

All Maine Matters

Fishery Notes - Farming & Forestry, too!

Vol. 1, No. 1 January 2006

FREE

All Maine Matters Returns After Long Hiatus!

Welcome to the first edition of the second run of All Maine Matters. We hope that we have lived up to the fine reputation that this publication had earned during its previous run. If not, please let us know where we have failed.

Over the past few years, some of the finest people we've become acquainted with have had two things in common: a love for the way Maine ought to be, and an association with All Maine Matters. We hope and pray that those who have contributed to this publication in the past will feel motivated to do so again in the future.

All Maine Matters consists of news and commentary by and for the people of Maine. While we won't ignore the population centers of the state, we recognize that cities and larger towns are already well represented in the mainstream media, so our focus will be on rural Maine and those who too often don't seem to matter to the rest of the state.

Originally, All Maine Matters came from the merger of the newsletter published by Unorganized Territories United and the old Fisheries Notes. The publishers had come to realize that the forces

trying to depopulate the Unorganized Territories through rural cleansing were the same forces trying to shut down Maine's fishing industry. They want to establish the Gulf of Maine as a "non-extractive marine reserve". The newspaper was named because all of Maine does matter, even those of us above the Volvo line and it covered all the matters of importance to Maine that did not make it into so-called mainstream papers.

Those papers often picked up on themes from AMM after those stories appeared here. The mainstream media wondered how AMM would mysteriously appear statewide on the same day. Somehow it did, from Becky's Diner in Portland to a convenience store in Madawaska; from Calais to Bethel and in Millinocket too.

What was predicted in the old AMM has come to pass. All of our paper industry lands have been sold. Many paper machines and some mills are gone. Our population in rural Maine is decreasing. The long term plans of the Wildlands Project are coming to pass faster than the econazis had dreamed.

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Moose along the Brownville Road. Photo taken by Ken Anderson.

Medicare Prescription Provision

by Rep. Henry Joy

Much mail has filled my mailbox recently with information concerning the new Medicare Prescription Provision that was passed by Congress and signed by the President. The material is very confusing and does little to clarify the matter for most senior citizens. Clinics or advisory counseling are being held for seniors across the state and programs are on some of the radio stations in an effort to clarify matters for eligible persons. If one carefully looks at the proposal, he or she must come away from the briefing sessions shaking one's head. It may be a satisfactory program for an individual who is far below the so-called poverty level or for an individual with massive prescription needs, but...

If we consider the costs related to the program, it soon becomes apparent that the cost may outweigh the benefit.

Most informational descriptions indicate that a monthly fee will be deducted from an individual's social security amount. For those who are borderline in meeting living expenses, this may be the straw that breaks the camel's back. If an individual is too confused to sign up for a program this year, they may sign up in the open enrollment period near the end of 2006. This, however, carries an additional penalty for the enrollee. There is a per month fee added on to the premium to be deducted for those who delay in enrolling in the program.

A letter writer to the editor of a California Newspaper refers to this as "the Blackmail Clause". Sign up now for a questionable program or pay a bigger fee to sign up later for the same questionable program.

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JOIN THE PAPER TRAIL (AND SAVE A TREE): IF YOU ARE CONCERNED LIKE WE ARE, READ THIS PAPER, CIRCLE A NUMBER, AND PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND.

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DIRIGO... AGAIN

by Senator Paul Davis

In May of 2003, Governor Baldacci unveiled the Dirigo Health Plan. The Dirigo Plan promised to do the following:

- Provide affordable access to health insurance for those who were uninsured.
- Bring spiraling costs under control for those who already pay for health insurance.
- Assure that the health care delivered in Maine is of the highest quality.

In its first year, the Legislature provided the Dirigo Health Agency with one-time funds of \$53 million from a federal relief package originally earmarked specifically to offset the budget challenges caused by Medicaid shortfalls.

By now, chances are pretty good that when you open the paper and see another headline about Governor Baldacci's DirigoChoice Health Plan, you turn the page as fast as you can. I wish I could tell you that reaction was okay, but it isn't.

The reality is that DirigoChoice, the Governor's plan to overhaul Maine's health care system, should be of concern to every Maine citizen, especially the majority of us who are already paying for our own health insurance.

People across the state are beginning to ask questions. The answers they're getting are causing them to question the soundness of this boondoggle that is the bedrock of the Baldacci administration. My office has a constant stream of calls on this matter. Even those who have signed up for the program are growing increasingly suspicious of its benefits: Of the approximately 8,500 people originally enrolled in DirigoChoice, 1,200 of them dropped the coverage within ten months. That equals a customer-dissatisfaction rate of 14 percent.

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Finding Our Way

by Michael A. Beardsley

Aside from a few years in college when I fell off the wagon, I have been a conservative all my life.

In 1980, I was 10 years old, but even then, I realized the big guy with the warm smile and the quick wit was a better guy than the dopey looking guy with a drawl debating him. I could not vote that year, but if I could have, that vote would have been easy.

My first election was in 1988; I registered as a Republican and voted for George H.W. Bush.

As I got older, I started paying attention to the issues and read our Party's Platform.

I realized I am a Republican because I am conservative.

I am a Republican because the Republican Party is the best modern vehicle for conservative ideas and values

Primarily, I am a Republican because the Republican Party holds, as one of its central tenets, that human life deserves protection from the earliest stages.

I am a Republican because ours is the only Party that remembered the value of human freedom when most of the world was ready to consign billions to slavery.

I am also a Republican because the Republican Party is the Party that understands there is a moral value inherent in living within our means; and knows the danger Reagan spoke of when he said, "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are, I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

The consensus among Conservatives is

that we have forgotten that last one. We overlooked the fact a Government "hand up" tends to become the government "hand out" and when government acts as a crutch, it often becomes a ball and chain.

Nevertheless, because the Party still, nominally, holds to the Sanctity of Life and God-Given Natural Rights, they have me.

However, because of events like the nomination of Harriet Miers, the championing of candidates who ignore the bedrock issues of our platform, and, as in the case of the RNC and NRSC in Rhode Island, actively attack conservative Republicans in primaries, I must now add: Conditionally.

At one time, we took as self-evident that a government could not give to someone what it had not first taken from someone else. Recently, we have willingly sacrificed our freedoms and our money for the "greater good" under the guise of Medicare, hurricane relief, or the ever-popular "matching funds" for our communities. At some point, we Republicans stopped caring about spending.

I can accept that. Not happily, mind you. Nevertheless, I can accept it because I thought I understood what I was getting in return: The end of Roe.

For that I have traded a lot. I have been tolerant of Arlen Specter, Olympia Snowe, John McCain, and Lincoln Chaffee. I have made peace with the fact that Republican politicians, like their Democratic counterparts, like to be re-elected. I have accepted the fact that this White House and Congress see money as power.

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The Maine Jeremiah Project

The Maine Jeremiah Project was so named as a reminder of the Biblical principle found in Jeremiah 29:7 "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...and pray to the Lord on its behalf..." Beginning in May of 2005, a group of social conservative individuals and organizations began meeting out of a concern for what they see as the deteriorating state of Maine's culture, especially as reflected in the actions of state government. They have chosen to examine Scripture, American history and the needs of contemporary society.

Pastor Bob Emrich is one of the founders of the project and has hosted the meetings in Plymouth, giving a central location for the effort. The Jeremiah project website lists three objectives as the primary focus of the group. The objectives are to encourage informed prayer, to provide education regarding Biblical principles and historical precedent, and then to enlist appropriate action to influence public policies.

Progress has been made through the extensive use of email and the new website. Thinking that there is a need to inform people about current legislative and cultural issues, participants in the project have also provided speakers and materials for churches & schools. They have seen a strong interest in hearing a fresh approach regarding Biblical principles and accurate historical perspectives of moral/spiritual issues. Much of the effort and the time spent at recent meetings has been devoted to encouraging and instructing people in the use of appropriate means to influence public policy. According to Emrich, "the approach is really more historical than novel. We are hoping to restore the confidence of social conservatives and remind them that it is proper for them to join the great debates of the age. We want to dispel the false notion

that people of faith are prohibited from public policy debates," he added.

The confirmation process for President Bush's Supreme Court nominees has become a debate over abortion, euthanasia and religious freedom. Maine's two Republican Senators have been hesitant to show support for the President's choices for these very reasons. A Maine legislator recently proposed repealing all marriage laws and "same-sex" marriage became the focus of the recent referendum. Pastor Emrich has written that, "the actions of our Senators, coupled with extreme legislative proposals demonstrate the need for ordinary citizens to be aware and active in the political process." He is convinced that "Christians have been misled about their role in the influence of public policy. Most of what is commonly believed is clearly inaccurate when measured by Biblical or historical standards."

There is no plan or desire among the participants to establish a typical lobbying organization with staff and offices. It is more of a grassroots effort designed to educate and equip people to speak for themselves. The Maine Jeremiah Project leaves participants free to participate as they are comfortable without fear of compromising the mission of other organizations.

The Maine Jeremiah Project is co-sponsoring a free conference in March for Ministers throughout the State. The conference is advertised as "A Call To Arms" and will feature nationally acclaimed speaker, Dr. Robert Knight. Dr. Knight is the National Director of Concerned Women for America's Family and Cultural Institute. The conference will give Ministers the opportunity to explore the best methods to expand cultural influence in Maine.

We are also on the web at <http://allmainematters.com>

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The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlands Project by Marion Campbell

In the 1950s, The Nature Conservancy was a small Virginia-based organization funded by its members in order to preserve land for botanical and zoological study. It remained that way until Patrick Noonan took over in 1970. It was he who changed the focus of the organization to the secretive, manipulative, land grabbing entity it is today.

