



*Town of Portage Lake
Annual Report For Year Ended December 31, 2022*

Portage Lake Meetings & Events

Board of Selectpersons	3 rd Wednesday/month, 6:00 pm
Planning Board	2 nd Thursday/month if needed, 6:30 pm
Board of Appeals	As needed. Contact CEO, 207-435-4361
Historical Society	4 th Monday/month, Apr-Sep., 6 pm @ Museum
ATV Club	1 st Tuesday/month, 6:30 pm @ Town Hall
Snowmobile Club	1 st Friday/month, Sep to Apr, 6:30 @ Town Hall
Portage Lake Assn.	2 nd Wednesday/month, May-Sept, 5 pm @ Town Hall
Housing Board	As needed, contact Jen Buckingham, 207-227-0045
February	Snowmobile Club Pie Auction
1 st Weekend/March	Can-Am Sled Dog Races checkpoint
2 nd Weekend/July	Historical Society Annual Ham/Bean Dinner @ Town Hall
4 th Weekend/July	ATV Club Chicken BBQ @ Pavilion
2nd Weekend/August	Portage Lake Summer Round-up
Labor Day Weekend	Annual Ring of Fire, dusk, sponsored by PLA

Visit www.townofportage.org for more information

Check for updates on our Facebook Page: Town of Portage Lake, Maine

Cover photo of mirror lake & sky in summer 2022 submitted by Michael Cote

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2022 Town Report Dedication

James "Jim" Dumond

Jim, the eldest son of Claude & Annette (Jandreau) Dumond, was raised in New Canada, ME. He was drafted into the US Army from 1971 to 1972 and was assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade, 97th Battalion, 218th Military Police Company with a tour that included Nha Trang, Cam Ran Bay, and Ba Ngoi, Vietnam. Honors for his time served include the Vietnam Service Medal and discharged with the rank of SP-4.



James Dumond, 1972

In 1973, he landed his "dream job" and found his calling as a Maine Game Warden. He was assigned to the Clayton Lake District where his ability to speak French, military experience, and the love for the outdoors were soon put into play. In 1977, he married Betty (Landry) Dumond and was awarded his transfer request to the Portage Lake District. There they began building a family (daughter Denise) and a near quarter-century Warden career in Portage Lake. In 1990, Jim was awarded the State of Maine Game Warden of the Year and in 2013 received the State of Maine Legendary Game Warden of the Year for his unselfish dedication to the protection of Maine's Fisheries and Wildlife Resources.

From 1988 to 1994, Jim & Betty owned and operated Dean's Motor Lodge where they formed life-long friendships near and far and continued the four-season destination for local residents, vacationers, hunters/anglers, and snowmobilers to enjoy some of the best steak & seafood, lodging accommodations, and live band entertainment.

Over the last 45 years, Jim has spent countless hours volunteering for our community in various capacities past and/or present including:



Jim Dumond leading Can-Am 250 1st musher to checkpoint, 2020

Volunteer Firefighter, Portage Lake Ice Out Official, Maine Acadian Heritage Council Representative, Portage Lake Association member, Portage Lake Historical Society member, Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club member & Past Trail Master, Portage Lake ATV Club member, and Past Portage Hills Country Club member just to name a few. For 29 years, Jim gave a

tremendous amount of time to the CAN-AM International Sled Dog Races as a Board of Director, Trail Boss, Rescue Team, and managed signage. He was instrumental to the overall development of the 250-mile trail system and was one of the driving forces for establishing the "Portage Lake Checkpoint". Jim was a strong voice for the



Jim Dumond & Sean Robertson, Canoe Carry 2012

addition of Carr Pond and Portage Lake to be added to the Annual Long Lake Ice Fishing Derby Lakes & Waters which helped draw in anglers encouraging additional tourism. He has guided the Maine-Quebec Winter Carnaval Caravan from Portage Lake to the Canadian Border at St. Pamphile, QC for many years. Lastly, he has been the catalyst behind the Annual Portage Lake Summer Round Up Canoe Carry from organizing, participating, and recruiting others to join and continue the cultural and historical significance.

