

Carrabassett Valley Connections

Published annually by the town of Carrabassett Valley, Maine



Board of Selectmen: Robert Luce, Chair • John Beaupre • Lloyd Cuttler • Karen Campbell • Jay Reynolds

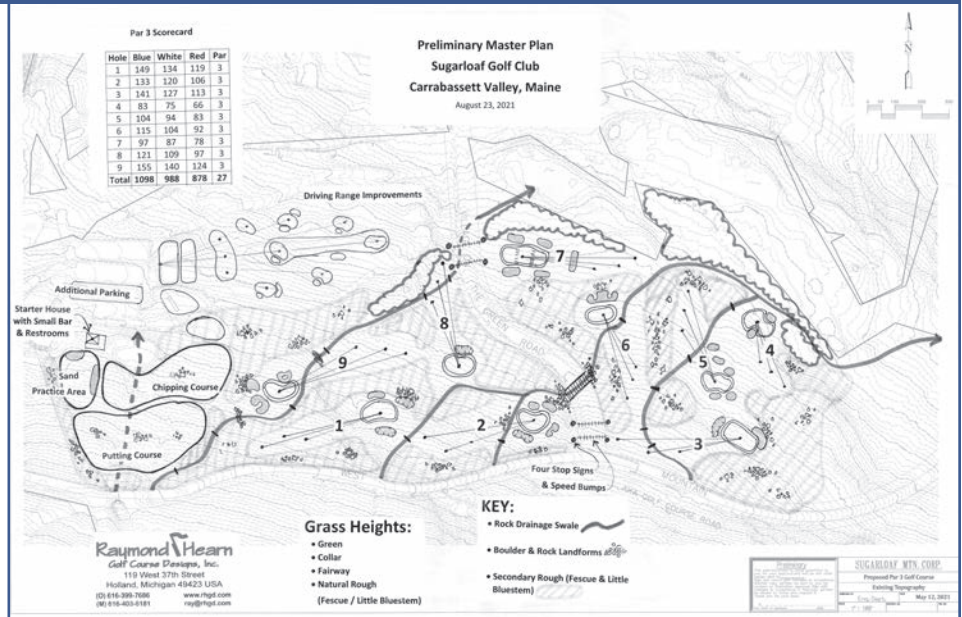
Exciting projects being proposed for the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center and the Sugarloaf Golf Course

Submitted by Dave Cota

Skating Rink Roof and Snowmaking being discussed at the Outdoor Center and the development of a Par 3 course being considered at the Golf Course

The Town and Sugarloaf are currently working on exciting concept proposals for both of these Town-owned facilities that have been leased to Sugarloaf for many years. This collaboration has been very successful and these proposals have the potential to add significantly to the offerings of these prestigious recreational assets.

The Outdoor Center proposal includes building a roof over the skating rink, installing snowmaking on approximately 2K (eventually 5K) of the Nordic ski race loop, creating a lighted snowshoe trail and enlarging the facility kitchen (the proposal no longer includes a proposed tubing park at that location). The Select Board and a working group are currently reviewing all the logistics and cost sharing options. Installing a roof over the skating rink has long been on the wish list and with the reality of climate change and the desire for early season snow coverage, snowmaking at the Center would be a welcomed addition. In addition to providing much easier rink maintenance and



more reliable ice conditions and a longer season, a roof over the rink could allow for large outdoor weather proof events during the summer and fall. Sugarloaf's thoughts are to create more family amenities and activities at the Outdoor Center which this proposal will provide. A lot of details need to be worked out and there will be adequate allowance for public input before a proposal can be acted upon by the voters. It's too early to tell if it's possible that this project could be considered

by Town voters at the annual Town Meeting in March (for a 2022 project) or wait until 2023.

The Town's Golf Course Greens Committee is advocating for the proposed development of a Par 3 golf course that would be built adjacent to the existing Town-owned Sugarloaf Golf Course. A conceptual lay-out plan has been completed and environmental assessments are currently underway. All

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The following is a brief update of some of the more substantial current issues and initiatives that the Town is currently involved with.

Sugarloaf Outdoor Center: The Town and Sugarloaf are currently working on a concept proposal at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center that would include building a roof over the skating rink, installing snowmaking on approximately 2K (eventually 5K) of the Nordic ski race loop, creating a lighted snowshoe trail and enlarging the facility kitchen (the proposal no longer includes a proposed tubing park at that location). Please see enclosed related article for more information.

Potential development of a Par-3 golf course adjacent to the Sugarloaf Golf Course; and the somewhat related Sugarloaf proposed West Mountain Development Project: The Town's Golf Course Greens Committee is advocating for the proposed development of a Par 3 golf course that would be built adjacent to the existing Town-owned Sugarloaf Golf Course. A conceptual lay-out plan has been completed and environmental assessments are currently underway. Please see enclosed article for more information on both the Outdoor Center and the Par-3 golf course proposals.

Mountain Bike Development Program and recent \$300,000 Northern Border Regional Commission/USDA Federal Grant:

Due in large part to the success our ten-year collaboration (Carrabassett Valley Trails Committee a.k.a. CVTC) between the Town, the mountain bike club (CRNEMBA), Maine Huts and Trails and Sugarloaf, the Town has been awarded a \$300,000 Federal USDA grant to develop new trails on the State of Maine Crocker Mt. Conservation and Wyman Lots currently referred to as the 'Stoney Brook Trail Pod'. Thanks are due to Recreation Director Deb Bowker and to Trail Supervisor Josh Tausas for writing the grant application. When completed, approximately ten miles of new mountain bike specific trail will be built to add to our approximately seventy miles of existing trails. When added to the "downhill" mountain bike trails that Sugarloaf has recently constructed, this new 'Stoney Brook trail pod' will add to our already prominent mountain bike destination. Approximately two miles of new trail has already been developed in this new trail pod.

Airport Taxi Lane Project (\$632,500 Federal F.A.A. grant) and increased activity at the Sugarloaf Regional Airport:

We are pleased to report that the Town's

new airport taxi lane construction project will be moving forward soon. This has been a very long and involved process (most F.A.A. grant projects are). A construction contract has been awarded to Jordan Excavation of Kingfield and tree clearing may occur this fall with full construction anticipated to start in the spring. This project will provide an opportunity for the development of up to ten airplane "T-hangars" and three additional larger airplane hangars. We have a large waiting list of pilots who desire airplane hangars at our airport. It's been great to see the continued growth of aeronautical activity at the airport. Many thanks to Bigelow Aviation and our Airport Manager Tom Wallace.

New CV Area Employee Housing Initiative:

This past spring a committee was formed to investigate and recommend ideas concerning attainable workforce housing, a problem that is seriously affecting our area and many resort communities in the country. There are a number of factors that have contributed to this problem but perhaps the biggest factor is the emergence of Air BnB and similar short-term rental companies which are utilizing available housing once used for employee housing.

The Committee is working closely with consultants Camoin Associates to complete a 'Regional Workforce Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy' to hopefully develop a successful implementation strategy to help solve this serious issue (see related article).

Penobscot Indian Nation posting of their Roads and Trail Corridors:

As you may know, late last fall, the Penobscot Indian Nation (PN) posted no trespassing signs on all of their roads and trail corridors in CV. Although we have never been given an explanation other than it was a Tribal Council decision, we have to assume it is primarily due to the Town's testimony against L.D. 1628 the proposed State legislation entitled 'An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Land Claims Settlement Implementing Act' (Settlement Act). The Indian Tribes in Maine desire full Sovereignty of all of their lands including lands that are currently not in 'Federal Trust' (in



Roof over skating rink at the Outdoor Center being considered.

Creative mountain bike trail development.



Trust for their particular Tribe) and lands they may acquire. It's very complicated legislation and too involved to discuss at length in this brief update. However, we are opposed to this legislation because, if enacted, it could significantly impact CV (more than any municipality in Maine). The legislation would allow PN to convert their 24,000 acres of land in CV into Federal Trust Land without a vote of the Town which the 1980 Settlement Act required of any such land conversion within an organized municipality. This, in turn, could mean the loss of property taxes and the loss of Town land use regulation on what amounts to one-half of the land base of CV. We have made several attempts to start a dialogue with representatives of the PN to work with them to find solutions that might allow conversion of their CV lands into Federal Trust Lands to no avail. We believe there may be many mutual opportunities by working together but we need to start a dialogue to have those discussions. This legislation was tabled by the State Legislative Judiciary Committee and is due to be heard again when the legislature reconvenes in January. In the meantime, the Carriage Road, the Huston Brook Road extension and all

trail corridors on their land in the CV currently remain closed. If there is anything new regarding their land closures, we will provide updates on the Town website and media outlets.

Other current "doings" in CV: We are trying to assist Sugarloaf in finding funding to improve the Caribou Valley (Pond) road as they currently continue to seek to rebuild a dam on the outlet of Caribou Pond to provide dependable water storage for snowmaking on the mountain. The last three miles of this road are owned by the State and it is essentially unpassable by any vehicle due to the deteriorated condition of the many old wooden bridges. We are hopeful to find some State funding (perhaps ARPA funding) as the cost of this road project should not be borne by Sugarloaf alone.

The CV Planning Board recently approved a site plan for Adam Platz owner of the "Judson's Lot" across from the Airport. He plans to build a log style one-level building that will house four rental commercial units. We have long wished to see something positive happen on that lot and we are told that construction will begin next spring. We are also excited to be creating a new Town Website, which we anticipate will launch toward the beginning of January. This will provide much better navigation on the part of the user to access meeting dates and other important Town information. Also, if possible, we hope to start the development of a new Town Comprehensive in the coming months. Unfortunately, this project has been delayed due to COVID and other more immediate pressing issues. Also, in recent months the Town has approved licensing two marijuana retail stores (by way of a lottery as only two stores are allowed in CV). It is anticipated that these will open sometime in the coming months.

Finally, I wish to thank all of our employees who continued to work through this pandemic. All of our Town departments and services remained open and we appreciate everyone's cooperation. Feel free to contact me (towncvtm@roadrunner.com) with any questions or concerns you may have. ■



Caribou Pond

Continued from front cover...

planning to date is being paid for by Sugarloaf. As a growing trend, these Par 3 courses are being built in some prominent golf destinations and resorts around the country. They take some of the pressure off the 18-hole course and provide additional golf opportunities especially for junior and beginning golfers. They also drive revenue which is good for the resort. If approved, this is a probable 2023 project. Although very much at the preliminary discussion stage, the concept is for Sugarloaf to donate the land (approximately twenty acres) to the Town. The Town would own the course and the Town would play a substantial role in financing the project (very rough estimate

at \$3M) and new lease amendments would be developed. The proposed Par-3 course is in close proximity to Sugarloaf's proposed West Mountain Development project. This development project (almost two hundred housing units between various forms of development) over time will generate significant new annual property tax revenue for the Town; much more than what the Town would incur in annual debt service payments to fund the development of the Par-3 course.