Acting in secret, and with money obtained from grants from wealthy family foundations, Noonan bought 14 of the 18 Virginia Barrier Islands, by creating a bogus front company. It was his idea to develop them into upscale vacation homes. To make way for the acquisition of the oceanfront lots for these homes, TNC "saved" the islands by "protecting" the shores from human intrusion so that those who lived nearby lost their livelihoods when their seafood and vegetable processing plants were forced to close. This caused an economic disaster and deepening poverty as opulent homes replaced what the locals had had before.

TNC further exacerbated the situation by creating another front group called Virginia Eastern Shore Corporation, which vowed to "fix" the problem by creating tourism businesses, craft shops and small real estate businesses. It was an utter failure, millions were lost, and poverty only deepened. The area lost taxable property to conservation, and the locals were prevented from accessing the islands. Since then, TNC has been taken over by the big money interests and has developed a network of wealthy family foundations such as Rockefeller, Mellon, and duPont, plus others, as well as industry giants such as Amoco, Ralston-Purina, and more.

Under its present chairman, Steve McCormick, head of its Board of Governors, it has become the wealthiest and most powerful land acquisition agent in the world. Famous people, from all walks of life, retired politicians and much of the national media support them. The Nature Conservancy is also the richest environmental organization in the world with approximately \$3 billion in total assets. Much of this has been accumulated from sales to the government and others of strategically acquired lands, and every penny they make from their land deals is tax-exempt.

This wealthy environmental organization controls more than 90 billion acres of land worldwide, with more than 12 million acres in the U.S. alone. Much of this land was acquired during the 1990s with the cooperation of Bill Clinton, Al Gore and their Department of Interior secretary, Bruce Babbitt.

A Clinton executive order ensured that activist environmental organizations such as TNC were immune to all lawsuits.

The stated mission of TNC is "to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive." With the help of private grants, TNC was able to leverage matching government funds in order to increase their power and control over the people by purchasing, then locking up the land. As with all radical environmental organizations, they "save" the environment and destroy the people.

In 1974, The Nature Conservancy science division developed a database that collected information on specific tracts of real estate, biodiversity inventories, areas in need of protection, biological legal monitoring, and critically threatened species.

This databank operates as a network of information that can be accessed by governments, natural resource agencies, corporations, researchers, academics and others from all over the world. TNC is now able to spread, worldwide, their gross misrepresentations of the truth of city people in order to continue to diminish the rights of private landowners and resource workers.

Since their first success in Virginia, TNC has always worked quietly behind the scenes, while politicians and land-use bureaus, both federal and state, become their front men. In every community targeted for land acquisition or economic destruction, a TNC operative moves in. They are well-educated and charming, and their job is to seek out the weaknesses that they can exploit. They become close to the people in the community, join their clubs, and volunteer in social programs -- all the while making their plans to betray the people's trust. When the land is acquired through sale, coercion, or condemnation, they leave. Behind them, they leave economic ruin, desolation, and human despair.

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NAIS: What Does it Take to Raise an Alarm These Days?

by Ken Anderson

I can remember when 1984 was a scary book. Today, it seems that we worry only about those things that we're told to worry about, and accept the answers that are given to us, no questions asked.

On September 11, 2001, three passenger planes were crashed into the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon, while a fourth came to fiery rest in a Pennsylvania field. Less than a month later, the USA PATRIOT Act was introduced in Congress, to be signed - more than 300 pages of it - on October 26, 2001 with few objections from the public or its elected representatives.

I am not about to join those conspiracy theorists who claim that an agency of the United States government was responsible for the 9-11 attacks, but it does seem clear to me that the USA PATRIOT Act had been already prepared, waiting in the wings for just such an occasion.

United States citizens were happy to trade in their rights for the sense of security offered by this Act.

Certainly the 9-11 attacks justified the media frenzy that followed it, but it also served a number of purposes that our government took full advantage of. But that's not what this article is about.

Over the past couple of years, we've been subjected to a series of media scares relating to our meat supply. From Mad Cow, to swine flu, to e.coli, to mutant flesh-eating viruses, and now the Avian flu, we've been led to believe that if we don't act immediately, we're all going to die.

Enter the National Animal Identification System, a governmental program which utilizes public-private partnerships in an attempt to identify and track every animal in the United States.

And despite the fact that we haven't had a single case of Mad Cow or the Avian flu transmitted to humans in the United States, and that the NAIS couldn't possibly do a thing to prevent contaminations of our meat supply occurring after the meat has been processed, we're all expected to expel a deep sigh of relief.

Uncle Sam has come through for us again. But at what cost?

The National Animal Identification System will force farmers, hobbyists, and even pet owners to register each animal they own, and tag that animal with an identifying tag, band, or implanted electronic chip, for the purpose of tracking that animal through the food chain whether or not it even enters the food chain.

When fully implemented in January of 2009, the NAIS will require two types of mandatory registration: registration of the premises, and registration of the animal.

Anyone who owns even one horse, cow, pig, sheep, chicken, pigeon, or any other livestock animal will be required to register their home, including the owner's name and other identifying information, along with the address of your farm or home, to be keyed to global positioning system (GPS) coordinates in a federal database under a 7-digit "premises ID number."

Additionally, each animal will have to be identified with a 15-digit ID number, also to be kept in the federal database. Even if you are raising your own food,

your animal will be required to have an ID number if it is to be sent to a slaughterhouse. Animals that do not have an ID number cannot be bought or sold, or used to obtain stud service.

Any animal that leaves the owner's premises for any reason will be required to have an ID number, and be tagged. This includes animals that are shown, as well as horses that may be ridden off of the owner's property.

The costs of this program are to be shared by the animal owners and the larger base of taxpayers, meaning that there are likely to be significant fees connected with full implementation of the NAIS program.

Large-scale meat producers are on board with the program, perhaps because they'll be given a break. Large herds of cattle, pigs, or other animals raised and processed together can be identified by a single group ID number, while farmers and ranchers with small groups of animals will, in most cases, have to identify each animal individually for purposes of breeding, sale, or slaughter. If own two cows, a horse, and twelve chickens, each would require an individual ID number if the animal is ever to leave your property for any reason, or have any contact (commingling) with any other animal.

The form of identification will most likely be an ear tag or implanted microchip containing a radio frequency identification device (RFID) which can be read from a distance. In addition to RFID tags, some industries may require the use of retinal scans or DNA identification for all animals.

The costs associated with this program may well be beyond the reach of small farmers and hobbyists, and make it impractical, from an economic standpoint, for people to raise their own meat.

The costs are not only economic, but time consuming as well. Within the system, animal owners will be required to report the birth date of each animal, including chickens, as well as the application of the animal's ID tag. Every time the animal enters or leaves the premises, this will have to be reported. When a tag is lost or replaced, this will need to be reported. If an animal dies, or goes missing, there will have to be a report. These events will have to be reported to the government within 24 hours.

With full implementation of this program in 2009, the USDA intends to ensure compliance with NAIS regulations in a manner not yet specified, but which could be expected to include fines or seizure of animals.

Another possible reason for the enthusiastic support of the NAIS program by large-scale meat producers is that, as stakeholders in the program, they will likely have control over much of it, perhaps putting them in a position to exert economic pressures on competing small farmers and homesteaders.

Will implementation of the NAIS make our meat supply safer? Probably not, and it's not likely that we'd know if it did. It's not like people are dropping like flies from Mad Cow disease, as it is. The NAIS might be compared to using a cannon to hunt black flies in February. The NAIS is likely to drive small meat producers out of business, placing an unfair economic burden on the traditional



American businesses that have fed us since we've existed as a nation. Once the program is established, animal owners will bear the costs associated with the requirements for registration, identification, and reporting.

Costs to large-scale producers of meat will be absorbed by consumers, raising the cost of living for all of us.

The NAIS will prevent many people from raising animals for their own food. The NAIS is said to be necessary in order to make our food supply secure against disease or terrorism, yet what can be more secure than raising your own food or buying from a local farmer who you actually know?

What of those, such as the Amish in Smyrna, who may have a religious objection to participating in a system of electronically numbering and identifying their animals? When fully implemented, the NAIS is a compulsory registration with the government of all people who wish to raise their own animals for food. As written, the NAIS will force these people to make a choice between abandoning their livestock or violating their religious beliefs.

As I read the documentation put out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and as I have searched for additional information on this program, I was struck by the fact that so little has been said about it in the media. Search engine results yield almost exclusively web sites put out by various federal and state agencies, and associations of large-scale meat producers, all of whom are enthusiastically supporting this program.

Sadly, it seems that opposition to the program appears to be limited to the Countryside & Small Stock Journal, published in Wisconsin, and someone in a forum on the Mother Earth News site.

Further information about the National Animal Identification System can be found online at www.usaip.info/. Please read it through for yourselves, but the scariest stuff that I found came from the USAIP's own FAQs. You'll find that when they ask a question and answer it no, the text often goes on to explain that, when the plan is fully implemented, the answer will be yes.

Never one to pass up federal funds or to neglect an opportunity to make government bigger, the State of Maine has implemented its own program, funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Its web site can be found at www.maine.gov/agriculture/idme/.

Although it seems to be slow in coming, there is yet time for an outcry over this program to have some effect. Small farmers and landowners can take action to oppose implementation of this plan.

First, do not participate in the "voluntary" state program to register either your farm or your animals, as they'll use your willingness to participate in the program as justification for making it mandatory for everyone in the near future. If state or federal officials urge you to register either your premises or your animals, ask them whether your participation is voluntary or mandatory. Ask to see a copy of any legislation that gives them the authority to require compliance.