Many can agree that Jim has been there to lend a helping hand whenever and wherever needed, from placing American flags for all deceased veterans at our cemeteries & memorials, delivering meals for neighbors in need, helping rescue a dock, boat, animal or person on the lake, or plowing the church parking lot for Sunday Mass just to name a few.

He is a true genuine example of living a life of service by helping others, helping to preserve history and culture while promoting and sharing his excitement for our Town and all the good it has to offer.

We would like to thank Jim for his dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment for the overall betterment of Portage Lake over the last 45 years.



*Jim Dumond placing flags at
Portage Lake Veteran's Honor
Roll, May 2022*



Jim Dumond, 2016

Directory of Town Officials

Board of Selectpersons, Assessors & Overseers of the Poor

David M. Pierce	Term expires March 2023
select1@townofportage.org	
Barry J. Kenney	Term expires March 2024
select3@townofportage.org	
Michelle Y. Eastman	Chair Term expires March 2025
select2@townofportage.org	
Jodi Page, Selectboard secretary	

Administrative Personnel

Corrine Routhier Town Manager

Tax Collector
Treasurer
Road Commissioner
Dep. Clerk
FOAA & E-911 Addressing Ofc.
Welfare Director
Public Information Ofc.
Nashville Plt. Tax Collector
Nashville Plt. Dep. Clerk

Sarah Bauzenberger Town Clerk

Dep. Tax Collector
Dep. Treasurer
Elections Facilitator
Registrar of Voters
Motor Vehicle Agent
IF&W Agent
Animal Welfare Agent
Nashville Plt. Clerk
Nashville Plt. Dep. Tax Collector

Paul Soucy: Code Enforcement Officer

Plumbing Inspector
Building Inspector
Health Officer

Kimberly Allen: Dep. Clerk

Dep. Tax Collector
Dep. Treasurer
Nashville Plt. Dep. Clerk
Nashville Plt. Dep. Tax Collector

Margaret Pierce: NACSB Representative

Personal Property Assessing agent
Alt. Code Enforcement Officer

Jason Poulin Public Works Director

Todd Allen: Animal Control Officer (207-504-2077), domestic animals only

Lewis Cousins: Real Estate Assessing Agent, Aroostook County Assessing Office

Congressional District:	2
State Senate District:	1
State House District:	1
County Commissioner District:	3

Directory of Town Officials

Portage Lake School Department:

Melissa S. Boutot, chair	Term expires 2024
Ginger M. Nelson	Term expires 2025
Kimberly Holmes	Term expires 2023
Dr. Gehrig Johnson	Superintendent

Planning Board:

Dennis Tozier	Term expires 2025
Michael Mapley	Term expires 2025
Otis Nelson	Term expires 2023
James McAuley	Term expires 2024
Darey Gagnon	Term expires 2024

Secretary: Paul Soucy

Zoning Board of Appeals:

Patrick Raymond, chair	Term expires 2023
Michael Bartlett	Term expires 2025
Brian Cote	Term expires 2024

Budget Committee:

Kimberly Allen	Melissa Boutot
Sandra Bartlett	Michael Violette
Diane Barron McGrane	Richard Hoppe - chair

Beautification Committee:

Vacant

Town Forest Committee:

Patrick Raymond	Herb McPherson	Barry Kenney
David Pierce	Brian Condon	

Recreation Department:

Director Vacant

Fire Department:

Brian Cote, Chief	Lawrence Duchette
Brad Boutot, Assistant Chief	Jesse Pinette
David Pierce, Captain	Douglas Burke
Christopher Walker, Lieutenant	
G. Tom Raymond, Training Officer	
Margaret Pierce, Secretary	



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear residents of Portage,

I am deeply humbled and honored to represent District 1 in the Maine Senate for the 131st Legislature, where work is underway.

Before the election this year, I had the chance to speak to thousands of constituents in District 1, from Fort Kent to Fort Fairfield and everywhere in between. In these conversations, again and again the spirit of the people of Aroostook was made clear to me. That spirit is one of hard work, of taking care of one another, of looking for solutions, and getting things done. It's what I've always tried to embody in the legislature, and that is exactly what I will do in the next two years.