A lot of public process will need to take place in the coming months to determine if the Town and Sugarloaf continue to wish to move forward with these projects. The Town Select Board has indicated their support for moving forward with the

public process for both of these project proposals. As this develops, we will post more information on the Town's website (www.carrabassetvalley.org) which is undergoing a complete make over). These projects could provide very exciting additional recreational opportunities along with economic benefits. ■

News from the Code Enforcement Department

Submitted by Code Enforcement Officer Chris Parks

Despite the fluctuating costs of building materials and availability of trade workers, home construction has been busy and remains strong going into the fall; over thirty new homes or substantial renovations are trying to wrap up for winter occupancy and several more homes are on target to get a foundation started before snow sets in. Many of the unbuilt house lots are smaller in size and at times have been challenging for owners and builders to fit the desired homes on them while still adhering to our municipal setback standards. However, we continue to work through that process in an effort to respect the owners as well as the abutters. Regarding future new development in our community, Sugarloaf has been working on their West Mountain Development Plans and the Planning Board review process was initiated this month and will progress as an open public process parallel with other MDEP and State Regulatory Approvals in the coming months.

I wish to offer that while I seek to have an educational role in our community firsthand, and an enforcement entity, when necessary, I would ask our property owners or their contractors to reach out to me before you undertake a project big or small. We need to determine if a permit is required and/or if there are other code requirements you had not considered. We find that some folks overlook the need to take out a short-form building permit to build a new deck or for moving internal walls and stairs even if they are not load



bearing. It is necessary to plan ahead and make sure that a structure addition or deck isn't being built over a property line or a septic system that you might not think about. We can work with you and review site conditions together to understand what is existing on and around your property. When a permit is required for a modification, it is also helpful for the Town Tax Assessor to keep updated on property status throughout town which has allowed our community to match assessment equality throughout town without having to employ an expensive re-evaluation.

As we head into the busy winter season, I strongly encourage everyone to make sure that your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are active and functioning with fresh batteries, that your sewer pump alarm is working if you have one, that your fire extinguishers are in the green zone and that you don't have any hazardous materials such as gasoline or propane stored inside your homes. We're here to help and work with you. Please feel free to contact me (cvceo@roadrunner.com) with any questions or concerns you may have. ■

Greetings from the Carrabassett Valley School Department! My name is Regina Campbell and I am your new Superintendent. As you may be aware, George Joseph has retired after twenty years of service. During that time, he headed a study to determine the community's interest in starting a school, developed an enrichment grant program to support innovative programs for receiving schools and worked with the School Board to develop and revise policies that best meet the needs of our children and community. He left the School District in a better place and will be missed.

Last year saw an increase in student enrollment, largely due to Covid, and this year seems to have continued that trend. As of October 1, 2021, our student enrollment is as follows.

Kingfield Elementary School 12; Stratton Elementary School 22; Mt. Abram High School 10; Mt. Blue High School 2; Carrabassett Valley Academy, 31 full year students and we are anticipating up to 16 additional partial year students on November 1, 2021. This is a total of 77 fulltime and 16 partial year students, a substantial increase over last fall's enrollment of 73 students in K-12.

Our School Committee members are Steve Arner, Chairman, Danielle London, Vice Chairman, Erin Demshar, Deirdre Frey and Meredith Swallow.

The School Committee, in cooperation with the Town of Carrabassett Valley, sent out a survey this summer to all Carrabassett Valley property taxpayers with their property tax statements seeking input on educational opportunities and issues affecting Carrabassett Valley students and taxpayers. The School Committee is in the process of reviewing the responses received and is planning to host a meeting to invite all stakeholders to participate in a process to formulate and take appropriate action if needed. The date and time of the meeting will be posted on the Town's website.

Brian Foster continues to serve as our Special Education consultant. Wendy Russell is the school department's administrative assistant, and Karen Campbell is our bus driver. Karen is driving our new bus to the Stratton Elementary School and is to be commended for her dedication in keeping



School bus driver Karen Campbell with new bus.

her riders safe especially in these challenging times. As was the case last year, we contract with the Stratton School Department to pick up the Carrabassett Valley students going to SAD # 58 schools as they head south through town.

The School Committee Meeting dates and agenda are posted on the Town website. Please call Wendy Russell at the Town Office if you wish to contact the School Committee at 235-2645. In addition you can contact me at drcampbell@carrabassettvalley.org

Good luck to all of us in this new school year and please stay healthy! ■

CV Area Employee Housing Committee Moving Forward

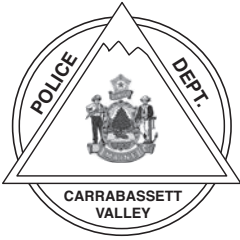
This past spring the Carrabassett Select Board appointed a committee to investigate and make recommendations regarding how to begin to solve the lack of employee housing in our area. This problem is not unique to our area as many urban and resort communities are struggling with this issue. There are a number of factors that have evolved in recent years that have contributed to this problem including the emergence of Air BnB and other short-term rental entities and the surge of real estate prices.

The committee Chair is Select Person John Beaupre and the committee includes representation from Sugarloaf, the Select Board, CV

residents and taxpayers, the Towns of Eustis and Kingfield and Town administration. The Committee continues to meet at least once a month and has had discussions with other communities, State agencies, non-profits, private developers and experts in the housing field. It has been a learning experience as the Committee conducts its research. Similar to other communities (Mount Desert Island, Deer Isle, etc.) it was determined that a study was needed to help guide the Committee. At the October 11th special Town meeting the CV voters approved funding for this purpose. The Select Board recently followed up on the Committee's recommendation by hiring

Camoin Associates to work with the Committee in developing a 'Regional Workforce Housing Needs Assessment and Strategy'. This effort is just getting underway with an approximate completion date of March.

This is not an easy issue to solve and may involve a regional approach and the formation of a non-profit and/or very creative ideas and financing. The Committee will post updates and meeting dates on the Town's website. If you have comments or suggestions, please forward them to the Town Manager at towncvtm@roadrunner.com ■



Hello from the Carrabasset Valley Police Department.

After a beautiful summer we anxiously look forward to a great winter. The Police Department installs and monitors alarm systems to protect your property. The rates are very competitive and well worth the peace of mind. Our alarm services not only protect your property from theft and fire but can include water damage and carbon monoxide. We also offer a cellular option that can replace your need for a landline telephone. Call us for information.

The Carrabasset Valley Police Department also maintains keys for owners in the event of lock outs. If you would like to store a spare key with our department in the event of a lock out or to assist with accessing your home when you are not here (for deliveries or maintenance needs) contact us.

CVPD also keeps lost and found items so please contact us in the event of lost items on the Mountain. We maintain a ski/snowboard registration program as well.



The picture is of Assistant Chief Billian, Officer Spencer, Officer Yoder and myself. Officer Spencer and Yoder are receiving an award for saving the life of a contractor in July.

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns and follow us on Facebook for various updates and information about happenings within the department. ■

CARRABASSETT VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT
9000 Main St. Village West
Carrabasset Valley, Maine 04947
Voice: 207-237-3200
Email: mlopez@sugarloaf.com
Fax: 207-237-6911

NorthStar EMS – Regionally Strong, Locally Active

Submitted by Mike Senecal, NorthStar Director

I like to start the newsletter by reminding everyone what the NorthStar mission is and how we serve our communities. NorthStar is a regional Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and one of Maine's most extensive ambulance services. NorthStar operates five strategically located bases, including Carrabasset Valley (located adjacent to the Town Office and Fire Department). With this tremendous regional strength, we respond to local emergencies and medical calls and provide support and back up to the entire 2,800 square-mile coverage area. This assures that no matter where one ambulance is, another will always be available for the next call.

NorthStar provides a paramedic-level staffed ambulance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. NorthStar provides an additional ambulance from 9 am to 5 pm during weekends and vacation weeks during the ski season. These two ambulances respond to over 500 requests for service during the year. We also increase our staffing during special events in our area to help maintain appropriate ambulance coverage. We also have several EMS providers who monitor the radio waves and respond from home as needed.

Last fall, I wrote about the impact of COVID-19 and the steps NorthStar had taken to protect you and our frontline staff during these challenging times.

Unfortunately, one year later, we are experiencing another COVID-19 surge, but several things remain the same:

- Adequate supply of personal protective equipment
- Universal masking for all patients and EMS providers
- Screening of ALL patients for COVID-19
- All employees complete a daily health screening
- Visitor restriction at the hospital

We will continue to operate under these guidelines until the pandemic is no longer a threat.

NorthStar has also been very active in administering the COVID-19 vaccine throughout greater Franklin County. If you know of a public event, business, or social group interested in hosting a Vaccine Clinic, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I have also fielded several calls from concerned citizens about the potential impact on services from the vaccine mandate. Unfortunately, we do have a few employees who have elected not to receive the vaccine. We have made adjustments to our schedule and have been successful in recruiting additional staff. At this time, we do not expect any changes in emergency medical coverage in the Carrabassett Valley region.

Thank you for making us a part of your community. We'd love to hear from you (other than through 911, of course!). If you have any questions about COVID-19 or NorthStar please call my office at 779-2400 as always, NorthStar is proud to be *your* ambulance service. ■



News from the Carrabassett Valley Fire Department

Submitted by Courtney Knapp, Chief

We have been in our new fire station at Sugarloaf nearly a year now. This facility offers a greater level of service to our residents and guests than we have ever had. We encourage folks to stop in for a visit. I am here most mornings from 9am to noon and day staffing is here on the weekends. Starting Christmas night, we will have overnight staffing as well. I am pleased to say 100% of our department is vaccinated against Covid-19. We have not had any member test positive yet. One of the biggest challenges we face as a small-town fire department with enormous responsibilities is staffing. We like many departments rely on a citizen force to make up our roster. The current pandemic has brought to light the extreme shortage of folks who want to give their time. Fire and EMS agencies have struggle long before this current Covid-19 virus crisis. It has just shined a bright light on staffing issues. In the coming year I and our mutual aid partners, Kingfield, and Eustis, will be collaborating to come up with a plan to ensure every call for service is answered in a timely fashion. Also, for the coming year I will be asking for approval at the Annual Town Meeting to purchase a Mini Pumper. To meet the demands of the current developments and the future this vehicle will provide more capabilities to respond effectively in all weather

conditions. This proposed Fire/Rescue vehicle is a much smaller truck than our large apparatus but has the same pump capacity and four-wheel drive. We have planned of this addition to our fleet for several years and budgeted for it in our Fleet Replacement Reserve Account. No additional tax dollars will be needed. Lastly, I will be working on a plan to adopt a key access security system referred

to as KNOX BOX. This system would locate a secure box at the entrance to all our commercial buildings and contains keys to that location. This would allow quick access during an emergency. The Knox Box will be alarmed and monitor to prevent unauthorized access. This proposal will require an adoption of a KNOX BOX ordinance. We encourage everyone to enjoy our great community and be safe. ■



Fire truck pump testing.