More importantly, contact any farming, breeding, or other associations that you might be a member of, asking them to oppose the NAIS. Ask these organizations to sponsor letter-writing campaigns to elected officials, both state and federal.

Individually, you can write to your state and federal legislators. Letters sent via the postal service carry more weight than emails or form letters, but anything is better than nothing.

The United States Department of Agriculture plans the issuance of a NAIS rule for public comment in July of 2006. Be aware of this when the time comes, and be prepared to submit an individual comment opposing this rule.

Also, you should be aware of any state rules that might mandate earlier compliance. For example, Maine farmers are already being encouraged to voluntarily join the state's ID program, and it intends to implement mandatory registration of livestock premises by March 7, 2005.

I am surprised, and discouraged, that there isn't already an outcry over this program.

"... and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name."
-- Rev. 13:17 (NASB)

Ken is, among other things, the editor of the online news outlet Magic City Morning Star, on the web at <http://magic-city-news.com>.

National Animal Identification System Timeline

April, 2005 -- The USDA issued its Draft Strategic Plan & Draft Program Standards for public comment, which ended in July of 2005.

July, 2006 -- The target date for the USDA to issue a proposed rule setting forth the requirements for NAIS premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracking. There will be a limited public comment period after publication of the rule.

Fall, 2007 -- The USDA will publish a final rule to establish the requirements of the mandatory NAIS.

January, 2008 -- Premises registration and animal identification become mandatory.

January, 2009 -- Animal tracking becomes mandatory, including enforcement of the reporting of all animal movements.

The Maine Woods Coalition Seeks To Enhance Economic Development And Block Creation Of A Maine Woods National Park

by Gene Conlogue

The Maine Woods Coalition was formed in January of 2001 following a public meeting in Greenville the previous August that was sponsored by advocates for a new federally funded national park in north central Maine. The primary organization pushing for this park, RESTORE: the North Woods, is based in Concord, Massachusetts with an office in Hallowell.

RESTORE has proposed a 3.2 million acre park and preserve in the heart of Maine's most valuable forest. The park would decimate the forest products industry, sporting camps, and other businesses in the area. Camp owners would lose their property in the park area and restrictions on use of the parkland by the public would be severe. The resulting unemployment would likely lead to another large decrease in the area's population since many jobs would be lost. Considering these factors, the opposition to the park idea was overwhelming at the August meeting and this led to the formal creation of the Coalition.

To put the size of this proposal in perspective, 3.2 million acres would be almost the size of the State of Connecticut. It would stretch from Baxter State Park west to the Quebec border and north of Routes 11 and 15, well into the heart of Maine's famed north woods. To date, the Coalition and our allies (including the Governor, the entire Congressional Delegation, and the Maine Legislature) have been successful in stopping the park idea in its tracks.

The primary purposes of the Coalition are to promote appropriate economic development in the north central

and northwestern part of the State and to oppose creation of the Maine Woods National Park. In the five years since its formation, the Coalition has been very successful in keeping the park at bay, advocating for issues important to our area's economy, and working with others on common goals. Membership is available to those who share the Coalition's perspectives and who live in or have property or a business in the four counties of Somerset, Piscataquis, Penobscot, or Aroostook. Parts of these four counties comprise the target area for the park proposal. While the Coalition gladly accepts donations to finance its activities, there are no membership dues.

In 2005, a major land company, Plum Creek, proposed a bold 30-year plan for some of its holdings in the greater Greenville area. 426,000 acres of its land would be involved in this plan. Of this amount, 417,000 acres would be protected for traditional uses such as forestry, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and other recreational uses.

The remaining 9,000 acres would be allocated to developing 975 camp lots; providing space for affordable housing; and encouraging economic development by setting aside land for an industrial park, two resorts, and campgrounds. Snowmobile and hiking trails would be permanently protected and the State would have an option to purchase a parcel of land it has long sought to protect.

The proposal would generate a large number of construction jobs that would last for many years and, with development, many other jobs could be created in the manufacturing, woods products, and tourism busi-

nesses in the area.

Because the project is designed to address a large land area all at one time, some are objecting to the Plum Creek plan. It is important to realize, however, that it is a long-term plan over 30 years and that some of its elements may never be realized or built. There are also critics who simply oppose almost all development of any kind, regardless of its benefits to the people who live in the region.

Based on the initial plans put forward by Plum Creek, the Maine Woods Coalition has endorsed the project as one that is consistent with responsible new economic development while protecting the existing economic base. It was also supported because the plan is a long-range, 30-year plan that gives everyone a clear picture of what is expected to occur over time, instead of other projects that are presented only on an incremental basis that often create more questions than answers. And the project does not seek public funds to make it successful; rather, it uses private money for its financing.

While most people in Maine believe in civil debate on controversial issues, there are others who prefer to shut down or intimidate such debate by perpetrating criminal acts against those with whom they disagree. Unfortunately, such people have surfaced in the Plum Creek issue.

While Plum Creek, its supporters, and many of its critics have involved themselves in the process provided by the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission to deter-

mine the fate of the project, a group of criminals has engaged in illegal activities such as vandalizing and attacking the property of Plum Creek, several employees, and supporters; the property of contractors; and some who have been mistakenly identified as having affiliations with the company. The violence has occurred on different occasions, but the boldest efforts occurred during the night of October 31 when vandals attacked several locations from Hallowell to Greenville. The violence has been condemned by a number of groups.

At its annual meeting on December 1, the Coalition unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the violence. As part of that action, the Coalition is also offering a \$500.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for these criminal acts. It is hoped that other groups may also consider offering a reward as well to help in the apprehension of those responsible.

More information about the Coalition is available at www.mainewoodscoalition.org.

Gene Conlogue is the Town Manager of Millinocket, Maine as well as Vice Chairman of the Maine Woods Coalition.

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What About Plum Creek?

by Scott Fish

Plum Creek Timber Co. wants to develop a small part (two percent) of the 907,000 acres of land around Moosehead Lake they own. It's their private property. Plum Creek's Plan will create much needed jobs in rural Maine. Piscataquis County's unemployment rate is 6.9 percent.

Right on cue, extreme enviros are attacking the plan to kill it. Maine enviros, aided by friends in the mainstream media, have already beaten Plum Creek into submitting a second plan.

If Piscataquis County residents want Plum Creek's plan to succeed, they best be ready to fight hard. The Plan and its jobs can succeed only if rural Maine goes on the offense. Defense is suicide. The rural Maine motto? Swords, not shields. If you don't stop the extreme enviros, they'll stop you. The Battle of Plum Creek is about rural Maine's survival. It's a war happening all over the U.S.A. Plum Creek is Maine's latest case study.

The Plum Creek Battle is happening on many fronts. In May, ecoterrorists vandalized Plum Creek's Fairfield, ME office with orange/black spray paint, covering the white clapboards /green roof with slogans, i.e., 2nd Growth NOT 2nd Homes and GO AWAY. In July, Plum Creek's Greenville office was burglarized, three computers and a hard drive stolen.

On Halloween night this year, ecoterrorists wearing black ski masks, again using paint, vandalized the Augusta office of Plum Creeks attorney and also the Oakland home of Plum Creek general manager Jim Lehner. Ecoterrorists that night broke four windows in Lehner's home with rocks. Project manager Luke Muzzy's home was hit with animal feces.

In July, old enviros with a new name (Save Moosehead) held a press conference vowing to kill Plum Creeks plan. Jonathan Carter told the Bangor Daily News, "Were going to attack from all sides.

Carter and company started a war. Rural Maine, especially Piscataquis County, gets the next move. After the Greenville burglary, Plum Creek's regional manager said, I did not expect this kind of criminal activity.

Why not? The anti-Plum Creek crew has been around. Their goals and tactics are widely known. Going up against them unprepared is foolish, a suicide mission. Swords, not shields.

There's a second front in this battle against rural Maine's economy. That is, urbanites believing the lie that rural Maine is one building away from becoming Newark, N.J. It's elites in-and-near government with multi-millions of tax dollars to use turning private rural land into government-owned land. They call it saving rural places. I call it rural cleansing. Portland wants to save Jackman (Pop: 1,057) from sprawl?

Plum Creek conferred with 31 different entities [including] stakeholder groups, and the conservation community. Result? Plum Creek's first Plan put 86 percent of its shore frontage in no development conservation easements. It guarantees public access (on private property) to 55 miles of hiking trails, 71 miles of snowmobile trails. It donates up to 100 acres for affordable housing.

All of this was done so that a private corporation, Plum Creek, could maybe get a green light to develop just two percent of its land where the unemployment rate is 6.9 percent compared with Maine's 4.7 percent.

But that's not good enough for extreme enviros, who, as Jonathan Carter and friends promised, are waging war on real jobs for rural Maine.

Plum Creeks second Plan due out in February 2006. If extortion is the practice of obtaining something through force or threats what do we call what's happening to Plum Creek?

Scott K Fish has been active in Maine politics since 1989. He is founder/owner of the As Maine Goes web site, writes a monthly political column for Bangor Metro magazine, and is a consultant for the Maine Heritage Policy Center.



Warrantless Searches

by Bob Stone

One of the benefits of American citizenship is the protection against unreasonable search and seizure guaranteed under the 4th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Simply stated, we citizens cannot be snooped on by any governmental unit without the government going to a judge to obtain a search warrant upon proving that there is a possibility that we are engaged in illegal activity.

Americans value the protections of the 4th Amendment. It was of great concern to read the New York Times report that a giant federal snooping program had been instituted after 9/11. The NYT report ignited a mainstream media firestorm with opportunistic politicians jumping in to criticize the President for implementing a massive program that violated the wonderful and revered protection of the 4th Amendment.