I've heard you loud and clear. We must support our first responders and law enforcement, lower costs, champion small businesses, seniors, and working families. I am pleased that I've had the chance to already file bills that will touch on many of these issues including funding support for a Caribou Jail, a property owner bill of rights, protecting patients from hidden medical facility fees, exempting permanently disabled veterans from property taxes, supporting public safety by increasing revenue sharing, and encouraging further development of Loring Air Base. These are just a few of the bills I know would help people in our communities of Aroostook County.

While these are just a few of the upcoming bills, I look forward to hearing from all of you about what you want to see happen in the legislature during the 131st Legislature. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have other concerns or ideas for legislation. My door is always open, as is the State House if you want to visit.

You can reach my office at any time at (207) 287-1500 troy.jackson@legislature.maine.gov. You can also go to www.troyjackson.org to find out more about what I am working on in Augusta or to sign up for my weekly newsletter.

As always, I know there is a long road ahead and more work to do to make Maine a great place to live. I promise to continue that fight during the legislative session this year.

Sincerely,

Troy Jackson
Senate District 1
Maine Senate President

*State House (207) 287-1500 * TTY (207) 287-1583 * Fax (207) 287-5862 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900*

*Email: Troy.Jackson@legislature.maine.gov * Web Site: TroyJackson.org*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469



Austin L. Theriault

Post Office Box 291
Ft. Kent, ME 04743
(704) 750-0806

Austin.Theriault@legislature.maine.gov

Town of Portage Lake
P.O. Box 255
Portage Lake, ME 04768

January 15, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

I would first like to thank you, the residents of Western Aroostook and of the Saint John Valley, for electing me as your State Representative. It is both an honor and responsibility that I take very seriously. With over 2,000 pieces of legislation already submitted for the upcoming session, I know I will be very busy. I have submitted several pieces of legislation, some of which propose to reduce property taxes, help our forest products industry and give youth more access to the outdoors. I look forward to advocating for my legislation, supporting others, and opposing that which I view as threatening you and your family's long-term livelihood.

I am happy to report to you that legislative leadership has appointed me to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation where I will work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to invest and improve Maine's infrastructure – a charge that is vitally important in our rural state.

I was elected to the Maine Legislature on the promise to put People Over Politics, and represent you, the people of our district. To do this, I will be seeking your input regularly and want to hear directly from you with your comments and concerns. Please reach out anytime at (704) 750-0806 or by email at Austin.Theriault@Legislature.Maine.Gov to keep me informed of your concerns. If you would like to be added to the list to receive my regular e-News Updates, you can do so by emailing me directly with your request.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve as your voice in the Maine House.

Sincerely,

Austin L. Theriault
State Representative

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DUNSTON SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804
(202) 224-0523
(202) 224-3680 (FAX)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the U.S. Senate. I am grateful for the trust that Mainers have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments for our state.

Last year, I secured more than \$500 million for 285 projects from Aroostook County to York County that will promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; improve public safety, infrastructure, and community resources; and protect our environment. To address the crisis of soaring inflation and high energy prices, I led efforts to provide \$2 billion in supplemental funds to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. In the new Congress that begins in 2023, I expect to be the Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and will continue to champion investments to support Maine's communities and families.

Strengthening our economy and supporting good jobs remain a top priority. Along with the Governor and the rest of the Maine Delegation and the associations representing the lobster industry, I worked to protect our hardworking lobstermen and women by pausing for six years the onerous federal regulations that jeopardize our lobster fishery's very existence. Another ongoing threat to Maine's small businesses is the shortage of workers. That's why I led an effort to push the Administration to nearly double the number of H-2B visas that are critical to our hospitality industry. Additionally, when the Administration proposed to cut the construction of a destroyer to be built by Bath Iron Works, I restored this funding to protect Maine jobs and our national security.

