

The Bridge

TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK



Fall 2025

The Nature Conservancy Looks to Purchase Dams; Many Unknowns Remain for Norridgewock

Last month, news formally broke that Brookfield Renewable, the owner of four dams on the lower Kennebec River, had entered into a purchase and sale agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC's intent has been clear: they will seek to have the dams decommissioned and removed to help restore the river's natural flow and improve fish passage for migratory species. While the environmental benefits are a key focus, there are also significant economic considerations. Chief among them is the potential impact on SAPPi's Somerset Mill in Skowhegan, which relies on water flow from the Shawmut Dam to support its operations. TNC has stated that it intends to ensure the mill continues to have an adequate water supply throughout and after the transition.

The sale process is expected to take at least one year, during which time Brookfield will continue to operate the dams as usual. Each river community faces unique circumstances, and local officials have appreciated that TNC has already begun outreach to discuss potential concerns.

In a recent meeting with TNC representatives, the Town Manager outlined a few initial requests for information. While the process is still in its early stages, there is shared understanding that such a significant change in river management will have environmental, economic, and community-level implications. Among the requests made:

- That visual renderings be provided to illustrate what the Kennebec River might look like in Norridgewock if the Weston Dam in Skowhegan were removed;
- That clarification be provided on whether the shoreland zone and floodplain boundaries would change as a result; and
- That officials identify who would be responsible for any necessary re-mapping or related costs.

These are early but important questions for the community as the conservation continues. Residents are encouraged to stay informed as new information becomes available. The Nature Conservancy has pledged to hold local meetings and to include public input as part of the process. When those meetings are scheduled, the Town will ensure public notice is posted and residents have an opportunity to participate in shaping the river's future. ♦

Town Events & Important Dates

October 15. 2026 Dog Licenses Become Available.

October 18, 9AM – 2PM. Makers Market. Somerset Grange.

October 18, 10:30AM. Author Meet & Greet with Ron Currie. Norridgewock Public Library. Currie is the author of *The Savage, Noble Death of Babs Dionne*,.

October 25, 5PM. Truck on Treat. Mill Stream Elementary School. Sponsored by Mill Stream Parent Teacher Group.

October 30, Deadline to Request Absentee Ballot. Without special circumstances, this is your deadline to request an absentee for the 11/4 election.

October 30, 5PM. NPL Book Club. Norridgewock Public Library. The group will discuss *The Sea Flower* by Ruth Moore

November 4, 8AM – 8PM. Referendum Election. Mill Stream Elementary School.

November 8, 10:30AM. Holiday Card Making. Norridgewock Public Library. Free, registration required.

November 11. Veterans Day. All non-emergency Town departments closed.

November 20, 5PM. NPL Book Club. Norridgewock Public Library. The group will discuss *Beautiful Ugly* by Alice Feeney

November 22, 9AM – 2PM. Mill Stream Holiday Craft Fair. Mill Stream Elementary School.

November 27-28. Thanksgiving. All non-emergency Town departments closed.

December 6, 10AM. Wreath Making Workshop. Somerset Grange. Free, registration req'd; FMI, contact the Library

December 13, 5PM. Holiday Stroll & Tree Lighting. Norridgewock Public Library.

December 18, 5PM. NPL Book Club. Norridgewock Public Library.

December 25-26. Christmas. All non-emergency Town departments closed.

December 31, 2025. All delinquent taxes and sewer use charges as of this date will be listed in the Town Report.

January 1-2. New Year's. All non-emergency Town departments closed.

January 19. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. All non-emergency Town departments closed.

Select Board Approves the Formation of a Library Building Committee

The Norridgewock Select Board has authorized the creation of a new Library Building Committee to guide planning and development for a potential new public library on Mercer Road. The committee, approved at the September 17 meeting, will explore the feasibility of developing the Mercer Road lot for a new library and, if deemed viable, will oversee the project's design, budgeting, and community engagement. The initiative aims to ensure that the proposed facility meets the community's evolving needs while remaining fiscally responsible and visually appealing.

The Select Board appointed Jean Lancaster, Roger Collard, Richard LaBelle, Lindsey Lynch, Jeffrey Jones, Sheila Leavitt, and Deanna Meservie to serve on the committee. Mrs. Lancaster will chair this committee, as she is also the Chair of the Library Board of Trustees. The group will act as a liaison between the Select Board, Library Trustees, and the broader community, providing regular updates and gathering public input throughout the process.

According to the approved committee description, early work will focus on assessing community needs and reviewing conceptual designs. A public input phase is expected to begin in October, followed by design development through late 2025 and early 2026. The committee's goal is to present a full proposal, including cost estimates, design plans, and potential funding sources, to the Select Board and voters at the March 2026 Town Meeting.