One of the bits of wisdom that has sunken into this writer's very thick skull is that "things are often not as the first appear." Sure enough, as more information became known about the "spying on Americans" program, it became obvious that this was not a program that Americans needed to worry about. In fact, it is a government program that we might want to thank the President for implementing.

When thinking of wire tapping, or snooping, we are led to think of the way it was presented to us in the movies in the 1960's. A mysterious white van is parked down the street from the wire tapped criminal's apartment. Several FBI agents sit in the cramped van, swilling down bad coffee and munching on powdered sugar donuts, all the while wearing big, black earphones, absent mindedly leafing through dog eared copies of Playboy magazine. When a phone call came over the wire tapped line, a reel to reel tape recorder captured every word.

Well, it is now 2006 and snooping is done completely differently these days. While the New York Times may be living in a pre 9/11 world, the bad guys and the good guys are using technology in a much more advanced way.

The bad guys, Al Qaeda for instance, want to kill as many Americans as possible. Americans are too free and too prosperous. We are infidels and need to die.

The bad guys use every bit of technology available to them. They use satellite phones. They use e-mail. They use cell phones. They use overseas phone networks to plan their next kill.

Fortunately, the good guys in the world's intelligence agencies have compiled quite a listing of who the bad guys are. Sad to say, but the bad guys are both here in the United States and overseas. And the bad guys have a need to communicate with each other.

It takes cash to maintain the cells, or death squads, in the United States. The AQ planners overseas need to give instructions as to the plans they are making for the infidels in America. And intelligence needs to be passed back to the planners overseas from the advance teams operating undercover in the United States.

We live in a digital world these days and all of this to and from communications takes the form of 'bits' of computer information that flows freely around the globe constantly. Envision massive 'pipes' of information, transformed into data, streaming into and out of the United States. The task of the intelligence agencies charged with figuring out what these killers are up to is to pick out the killers' calls and e-mails from the trillions of bits of data moving through these data pipes.

No, the snooping is not done by thousands of people sitting around listening to telephone calls and reading printed out e-mails. The snooping is done by computer programs written to select out of this data pipe certain pieces of information that are tell-tale giveaways for the killers and their friends overseas. Things like AQ voice patterns, e-mail addresses and keywords like "bomb", "dirty" nuclear and "bio" agents.

The gist of the snooping program is that, if you are calling known AQ bad guys overseas, or if they are calling you, the intel agencies want to know about those calls. And I want the intel agents to know about those calls from bad guys here in the USA and bad guys overseas.

What about all the other calls and e-mails in that data pipe? Aren't those looked at as well? Aren't Average Joe Citizen's private conversations and e-mails being unjustly searched?

A great way to visualize what happens to Average Joe's communications is to think of someone tossing a yellow Rubber Ducky off the Longley Bridge into the Androscoggin. The intel agencies on the South Bridge want to see that Rubber Ducky. It is yellow and it floats.

As the Rubber Ducky floats by the South Bridge, they use a net (computer program) to snare the yellow object from the river. All of the water that surrounded the Rubber Ducky flows on down to the sea. Included in that water (data stream of bits) might have been a phone call from Average Joe to Mrs. Average Joe about whether or not to pick up some milk on the way home from work.

If the intelligence people were not working around the clock to find and defeat the bad guys, we can be assured that the New York Times and every opportunistic politician from here to San Francisco would be calling for Bush's scalp. Imagine the hand wringing if, God forbid, the killers were successful in pulling off another attack.

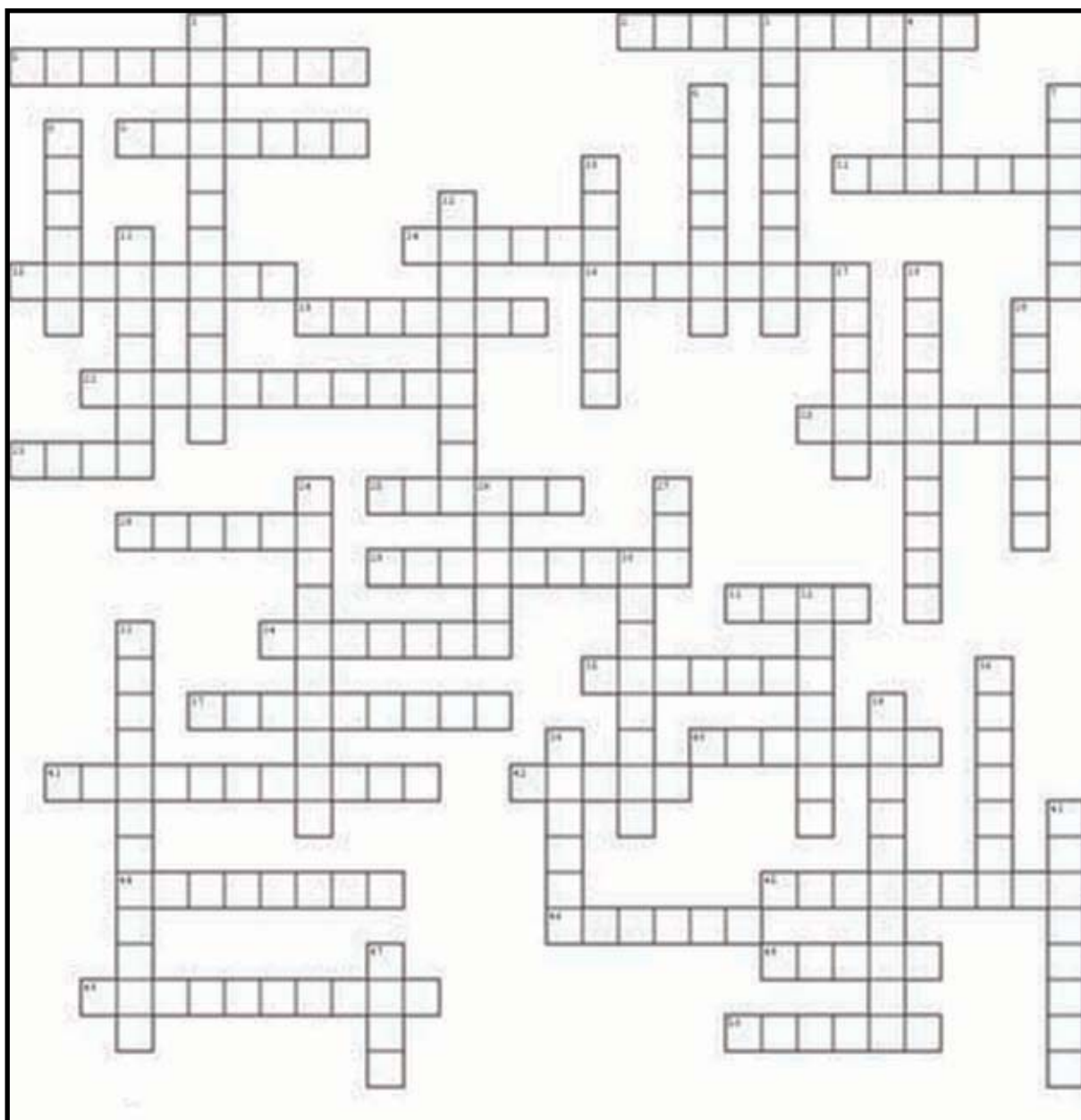
I am so pleased that this President is determined to find those Rubber Duckies. The ankle biters in the mainstream media will bark and yap, but he is doing the right thing.

Bob Stone is a retired banker and treasurer for Common Sense for Maine Taxpayers. He also maintains the political blog 13 Months in Maine, a day-by-day look at the Maine state gubernatorial race during the thirteen months leading up to the election in November of 2006. 13monthsinmaine.blogspot.com

Answers on page 11

Across

- 2. Soldier Pond is now a part of which town?
- 5. Monticello used to be a township bearing this name.
- 9. This Aroostook County town was originally called Golden Ridge.
- 11. Maine's first college.
- 14. The East Branch of the Sebasticook River runs south from Lake Wassookeag through this town, once known for shoemaking.
- 15. Maine's highest mountain.
- 16. The Piscataquis River runs through this town founded by Deacon Robert Low and Deacon Robert Herring.
- 19. Located between Penobscot and Washington counties.
- 21. Borders Penobscot County to the west.
- 22. In 1975, Maine's last log drive took place on which river?
- 23. The last name of Maine's first governor.
- 25. Aroostook County crop.
- 28. Both the state motto and Governor Baldacci's poorly performing health plan.
- 29. The largest lake lying wholly within the state of Maine.
- 31. The Sebec River runs through it.
- 34. A Penobscot County town once known as Mattanawcook.
- 35. A town on the Moose River, near the Canadian border.
- 37. The official state berry of Maine.
- 40. The "shire town" of Aroostook County.
- 41. Maine's governor just after the Civil War.
- 42. Maine's official state animal.
- 44. Maine's last Republican governor.
- 45. Maine's northernmost town.
- 46. Golf tees were first produced in which Maine town?
- 48. The official soft drink of Maine.
- 49. Maine's easternmost county.
- 50. The last name of the first white man to take up residence in the region that is now Millinocket.