When Maine Veterans' Homes announced last year that it planned to close its facilities in Caribou and Machias, I opposed that decision which would have had such a devastating effect on rural veterans and their families. I am glad that the decision was reversed, and I have secured \$3 million to help with upgrades to these facilities. My *AUTO for Vets Act* also became law, which will help disabled veterans maintain their independence by supporting the purchase of a new adaptive vehicle once a decade.

This past year, Congress demonstrated how effective it can be on behalf of the American people when both parties work together. A few of the bipartisan achievements that I was involved in include the *Respect for Marriage Act*, which will provide certainty to millions of loving couples in same-sex marriages while protecting religious liberties, and the *Electoral Count Reform Act*, which establishes clear guidelines for our system of certifying and counting electoral votes for President and Vice President.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and I have honored that work ethic by showing up for every vote. During my Senate service, I have cast more than 8,500 consecutive votes, never having missed one. I remain committed to doing all that I can to address your community's concerns in 2023. If I may be of assistance to you in any way, I encourage you to contact one of my six state offices.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. It's an honor to continue serving as your representative in Congress, and I take the responsibility very seriously. I appreciate the opportunity to update you on what I've been working on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District.

In August, I voted for the *Inflation Reduction Act* because it represented a dramatic turnaround from misguided efforts to pass sweeping, ill-designed legislation that tried to accomplish too many things through budget gimmicks, setting up problematic fiscal cliffs in numerous programs and refusing to make the difficult decisions to allow for a fiscally responsible bill.

The *Inflation Reduction Act*, which was signed into law by the president, was fiscally responsible and targeted four key priorities: reducing our national debt and putting our country back on a more sustainable path, lowering the cost of prescription drugs, and making health care more affordable, investing in an all-of-the-above energy strategy to significantly increase oil, gas, and renewable energy production to lower energy costs for Americans, and cracking down on the tax avoidance of billion-dollar multinational corporations. This bill was the first major legislation in the last decade to use the reconciliation process to create a fiscally responsible budget to reduce deficits. The Congressional Budget Office estimated it would reduce deficits by approximately \$300 billion.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I also helped pass the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which among other things, included key wins for Bath shipbuilders, UMaine, and servicemembers and their families. For shipbuilders, the bill secured authorization for a third DDG-51 destroyer; established a new contract for up to 15 DDG-51 destroyers over the next five years, many of which will be built at Bath Iron Works; and included funding for shipyard infrastructure. The bill also authorized over \$25 million for defense research programs, including UMaine's large-scale manufacturing program. Finally, the bill authorized a 4.6% pay increase to help servicemembers and their families deal with rising costs due to inflation.

Additionally, at the end of 2022, Congress passed a spending bill to fund the government through September of 2023. The bill funds nearly \$27 million in funding for community projects across the Second Congressional District, a lifeline for our lobster industry that freezes any regulatory action for at least six years, and secures millions in additional funding for the Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help Mainers heat their homes.

Regardless of the year, one of my top priorities is ensuring I'm accessible to you. My staff and I can help answer questions about and navigate federal programs; find resources in Maine; and resolve issues with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, and other federal agencies and programs. We are here to help:

- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou, ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

I look forward to building on momentum from recent legislative wins for Mainers and continuing to work on your behalf in 2023. Do not hesitate to reach out and voice an opinion on legislation, let us know about local events, or seek assistance navigating federal agencies or programs. It's an honor to represent you in Congress, and I wish you a healthy and prosperous year to come.

Respectfully,

Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress



A Letter from the Town Manager 2022 In Review

To the Residents and Taxpayers of Portage Lake:

After 14 years working in this town office as both Deputy Clerk and then Town Clerk, I decided to apply for the Town Manager position after Larry Duchette announced his retirement in March of 2022. I felt that my many years of experience with the office and my knowledge of the town itself made me a good candidate for the job, and I'm very happy that others felt the same way. I want to thank everyone who expressed their support for me since I took over the position in May. Your kind words and gestures mean more than you will ever know!