The Carrabassett Valley Public Library & Community Center

The CV Public Library provides a wide variety of materials and services, while offering free memberships for everyone. Our cozy environment is stocked with books, DVDs, audiobooks, CDs, public computers, magazines, newspapers, puzzles and a variety of children's materials. Amidst the pandemic we have taken steps to provide a safe space for people to borrow and enjoy our materials, in addition to providing online opportunities for accessing free eBooks, audiobooks and streaming movies. At this time, although there is a surge in Maine, the library is open for guests without an appointment. We are requesting that everyone wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. All services such as printing, copying and faxing are available. The Carrabassett Valley Public Library **Facebook** page shares current information and updates as our situation unfolds. Find the library link on the town website at www.carrabassettvalley.org.

During the last year, even with pandemic related limitations, the library has registered over 200 new members. Library attendance in 2020 was obviously affected by COVID-19; however, we were pleased to serve over 3,000 in-person visitors and over 700 people curbside. The library opened up to visitors by appointment in June of 2020. Since May of 2021, we have been open regular hours and welcoming guests without appointments. The Third Thursday @ 3 Community Book Club has not missed a meeting either on zoom or the patio, often happening simultaneously! Library members can download free audiobooks and eBooks through the Maine State Library; stop by for your FREE library membership to access this service—search download.maineinfonet.org. Using the cloudLibrary app makes it easy to use the Maine Infonet Download Library. We also have Kindles for lending and an iPad for in-library use. The lobby gallery provides a beautiful venue for local artists to display their work. The library has hosted over 58 artists during the past 10 years. Recently we hosted Barbara Stewart and Ian McKendry; Bailey DeBiase and Jill Snyder Wallace have installed a joint exhibit which will be available for viewing through October. It is entitled: ***Delicate Balance: Interpreting Nature.***

Please contact the library if you are interested in showing your art in our lobby gallery.

What's New? The library now has a **Library Book Return** so you can return your items safely at any time of the day or night! This summer the CVPL received a **\$2000 grant** from the Maine State Library through the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act.) "The package includes \$200 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), providing emergency funding for budgetary expenses brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic." The CV Library will be purchasing an OWL conferencing unit to share with other community groups. The Meeting Owl Pro has a 360° camera, mic, and speaker device that immerses remote participants in the meeting. It features a 1080p output resolution and an 18' mic pickup range to support large meeting rooms and boardrooms. This will allow for hybrid meetings and gives remote attendees the video conferencing experience they need to truly contribute with their team. Other considerations for use of funds include purchasing a mobile PA system so the library can do programs outside following covid safety protocols.

Very exciting news announcing **Bendable Maine**. **The Maine State Library** is working with the **Drucker Institute** to bring Bendable, a lifelong learning system, to the residents of Maine. But Bendable isn't being built for the community, it's being built with the community. The digital platform should launch in summer of 2022.

The **Begin Family Community Room** has been used regularly over the last 11 years for dozens of town meetings, association and committee meetings, clubs, free tax help, classes, parties, memorials and celebrations, as well as serving as a gathering space for a variety of groups & organizations. Wine & cheese receptions are hosted for each exhibiting artist and free movies can be shown on the big screen with our new LCD projector. Other community room uses include programs and events for the public. Recent events have been virtual programs and include: *Northern Stars Planetarium*, Tim Caverly's presentation and slideshow: *So You Think You Know Maine*, the *Marine Mammals of Maine* zoom presentation: *A Seal's Journey*, and Chewonki presented: *OWLS OF MAINE* at the CV Town Park

NEW HOURS 2021-22

SPRING, SUMMER & FALL:

Tue - Fri: 10-5 & Sat: 10-3

WINTER: Tue - Sat: 10-5

for summer campers. This event was made possible by the Maggie Trafton Memorial Fund! AARP volunteers provided free tax help during February and March even when the library was closed to the public. The Summer Reading Program (SRP) theme this year was: *Tales & Tails!* Library Director, Andrea DeBiase hosted 6 story times inside and out for the public as well as childcare participants. The library offers incentives to encourage the joy of reading—all the children received a free book of their choosing, purchased through our partnership with Scholastic Literacy Program, a "Let's Go to the Library" coloring & activity book, book bag, stickers, bookmarks, book light and pencil. Library programs will continue to be online until further notice.

Thank you for your patience as we hold off on in-person programs and Begin Room rentals. Internet access continues to provide up to 100 Mbps high speed bandwidth, so everyone has access to free Wi-Fi all around the parking lot, from your car and on the patio 24/7. To decrease any risk of virus sharing in large gatherings, the Library Board has decided to hold the Used Book Sale at the CV Library (inside and outside) this Homecoming Weekend, not at Sugarloaf. Instead of a pricelist, you may choose your books and leave a donation of your choice. Proceeds from the sale during Homecoming weekend are shared with the local food banks. If you miss us during Homecoming, come back during library hours as the sale will continue until we can resume Begin Room rentals for group use. You may also find the perfect choice at the **Little Free Library** on the green by the town office. Take a book ~ Share a book!

Please contact Library Director, Andrea DeBiase, at 237-3535 or email: cvlibrary3209@gmail.com for more information about purchasing a Forever Stone for the patio or donating to the library; we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you soon. Be well! ■

News from the Antigravity Complex & Recreation Department *Submitted by Deb Bowker, Recreation Director*

A very special thank you is extended to our Recreation Staff taxpayers & administration for an outstanding summer. We present you with an abbreviated outline from our summer program offerings.

- 6 weeks of Outdoor Adventure Day Camp
Ages 4-13 with Camp Director Anne Poirier Flight & Staff
- Aquatic Swim Instruction, Day Camp Swim Lessons & Lap Swim with our Lifeguards & WSI Instructors
- 6 weeks of travel golf with Golf Pro Scott Hoisington & Leah Ross, Sponsored Alden Jr. Golf Instruction
- Youth & Adult Individual & Group Tennis Lessons with instructor Chris Prudente
- Grades 6-12 Mountain Bike Camp with instructors Kerry Ouellette, Katie Casey & Andy Gillespie
- 7 weeks of middle school Paddle with White Water Guide Sterling Smith, Scott Hoisington, Leah Ross and lifeguards
- Fourth of July Fireworks

Hours of Operation November 1, 2021 – April 24, 2022

Monday - Thursday: 6:00am – 10:00am & 3:00pm – 9:00pm

Friday: 6:00am – 10:00am & 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Saturday: 6:00am – 1:00pm & 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am – 8:00pm

EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION SCHOOL VACATION WEEKS

- ALL AGC Inquiries 207-237-5566

AGC Fitness Programs/Certified Instructors:

TRX - Frank Bianco

Vinyasa Yoga - Nicole Pineau

Chair Yoga & Meditation Programs - Terrie Hoops



Skateboard Lessons

CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FITNESS INSTRUCTORS

Inquiries: dbowker3@roadrunner.com

Antigravity Complex Annual Membership Rates

Membership includes access to the Fisher Gymnasium, Dupree Skatepark & Bowl & Fitness Mezzanine for ages 13+
Does not include trampoline, climbing wall, or other specialty fitness classes.

Individual Taxpayer: \$100 Annually

Family Taxpayer Membership: \$235 Annually

(Includes 2 Adults/3 Youth). Additional youth - \$25 per youth.

Access to the Olympic Trampolines, Climbing Wall and Fitness classes are offered at an additional cost.

Day Rates Vary: Per Activity - \$7 Youth, \$9 Adult

Multi-Passes & Private Rentals Available

Hourly Instructor Rates:

- Trampoline (7 person maximum - \$70)
 - Climbing Wall (4 person maximum - \$70)
 - Skateboard Lesson (3 person maximum - \$55)
- Fitness Classes & Personal Training Determined by the Instructors*

"Bringing Back the Fun in 2021"

We were grateful this past summer to open back up to all campers near and far. We saw a record number of early registrations and teams filed quickly. The sound of laughter and play filled the Carrabassett Valley Riverside Park for 6 fun filled weeks.

Campers participated in a vast array of activities including; arts & crafts, local hikes, mountain biking, swimming, field games, environmental activities, and team building. A new offering to the older campers this year was water skiing at Petersen Water Skiing in Lexington. This program was a success and we look forward to it next summer.

Our Rough Riders group, the camp mountain bike program, grew this summer as we recognized increased interest in the sport even from our youngest of campers. Riders ages 4-7 were encouraged to bring their bikes to camp to learn how to navigate single track. Once ready for the trails, we had campers as young as 5 joining us on the amazing network of single track in the Valley. This group's favorite trails include: Grassy Loops, Goldenrod, Snail Trial, and Par-3.

Our older and more experienced Rough Riders headed out for full day rides, exploring the trail networks on both sides of the river and making our annual trek to Freeman Ridge Bike Park. A favorite of the summer!

In the spirit of competition, every summer we hold



a Penny Challenge encouraging teams to work together to raise money to help others in need. This summer campers decided to donate the money raised to the Salem Economic Ministry to help others right here in our surrounding communities. The winning team was the 'Red River Rafters'. Overall OAC raised \$450.00 for the Economic Ministry. Well Done!

We are grateful to our community and our partners who help make camp possible.

We would like to thank; Sugarloaf, KC's Kreativity Center, The Carrabassett Town Library, The AGC, The Samantha Wright Pool, the staff at the CV town office, Dave Cota, Deb Bowker, the CV Select

Board, our bus drivers, parents, campers, and of course this all would not be possible without the generosity of the CV taxpayers, thank you!