Down

- 1. Kingman was incorporated as a town from two plantations, McCrillis and which other plantation?
- 3. "The County"
- 4. Maine's first lookout tower was on which mountain?
- 6. The last name of Maine's only governor elected from the "No Nothing" party.
- 7. The city of Caribou was originally known as the town of ...
- 8. A mountain east of Carrabassett.
- 10. This Mainer invented the snowplow.
- 12. Maine's newest county, established in 1868.
- 13. The principle occupation of most early residents of Phillips, Maine.
- 17. Just west of Allagash, Maine.
- 18. The Pleasant River runs through this town.
- 20. The last name of the first president of Great Northern Paper Company.
- 24. Town on the eastern border of Aroostook County, 12 miles north of Houlton.
- 26. This Somerset County town is separated from Madison by the Kennebec River.
- 27. What is the most frequently used name for ponds in Maine?
- 30. Once a lumber town on the St. John and Allagash rivers.
- 32. Maine's first Independent governor.
- 33. A mountain southeast of Enfield.
- 36. Old Greenville general store dating back to 1857.
- 38. The official state gem of Maine.
- 39. The first mills in Maine, which held first place in production until the late 1800s, were what type of mills?
- 43. The valley where Phillips, Maine now sits was once called this, derived from an Indian name meaning "Great Place."
- 47. Maine's southernmost county.

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Sustainable Development, Smart Growth and Kelo – Organized Theft By Any Name

By Tom DeWeese

Put yourself in the homeowner's shoes. You buy a home for your family. Perhaps it's even handed down from your farther or grand father. It's a place you can afford in a neighborhood you like. The children have made friends. You intend to stay for the rest of your life.

As you plant your garden, landscape the yard, put up a swing set for the kids, and mold your land into a home, unknown to you, certain city officials are meeting around a table with developers. In front of them are maps, plats and photographs – of your home. They talk of dollars – big dollars. Tax revenues for the city, huge profits for the developer. A shopping center with all the trimmings begins to take shape. You're not asked for input or permission. You're not even notified until the whole project is finalized and the only minor detail is to get rid of you.

Then the pressure begins. A notice comes in the mail telling you that the city intends to take your land. An offer of compensation is made, usually below the market price you could get if you sold it yourself. The explanation given is that, since the government is going to take the land, it's not worth the old market price. Some neighbors begin to sell and move away. With the loss of each one, the pressure mounts on you to sell. Visits from government agents become routine. Newspaper articles depict you as unreasonably holding up community progress. They call you greedy. Finally, the bulldozers move in on the properties already sold. The neighborhood becomes unlivable. It looks like a war zone.

Like being attacked by a conquering army, you are finally surrounded, with no place to run, but the courts. However, you're certain of victory. The United States was built on the very premise of the protection of private property rights. How can a government possibly be allowed to take anyone's home for private gain?

Under any circumstances this should be considered criminal behavior. It used to be. If city officials were caught padding their own pockets or those of their friends it was considered graft. That's why RICO laws were created.

Finally, five black robes named Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Kennedy, and Breyer shock the nation by ruling that officials who have behaved like Tony Soprano are in the right and you have to vacate your property.

These four men and one woman have ruled that the United States Constitution is truly meaningless. Their ruling in the Kelo case declared that Americans own nothing. After declaring that all property is subject to the whim of a government official, it's just a short trip to declaring that government can now confiscate anything we own; anything we create; anything we believe.

Astonishing. The members of the Supreme Court have nothing to do but defend the Constitution and keep it the pure document the Founding Fathers created to recognize and protect the rights with which we were born. They sit in their lofty ivory tower, never worrying about job security with their life-time appointments. And yet, they have obviously missed finding a copy of the Federalist Papers, which were written by many of the Founders to explain to the American people how they envisioned the new government would work. They have missed the collected writings of James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and George Washington, just to mention a very few. It's obvious because otherwise, there is simply no way they could have reached this decision – unless implementing another agenda was their purpose.

I don't have the benefit of the Justices' grand staffs or unending salaries. But just a little research has turned up pretty much everything Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Kennedy, and Breyer would have needed to reach a logical conclusion that protection of private property rights are the most important rights, vital to the very foundation of a free society.

Our Founding Fathers left no doubt in their writings, their deeds, or their governing documents as to where they stood on the vital importance of private property. John Locke, the man whom the Founders followed as they created this nation said, "Government has no other end than the preservation of property." John Adams said, "The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God; and there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence."

One would be hard pressed to find a single word in the writings of the Founding Fathers to support the premise that it's okay to take private property for economic development. To the contrary, they believed that the root of economic prosperity is the protection of private property.

So how did Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Kennedy, and Breyer miss such a rock solid foundation of American law? Perhaps they didn't. Perhaps they chose to ignore it in favor of another agenda. Specifically, Agenda 21.

For several years, certain members of the Supreme Court have been discussing the need to review international law and foreign court decisions to determine U.S. Supreme Court rulings. Justice Breyer has been the most outspoken for this policy, saying, "We face an increasing number of domestic legal questions that directly implicate foreign or international law."

What international laws are these? In general, the most pervasive are a series of UN international treaties, including several that address issues of

climate, resource use, biological diversity, and community development. Specifically, Agenda 21, signed by the United States at the UN's Earth Summit in 1992, calls for implementing what former Vice President Al Gore called a "wrenching transformation" of our nation, through a policy called Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development is the official policy of the United States and almost every single city and small burg in the nation.

Sustainable Development is top-down control, a ruling principle that affects nearly every aspect of our lives, including; the kind of homes we may live in; water policy that dictates the amount each American may use in a day; drastic reductions of energy use; the imposition of public transportation; even the number of inhabitants that may be allowed inside city borders. Most Americans have heard of a small part of this policy operating under the name Smart Growth. Agenda 21 outlines specific goals and a tight timetable for implementation. In June, 2005, the UN held a major gathering in San Francisco where the mayors of cities from across the nation and around the world gathered to pledge to impose Sustainable policies.

In order to meet such goals, federal, state and local governments are scrambling to impose strict policies on development and land use. The use of Eminent Domain has become a favorite tool. Sustainable Development calls for partnerships between the public sector (your local government) and private businesses.

Now, as the public/private partnerships move to enforce Sustainable Development in local communities, an unholy alliance is also forming, allowing corrupt politicians to line their pockets and gain power as they partner with select businesses and developers to build personal wealth and power. They plot to take land that isn't theirs for personal gain, while claiming it's for the "public good." That's all the excuse they've needed to hide their true intent.

However, things have been changing as such brutal, organized theft has spread across the nation in the name of community development and environmental protections. Americans have started to fight back to protect their property. In Oregon, people went to the ballot box and shocked lawmakers by passing Measure 37, which says the government must either pay full price for any land taken, or waive the regulation and leave the property owner alone. In Wisconsin, the state legislature passed a bill to stop Smart Growth policies that are destroying property owners. In Michigan, the state Supreme Court overturned the precedent-setting ruling it made more than 20 years ago that allowed the use of Eminent Domain in taking property for private use. In fact, it was that original ruling that had been used by communi-

ties across the nation to justify their own Eminent Domain takings.

Clearly, the nation has started to rise up to stop this assault on private property. Without the power to grab property at will, the ability for communities to implement Sustainable Development has come into question.

Those who support Sustainable Development and Agenda 21 needed something big to put things back on track. The Supreme Court, which has already stated that it must look to international laws and treaties to decide American law, provided the answer. Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Kennedy, and Breyer chose Sustainable Development and Agenda 21 over the Constitution of the United States.

However, the effort may well be backfiring on the Sustainablists as the nation is reacted in force to protect property rights. Now, state legislatures and the U.S. Congress are rushing to produce legislation to restore property rights protections. Even Americans who have rarely uttered a political thought are suddenly becoming feverish with zeal for the Fifth Amendment. Americans may be learning all over again what the Founding Fathers knew – that the right to own and control private property is the most important right

That is all well and good, of course, but Americans must do much more than just get upset. They need to get behind those legislative efforts at every level of government to assure passage. They must dig in at the local level to foil efforts by their mayors and city councils to impose Eminent Domain against their neighbors. We must run this organized theft (now masquerading as the "common good") out of town on a rail. And don't forget to leave room on that rail for Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Kennedy, and Breyer.

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For over 31 years Tom DeWeese has been a businessman, grassroots activist, writer and publisher. As such, he has always advocated a firm belief in man's need to keep moving forward while protecting Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of property and individual freedom.



Photographs of rural Maine taken by Ken Anderson.

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DIRIGO... AGAIN

(Continued from Page 1)

A private insurance company with such a high rate of failure would be spending lots of money trying to find out what is wrong with their product. Instead, Governor Baldacci digs in his heels, spends large sums of money on advertising touting how great DirigoChoice is, and pretends the negative numbers don't exist.

Those of us in Government owe the people of Maine an honest, objective look at the failures and successes of the program. Unfortunately, the negative numbers far outweigh the positive numbers with regard to DirigoChoice:

- Radio ads claim 8,500 members - the reality is 7,300 members, after 14 percent quit;
- A goal of 31,000 enrollees in the first year was announced - the reality is 7,300;
- The goal was for those 31,000 to come from the ranks of Maine's uninsured - the reality is that only 1,620 of the first year enrollees were previously uninsured. That's insurance for 1,620 people at a cost of \$53 million, or roughly \$33,000 per person. That is not affordable health care!

The next surprise to come from the Dirigo experiment arrived in the form of a newly proposed tax. Given our experience with the Baldacci administration and the Majority Party, I guess it should come as no surprise that there is a new tax proposal on the table. Some prefer to avoid the "tax" word and want to label it a "Savings Offset Payment".

No matter what you call it, it will be money coming from the pockets of people already paying for their own health insurance. I say if it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, and walks like a duck, it's a duck.

Call it a tax, a fee, an assessment; just don't call it "savings." The alleged savings to the health care system of \$43.7 million have resulted in a 4 percent tax on insurance premiums. Insurers say they have to pass this cost on to their customers. A goal of this program was lower health care for all of us.

Major Maine newspapers have been acting as cheerleaders for the Governor's agenda, but even they are beginning to raise some objections. An editorial that appeared in the Blethen newspapers last month said "the (SOP) fees are not an ideal way to raise money for Dirigo Health."