We've had some changes in staff this year. After being hired as Town Manager, it quickly became clear that I could not also hold the position of Town Clerk as there was too much work to do! In June, Sarah Bauzenberger agreed to come back to our office to fill that void, and I'm so grateful that she did. Having worked for us before as Deputy Clerk under me, and having been Town Clerk for Ashland, Sarah has incredible knowledge of her job as Clerk, and has a good rapport with our customers and residents. She was able to hit the ground running and has only improved the customer service in the Town Office. Chris Walker resigned as our Public Works foreman and Animal Control Officer in the summer to take on new challenges as a business owner—we wish him nothing but the best! Jason Poulin has been hired to head up the Public Works Department for us. He comes to us highly skilled and eager to make a positive impact! Todd Allen was hired in July as the new Animal Control Officer. Deputy Clerk Cyndi Mullen resigned in the fall, and Kimberly Allen was hired a few months later to fill that part-time slot in the office. Kim has many great qualities that will complement the Town Office work environment and customer service. We hope the public will take time to meet with our new staff and give them a deserving compliment or two!

In August, the Town's Summerfest Committee brought back all in-person events for our annual Summer Round-Up weekend celebrations, and what a great time we all had! A lot of hard work and planning goes into that weekend to make sure Portage Lake's special qualities are highlighted and celebrated! There were a few new events this year—including an ice cream social and a cardboard boat race—that only adds to the charm of fun-filled weekend.

Safety is a top concern for me, and I plan to make many improvements to help our residents and visitors stay safe. In the fall, I asked Versant Power to convert all of our existing street lights and flood lights to LED, a project that was completed in November. This not only saves the Town money on our power bill, but LED lights are brighter and allow better visibility while driving or walking after dark. I have also taken courses through the Aroostook Emergency Management Agency on how to be a Public Information Officer when emergencies happen. I also plan to work with AEMA to update the Town's Emergency Plan, among other things.

In November we had a tragic accident on the hill heading out of town (what some call Cyr Hill, some call Nason Hill, some call Hayward Hill). Because of this accident and two other similar accidents (but not as severe), I contacted Maine Dept. of Transportation to see about getting signage, and they offered to install semi-permanent digital signs that can be updated to say anything we need in case of an emergency. The signs are located near Cedar Ave. coming into town from Ashland, and near the Town's old transfer station just before Fox Hill Road. Now if there is an accident and the road is closed, we can let motorists know ahead of the situation so they can be safe and make other travel plans if needed.

I have several goals I'd like to accomplish during my time as Manager to make our town inviting, safe, fun, and a place where people want to live. I have a deep love for this town and its people. I am proud to have grown up here. It is a great place to call "home"!

Sincerely,

Corrine M. Routhier

Town Clerk 2022 Report

Greetings Citizens & Taxpayers of Portage Lake:

I would like to thank this community for the opportunity to serve you, and for the wonderful welcome back greetings you have given to me since returning as Town Clerk. It has been great to be back where I learned so much about clerking from our current Town Manager, Corrine Routhier. Being without a Deputy Clerk for half of the year, the two of us have overcome obstacles and persevered. As the year ends we welcome Kim Allen as Deputy Clerk, I believe she will be a great fit for this Office. Stop by and Say Hello as the Town Office Grows.

The Clerk's office is in charge of handling registrations, elections and vital records for our community, but that's just a small part of what we can do. Anyone can come in to the Town Office to get information about taxes, information about the Municipal cemetery, send a fax, or get copies of town records if available. And like our office, the Town's website is a great resource for most of these things as well. It's all at your fingertips! Take a few minutes to visit the website, www.townofportage.org. You will be amazed at what you can learn about our wonderful little town government!

Sincerely, Sarah Bauzenberger, Town Clerk

2022 Vital Statistics:

Births	1	
Marriages	2	1 Resident, 1 non-resident
Deaths	3	2 Female, 1 Male



2022 Elections:

	Number of Voters:	% Voters
March 24, 2022 Local Municipal Elections	25	8%
March 25, 2022 Annual Town Meeting	20	6%
June 7, 2022 Primary Elections	33	10%
November 2, 2022 State General Referendum	234	70%

2022 Motor Vehicle Registrations

Passenger Cars	345
Commercial & Tractor Trlr	63
Trailers	223
Motorcycles	24
Antique Vehicles	6
Veterans	27

Online Vehicle Registrations	61
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2022 Recreational Vehicle Registrations

	Resident	Non-Resident	Online
Boats	65	31	33
ATV	45	18	
Snowmobiles	65	33	

2022 Dog Licenses

	2022 License Year	2023 License Year
Spayed/Neutered	19	53
Unaltered	10	6
Kennels	0	0
Online Regs	1	7



Other Information You May Need:

*Certified copies of **Vital Records** (births, deaths, marriages) require a Vital Records Request form to be filled out and submitted before any copies can be completed and certified.