If approved by voters, the new library would replace the existing 30-by-60-foot facility with a modern, accessible building. Very preliminary designs call for dedicated spaces for children and families, a large community room, expanded book collections, technology stations, and quiet reading areas. Outdoor amenities could include greenspace, seating, and a story walk area to encourage year-round community use.

The Library Building Committee's work marks a major step toward reimagining Norridgewock's public library for the next generation—ensuring that the facility continues to serve as a hub for learning, creativity, and community connection for years to come.

More information about the Library Building Committee and the works it accomplishes will be posted on the Town website at www.norridgewock.gov/librarybuilding. ◆



*There's something
happening for everyone at*



**NORRIDGEWOCK
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday 10AM – 6PM
Wednesday & Saturday 10AM – 2PM

40 Mercer Rd., Norridgewock
Between the school and the ballfields!
(207) 634-2828 • library@norridgewock.gov
Kelli Dorais, Librarian

Town Recognizes Tim Lyman's Service, Retiring from Wastewater Treatment Facility

Wastewater Treatment Facility Operator Tim Lyman is headed toward retirement after many years of dedicated service to the Town of Norridgewock. A lifetime resident, Tim has spent the last several years directing the Town's Sewer Department, where his leadership and technical expertise have ensured the continued success of a well-maintained and reliable facility.

Tim's commitment to his community has always been evident in his work. Even as he transitions into retirement, he will remain involved in an assistant capacity to help guide the department through its next chapter and ensure a smooth transition in operations. His thoughtful management and attention to detail have provided ratepayers with dependable service, and his efforts have helped minimize the impact of rising operational costs.

At a recent Select Board meeting, the Town Manager and Board Members recognized Tim for his service and presented him a chair as a token of thanks. Prior to working for the Town, Tim worked over 26 years at Madison Paper Industries, followed by a stint at SAPPi. In his retirement, we expect he'll spend a fair share of his time on deferred projects around the house, but will also find substantial time to enjoy his grandchildren.

The Town extends its heartfelt gratitude to Tim for his years of dedication and wishes him the very best in his well-earned retirement. ♦



Tim Lyman was presented a Boston Rocker in recognition of his service to the Town. The chair from, Standard Chair of Gardner, bears the Town Seal on the front and a commemorative plaque on the reverse.

The Norridgewock Sportsmen Association Has Been Hard at Work!

Our members have spent countless hours this summer repairing trails, maintaining safe passage along the Kennebec Valley Trail, and preparing everything for the upcoming winter season.

We were proud to take part in Oosoola Days, where we spent two great days serving food, chatting with residents, and hearing from the people who enjoy our trails every day. We also enjoyed participating in the first-ever Fall Festival at Oosoola Park!

Though we're a small group, we're a mighty one... and we get a lot done! We're always looking for new members to join us in keeping our trails and community thriving. If you're interested in helping out, please reach out! Visit our Facebook page, stop on by our website (norridgewocktrailz.wordpress.com) or attend one of our meetings. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 6:00 pm, at the Fire Station. ♦ KAE



To receive periodic text alerts about the trails in Norridgewock, text
TRAIL to **38276**

DON'T FORGET... **YOU NEED A BURN PERMIT**

If you're burning brush, State Law requires you to have a burn permit. Permits are FREE. You can get a permit at the fire station or online through Maine Open Burn Permit, weather-dependent. Call the fire station (634-2208) if you have questions.



472 Airport Rd.
634-2714

Waste Management is a private business. As a convenience to residents, we provide their transfer station hours,

- X Sun, Mon, Tues Closed
- Weds, Thurs, Fri 9:30am – 6:00pm
Sat 7:30am – 4:00pm

Fall Into Fun at the Norridgewock Public Library

What an amazing summer we had at the Norridgewock Public Library. We had great attendance for our programs as well as patrons' attendance. One highlight was our octopus friend, Otto. Otto appeared in our children's area and each time a child or young adult visited the library this summer, they added a link to Otto's tentacles. He grew arms long enough to stretch out of the children's area and into other parts of the library.

In other summer news, the library's Summer Reading Squad reading challenge had a 95 percent increase in the number of children receiving awards. We received an honorable mention from Beanstack for our reading challenge participation within our population category.

School-year programs started up in September with Tadpole Storytime participants making handprint mice and apple stamp art. Tadpoles meet every first and third Thursday at 10:30 AM for a story, craft and song/dance. On October 16, tadpoles will celebrate Halloween and make a real pumpkin monster. Look for holiday-related storytimes November 6 and 20 and December 4.



