

THE BRIDGE

Summer 2023
Norridgewock, Maine

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www.townofnorridgewock.com

Rail Trail Progress Continues

State officials came to Norridgewock in late June to provide an informational session, updating the public on progress related to the rail trail. Nearly 80 people were in attendance. Bisecting Norridgewock, the trail offers significant economic potential for our community but also carries concerns, as expressed by some present. Presenters also reviewed the financial implications of the project, including the source of revenues and drivers of expense.

The State purchased the 32.32-mile corridor from Pan Am Railways for \$1 million. In 2021, rail and tie removal began, which netted over \$452,000 through the sale of what was being removed. As a part of that project, 8 million pounds of steel and 12 million pounds of ties were removed.

A significant amount of money is being spent on trestle upgrades, with an additional \$108,000 going to improve smaller bridges and \$155,545 for general trail development. As the project continues, brushing, ditching, and grading need to take place, as well as culvert replacements, washout repairs, and surface repairs. While the projected timeline for trail opening seems to be constantly shifting, officials are hopeful for a great snowmobile season on this new section of trail.

If you want to get more involved with the trails, please get in touch with the Norridgewock Sportsmen Association. ♦



NORRIDGEWOCK CROSSING • The trestle over the Kennebec River in Norridgewock is seen above in mid-June 2023. The State of Maine is spending nearly \$535,000 on upgrades to trestle crossings in Norridgewock, Madison, and Anson.

Resident, Business Owners Donate New Building for Oosoola Park

New England Rent to Own, LLC (located on the River Road in Chelsea and online at newenglandrenttoown.com) graciously donated a new building for placement at Oosoola Park. The company is owned by Norridgewock resident Jeremy Turner and his business partner Bobby Miller.

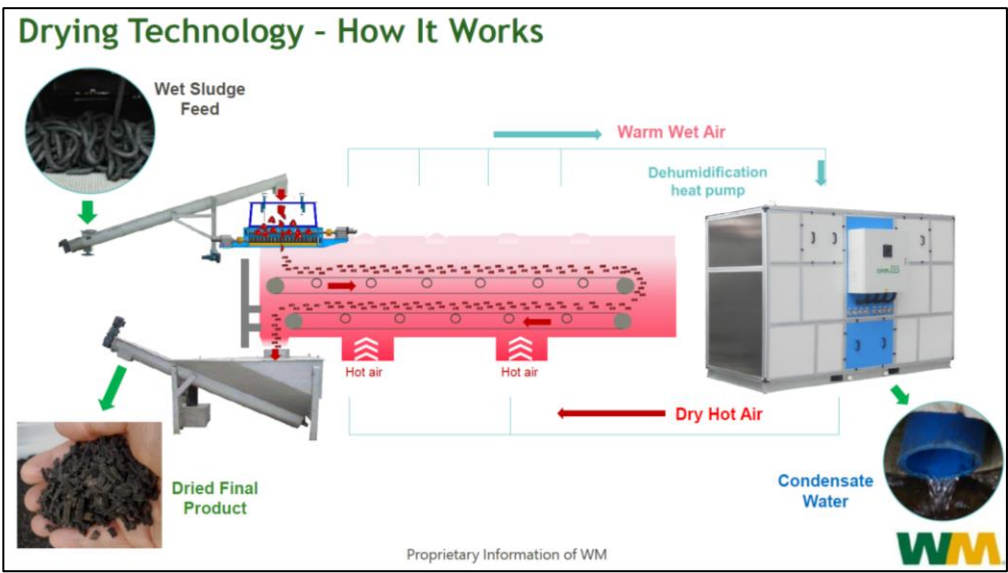
The building is a vital step toward enhancing the riverfront area. The 10' x 20' building will host equipment to provide wireless internet in Oosoola Park and surveillance equipment to protect taxpayers' investments. It will be used for Parks Committee storage to support the ever-increasing number of events being hosted.

We are grateful for Jeremy and Bobby's generosity and look forward to other significant developments in Oosoola Park and our community that make Norridgewock an even better place to live, work, and visit! ♦



Waste Management Affiliate Proposes Biosolids Processing Facility

Maine Regional Conversion Facility, LLC, an affiliate of Waste Management Disposal Services of Maine, is proposing the construction of a biosolids processing facility at the landfill property on the site of the former tire processing facility. The proposal includes an approximately 18,100 square feet facility that would house three large (about 100 feet long) low-temperature belt-type dehumidifiers. The dryers would be powered using renewable energy from the on-site 3.2 MW landfill-gas-to-energy electricity plant. The state-of-the-art heat pump design will help to efficiently dry biosolids from about 70% to less than 30% water content, which supports more efficient disposal in the secure landfill.