***Boat owners MUST** register their boats in the town where they reside, due to the excise tax. Non-residents or corporations pay excise tax to the town where the vessel is principally moored, docked or located~the "**BOATER'S GUIDE TO MAINE BOATING LAWS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**"

*MRSA 7 §3922 states that each owner or keeper of a dog that is 6 months or older, on or before January 1st of each year, shall obtain a license from the clerk of the municipality where the dog is kept. Proof of rabies immunization must be presented at the time of licensing.

*Maine law requires that all vehicles 1995 and newer **MUST** have a title.

***When registering a vehicle**, please bring these items:

Re-registrations: Current mileage
Valid proof of insurance
Old registration

NEW Registrations:

If **DEALER** sale: proof of sales tax paid
blue Maine Title application
current mileage & valid insurance
Old registration (if transferring)

If **PRIVATE** sale: Bill of Sale with full VIN of vehicle, seller's name & address, and purchase price
Old Title (for 1995 & newer), signed on back by former owner
Current mileage & valid insurance
Old registration (if transferring)

*Visit www.maine.gov/ifw for more information about registration or licensing costs for hunting/fishing licenses or recreational vehicle registrations.

All of this information & more can be found at www.townofportage.org



Portage Lake Fire Department 2022 Report



To the residents of Portage:

What a year! Elections are over, COVID in the rear view, and now all we have to do is stay warm this winter.

PLFD was very busy in 2022. We had 20 call-outs this year, again with no reportable injuries or accidents.

This year 2 residents of Portage stepped up to the plate, and joined the PLFD. Doug Burke joined the department in June, Doug is a veteran of the global war on terrorism, a family man with a wife and two children. He is dedicated to his family, community, and freedom. Jason Goodblood joined the dept in Dec. Jason shows the dedication it takes to do his part in community service. We welcome both gentlemen to the PLFD. The town will be sending Doug and Jason for training to become SCBA and FF1 certified later this spring. A big thank you Chris Walker for his years of dedicated service, and will welcome him back when he is ready. I would like to thank the residents of Portage Lake for their continued support of this department. Thanks to the members of the PLFD for their 24/7 commitment to the community. Thank you to the Board of Selectpersons, Corrine, and Sarah for everything.

In 2022 the PLFD responded to:

Jan: Vehicle accident on West Rd.
Smoke alarm/CO2 sensor on Fox Hill
Car/pole accident Rte 11
Mutual aid Ashland to Masardis Mill
Feb: Mutual aid Ashland mobile home fire
Mar: Brush fire on a wood lot Rte 11
May: Nashville brush fire
Mutual aid Ashland to Irving Mill
Mutual aid Ashland ambulance Cottage Rd
Brush fire West Rd
Jun: Mutual aid Ashland to Irving mill
July: Equipment fire on Ranger St
False alarm
Car accident north of Portage
Sep: Mutual aid Ashland fire in 11-4
Oct: Moose/car Rte 11
Nov: Car accident north of Portage
Tree on powerline Fox Hill
Truck accident on Cyr Hill, assist State Police
Truck stuck on Cyr Hill, traffic control

If anyone in the community is interested in joining the Portage Lake FD, come to one of our meetings that are held on the FIRST and THIRD Mondays of the month @ 6:30 p.m. No experience is needed, we can get you started with procedures and training.