Homeschoolers learned about the Wabanaki people and their way of life during a lesson with Janice Malek earlier this month. Participants weaved a bookmark and made a birch paper basket.

The library's Kindergarten through 3rd grade program, Froglets, met in September and made silhouette art with autumn shapes. Children also heard the story *Have You Seen My Acorn?* By DK Ryland. On October 28 at 3:00 PM, participants will listen to the story *Ghouldilocks and the Three Ghosts* by Annie Sullivan and decorate real pumpkins with melted crayons. Look for a Froglet event in December, as well.



Another fun event is the Palmer Lego Club that meets every third Tuesday at 3:00 PM. Participants made balloon-powered race cars in September and will be making catapults and creating their own builds on October 21 at 3:00 PM.

In September, the library's Book Club met and discussed its book selection, *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. Join us the last Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM for lively discussions of our monthly books. In October, we will be reading *The Sea Flower* by Ruth Moore and in November, *Beautiful, Ugly* by Alice Feeney. Contact the librarian for more details.

We also had a table at Norridgewock's Fall Festival at Oosoola Park over the holiday. Similar to the Oosoola Days table, we offered children's crafts, bookmarks and temporary tattoos.

The library is pleased to welcome Maine author Ron Currie on October 18 at 10:30 AM. Ron will discuss his new book, *The Savage, Noble Death of Babs Dionne*.

Adults will enjoy making holiday cards with Norridgewock resident and library volunteer Sharon Adams on November 8 at 10:30 AM. Spaces are limited. Contact the library to reserve your spot.

Our Facebook page is the source for all library events and announcements. Be sure to like our page at <https://www.facebook.com/norridgewocklibrary> to stay up-to-date on library happenings. We hope to see you soon! ♦ KLD

DID YOU KNOW?

A *Palindrome* is a word or sentence that is the exact same, whether it is spelled backward or forward. Level or taco cat are two examples of palindromes.

A sentence includes Was it a car or a cat I saw?

KNOW MORE...

with Norrie

Roads and Responsibilities



Not all roads in Maine are the same, and not all are maintained by the same people. Across the state, and right here in Norridgewock, roads fall into three general categories: State, Town, and Private. Each carries different responsibilities for construction, repair, and winter maintenance.

State Roads are owned and generally maintained by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT). These include major travel corridors such as Route 2, Route 8, and Route 201A. The State is responsible for all paving, striping, signage, and plowing on these roads. There are some State roads, however, that are classified as *State-Aid Roads*; the Town will partially support maintenance on

State roads. Residents who have concerns about any State road, such as potholes, drainage issues, or signage, should contact MDOT directly through their online maintenance reporting form or by calling the regional office in Wilton (562-4228). State Roads in Norridgewock include Route 2 (Mercer Road and Skowhegan Road), Route 201-A (Bridge Street and Madison Road), Route 139 (Waterville Road).

So, about these State Aid Roads... State-Aid Roads in Maine are public roads that are jointly maintained through a partnership between the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the town in which they are located. These roads are typically secondary routes that connect local roads to major state highways, serving both regional and local traffic. While ownership of the roadway generally remains with the municipality, MDOT provides financial assistance or technical support for construction, paving, or reconstruction projects. The Town usually helps with plowing these routes. This shared approach allows smaller communities to maintain important connector roads without bearing the full cost burden, ensuring that travel routes remain safe, accessible, and consistent with state highway standards. State-Aid Roads in town include Smithfield Road and River Road.

Town Roads are maintained by the Town of Norridgewock, through its Public Works Department. The Town is responsible for year-round maintenance, including paving, grading, ditching, culvert upkeep, and snow removal. Examples of Town roads include Ward Hill Road, Upper Main Street, Bombazee Road, and Sandy River Street. Funding for Town road work comes from local property taxes.

Private Roads are not maintained by the Town or the State. Instead, property owners who use these roads are responsible for all maintenance, including snow plowing, gravel replacement, and culvert cleaning. In many cases, a neighborhood road association or group of residents shares the cost and responsibility for keeping the road passable. There are dozens of private roads in Norridgewock, but some of the most prevalent, in terms of maintenance concerns heard by the Town Office are Hatto Farm Road, Park Street, and Tempesta Way. Residents and property owners on these private roads should cooperate to get work done on their road.

If you live or own property on State or State-Aid Roads, you'll want to ensure that you're compliant with DOT's requirements for entrances and driveways, mailbox maintenance, etc. Before creating or altering a driveway or road entrance, property owners must obtain a Driveway/Entrance Permit. For entrances onto State roads, MDOT issues the permit. For Town roads, the Town Office reviews and approves applications to ensure proper drainage, sight distance, and safety. Installing or altering a culvert without approval can cause drainage problems and may violate local or state regulations.