Last but defiantly not least, camp could not function without the support of the team. We were fortunate to fully staff the camp this summer with a diverse group of responsible and passionate individuals. This group consisted of former campers, parents, college students, recent grads, interns, and professionals in their field. Thank you all for sticking with our mission, bringing the fun back this year and helping teach the younger generation to "live in the outside safely and happily ever after". ■



15th Annual Carrabassett Valley Summerfest a Big Success

Submitted by Karen Campbell



On August 7, 2021 we were fortunate enough to pull off the 15th Annual Carrabassett Summer Festival. The weather was perfect; Artists demonstrated their crafts, Pilots did a fly by to open the show, Dyer and the Day Dreamer Trio started us off, people were ready for the family friendly event. When they say it takes a village, they were talking about this festival. From the beginning, this show has been locals brainstorming, building and

creating an event for all ages. There was pottery and face painting, Kenrick with his team of Draft Horses giving cart rides to the Airport activities including forty-four Young Eagles who were shown flight school including a simulator and given plane rides by local pilots (thank you!). We had fifteen local Artists demonstrating and selling their wares. A flat bed was brought in where a stage was built. We had food and beverage, an eating tent, picnic

tables, parking, signage, laughing, music, and we topped it off with the one and only "Outer Space Band". People came out of the woodwork; it was something from the "who's who" @ Sugarloaf! "Some of these people haven't been in the Valley for 20 or 30 years". It was truly amazing. The Uncle Al Fund folks were there raising money (they give Scholarships to local kids studying music) AND we raised money!! There's was no cover for the festival, but we charged artists for their booths, had a 50 / 50 raffle, got donations, and managed to pay our bills. After this was all said and done, we donated \$1,000 to the Ayotte Scholarship Fund which provides sporting gear and ski lessons for local kids. The whole day was a win, win. We needed a positive after the last fifteen months of Covid and we got it. We are looking forward to next year's annual Carrabassett Summer Festival, which will be held on **August 6th, 2022**. Please mark this on your calendar! We've talked with the "Outer Space Band" and they agreed, it was their favorite show, we'll be talking! Think positive and stay safe. If you've got ideas, thoughts, or would like to help or donate to this event, please feel free to let us know (kcjewlry@tdstelme.net). ■



Outer Space Band at Summerfest



CRNEMBA is the local mountain bike advocacy group made up of members of the community. The group exists due to the generous commitment of numerous community volunteers and the membership. "CR" stands for Carrabasset Region and the group is part of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA). CRNEMBA's focus is promoting and growing the local mountain bike scene through various avenues, on and off the trail.

In the fall of 2020, the regional office of NEMBA onboarded a new executive director, Travis Counsell, who has been working tirelessly to re-invent and in some cases re-invigorate all things NEMBA. Travis has been to Carrabasset Valley and Maine several times, and it has been great to connect with him. At the local membership level his efforts have led to a new and improved Single tracks publication, easier membership renewal and the option to add-on other chapters to your membership, among other things. While this is a full-time job for Travis, a significant amount of work is completed by volunteers, some of which are part of our community.

Summer 2021 saw a much-welcomed return to events on the mountain bike scene. The largest CRNEMBA fundraiser of the year, the Carrabasset Backcountry Cycle Challenge, returned in July after skipping a year. The event went off to a sold-out field of 350 racers where demand far exceeded supply for spots. This event is produced by a crew of volunteers and funds raised are donated to CRNEMBA for trail construction, maintenance, and local mountain bike programs. Thanks to all the volunteers, the community, and partners and sponsors who make this event happen. Without

you, it wouldn't exist.

In September the Maxxis Eastern States Cup enduro series made a stop in Carrabasset Valley. This marked the return of gravity racing to the area after a roughly two-decade hiatus. A network of enduro style trails were carved out of the mountain landscape over the summer, this effort was led by a hard-working Sugarloaf team with the help of numerous community volunteers from near and far. The races in September were a huge success by all accounts. It was exciting to see hundreds of racers and spectators around the resort over the weekend, and the racing made for awesome spectating. In 2022 the ESC will return in June followed by the Enduro World Series later in August.

In September CRNEMBA hosted the annual Mountain Bike Adventure Series event at the Outdoor Center. There were likely multiple factors at play, but the attendance was the lightest in recent memory. However, all that attended had a good time. The event will return in 2022 with hopefully some newfound energy around it.

The CRNEMBA tent was present on the Beach during Homecoming weekend, our first time having a presence there in many years. There was a significant amount of traffic by the tent, and it was great to see and talk to folks. The tent was staffed by several of our community members; it was great to have their support. Moving forward we hope to have a more regular presence with the CRNEMBA tent around the community throughout the year to connect with

people and raise awareness. To achieve this, we will need continued and additional support from our great membership team and community folks. Watch for future outreach from us moving forward to make this happen.

As we move into winter the fourth season of single-track grooming will be starting. All grooming efforts are completed by volunteers, many thanks to those folks that make it happen. Work was completed this summer in anticipation of Maine Huts and Trails being able to groom more trails and more often this winter. The return of this will be much welcomed, and we are supportive of their endeavors. Cross your fingers for a good reliable snowpack this winter!

CRNEMBA is very appreciative of the continued support of the taxpayers of Carrabasset Valley, the community at large and our many partners, including the Town, Maine Huts & Trails, and Sugarloaf. We also need to extend a huge thanks to the many landowners who have allowed trails to be constructed on their lands and have continued to allow these recreational activities to be enjoyed by all. Without these permissions our efforts and trail network would look significantly different. We also are greatly appreciative of the support shown by our membership, which continues to grow. We currently have over 200 members and are always looking new membership and support. Please visit Carrabassetnemba.org for additional information on membership and the local mountain biking community. ■

See you on the trails!





CVOA is an active club of outdoor enthusiasts. Twenty-one years strong in 2022, our mission has been simple and straight-forward from the beginning: To foster and promote the conservation of our natural resources and the creation of recreational opportunities in our region.



Yonder Knoll Hike

Having grown from a dozen members in 2000 to well-over 1,000 members in 2021, CVOA normally offers a full calendar of activities. However, during the past year and a half many of these had to be cancelled or postponed as we dealt with Covid. During previous years, we held many events, led by many different members and involving hundreds of people. We had annual

ski trips, hikes and snowshoe treks, cookie swaps & potluck dinners, and a weekly bowling competition. We are having 2022 ski trips to Aspen Snowmass, Big Sky and Snowbird Alta. For the upcoming winter season CVOA is planning to return to its more normal level of activities to the extent possible.

CVOA has a top-notch shooting range in a first-rate setting overlooking the majestic Bigelow Range. Our facility offers Rifle and Pistol Ranges, Trap and Five-Stand Fields, and an Archery Range. The range is open to the public during scheduled events. Some Local and Federal law enforcement personnel use the range for practice and proficiency requirements. Our latest projects include a 50-yard Range berm and a berm to better separate the road from the Trapp shooting area, both improving safety at the Range. Thank you to Jordan Lumber for donating and delivering the bark mulch used for berm construction. The range holds weekend and mid-week Five Stand and trap shoots from May through October. Other special events and educational classes are listed on our Facebook page, CVOA Shooting Range, and our website, CVOArange.com.

As with many organizations our Board has continued to actively manage the organization using Zoom and an outdoor summer meeting. Our Zoom Annual Meeting featured a delightful presentation by Laurie Chandler about her solo-canoe

Range Clean-Up

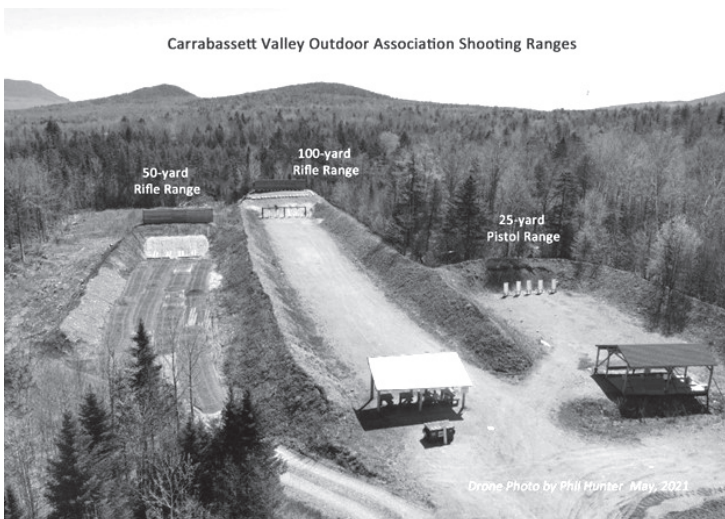


Thank you to our Clean-up Day Workers!

journey to Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Another aspect of CVOA is its community service. Members participated in the annual Route 27 cleanup. We made charitable donations to Adaptive Outdoor Education Center to support its fly-fishing program and to Franklin Area Search and Rescue to support rope rescue training. Our donation policy which guides our contributions states that requests must reflect our mission statement. It is available on our web site, and includes an application form, guidelines & criteria.

Because CVOA is entirely volunteer run, we have been able to keep the annual dues at \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples and families. Any member who would like to use the range pays an additional \$30. Our monthly newsletter, sent electronically to all current members, informs us of all upcoming activities and news. If you are not already a member of CVOA, we welcome you to join us. We love to share our passion of having fun in the outdoors! Visit us at: www.cvoutdoors.com and our CVO Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/carrabassett> ■





The people of Carrabassett Valley know Maine Huts & Trails as four enticing lodges in the woods connected by 80 miles of trails. You know that the trails are offered for public use without fees and intertwine with those of the mountain bike community as well as the Narrow Gauge. You appreciate that the trails are groomed in winter and lead to special places like Poplar Falls, Crommet’s Overlook, and views of Stratton Brook Pond. Further afield they take you to the shores of Flagstaff Lake, by the Big Eddy and along the Dead River to Grand Falls.

To share a few highlights of this past year, our Carrabassett Valley Trails partners teamed up with us to help steward the Maine Hut Trail to a level worthy of a nationally recognized recreation destination. For four weeks this summer, we



hosted an eight-member AmeriCorps team who lived at Stratton Brook Hut and made upgrades to the valley’s mountain bike trails. Flagstaff Hut made wedding dreams come true and Make-a-Wish’s Trailblazer Challenge returned to the Maine Hut Trail for a third year, raising money for a mission to make life-changing dreams come true for children in Maine.

You are undoubtedly aware the huts were somewhat dormant for many months, so WE ARE THRILLED to have Flagstaff Hut available for groups this fall, and to be gearing up for Poplar, Stratton Brook and Flagstaff Huts to reopen for

the upcoming winter season with renewed energy and a hospitality experience evolved for our COVID adjusted world. Much of the experience will feel the same to our guests, and in a few ways, we are going to approach things a little differently.

Our winter season will run from late December through the end of March. We’ll be renting by the room rather than by individual bunks for a more private and COVID safe experience. Over the course of each week, we’ll be offering our



acclaimed full-service experience complete with our signature MH&T staff prepared dinners, breakfasts and trail lunches on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. During those nights we’ll be pacing mealtimes by bunkroom to ensure appropriately distanced dining. As in the past, we’ll once again be offering our popular hot lunches on weekends for those who like to combine lunch with an outing that will burn off some calories.

As a big change, Sundays through Wednesdays we’ll be offering a reduced-price self-service experience — where guests bring and prepare their own meals. So you’ll be able to pick your own experience to enjoy the special warmth of winter nights in the huts with people like you who love being outside. We are offering this hybrid approach to meet people where they want to be, with some people liking a deliciously prepared hot meal after a ski, snowshoe or fat bike to the hut and others more inclined toward self-sufficiency. Our goal is to provide a self-service option this winter that is appealing, affordable, and welcoming for families, locals, and people from outside the valley. We look forward to sharing the trails and huts with you this winter!

It is no secret that the last couple of years have

been challenging for Maine Huts & Trails for a number of reasons. The pandemic certainly doubled down on the organization’s challenges. Thankfully, MH&T has ably navigated those challenges and is here today with a good plan going forward.