The proposed development remains in front of the Planning Board for local consideration but has already been through the review and public hearing process. The applicant also requires at least two permits from the State of Maine before the project can proceed. If the expected project timeline remains, the project could be up and running before the end of 2025 (approximately 18 months from the conclusion of permitting).

With forecasts, the facility expects to process 200 wet tons daily, with an average of 8-10 deliveries per day. The 200 wet tons will be reduced to 50 tons of dried solids output that will then be disposed of within the secure landfill. The facility's operations will align with existing operations, Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, with an option for Saturday receiving.

Concerns about odor have been heard, but no air emissions are associated with drying, which occurs in an entirely closed-loop system. According to the application, "The only by-product is condensate (the water removed), which will be collected and pumped to an above-ground tank, treated on-site, and then transported off-site in enclosed tanker trucks to [Municipal Publicly Owned Treatment Works] for treatment. The [facility] will feature a fully enclosed receiving area with engineered odor control to significantly reduce the potential for off-site impacts."

According to the application, the estimated cost of the proposed facility is \$35 million; the facility would also employ approximately one-half dozen new full-time equivalent employees. ♦

Norridgewock Public Library

Library Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Wednesday & Saturday
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Did you know...

The library is available for groups that would like to meet and play D&D, Magic, cribbage, or other games. FMI, call 634-2828.



Airport Rd.
634-2714

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

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



The Town Office will be closed:

Sept 4– Labor Day
Oct 4– Staff Training
Oct 9– Indigenous Peoples' Day
Nov 7- Election Day
Nov 10 – Veteran's Day, observed
November 23-24- Thanksgiving

**Subject to change, office is open weather-permitting*

2023 OOSOOOLA PARK

Music Series

Ferry Road, Norridgewock

Wednesdays in August

6:00 – 7:30 PM



- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| Aug 02. | Crooked Bill |
| Aug 09. | Mike Rodrigue |
| Aug 16. | The Shack |
| Aug 23. | Bob Colwell w/ Dickie Doo Hollis |
| Aug 30. | Chris Poulson & The Social Club |

Proudly sponsored by
Franklin
Savings Bank

** Hosted by Christine Poulson **



OOSOOLA DAYS

—— Celebrating 50 Years ——

CENTRAL MAINE REGIONAL AIRPORT

and

OOSOOLA PARK

www.townofnorridgewock.com/oosooladays

SEPTEMBER 3 & 4

Barrel Train ★ Horseshoe Tourney ★ 5k & Fun Run ★ Parade ★ Frog Races

Cornhole Tourney ★ Duck Drop ★ Cruise In ★ Great Food ★ Fly In

Candy Drop ★ Live Music ★ Airplane Rides ★ ATV Course ★ Craft Vendors

Oosoola Days Celebration to Mark Half a Century of Community Fun

It's been 51 years since the first Oosoola Days celebration occurred here in Norridgewock, but with the one-year COVID hiatus, 2023 will mark the 50th celebration. Founded by "Big Al" Lewis, the event has become locally famous for the frog-jumping contest held at Oosoola Park on Labor Day Monday.

The event has grown in recent years and expanded to two days. This year's Oosoola Days will kick off on Sunday, September 3, at the Central Maine Regional Airport and Monday, September 4, in Oosoola Park. The parade down Main Street will be held on Monday at 9:00 a.m., with the lineup beginning at Mill Stream Elementary School at 8:30. All organizations, groups, and businesses are invited to participate. We look forward to seeing everyone there! ♦

Ashley Wing Park Work Continues

Last year, the Town was approved for a grant to develop a park-and-ride facility at the Ashley J. Wing Family Memorial Park, a 5-acre parcel of land on the Martin Stream Road that is also home to one of the largest eastern white pine trees in the State of Maine. As a part of that development, there is also a new structure beginning to appear that will tactfully house portable toilets, offering convenience to property users and recreators passing through. Upon the approval of the park-and-ride project, another project began to run parallel: the enhancement and preservation of the area around the giant pines and the improvement of the space to be more attractive and informative of the area's flora, fauna, and history.