Reporting a Problem. If you notice a washout, pothole, fallen tree, or other road hazard on a Town-maintained road, contact the Norridgewock Town Office at (207) 634-2252 or the Public Works Garage at (207) 634-2253. Issues on State roads should be reported directly to the Maine Department of Transportation. For private roads, residents should work with neighbors or the road association to address concerns.

Online Reporting. The State offers an online form to report issues, maintenance requests, and other inquiries. For those requests visit, <https://www.maine.gov/dot/about/regions/western-region-3>. The Town also provides an online form that residents can use to submit concerns at www.norridgewock.gov/concern. One quick note: You can also use the Town's form to submit building violations, sidewalk issues, or any other concern you may have that is Town-related. ♦

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**FULL-TIME & PART-TIME.
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NORRIDGEWOCK TOWN OFFICE**

The Town of Norridgewock offers competitive wages, a comprehensive benefits package, and a strong healthcare plan. We value our employees and strive to maintain a supportive, team-oriented work environment that promotes personal and professional growth.



Thank you, from the Norridgewock Historical Society!

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the NHS Fall Yard Sale a success. From those who made donations to the volunteers (members and non-members) who just showed up to help before, during, and after the sale. It was a fun day for us and very encouraging to see such support for the Historical Society's work and the Museum.

Please remember that you can arrange to visit the Museum anytime simply by going to our website or sending us an email. We'd love to give you, your family, and/or guests a free tour anytime.

Becky Ketchum, NHS President
Website: www.norridgewockhistoricalsociety.org
Email: norridgewockhistsoc@gmail.com

MAKERS MARKET EVENT: OCTOBER 18

The Norridgewock Grange is hosting its second open-air Makers Market on October 18, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The market provides the opportunity for local artisans and crafters to market their work for free; the Grange doesn't charge for using their space. The idea for the market came about because it meets the key mission of the Grange: Community Service. The market promotes the work of our local artists and crafters and brings people together as they mingle and enjoy the fair-like atmosphere of the event. The main requirement for vendors who apply for a space is that the items that they sell in their space must be handmade or handcrafted.

As word of mouth spread following the first market in July, we are happy to report that the response from the artisans and crafters has been great. Spaces are booked to capacity for the October market, and a waiting list is in place.

A new event for this second market is a Silent Auction. The Silent Auction will help promote the market, its individual vendors, and will help support the Grange. Among the items in the Silent Auction: participating vendors will donate one of their handmade goods and the Grange will donate a season pass to next year's Grange suppers. Local businesses who would like to be part of the Silent Auction are welcome! Proceeds from the auction will be used for the Grange's on-going efforts to preserve our beloved old building!

If you or your business would like to make a contribution to the Silent Auction, please contact Grange Master Art Haines at 696-5596. We hope to see you at the Grange! ♦ RFK

Staff Attend Municipal Association Training

Town Office staff attended the Maine Municipal Association's convention in Bangor recently, joining hundreds of municipal officials from across the state for workshops, networking, and professional development.

The annual convention provides training and resources to help local government operate more effectively and efficiently. Staff attended sessions on topics including ethics, elections, vital records, community development, artificial intelligence in the workplace, volunteerism, and empowering youth in the community.

This convention is an opportunity for municipal leaders to share ideas, learn best practices, and strengthen connections with peers and state officials. Norridgewock continues to invest in professional growth and ensure that local operations reflect current standards and innovative approaches to public service. ♦



The Parks Committee extends a sincere
THANK YOU

to each financial contributor that helped make this year's
Oosoola Days a remarkable community success!



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Lambert's Auto Body

Bailey Family of Dunkin

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...and to the hardworking men at the airport and Norridgewock Public Works

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Town Recognized with Workplace Safety Award

The Maine Department of Labor recently visited the Town of Norridgewock to present the SHAPE Award to the Fire Department, Wastewater/Sewer Department, and the Town Office. These three departments successfully met the rigorous standards set forth under the program, resulting in a discount to the Town's workers' compensation insurance.

The Safety & Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE) Award recognizes public-sector employers who maintain exemplary safety and health management systems. Acceptance into the program distinguishes the Town of Norridgewock as a model for workplace safety and health. In addition to the financial benefit, SHAPE-certified departments are exempt from programmed safety inspections, underscoring the Town's proactive commitment to safety.

Steve Greeley, Director of Workplace Safety & Health Division, and Program Manager Mary Matthews, both of the Maine Department of Labor, were in attendance to present the recognition to the Town. ◆