The Maine Huts & Trails staff and board have worked hard to get to where we are today, but we owe the community a HUGE debt of gratitude — our volunteers, donors, members, business partners. We are continually humbled by the strong feelings so many have for Maine Huts & Trails. You tell us: “We LOVE Maine Huts & Trails,” and “We want to see Maine Huts & Trails succeed for the long-term.” Throughout the difficult pandemic that spirit has enabled the organization to endure.

We have benefited from amazing and gratifying volunteerism and goodwill with people stepping up to be caretakers of huts, to maintain, improve and groom trails, to offer expertise, and to do chores from stacking firewood to data entry. In addition, many of you have shown us your



appreciation (and kept our spirits up!), by giving generously to our annual fund and with other gifts. With Maine Huts & Trails you know that every dollar makes a real difference. If you’d like to help with our rebuilding visit us at <http://mainehuts.org/> to donate or to see a current list of volunteer opportunities.

We are deeply thankful for your loyalty and gifts of time and resources, and we feel a responsibility to ensure that your caring and generosity pays off many fold as we build back. It is always our goal to be a source of pride for our community.

Back to the huts we go! ■



ADAPTIVE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER



Welcome home Sugarloafers! Another year in the books for the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center (AOEC), filled with growth and exciting new ventures. We are pleased to share that we have opened a second AOEC in Brunswick, ME! This campus operates as a nonprofit park with office space available to rent (three other nonprofits now call this campus home), a day-program facility, and the Horizons Center, a 3000 square foot event center! The AOEC Brunswick is an exciting expansion for our organization and will allow us to continue our mission to enhance the quality of life for people of all abilities in Maine through recreation and education programs!

With winter on its way, we're dusting off our ski gear and looking forward to hitting the slopes! This will be our FIFTH winter with the Horizons Ski Program at Sugarloaf. Thank you to this awesome mountain, community, our volunteers, and the skiers and their families for their continued support and passion for this program! We will also be skiing at three other mountains in Maine including Saddleback, New Hermon, and Camden SnowBowl.

As we set our sights on the New Year ahead we are feeling THANKFUL to call this town and this community our home! We'll see you on the slopes!

For additional info on the AOEC and our programs, events, and volunteer opportunities please check out our website at www.adaptiveoutdooreducationcenter.org.

What's New and Noteworthy at Sugarloaf

Sugarloaf Prepares for 2021/22 Ski Season

Following a season that will likely be remembered primarily for things like face mask requirements, capacity limitations, and cancelled events, Sugarloaf is expecting a return to more relative normalcy in the 2021/22 ski and snowboard season.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, and certain changes implemented in 2020/21 will remain in place, Sugarloaf guests can expect fewer restrictions and operational limitations for the upcoming season. Details on expected COVID guidelines are currently available on Sugarloaf's website at www.sugarloaf.com/winter-operations.

Updated COVID-19 Guidelines for 2021/22
In all of its policies regarding COVID-19 safety, Sugarloaf will continue to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), as well as local health authorities. The resort will adjust policies throughout the season as conditions and guidance from these entities change.

Sugarloaf is currently requiring face coverings for its staff while indoors, and recommending face coverings for all guests while indoors. Face coverings are not currently required in outdoor settings. This follows CDC guidance for counties with high or substantial levels of COVID transmission. Currently Sugarloaf does not expect to require face coverings in lift lines this season, and does not expect any capacity limitations on chairlifts this winter.

Similarly, there are currently no restrictions on indoor capacities in the Base Lodge, resort restaurants, retail shops, or other buildings. Guests will once again be welcome to change into their gear in the Base Lodge, but will be asked to store their bags in an all-new bag check area, rather than leaving it underneath tables or elsewhere in the King Pine Room.

Certain changes implemented last year for COVID related reasons will remain in place. All ticketing will continue to be managed at outdoor ticket

windows and automated ticket kiosks, and pre-purchase will be required once again. Likewise, lesson programs for all ages will continue to meet outdoors, as opposed to inside the Base Lodge.

Some conveniences that were added last year will also remain in place, including added outdoor restroom facilities, online ordering for many resort restaurants, and RFID ticket checking.

Summer Maintenance

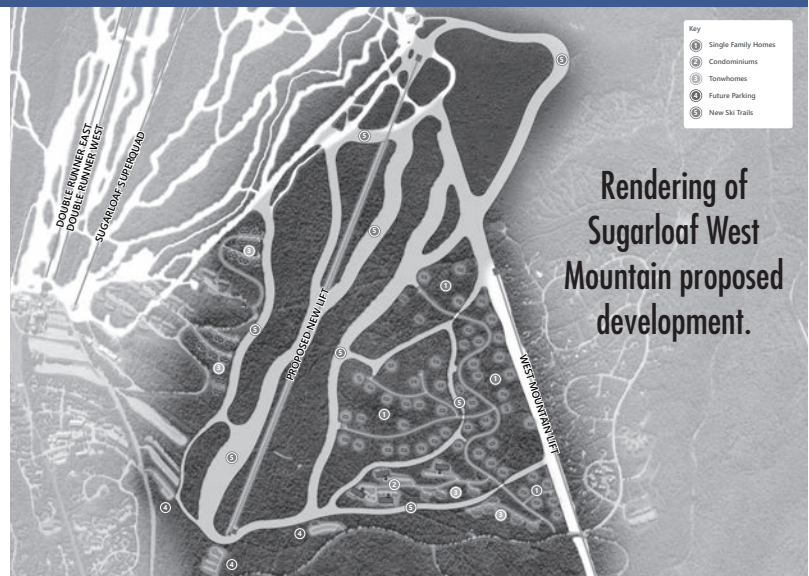
Sugarloaf's Mountain Operations team was busy during the summer months with several key maintenance projects and capital improvements. The SuperQuad underwent significant maintenance this summer, including the installation of a new transformer. The loss of a transformer at the end of last season required the SuperQuad to operate on diesel power for the final few weeks of the season.

The snowmaking team did substantial maintenance to much of Sugarloaf's snowmaking system, updating miles of air and water lines and replacing hydrants. In addition, Sugarloaf worked with Efficiency Maine to add several hundred new low-energy HKD tower guns in various locations across the mountain. These guns produce snow with significantly less energy than older-style ground guns.

Sugarloaf 2030

This summer saw significant progress towards Sugarloaf 2030 Road Map — most notably on the West Mountain development.

Despite delays caused by the pandemic planning and designs for the project continued and Sugar-



loaf submitted its formal development application to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) this fall. The resort continues to work with the Town of Carrabassett Planning Board on this project, and is hopeful that the first stages of construction will begin as early as next summer, pending state approvals for the project. Details on the West Mountain development are available at www.sugarloafmountain.com/westmountain.

Sugarloaf has also continued to work with the Town of Carrabassett Valley on several other projects related to the Sugarloaf 2030 Road Map. The resort has proposed a series of upgrades at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center, including snowmaking infrastructure, a roof covering the skating rink, a lighted snowshoe experience, as well as kitchen and café upgrades.

Elsewhere, Sugarloaf and the town continue to work together on a proposed 9-hole golf course to complement the existing Sugarloaf Golf Club. Initial designs for the proposed course have been created, and continued exploration of this project will take place throughout the coming season.

Finally, Sugarloaf has done extensive work with the town on the issue of local work force housing. Sugarloaf is a part of the town's committee to fully research the issue, and has also worked on proposals to construct its own employee housing complex in the coming years.

For complete details on the Sugarloaf 2030 Road Map, please visit www.sugarloaf2030.com ■

To the Taxpayers and Residents of Carrabassett Valley:

The Sugarloaf Ski Club, founded in 1950, is very fortunate to reside in a community that is as progressive as Carrabassett Valley. A community that not only strives to help its own children, but also the children of our neighboring communities.

Since the late 80's the taxpayers of Carrabassett Valley have allocated funds to the Sugarloaf Ski Club that are awarded by the club to area children to pursue their skiing and snowboarding dreams. In September of 2021, the \$15,000 that the town generously appropriated was awarded to 34 children who attend schools in the RSU 58 and Stratton school districts. This area includes Stratton, Strong, Kingfield, Carrabassett, Phillips and several unorganized territories. This money was used to help defray the costs of season long programs on the hill.

The money that the town provides is not the only money that is awarded by the club. This year the club has budgeted over \$70,000 to be awarded. With our broad reach we help hundreds of local kids learn to ski or snowboard and pursue their talents to the fullest. All of our funds and the programs they help are listed on our website (www.sugarloafskiclub.org).

Above and beyond the \$29,000 awarded in September, the club will be helping local schools with their ski/skate programs. Since 1968 this program has introduced thousands of local kids to the thrill of skiing and snowboarding. A very low-cost program called Boomaugers was introduced



Jean Luce Competition Center

to give kids more time on skis (alpine & Nordic) and snowboards. Money has also been provided to local schools to purchase Nordic equipment. For their kids to use.

In 2018 we launched a campaign to raise One million dollars for an endowment fund to provide stable funding for our scholarship programs. The initiative is called "King's Kids. The Club received a generous grant of \$500k for King & Jean Cummings Charitable Trust and with the help of many generous Sugarloafers we matched it by creating the G Norton Luce & King & Jean Cummings Fund. The initial Million dollars was raised by August of 2021. Our goal is that all kids who

live in the shadow of Sugarloaf will be offered the opportunity to learn to ski or snowboard.

We could not do as much as we do without the support of you, the taxpayers of Carrabassett Valley. If you would like to learn more about our programs and how you can contribute, please go to our website scholarship page. ■

**Thank You,
Bruce Miles
Executive Director
Sugarloaf Ski Club**



Boomauger Kids



The Sugarloaf Outdoor Center has been busy this summer in terms of guest and project activity. The exceptional work that the Town's bike trail crew has done certainly has been a major contributor to the steady growth in usership along with the general increase in outdoor activity during Covid. The dramatic increase in visitors last summer who wanted to just be outside did not abate this summer and we look forward to that trend continuing into the winter.

We have been working hard this summer to get the trails ready for the winter. The following are some of the things that we've been working on.

Trail Maintenance: For the first time we have had a dedicated trail maintenance crew working throughout the summer and through the fall to ensure that the trails are ready for snow. Some of the specific areas the trail crew addressed were:

- Brush cutting and general maintenance of all the snowshoe trails
- Brush cutting and mowing of the Nordic ski trails
- Cutting overhanging limbs that interfere with grooming operations

Trail Bridge Replacement: The Town of Carrabassett Valley has been aggressively involved in

replacing all of the older wooden bridges around the network. To date, the Town has replaced thirty large older wooden bridges with new concrete panel bridges which will last a very long time. This five-year replacement project will hopefully be completed next year with approximately fifteen additional bridge replacements primarily on Trail 50. When completed, the Town would have expended approximately \$400,000 (and Sugarloaf \$45,000 on their land) on this multi-year trail bridge replacement project. The Town funding for this project has come from sustainable wood harvesting on the Town's 2,100-acre Public Lot. The Town's commitment to continuously improving the infrastructure to the trail network has been impressive and appreciated.