Bridge Street resident Janice Malek stepped up to take the lead, conducting research, holding meetings with relevant agencies, and developing a plan for the preservation project. In mid-July, Janice welcomed folks from the Maine Forest Service (and Project Canopy) as they measured Norridgewock's giant pine, pictured at right. Last measured in 2017, the tree has grown one foot taller and gained 8.5 inches in circumference.

While the tree may seem mundane to some, it offers just one more point of unique pride for the community. Malek has been working closely with Town staff to develop her plan for the space and see it through. Key improvements include pathways, the addition of boulders and other natural barriers to restrict vehicular access to the forested area, as well as enhanced signage.

The property holds stories of historical value aside from the massive pine. The acreage abuts the former rail track and was also bisected by a spur line to access the Dodlin quarry (authorized for construction by the legislature in 1874). Did you know that granite from Dodlin Hill was used to construct the Good Will Chapel in Hinckley and the 1904 Post Office in Muskegon, Michigan?! ♦

An Update from Maine Laboratories

Founded in 2022, Maine Laboratories, LLC was the first lab to offer PFAS testing services on-site. The headquarters of the lab is at 25 Main Street, in the building that was formerly Dr. Baker's office. In April of this year, folks from across the state gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the new lab.

Since the grand opening, Katie and the team have continued to work tirelessly to enhance their services and grow as a business. According to a recent press release, "the lab has been officially certified as an Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB) by the Small Business Administration (SBA)." This classification will allow the company to compete for set-aside Federal contracts to support women-owned businesses.

Maine Laboratories has received accreditation through the Maine Laboratory Accreditation Program (MLAP) to perform PFAS testing under the EPA Method 533. Additionally, the lab has been added to the Maine DEP Pre-approved PFAS Testing Lab list, granting it the ability to contract with Maine state agencies for PFAS testing in soil, water, groundwater, wastewater, animal, and plant tissues, among other matrices. "With all these accomplishments, Maine Laboratories is well-prepared to play a crucial role in advancing PFAS testing capabilities in Maine. The lab welcomes opportunities to collaborate with public and private partners to foster a cleaner and healthier future for all."

For more information on testing services, pricing, and more, visit their website at www.mainelaboratories.com. ♦





RIBBON CUTTING • The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce joined us in Norridgewock in late July to celebrate the grand opening of 3D Equipment's new facility at the corner of Waterville and Bigelow Hill Roads. 3D Equipment offers repair (and mobile repair) of construction, forestry, farming, and other types of equipment. At the event, Representative Jack Ducharme presented owner Devon Meservie with a letter of recognition (pictured above). They will also be presented with a plaque from the Town. The ribbon cutting represented a local business opening a new facility and the growth of a Norridgewock family-owned business. Congratulations and good luck, Devon, Deanna, and family! ♦



Senior Tax Stabilization Program Will End

Well, the State's done it again! LD 290 "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" program was enacted by the Legislature in August 2022 but was repealed by the same body in July. The program allowed qualified seniors to freeze their property taxes at the previous year's level regardless of income.

With the discontinuation of the program, qualified seniors who successfully applied before last December will benefit from the program this year only. Your 2023 tax bill will be the same as your 2022 tax bill (unless it is lower, in which case you'll benefit from the lower rate). In 2024, those taxes will return to the same rate as all others.

To help lower-income seniors avoid higher property taxes and remain in their homes, two existing programs have been expanded: Property Tax Fairness Credit and the Property Tax Deferral Program. Both of these programs include consideration for age and income. Your tax bill mailing will include an information sheet about these programs. Please keep an eye out.

It is important to note that these are State programs, and while the Town plays a role in the administration of the programs, the Town is not responsible for the policy objectives of these initiatives. ♦



2023 tax bills will be mailed the week of August 14

Due date: September 19, 2023

Norridgewock Sportsmen Association Raffling 10' x 12' Storage Shed

Storage Shed donated by New England Rent to Own

Tickets: \$50 each, only selling 200

To purchase your ticket(s), connect with a local club member or simply Venmo the club (@NSATrails or scan the code to the right) with a note that it is for a ticket. The club will respond with a ticket number and can mail you your raffle stub, if you'd like.

Drawing: October 31, 2023