The editorial went on to say, "Documenting the program's savings is impossible." That might explain why the Dirigo staff initially reported \$233 million in savings after one year. The Dirigo Board then adjusted the amount down to \$136 million in savings.

The Bureau of Insurance then weighed in, claiming that the savings from Dirigo after one year amounted to only \$43 million, 18.4 percent of the original estimate by the Dirigo staff. It is no wonder the private insurers in the state received the news of a "Savings Offset Payment" with skepticism.

It should also be noted that about \$40 million of the savings was due to the voluntary cutbacks in the form of postponed capital projects by Maine hospitals and had nothing to do with government action. Sounds like an endorsement for allowing more private enterprise and competition into our healthcare and health insurance system.

Some, led by the Governor himself, have charged that Republicans are "attacking" DirigoChoice, saying that we are simply trying to destroy the success of the Baldacci administration. That is untrue.

Even though I was not one of them, many Republicans voted for Dirigo. In addition, legislators from my party have offered numerous improvements and ideas only to have them rejected without the benefit of discussion by the majority party. An affordable solution to the health insurance situation in Maine would be to revise all the regulations that have been put in place over the years resulting in most insurance companies packing up and taking their business elsewhere.

To summarize what we have to show for the Dirigo Health Plan after 2 1/2 years:

- \$53 million diverted from covering the Medicaid shortfall spent on insuring 1,600 previously uninsured;
- A new and growing state bureaucracy;
- An increase of 4 percent above the normal increases in premiums for all insured;
- Several lawsuits brought against the state by The Maine Association of Health Plans, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and health plans representing auto dealers and bankers;
- Hospitals across the state are owed more than \$330 million in Medicaid reimbursements.

Just to show that the Republicans aren't always "attacking" the Governor's Plan, I'll end by highlighting the positive effects of Dirigo. One thousand six hundred previously uninsured Mainer's are covered.

Senator Davis lives with his wife in Sangerville and represents Senate District 27 and is also the Senate Minority Leader.



Finding Our Way

(Continued from page 2)

Now it seems, the Grand Old Party, both in Maine and Nationally, is willing to move away from the Protecting Life in an attempt to gain favor with the media.

There is plenty of blame to go around. I blame President Bush and Rick Santorum, for loyally getting behind Arlen Specter and dooming us to one more RINO in the Senate, limiting the President's ability to ever put Roe in jeopardy. I blame Bill Frist, who could not hold his caucus together well enough to fulfill the Party's promise to pro-lifers. I blame John McCain, and every other Republican, who cares more about getting face time on Meet the Press or a glowing editorial from the New York Times than continuing the Reagan legacy.

In 2004, pro-lifers and believers in Federalism combined to give Republicans a governing majority. We gave our time, talent, and treasure and in return, they patted us on the head, and went about business as usual.

Let me be clear with the RNC: Pro-lifers will not be to the GOP what Blacks inexplicably are to the Democrat Party.

If the difference between you and the Democrat Party is the difference between being functionally pro-choice and being assertively pro-choice; if you have, abandoned even

the pretense of believing in Reagan's principles; then voting for you is nothing more than material cooperation with evil.

To the Donkeys in Elephant clothing I say: NO MORE.

Not one more dime from me; not one more vote, not one more knock on a door for a get-out-the-vote effort; not one more inch for a Republican who says great things about a culture of life, but protects the culture of death, all the while spending like a Democrat.

As Reagan did with the Soviets, I am drawing a line in the sand. I am looking for principled conservative candidates and I am not alone.

Michael A. Beardsley is the President of the Maine Republican Assembly, a Conservative Grassroots Organization dedicated to working within the Republican Party to promote the active participation of our members toward the endorsement, support, and election, of principled conservative Republican candidates.

All Maine Matters Returns

(Continued from page 1)

In 1998 AMM researched the voting records of the very worst in our legislature. That dirty dozen earned the 'Golden Boot Award'. Old beat up boots were spray painted with gold paint and personally awarded to those legislators at their campaign rallies. Nine of those legislators were defeated. The old AMM existed before the internet became widely popular. AMM existed to bring truthful news to the common citizen who did not have a computer. I am very pleased to see that it will be on line this time too.

We are seeing something today that was not noticed when AMM first started. Our young people still leave, but they are returning at the age of 50 or 55 when their youngest kids depart for college. Mainers who always wanted to live here come home. They bring their accumulated skills and the awareness that they don't want Maine to become like Massachusetts or New Jersey. It's an evolving story and one that will be told in the new AMM.

We will be needing your help in order to bring this publication to you each month, as it is one thing to make the statement that all Maine matters, but it's quite another to determine just what matters to all of Maine. What do you want to see in this publication?

We would very much like to hear from you.

If you can contribute by writing an article about any subject of concern to you,

there is a very good chance that it will be of interest to others as well. Please don't be afraid that you can't write well enough, as our readers want to hear from real people with genuine knowledge of the issues surrounding them, not from professional journalists who read too much. We have an urgent need for regular and occasional contributors of articles relating to the state's fisheries, farming, forestry, or anything else that you can relate to.

If you can contribute an article for publication in future issues of All Maine Matters, terrific. Otherwise, we'd still like to hear from you. Tell us how we're doing, and let us know how we could do a better job of addressing the issues that matter to you.

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Undue Influence: Katahdin Region, Part 1

by David P. Cyr

It takes years and sometimes decades, for the full effect of a wilderness campaign to reach everybody. Being in the middle of a small development at Black Cat Mountain, I was able to gain a unique perspective on how and why a de-population campaign worked. Because the successes of the Northern Forest Alliance results in human removal, they cannot tell you the truth.

You would very likely be upset if someone approached you on your porch at camp and explained to you how this camp and all around it are slated for removal in 25 years, you would not be upset however, if a green group declared that they were here to protect special places, and conveniently omitted that this camp was indeed a special place, is that a lie? Or "Undue Influence". What follows is a story of influence, unwanted, unwelcome and unappreciated.

In 1993, I began my efforts to secure a lease on Black Cat Mountain. The property had previously supported a hotel built by my father, back in 1970. The hotel burned flat, suspiciously, in the dead of night, in the dead of winter. Despite the existence of three contracts with the town to provide fire protection for the hotel, not one drop of water was used.

In January of 1996, I made my presentation to the Woodlands Department. In that meeting I stressed the need to purchase the 65-acre property. I provided documentation to illustrate the inability of projects on leased land to secure financing. My presentation echoed the assertion of local Realtor, Erwin Bacon, who had made a good case in the local paper about the need for a four season resort on Hammond Ridge. During my presentation I displayed topo photos of Hammond Ridge and explained why a ski resort on that mountain was not practical. The height and shape of the ridge along with the hardwood cutting activities of the seventies and eighties had left it in a butt ugly condition. Just as an example, I folded a piece of paper to illustrate the proper rise/run angle needed for ski trails, and then I explained that right across the lake, Trout Mountain had the perfect topography to be developed as a ski resort. The broad face would allow for numerous trails and very cost effective construction. That would prove to be the first of three big mistakes.

My second mistake was sharing my plans and blueprints for a massive 12,000 square foot destination on top of Black Cat Mountain. The structure we named the "Overlook" was designed to house a huge dining facility on the first floor, complete with a 270 degree view of Mt. Katahdin and five lakes. The lower level was designed as a convention center, with a huge main hall this level was very flexible. It could serve weddings in the summer and to cater large snowsled events in the winter.

Now, the entire point of the presentation was to display a credible plan for the development of Black Cat Mountain that would fall in line with accepted GNP policy. I presented plans for a Cabin/Campground business starting with 65 acres, that would certainly grow with the purchase of the land and the influx of bank money. Following the cabins, I laid out the need to lease the 90 acre parcel on the backside of the mountain, as phase two of my plan. The "Overlook" needed an access road down to the lake road.

Finally, I presented Marcia and company with "Phase Three", The development of Hammond Ridge. I explained how the "Overlook" was needed to grow the demand for a resort on Hammond Ridge, but the available tourism growth statistics, showed a strong steady annual growth without it.

At the end of it all, I was told that the sale of the land at this time was not possible, but the sale of the lots on Smith pond had been a success and they had discussed plans to sell the camp lots on Millinocket lake next. That would be 2-3 years tops, and I would be able to buy the property. When I asked if I could see something to that effect in writing, I was told that these things always seem to bite them later on and I would have to trust them to sell me my lease. The conversation went into my personal 27 year history as the Great Northern's contractor, and basically I was told I needed to trust the company to be true to its word.

I am a true believer of mans need to be true to his/her word, and having been raised in a business and in a world where people would on a regular basis, buy and sell property on a handshake. My beliefs have become my biggest fault, because it is here that I committed big mistake number three - I trusted them. I thought that because I knew all these people who were in charge of millions of acres of land and in fact the largest landowner in the state, that I was connected in a good way, to good people, doing good things. I was very naïve.

For three years I heard very heartfelt, sincere excuses stressing how they knew I needed to get going up to Black Cat, and how the whole Woodlands Dept. was putting their best effort forward to help me get my land, but it just wasn't a good time right now. The best one was "Good things come to those who wait", or "You have to be patient, if you want to succeed."

Finally, in the fall of 2000, I learned of a radical group, called "RESTORE: The North Woods", who were proposing a 3.2 million acre national park to be built where we live. We attended a meeting in Greenville where Jim St. Pierre and his partner in green unreality, were literally made to fear for their lives.

Several members of the audience were loud and threatening, having previously heard of the intentions of RESTORE. Within a day of this meeting, RESTORE cancelled its scheduled meeting with Millinocket's residents.