NENSA Homologation: The Sugarloaf Outdoor Center has a rich history of Nordic competition and while we have hosted numerous races over the years, we are looking to attract some larger regional and national level races. In order to host races of this caliber, the trail that athletes would be racing on needs certification or homologation in ski racing parlance which is criteria based on a blend of course length, width, and overall number of sufficient climbs. Our current Race Loop was certified at one time but over the years, with changing course standards, it needed



to be updated to regain that homologation status. The New England Nordic Ski Association (NENSA) made a site visit in September to look at the course and make recommendations. We will be working through those recommendations over the next couple of years to bring the course back into compliance. This doesn't mean that we won't be able to host races, it just means that in order for us to be able to hold high level regional and national scale events, we need to go through this process.

Outdoor Center Project: Sugarloaf and the Town of Carrabassett Valley are working together on a proposed potential project that would see the addition of snowmaking to our Nordic Race loop, a roof over the skating rink, an expansion to the Bull Moose Café inside the lodge as well as the addition of a lighted trail potentially around the pond behind the Outdoor Center lodge. This project is still in the conceptual phases of development but is working through the process. In addition, we hope to replace the Nordic Ski wax building and provide possible upgrades to other Center outbuildings.

Wood Harvesting on the Public Lot: As many of you know, the Town owns both the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center (which has been leased to Sugarloaf for many years) and the 2,100 acres of public lot that surround the Center. The Town manages the lot for both recreation and sustainable forest management. A sixty-acre parcel (above the Seven Bridges Trail (Trail 29)) was harvested this fall. It is anticipated that an updated forest management plan will be developed in 2022. As is the case every year, a public informational meeting will be announced and held to provide information and public input regarding forest management plans. All of the wood harvest revenues have been used to replace the many wooden trail bridges with concrete panel bridges and to improve the forest management infrastructure.



Trail Bridge Replacement Work



Some upcoming winter events at the Outdoor Center:

A few of the events that we are looking at for this winter at the outdoor Center are:

- 2022 Maine Nordic Selection Race March 5th
 - 5k classic interval start
 - 3k freestyle pursuit
- Maine State HS Finals Alternate Site (if the county cancels for whatever reason)
- Ice skating demonstration and lesson event Wednesday and Thursday of Feb Break.

Please plan on visiting the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center this winter! ■

News from the Sugarloaf Golf Club

Submitted by John DeBiase

Highlights of 2021:

- Golf course opened up early in excellent shape during the last week of May
- Zach Zondlo: Head Professional, and John DeBiase: Director of Golf, and staff hosted the *State of Maine Championship* and another successful *American Junior Golf Association Tournament*.
- The vision of Ryan Blake, Superintendent, and Daniel Walker, Assistant Superintendent, contributed to the enhancement of playability and overall experience at Sugarloaf Golf Club which resulted in a significant increase in rounds played.
- The *Fall Finale Golf Tournament* to benefit the *Alden Macdonald Golf Foundation* raised \$2500 to be matched by Town funds, an all-time high since its inception many years ago.
- Congratulations to our club champions: Tim Landry, Tom Taber and Laurel Lashar... well done!
- Many thanks to an awesome staff for their hard work and dedication which contributed to making the Sugarloaf Golf Club the #1 course in the State of Maine for 2021! It was a fabulous summer! Come join us next year. ■



Prestigious American Junior Golf Association tournament event was held again at Sugarloaf in 2021.

News from the Carrabassett History Committee

Submitted by Jean Luce, Chairperson

The next time you find yourself on the Narrow-Gauge Pathway, take a moment to walk to the river's edge and imagine the Carrabassett choked with logs — thousands of them tangled in heaps like giant pickup sticks bank to bank for three miles. That's how the Carrabassett looked in May of 1874 after woodsmen rolled 30,000 logs and 100,000 railroad ties into the stream for the Franklin Land & Lumber Company's inaugural log drive. Because of an early thaw, the water had already fallen to its summertime low level, and the logs snagged on boulders and tumbled into each other. After two rivermen drowned in the icy river trying to dislodge the tightly packed jumble, their coworkers balked at any further attempts to move the timber. So there the logs stayed for an entire year, until the next spring's freshet, when a crackerjack crew from Bangor broke the jam and drove them to the Kennebec.

For the past several months, writer Virginia M. Wright has been working with the Carrabassett Valley History Committee, poring over old newspapers, history books, academic papers, and other documents to unearth the town's past. It's proving to be rich in colorful stories like this one, which offers a glimpse into the dismal first year of the company that introduced industrial-scale lumbering to the valley. We've found stories from the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries about mill workers' breaking the silence of the forest with their raucous singing after a booze run to Stratton, Italian immigrants laying down track to Bigelow, and a pair of Boston fisherman hooking 380 trout — yes, 380 — in the Carrabassett in just four hours. Our research is now concentrated on the brash, vibrant community that formed around the fledgling Sugarloaf ski area in the 50s, and 60s (and, boy, are there stories)!

We're pulling it all together into a book-length narrative that aims to inform and entertain readers about our unusual, innovative town as it approaches its 50th birthday.

While the History Committee abandoned its monthly meetings when Covid hit, it has continued with active support for our writer, Ginny Wright. She is in the process of filling out our history timeline with the many wonderful stories gained from diligent digging and many interviews. The process of producing this report was an example of our group effort. ■

Sincerely,

Jean Luce-Chair, John Beaupre, Tim Flight, Don Fowler, Ted Jones, John Slagle, Wendy Russell, Ginny Wright

News from the Lagoons

Submitted by David S. Keith, Sanitary District Supt.

WARNING!! This article may contain references to Social Media Influencers, Scripture, Poop and other foolishness!!

You may have noticed that I haven't written about the Porcelain Gods recently; this was at their request. It seems, at a recent conclave of greater and lesser deities, the Porcelain Gods and other lesser gods were reprimanded and then reminded that their only role, when interacting with humans, is to be supportive and conciliatory. They were directed to neither absolve nor influence, nor are they to use the internet to become "Social Media Influencers"; basically, leave the heavy stuff to the greater gods. This edict was apparently directed toward the Porcelain Gods more so than the other lesser gods. It was as if the Porcelain Gods were being accused of influencing people to openly discuss poop and pooping.

As we all know, the following bit of scripture demonstrates that the greater gods, most definitely, have an aversion to our "indecent" bodily functions; *Deuteronomy 23:12-14* ESV "You shall have a place outside the camp, and you shall go out to it. ...and when you sit down outside,

you shall dig a hole... cover up your excrement. Because the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp..., therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you."

As would be expected, the Porcelain Gods held a lengthy and tense executive session to review their past actions in order to determine which of them had raised the ire of the greater gods; and as would be expected in these situations, they determined that they were not at fault and the blame was to lie directly on management. And as would be expected, I was called before their stained and less than luminescence thrones to explain myself.

"In your writings," they said, "specifically in the Carrabassett Connections, you have made repeated reference to that which the greater gods find indecent, such as *Hey, Look What Floated up in the Lagoon, Gushing Sewage Geysers and Ladies that Wear Bicycle Shorts, The Inventor Thomas Crapper, Where was the Outhouse on Gilligan's Island and on Survivor Island?, Gobbler Scat and Monkey Feces, An Outhouse By Any Other Name,*

Toilets with Customizable Apps (in white or a special order color), and Things That Get Flushed." You have made repeated references to sitting on a toilet to find inspiration for your writings, and you have also raised the question as to why the common and natural act of 'poppin-a-squat' or using the toilet is not more common place in other literature or on television. We feel your actions have, by chance or by purpose, allowed you to become a "social media influencer" which is made evident by a recent television ad depicting various women sitting on toilets and stating, "I'm a woman and I poop".

"What do you have to say for yourself?"

"I don't know about Golf," I said.

"What don't you know about Golf?" they demanded. Most everything, so I don't write about it. ■

Pure water is the world's first and foremost medicine ~ *Slovakian Proverb*



SWA & Maine's Drought



A drought is an event of prolonged shortages in the water supply, whether it is precipitation, surface water, or ground water. A drought can last for months or years. Drought is a recurring feature of the climate in most parts of the world.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, over 90% of Maine experienced "Severe" to "Extreme" drought conditions last year at this time. Though not as wide spread as last year, the north western most regions of Maine are currently experiencing "Severe" drought conditions.

These drought conditions in our region did limit the supply of surface water that Sugarloaf could draw from the South Branch Carrabassett River for drinking water treatment and golf course irrigation. Fortunately, this year's drought conditions did not greatly affect our deep bedrock wells, and the SWA was able to work with the golf maintenance crew to supply limited surplus drinking water for golf course irrigation.

As these droughts are predicted to become more extreme and more unpredictable, our team will be drafting an emergency water conservation policy to ensure that the SWA can maintain water storage levels adequate to meet critical domestic and fire demands during these trying times.

Water Conservation



What is water conservation?

Water conservation is the practice of using water efficiently to reduce unnecessary water usage. Water conservation is important because fresh clean water is a limited resource, as well as a costly one. As a homeowner, you're probably already aware of the financial costs of inefficient water use. Conservation of this natural resource is critical for the environment.

America's population has doubled over the last half century, and our demand for water has tripled. Water conservation is more important than ever, and the world is looking for tips on saving water. Here are a few tips that you our customers can do to reduce your water footprint.

- ◆ Use the right amount of water for each load of laundry.
- ◆ Water your lawn or garden in the early morning or evening.
- ◆ Install a low flow showerhead.
- ◆ Check your home for leaky toilets or faucets and have them repaired.
- ◆ Use a dishwasher instead of hand washing.
- ◆ Turn off the faucet when shaving or brushing your teeth.
- ◆ Defrost food in the fridge and not in the sink.
- ◆ When replacing appliances go for the high efficiency and/energy star rated ones.

System Improvements

Having an excellent equipment operator on our crew, and a very accommodating and affordable rental agreement with an on mountain backhoe owner; the SWA continues to make great progress correcting many small distribution system issues that would otherwise be difficult to accomplish due to prohibitive costs and scheduling.

These distribution system projects included numerous curb stop and isolation valve repairs; installing new dead end blow off valves, ditching and road repairs.

The SWA secured an Asset Security Grant from the Maine Drinking Water Program. The nearly \$6,000 grant reimbursed the SWA for new and upgraded security cameras, as well as camera server and software upgrades.

TEAM SWA

We hope you have a great upcoming season, and have confidence that our team is dedicated to ensuring the safety and reliability of our communities' water system.

