015 from Maine Woods Company, LLC.

Interest earned in 2015 was \$584.99, resulting in a 12/31/2015 total balance of \$203,532.27.

The TIF Advisory Committee recommended that the proposed 2015 resurfacing of West Road from the intersection of Route 11 to the Maine Woods Company entrance road be partially funded by the TIF account. This was an approved expenditure per the State of Maine DECD. The expenditure of "up to" \$190,000 from the TIF account was authorized by Article 4 at the special town meeting held on 01/21/2015.

The total cost for this project was \$199,094.11. \$48,000 was paid by the state to the town of Portage for use towards this project. The balance of \$151,094.11 will be expended from the TIF savings account in the future as the payments on the \$350,000 loan come due.

The current usable balance of the TIF account (subtracting the future loan payments) is \$52,438.16.

Respectfully,

TIF Advisory Committee – David Farnum and Judy Moreau

Portage Town Forest Report – 2015

During the calendar year of 2015, there was timber harvesting on 160 acres of the town's 8,073 forested acres. The harvests' took place on the common undivided lands about 2 miles west of the Maine Woods Company mill. The winter harvests' were in softwood dominated stands and included overstory removals and riparian zone harvests. The summer harvests' were in mixedwood stands and was focused on softwood & poor quality hardwood removal as a multiple entry harvest.

We also harvested a bit more along the edge of the new snowmobile trail to facilitate the excavator work being done to make that an all season trail.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Stedman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Matthew Stedman

Planning Forester

Irving Woodlands LLC