This was the first time I was forced to realize that there was organized opposition to my project and any other form of development in this area. They set up shop in Hallowell, Maine, maintained a full time staff dedicated to population removal, and have no plans to go away, until their park is built.

I determined that my lack of knowledge in the workings of the green groups was another weakness I could ill afford to carry forward. So I got educated, did a lot of research; and it seemed that under every rock I looked under, I uncovered the same name - The Nature Conservancy.

In fact, every Wilderness Campaign I have researched to date had a great deal of start up help from The Nature Conservancy. They are usually described as the "good guys", coming in; but TNC is the modern day architect of a new era in land theft. They have become the largest, richest and most powerful because they have mastered the art of influence.

With Great wealth comes political influence, and because the results of this influence will produce no positive result to the vast majority, subtle half truths are required to make most points seem to be beneficial. For example, during the Katahdin Forest Project, when The TNC came in as the ultimate shiny Knight on the white horse, they proclaimed to be here to help us. If that was true, why did they mortgage the land? The mills were also worth hundreds of millions.

The answer is in the results, TNC's "help" gave us a five mile wide easement across a one mile wide swamp, just north of the Stacyville Road pit area. In this area there were proposals to develop ATV and Motocross track and event complex; but for the good of the environment we now have only an easement, held in perpetuity to protect that area, from you and I.

Next was the 139,000 acre easement to save all of the endangered land from development. What a good idea to save land from the evil that will sure to follow should any business find a way in. I mean, think about it, all those disgusting jobs, filthy money, hell, they did us a favor. Next, we have our two new preserves, 3,500 acres at Trout Mountain and 41,000 acres at Deb-sconesque. These lands have been removed from tree production forever, and will never produce a single dollar in benefit to any one in the Katahdin area.

In fact, when the Nature Conservancy flips these lands to the government,

they will likely no longer pay a tax to the county, if you have a camp or property in this area, you will bear that new expense.

In late February, The Nature Conservancy sold the mortgage and Maine Timberlands assigned the leases of a complete township and a half. The total control of that land now belongs to CCM Working Forest LLC. Due to the investigations made public by the Washington Post, The Nature Conservancy was forced to stop rewarding their Trustees and want-a-be's with huge tracts of valuable land, so the method of assigning the rights and leases was developed. Maine's LLC law allows for the ownership of the LLC to remain hidden, providing a great deal of benefit for those who plan to do unpopular deeds. Is all this secrecy in our best interest?

(Part two of this four-part series will be published next month.)

David P. Cyr, a lifelong resident of Millinocket, Maine gave up his seat as a member of the Millinocket Planning Board, prior to his election to the Millinocket Town Council. While he retains his seat on the Comprehensive Planning Committee, he also holds a seat on the Board of the Millinocket Historical Society and Katahdin Area Television. Along with his membership in the Maine Leaseholder's Association and the Fin And Feather Club, he was recently elected to the Steering Committee of the Maine Woods Coalition.



Willimantic Emergency Meeting Cancelled

WILLIMANTIC - Last year, the citizens of Willimantic, upset by their selectmen's inability -- or refusal -- to present financial records to even explain how their approved budget was overrun, voted down a request from their selectmen to transfer \$25,000 from the tree growth penalty account into cover their operational expenses including payroll and the electric bill.

The botched finances of this small town have been the catalyst for much debate among the 135 or so citizens after the town suspended all municipal expenditures, effectively shutting down all municipal operations.

An emergency town meeting was called for New Years Eve day.

More than a dozen residents, all bundled and ready for the meeting, waited outside the Town Hall when First Selectman Debbie Pettigrew arrived and told the group that because the town was too broke to advertise the meeting as required by law, the meeting had been cancelled.

She indicated that she had consulted with the Maine Municipal Association as well as her own private attorney, and that they advised her that she should cancel the meeting. "This meeting is adjourned," Pettigrew announced as she climbed into her pickup truck. Before she could get away, citizens demanded that she resign. Someone in the crowd yelled, "You're ruining this town."

In a political climate that gets more heated by the day, residents have accused Pettigrew, who is also the town assessor, and her selectmen of being more and more manipulative and defensive as time goes by.

Among the crowd, there was speculation that the officials had to have decided in advance to cancel Saturday's meeting, but instead of making that decision public, they chose to wait until the dissenting citizens had stood out in the cold on the day of the meeting.

John Tatko, one of the citizens at the cancelled meeting, said that in addition to the question of where town revenues have gone, the town's poorest residents aren't getting the financial assistance they're entitled to and

many live in seriously substandard housing.

Tatko's wife, Nancy, said they have no one to turn to in order to make sure that elected officials carry out the will of the voters. "This is a situation that could be played out in every town in Maine," she warned on Saturday.

The state Attorney General's Office will not get involved in municipal disputes unless there is an allegation of criminal conduct, and pleas for help from the governor's office have been ignored. In desperation, the citizens have asked the Piscataquis County commissioners for help, but have also been unavailable to help them.

What happens next in Willimantic is anyone's guess. Their next regularly scheduled public meeting is in August.

The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlands Project (Continued from page 3)

The Nature Conservancy and other "Wildlands Project" activists are using the United Nations and other socialist leaning nations to manipulate the entire human population that will be forced to evacuate their homes and live in small, confined colonies while animals run free.

As they have done since their inception, "saved" areas are taken over by wealthy elites who will enjoy the freedom of big game hunting, fishing expeditions, ecotourism, and private real estate including farms, all at the right price of course, for those who can afford it. Their atheist/socialist belief is that nature can be protected if the "common" people can't afford any of it.

There is a definite comparison between TNC's actions involving the Virginia Barrier Islands and what has been developing within the Katahdin Region and beyond. For more than a decade, they have worked hard to bring down natural resource economies from Alaska to the lower 48 states. Now it's Maine's turn.

As in the other places TNC has "saved," they are working with politicians, corporations, state and federal land-use agencies, and other environmental groups, while their front organizations as well as their well-educated, charming operatives have been given their orders. Their target is, as it has always been, the resource economy and the citizens of this region.

The Nature Conservancy is very good at what it does. Mr. McNeil, a member of TNC's Board of Trustees, and other board members of MAGIC have been meeting secretly with TNC and the Wilderness Society, even as they claim that MAGIC is there for the region's "growth and development."

Most area people now realize that the board of this so-called development organization has provided very little of either growth or economic development since the mills went down.

Could it be that this is a TNC front group that has been set up to stop economic growth in the region? The Pine Tree Development Zone designation and the grant monies do not seem to be used for the benefit of local people. Where has the money gone? Why is the area regressing, despite the self-congratulatory "success" stories in the newspapers?



On another front, why is it that Matthew Polstein has been accorded the privilege of purchasing his lease, plus an adjoining parcel of land, while the rest of the camp owners of Millinocket Lake, and the rest of the Pemadumcook chain of lakes has been refused the same privilege?

I am sure that area people have plenty of questions of their own that need to be answered. The place where they need to be asked -- and asked often -- is at Council meetings.

If the citizens of the area do not become proactive in planning the area's future, we could well experience the "fix" that destroyed Virginia's coastal communities, as well as many more communities in other rural areas of the country.

As in every community that TNC takes over, the community is destroyed, and the wealthy elites move in. An elderly person who has lived in the community for more than 90 years said recently, "Piece by piece, they are taking away everything that we had."

Despite the denials by MAGIC's members of the truth of this statement, most people do know what is being done to them.

Editor's Note: MAGIC is a nongovernmental organization engaged in implementing United Nations Agenda 21 (Sustainable Development) in the Millinocket area. Matt Polstein is its cofounder.

Marion Campbell lives with her husband in Millinocket. Both serve on the Board of Directors of the Maine Leaseholders Association.



Medicare (Continued from page 1)

One can only speculate as to why the Senators and Representatives in Washington would attempt to saddle Medicare recipients with a "benefit" (???) of this type. Other sources indicate that this program adds 7 trillion dollars to the federal deficit. This information is available to Congress and the President. Why are they persisting in supporting a program that debt will doom to failure? Are people with private plans immune to the blackmail clause? What if economic demands push businesses and insurance companies to discontinue that private plan and an individual then has to enter the Medicare prescription program?

That individual is subject to the higher fees because of the delays in signing up for the program.