Sincerely,

Josh Burdin and the entire SWA Team

There has been a lot of activity at the airport in 2021 which has been fueled by a reduction of COVID restrictions to travel. There have been numerous projects taken on to attract more visitors to the airport and the area. Several of the projects not readily visible improved the safety aspect of our airport.

A new online NOTAM (Notices to Airmen) system was introduced early this year which allows the airport to disseminate information about the airport to pilots in just a few minutes. This allows pilots to get safety-critical information such as snow, ice, or closure report quickly and streamlines the process for those that have the responsibility to file the information.

As always, after the snow melted some landscape work was required to repair damage to the grass areas along the runway and tiedown areas. Several pilots and airport volunteers spent a few weeks filling holes, grading, and seeding areas which improved the airport aesthetically and

improved safety along the sides of the runway.

Our airport's AWOS station (Surface Weather Observation Station) has been in existence since about 2004 but aeronautical charts were not updated to reflect its presence so unfamiliar pilots were not aware that they could obtain weather on the airport updated every minute. This was addressed and the charts have been updated so pilots from anywhere are aware of the service available to them. As of this writing, further enhancement of this system is in process that will change the frequency the AWOS operates on so it won't interfere with communications around the airport.

The State of Maine DOT funded a program to install a computer-based GARD (General Audio Recording Device) system at the airport. This records data on use of the airport and alleviates filing of data by airport operators. This data is used to determine activity and eventually funding levels for airport improvement projects.

The airport joined forces with the Maine Aeronautics Association and with local pilots' support have made some bicycles available to pilots and their passengers to use when visiting our airport. This attracts pilots to come enjoy our many bike trails and visit establishments in the Valley.

In conjunction with the Carrabassett Valley Summer Festival, the airport hosted a "Fly In" and a "Young Eagles Rally." We had about 15 airplanes visit our airport and enjoy the festival from other airports around the state. Local volunteer pilots provided free airplane rides for children between 8-17 which introduced 44 children to aviation which is more than double the 2019 event. As you can see from the photo, a lot of people including many pilots, and airport supporters worked to make the day very successful.

The airport commenced a project last year to expand the taxiway system to the north to provide additional space for hangars at the airport. The design was completed and submitted to the FAA

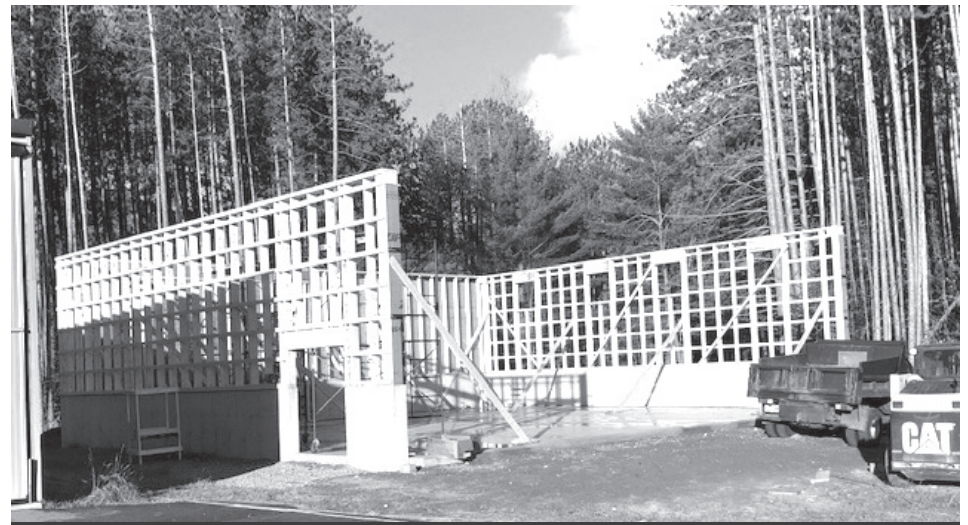


for a grant this year. The grant for the project was approved for the full amount of the project of \$632,500 in August 2021. Normally the FAA grant is only for 90% of the project cost, requiring the state and town to fund 5% each for these types of projects. This expansion will accommodate up to 14 new, privately built hangars. Construction could begin in the late fall or winter of 2021.

On September 26th a Squad-Driven, LLC car rally with over fifty “sporty” cars (some not often seen) was held that included some speed runs on the runway. It was very interesting for spectators to see these cars and the event also raised money for the Marfan Foundation. Also, a “Coffee Fly In” was held at the airport on Oct 9th sponsored with the Maine Aeronautics Association.

Two Flight schools continue to operate and train pilots at the airport with many new pilots and additional ratings being issued this year. We

expect activity will continue to grow at the airport especially with the additional hangar space on the horizon. ■



New larger hangar being constructed at the Airport.

News from the Carrabassett Valley ATV Club

Submitted by John McCartherin, Secretary-Treasurer

It's a tough year to report on activities when there have been very few, compared to past years. As many of you know, the 37 miles of trails operated by the Carrabassett Valley ATV Club have been closed this year. The major landowner in the town, the Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN), did not authorize our request to reopen the 28 miles of trails that we have operated over the years on their property. That left only a handful of miles on other property owners' lands, but all of them accessible only through the Penobscot's property. Needless to say, we chose not to open those, though we did do some brushing and trail maintenance on them. Similar closures have occurred on snowmobile, bicycle and hiking trails on Penobscot land.

Along with the town and other recreational organizations utilizing Penobscot lands, we have attempted to stay in touch with the PIN Nation about the closures but little communication has transpired.

The Penobscot Nation is currently seeking legislative approval to conduct all of their properties in the state on a “trust land” basis, which means that they would have total control of affairs, including those currently administered by municipalities, on all properties they currently

own. This proposal continues its two-year-old path through the Maine Legislature.

In the meantime, our ATV Club has conducted, as I mentioned, minimal trail work on the Wyman Trail and the trail linking Highland Plantation and Lexington, all of which are dependent on connections through Penobscot land. We also funded materials for repair of a trail crossing across a private driveway in Carrabassett.

As part of our normal planning for operations, our ATV Club did prior to ATV season complete the purchase of a new Polaris Ranger 1000 ATV, capable of carrying required construction and maintenance loads on the mountainous terrain that comprises most of our trail system. Our thanks go out to Friend & Friend recreational vehicles in Ellsworth for their generous assistance and to the Town of Carrabassett Valley through whose recreational endowment fund half of the cost was funded.

Because of a lack of trails available to use it on, the ATV was loaned for the season to the Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association for use at its range facility in town.



An important part of our planning with Trail master Pete Boucher was a decision to move towards the use of battery-operated tools for trail construction and maintenance. We have begun that transition with the initial purchase of a battery-operated tool and primary and backup batteries and a charging station. That fundamental purchase sets us up for future acquisitions since the batteries and charger will service literally dozens of other tools available through the Milwaukee Corporation.

It's our hope that the Penobscot Indian Nation will next year authorize our use of trails on their lands they have generously provided in the past so we can continue to grow and improve the ATV network in our area. ■



CVA WELLNESS TEAM

At Carrabassett Valley Academy (CVA), the well-being of their student-athletes has always been a top priority. Driving that philosophy is CVA's wellness team, made up of school nurse Amy Martin, athletic trainer Tristy Wolfe, and mental health advocate Katie O'Hara.

Amy Martin has been CVA's nurse since 2015. Notably, as of late, she has been championing CVA's Covid-19 protocols. Under her care, there has been minimal contagion and CVA's vaccination rate among students and staff is well above 90%. Thanks to Amy's strategies including weekly testing of the entire community throughout last year and this year, CVA has been able to operate fully in-person throughout the pandemic.

Through Covid and beyond, Amy continues to be a pillar of care, communication, and education keeping her community safe and well.



At a winter sports academy, managing students' injuries is a big job. For the past eight years, Tristy Wolfe has been CVA's athletic trainer providing treatment and rehabilitation for injured athletes. Along with orthopedic injury care and prevention, Tristy has established a robust concussion treatment program. Utilizing industry leading software to establish baseline data, Tristy can effectively treat concussion and prescribe back-to-snow protocols accordingly.

We cannot speak highly enough about Tristy. She genuinely has the students' best interest at heart. She looks out for the kids on all fronts: physically and mentally. Tristy has endless empathy and remains available well beyond normal working hours. She connects with the students at their level and supports their maturation into young adults.

- Natasha and Salim Saifee P'23

New to the wellness team this year is CVA's mental health advocate Katie O'Hara. Katie will guide the understanding of how a student's mental health impacts their academic and athletic growth as well as their social emotional learning. As part of her role, Katie has implemented a life skills curriculum for the Middle Schoolers. The umbrella of subjects to be discussed this year are: Self Identity, Healthy Communication, and Social Awareness. Under this umbrella, there will be subtopics to explore. For example, in the Self-Identity unit we will be broaching topics such as self image, gender awareness, decision-making, and personal hygiene.

A current CVA parent remarked, "A mental health professional is so necessary at an elite academy like CVA. It's great that they are doing their part to educate and help lift the stigmas surrounding mental health."



"CVA is fortunate to have these three caring professionals in place to guide our students and staff. They help keep us informed and well so we can access every opportunity to grow and learn together. They are the "heartbeat" of our community." -Kate Punderson, Head of School

Enrollment Update

CVA has had the strongest enrollment in over 7 years. This year CVA has 123 students enrolled, with 42 being new students. Of our 123 total students, 60% are male, 50% are boarding, and 60% are from Maine. Carrabassett Valley Academy's mission is to foster focused individual student-athlete development by providing the optimum balance between outstanding college preparatory academics, responsible community living and world-class athletic training in competitive skiing and snowboarding.

Welcome back to in-person worship and continued Zoom virtual services, to all our mountain friends, neighbors, visitors, and guests. Thank you to the many generous supporters, without whom, our vision and mission, could never be realized, year-after-year. The Ministry Board and Pastors, Rev. Dr. Pamela Morse and Rev. Earle Morse warmly welcome you to this beautiful Sugarloaf community.

The Ministry is active year-round, providing support and encouragement to all ages and is devoted to many volunteer community outreach services, in and around Carrabassett Valley. The Ministry is in association with American Baptist Churches of Maine and Skiers and Snowboarders for Christ, providing traditional and contemporary Christian ministries for all ages, adapting to our ever-changing culture.

Due to COVID-19 occupancy restrictions in effect last October, the Homecoming Service was held outdoors at the Bridal Bridge at 11:00 AM, following the 9:00 AM Zoom worship service. For 2021, plans are in motion for our Homecoming Worship Service to be held in-person, at the Bell Chapel and simultaneously on Zoom at 9:00 AM; in what has become a "hybrid AND/BOTH" form of relational worship, whether near or far away, technology brings us together. In accordance with current U.S. and ME CDC guidelines and in support of the Sugarloaf commitment to the health and wellness of our community and guests, masks are not mandated during our worship time, however, they are encouraged for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

The 2020 Community Fund that received overwhelming support last year during the shutdowns, has assisted over 100 families in the Greater Sugarloaf community. The Ministry still has resources to assist, so if you know someone in need of

assistance with housing, food, heating fuels or other utilities, have them contact Pastor Pam or direct them to the Community Fund application online at sugarloafministry.com.

Although social distancing has restricted opportunities for in-person small group discussion and study groups to meet at the Chapel, technology has opened the door to meeting virtually, from anywhere, at any time. Our Monday evening "Beyond Disaster" group is facilitated from Bethel, ME and our Zoom Worship host on Sunday mornings is in Maryland and our services are viewed in the US and CAN. The Tuesday "How to Pioneer" group and the Wednesday "A Lens of Love" book group participants are from Southern, Central and Western Maine. On Thursday evenings, Pastor Pam leads the "Change of Pace" sessions with CVA student athletes.

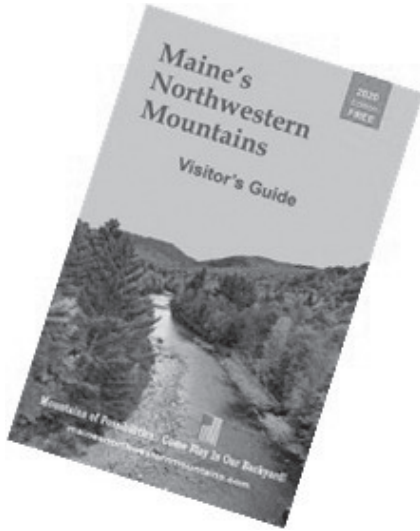
Due to maintenance/repair services to the Super Quad this summer, the lift was not in service and therefore we were not able to offer outdoor services at The AMP on Sunday mornings in 2021 but do expect to return next year. We will continue our efforts in maintaining and developing the relationships we've established with you and strive to form new ones, helping all to find the good news of faith, hope, love, and salvation in Jesus.

We invite you to browse our informational websites at www.cvalleynetwork.org and www.sugarloafministry.com and to "like us" on Facebook. ■

Come when you can, come as you are, all are welcome at God's house.



Maine's Northwestern Mountains, Come Play in Our Backyard - Flagstaff Area Business Association



First of all, FABA would like to again express our thanks to the Carrabassett Valley Taxpayers and your Board of Selectpersons for supporting our Center with a \$15,000 investment in 2021.

Your monetary investment in FABA has enabled us to face the challenges of CORVID-19 and the financial effect it has had on the many small business in our community. These funds enable FABA to promote the economic welfare and goals of the surrounding areas by providing a forum for networking, cooperative advertising, community sponsorship, and the exchange of ideas in order to create and maintain the **REGION** as a thriving four-season tourist destination.

These dollars have enabled us to support and promote the 200+ small businesses in our region. The pandemic has really hurt our local economy and many of the small "Mom and Pop" businesses are financially strained due to changes brought on by COVID-19 and the subsequent mandates that followed. We provide a much-needed cost effective service for Advertising/Marketing for their businesses through the more economical cost of group advertising, thus we are able to bridge the gap between them and potential consumers.



Our members play an important part in the success of Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region by providing the Visitor's Center with brochures, maps, and guides, thus encouraging the consumer to consider a longer stay, perhaps a return visit, and positive trip reviews both online and to family and friends.

Your support of FABA, in turn, enables us to support the 200+ small businesses in our region. These diverse businesses are extremely necessary in the marketing of Maine's Northwestern Mountains Region to attract both tourists and potential residents to this area as a popular destination to live, work and recreate!

We continue to work on our websites search engine optimization and on our FaceBook posts, and because of this, we are on pace to surpass last year's Maine's Northwestern Mountains Visitors Guide request by 45%. We are also on pace to mail out 3700 copies of our Visitor's Guide

this year at a cost of roughly \$7000. Last year from Jan 2020 to Sept 2020, we had 10,984 new users look at our website. This year from Jan 2021 to Sept 2021, we have had 24,009 new users look at our website, a growth of 119%. The word is spreading rapidly on just how great our region is!

Please take time to stop in at our Visitor's Center, 1216 Carrabassett Drive — Doug and Joni will be happy to welcome you and explain how your support of FABA is contributing to the future of Maine's Northwestern Mountains. We can also be reached at 207-235-6008 or on our Website: www.mainesnorthwesternmountains.com

ONE SMALL BUSINESS CANNOT MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BUT TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE A STORM! ■

When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

At WSKI, in 2020-21, *'Know Before You Go'* took on extra meaning for the crew of Snowfields Productions.

The need to get ever-changing information out, has been greater than ever, and we took on the task with care and caution to carry on, serving our viewers the info they need to know, as COVID continued to affect our region and its businesses.

Irrespective of that, at WSKI-TV 17, we have fun as a tightly knit crew, and it shows in what we do; we continue to dominate television ratings in our market, year after year. In addition to Spectrum Cable, we are everywhere online; *wskitv.com*, FB, Twitter, and Instagram.

We Turn Guests into Locals. Our crew of Andy Gillespie and Greg Powers are out and about to bring the latest info from the Canadian Border to Kingfield year-round.

In a year when accurate information is personal power, we let viewers know what's happening, good or bad, because we believe knowledge on topics that affect our lives, including the Penobscot Indian Land closure in Carrabassett, is important for our viewers to understand as fully as possible.

Kip File's 'First Tracks' reporting during our winter weekend and vacation live shows gives viewers insight to conditions on the hill that they won't find anywhere else. Expertise from those who know is super valuable to improve your day on the Mountain before you go out the door, by knowing what to wear and where to head to first!

WSKI-TV was started by (then) Public Relations manager at Sugarloaf, Chip Carey, in 1979.

When I was hired as Station Supervisor in 1980, our primary purpose was to produce sales videos for Marketing, and event coverage for television news and features in Maine, New England, and beyond, for the Mountain.

The winter of 2021-22 is WSKI-TV's 42nd year of operation, and the 35th year independently owned and operated by Snowfields Productions,



after Sugarloaf's bankruptcy resulted in resort-wide lay-offs in spring of 1986. By the end of that summer, we had changed our status from former employees of the Marketing Department to owners of the only resort-based, nonetheless truly 'community', television station in the State of Maine.

We are the only direct-to-customer driven, tourist-oriented business in Carrabassett Valley that has not changed ownership since that time, because we love, and are dedicated to, what we do; improving the guest experience while visiting here, so guests return again, and again.

WSKI is nothing but committed to our community and region and the environment around us, and that clarity of focus keeps us #1 in the eyes (and hearts) of our viewers year after year, even amidst the clutter of media and 'information' we are bombarded with daily.

Town entities and issues such as Carrabassett's Library, the AGC, Pool, Mountain Bike Trails, Snowmobile and ATV Clubs, news, and events, are included in what we ensure our viewers see and hear about.

Our sponsor businesses maintain their presence on WSKI-TV 17 year after year because the results are noticeable for the largest to the smallest of our advertisers. Television makes people want what they didn't know they want, and WSKI is exceptionally good at presenting products and services to our viewers, with measurable outcome for businesses who choose WSKI to *Get the Word Out*.

Join us if you are a business owner who wants to reach the audience we deliver. Young and old, locals and first-time guests, tune in to our family-fun winter shows; you never know what Watch and Win shenanigans will develop, but it is always worth tuning in to see, and participate . . . if you're game! You can't find interactive TV anywhere like WSKI!

Stay tuned so you WILL enjoy your time in Carrabassett more by getting our info. We ARE *the Insiders on the Outside* around here. Thank you to CV residents who voted at the Town Office by ballot in 2021 to continue the Town's support for our services! We couldn't do what we do without it. **THINK SNOW, and we'll see you on the slopes!** ■

- Turning Guests into Locals since 1986. WSKI-TV 17 the #1 Rated channel in the Maine High Peaks Region. We are the Insiders on the Outside: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Snowfields Productions, owners/operators of WSKI-TV 17 & wskitv.com 24/7 year round.

Full-Service Video Production also available.
5092 Sugarloaf Access Rd.
Carrabassett Valley, ME 04947

Town Manager

Dave Cota
Ph. 207-235-2645
e-mail: towncvtm@roadrunner.com

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Wendy Russell
Ph. 207-235-2645
e-mail: townofcv@roadrunner.com

Code Enforcement/Assessing

Chris Parks
Ph. 207-235-2645
e-mail: cvceo@roadrunner.com

Treasurer/Deputy Tax Collector

Sacha Gillespie
Ph. 207-235-2645
e-mail: towncvtax@roadrunner.com

Recreation Director

Deborah Bowker
Ph. 207-491-0685
e-mail: dbowker3@roadrunner.com

Fire Chief

Courtney Knapp
Ph. 207-235-2991
e-mail: countknapp@roadrunner.com

Police Chief

Mark Lopez
Ph. 207-237-3200
e-mail: mlopez@sugarloaf.com

For Emergencies Call: 237-3200 or 911

Annual Newsletter

from the town of Carrabassett Valley

Sugarloaf Explorer 2021 – 2022 Season

Submitted by Bill Aikey

As I'm sure everyone is aware, there is a significant shortage of CDL Drivers effecting the entire transportation industry. Sugarloaf Explorer is no exception.

For the upcoming season we will be focusing on high traffic periods, specifically weekends and holidays. Due to the driver shortage, we will be operating a full schedule Wednesday through Monday. During those times we will be fully staffed and will be running all routes. Unfortunately, we do not have enough drivers at the present time to staff Tuesday. **We will not be operating on Tuesday.** Should we be able to recruit more drivers, we will adjust the schedule accordingly.

Once more we are dealing with COVID. **Masks, covering the mouth and nose, are required at all times, regardless of vaccination status.** While there will be no formal capacity restrictions, we will try to prevent overcrowding whenever possible. We will have extra buses available during peak times to take care of any overflow. At the present time, we plan to run 6 buses Thursday, Friday and Monday and 13 Saturday and Sunday. This represents a substantial increase in the number of buses from last year. Sugarloaf Explorer follows all CDC Guidelines.

Projected Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00am – 4:30pm
Routes 1, 2, 3 & 5 with 2 On Call Buses.

Tuesday: No Service

Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 7:30am – 5:00pm
Routes 1, 2, 2A, 2B, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 with 2 Overflow buses.

All Explorer service will be from Parking Lot "A". Same as last year. Some changes will be made to the schedule to allow us to better utilize the space in Lot "A" and to simplify departure times. Please be sure to get a copy of this year's schedule. They're available online @SugarloafExplorer.com and around the resort. Any updates or changes will be communicated via Twitter @SugarloafBus. **NOTE: The Sugarloaf Express will run daily from Farmington to the mountain.**

Email: baikey@westernmainetrans.org

Website: SugarloafExplorer.com

Twitter: @SugarloafBus

Dispatch: 207-237-6853