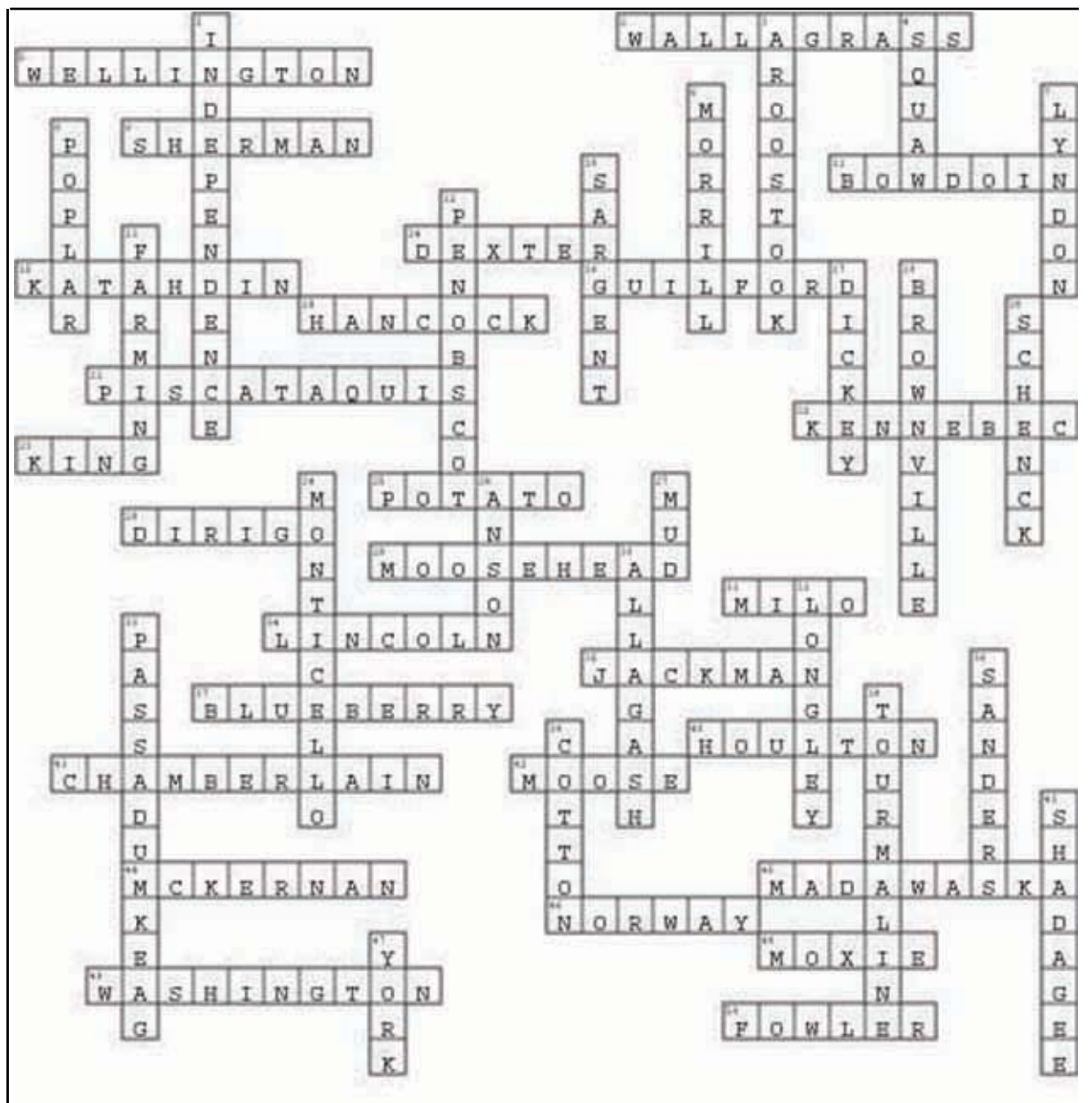
What is the answer? Voters must educate themselves to the issue and notify their representatives and senators that they will be turning the tables on them. They must be given an assurance that if the program is not changed and made workable with no deficit increase in the Federal budget they will be voted out of office in the next election cycle.

They must be reminded that they are there to REPRESENT the PEOPLE, not create programs that have "Blackmail Clauses."

As new representatives and senators are elected to replace them, rescind the current benefit programs that congressional people have and enroll them in social security and Medicare. Then the people would be truly represented.

Henry Joy, a retired educator, has loyally represented his district -- currently called House District 141 -- during the 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 121st, and 122nd sessions. He and his wife, Mary, live in Crystal.

Answers to January's crossword puzzle on page 7



Profiles in Rural Maine

by Ken Anderson

Oxbow Plantation



In south central Aroostook County, at the confluence of the Aroostook River and Umcolcus Stream, lies Oxbow Plantation, which takes its name from an abrupt bend that the Aroostook makes near that area.

The first settlers arrived in Oxbow in 1842, and the township was organized as N9R6 in 1848, and became Oxbow Plantation in 1870. The early residents of Oxbow Plantation were farmers, who moved to Oxbow for its rich soil.

The first to arrive were Samuel and Elias Hayden (age 43 and 33, respectively), who came from Madison, in Somerset County. They had come to Oxbow through Patten to Masardis. From there, they first traveled down the Aroostook River by boat to Presque Isle, exploring that area before returning, then continuing upstream to the oxbow. Here they chose land on the south side of the river. They then returned to their homes, but came again the following June.

Samuel Hayden moved his wife, Mary, and their several children, built a large comfortable farm, and remained until 1860, when the family moved to Minnesota. Elias Hayden, a bachelor, first built a log cabin before clearing a farm. He bought planks and boards from Pollard's Mill on the St. Croix, floated them downstream to Masardis, then poled them up to Oxbow in a boat. His barn was the first framed building in the township. The following year, he married and built a frame house which he ran as a hotel.

Next to arrive were John and Ann Winslow, and their family, who moved to Oxbow from Freedom, in Waldo County. Like their neighbors, they were farmers, but John also did some lumbering. John Winslow became the first clerk of Oxbow Plantation.

In 1843, Ira Fish & Company built a sawmill on Umcolcus Stream, not far from where the bridge is today. The company was granted a block of land near the mill, which was later turned into productive farms.

Thomas Goss, Jr., who came only a little way, from Masardis, was another early settler, but he remained only a few years. Others included Aaron and Didama Scribner, who came with their family from Lincoln; William and Francis Botting, from Madison; a young man by the name of Robert Pervis, who married one of the Hayden girls; Selden and Abigail Lane; William and Lucy Day. The 1850 census showed a population of 59 people.

Settlers came to Oxbow from several of Maine's southern regions, as well as from eastern Canada, establishing one-room schoolhouses, and a small Congregational Church, which stands today. Although it does not appear to have been plowed this year, neither does it look to be in poor repair.

In the 1950s, Shephard Boody, of Old Town, bought the mill property and continued lumber operations there. George Sawyer, of Masardis, purchased the mill in the 1960s, but kept it only a short time before selling it to C.C. Libby, of Newfield. During this time, others came to Oxbow Plantation, building rambling farmhouses, with apple orchards and fields of potatoes. Barns were filled with chickens and dairy cattle.

Although some of the structures remain, there are few working farms in Oxbow today. Many of the barns have collapsed entirely, while others are in disrepair. Forests have reclaimed the fields that once grew potatoes. It is a beautiful part of the state, but there are fewer people there today than there were in 1850, twenty years before Oxbow was first recognized as a plantation.

The mill, of course, is long closed; and, while there are still a few farms and some affluent homes, sporting camps are the dominant industry in Oxbow today.

The township didn't have much in the way of roads, but the land was good and a large lumber industry was already flourishing in the area. Village lots were laid out in the middle of town, from north to south. A church and a parsonage were built, and land was set aside for a college farm. One large building intended for the college was nearly built when this part of the project was abandoned, to be located in Worcester, Massachusetts instead. After remaining unoccupied for several years, the building was torn down.

Bishop Fenwick also had a mill built on Molunkus Stream, near the east end of town, but it saw little use and was allowed to deteriorate.

Population of Oxbow: 51
Latitude: 46.418N
Longitude: -68.49W
Median Age: 51.8 years
Median Household Income: \$37,740
Average Household Size: 1.7 people
Cost of Living Index: 83.9
Average Yearly Utility Cost: \$2,675

Benedicta

Located on the southwestern part of Aroostook County, Benedicta was named after the Catholic Bishop Benedict Fenwick, who purchased the township from Massachusetts in 1834, hoping to found a Catholic colony, which was originally intended to include a college. Unfortunately, he didn't receive the deed for his land until 1846, which set his plans back somewhat.

Settlers were charged \$2.00 per acre for land along the main road, and \$1.50 per acre for land further back. Bishop Fenwick gave them time to pay off their farms.

Other Catholic settlers were Timothy Dorsey, Martin Qualey, and Philip Finnegan, who were said to have arrived in 1834, but who do not appear in the 1837 census records. Patrick Brade, Christopher Keegan, John Byrne, Francis Smith, and John Perry joined the Catholic colony later, soon followed by Henry Rivers and Martin Lawler. These were all Irish immigrants who had previously worked in the cities of Massachusetts.

Several others arrived between 1838 and 1840. One of them was John Rush, who came in 1838 and settled opposite of where the church was erected in 1843, and remains today as St. Benedict's Catholic Church.



The 1837 census indicates that seventy-nine people were living in the township at that time, thirty-nine of them being over the age of 21. It is unknown whether the first settlers were part of the Bishop's colony, or if they were squatters who had arrived before the purchase of the land, but the Joseph Leavitt family, consisting of thirteen people, eight of them over the age of 21, are thought to have been the first settlers in the land.

Others who were living in the area that was to become Benedicta in 1837 were five members of the William Brown family, two members of the John Buske family, four members of the John Kearnes family, seven members of the Daniel Brackett family, four members each of the James Dee and John McNamara families, six members of the Nicholas Larkin family, three members of the William Crook family, five members of the Thomas Casey family, two members of the Jesch Baggett family, and a man named Edward Sweeney.

It is uncertain whether they were a part of the Catholic colony or whether they had arrived separately.

Nicholas Broderick, with ten people in his family, were among the first to arrive from the Bishop's group, as were seven members of the John Millmore family, and three members of the Timothy Dorsey family. These families are documented in the 1837 census records.

Benedicta was incorporated as a town on February 1, 1873, becoming the 432nd town in Maine.

These Irish Catholics built many good farms and comfortable homes, some of which still stand today, all in good repair, lending a distinct appeal to a drive down Benedicta Road. While it was not quite the success envisioned by Bishop Fenwick, the population remains primarily Catholic, although the numbers been in decline in recent years. In 1980, the last year for which there are defined census figures, the population was 225. The town was disorganized in 1987. Benedicta Elementary School, where two teachers teach from 15-20 students, remains open but has recently been threatened with closure.

Population of Benedicta: 233
Latitude: 45.801N
Longitude: -68.412W
Median Age: 39 years
Median Household Income: \$46,703
Average Household Size: 2.52 people
Cost of Living Index: 97.7
Average Yearly Utility Cost: \$3,028