CHECK YOUR SMOKE AND CO2 SENSORS MONTHLY AND REPLACE THE BATTERIES ONCE A YEAR IF YOU NEED 9 VOLT FOR YOUR SENSORS CALL THE TOWN OFFICE 207-435-4361 OR CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE FD FOR A BATTERY AND WE CAN INSTALL FOR YOU!

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Brian Cote

January 31, 2023

To the Residents of Portage Lake,

In reviewing past years, 2022 was an above average year for Building Permits with 37 applications up from an average of 26. The estimated cost of construction for 2022 totals at \$789,000.00. The applications consisted of 2 new houses of \$50,000 and \$150,000. Other applications were for cabins, sheds, accessory buildings, porches and additions for the remaining \$589,000.00. The Planning Board discussed 2 applications and the Board of Appeals 1 application.

Permits are required for any building built on site, pre-built, additions and replacing existing structures.

Demolition aka/ demo also require a permit. This past year the application has a section for the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station would like a call if hauling a large amount of debris once a permit issued. With any debris it must be broken down, meaning asphalt, insulation in its proper trailer, lumber pile and etc. The telephone number at the transfer station is 435-8110.

The State of Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection request that prior to any demo {form D} to be completed. MDEP request that structures be checked for asbestos. The debris be disposed properly.

FYI, Within 75 feet from the normal high water mark, The State of Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection requires a Permit by Rule for any soil disturbance.

In 2021, I was hired as the new CEO for Portage Lake with hours of Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. At this time, I would like to thank the Planning Board, Board of Appeals and the Board of Selectpersons and alternate CEO Margaret Pierce.

Sincerely,


Paul Soucy, CEO, LPI, LHO

Code Enforcement Officer, Local Plumbing Inspector and Local Health Officer

All building construction in Maine, with some exceptions, is governed by the Maine Uniform Building Code Energy Code ("MUBEC"), which is adopted by the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board by rule in Chapter 1 through 6, pursuant to 10 M.R.S. s 9721, et seq.

To the Residents of Portage Lake

I am happy to have my home here in Portage Lake and to participate in the community as the ACO. I love all animals, especially dogs, and enjoy meeting everyone's fur children around town.

Most calls that I responded to this year were for "dogs at large"

The definition of At Large is a dog or other animal found off the premises of the owner or keeper while the dog or animal is not under the complete control of a capable person. This would allow for dogs, which are trained to be off the leash, however, would require them to be under the control of the handler. The exception to this is dogs that are actively hunting.

For the safety of your dog, people, and other animals please keep uncontrolled dogs on a leash or contained on your own property.

Here some friendly reminders on how to be a responsible pet owner, not just for your pet but for your neighbors and the surrounding community.

- Maine state law requires that all dogs and cats get vaccinated against the rabies disease and to get the required booster shots.
- You are also required to register your dog annually with the town.
- Be mindful of the weather. There are requirements and laws regarding keeping your pet outdoors, owning a pet is a year-round, day to day responsibility. If you bring your dog along for a car ride, do not leave it unattended for prolonged periods of time, especially in the warmer months.
- Remember that not all dogs are friendly and while your dog may be someone else may be walking a leashed dog that is not friendly to other dogs.
- Not everyone is comfortable with dogs and while you know your dog is friendly be a courteous neighbor and keep your dog from running freely up to strangers.

Licensing Your Dog: All dogs six months or older on or before January 1st must be licensed. All dog owners must present a valid rabies certificate at the time of registration.

After January 31st a late fee of \$25 will be added. If you no longer have your dog, please notify the Town Clerk as soon as possible.

Not spayed/neutered=\$11, spayed/neutered=\$6

Thank you,

Todd Allen
Portage Lake Animal Control Officer

Portage Town Forest Report – 2022

During the calendar year of 2022, there was timber harvesting on 50 acres of the town's 8,073 forested acres.

The harvests took place on the 50% Town ownership between the Rocky Brook Road and the West Cottage Road during the winter months.

The harvest was conducted to remove over topping and over mature trees and species that are at risk of mortality. It also was an opportunity to naturally feed the deer that are in that part of the woods.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Stedman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Stedman

Licensed Forester #3297

Irving Woodlands LLC

Portage Lakers ATV Club 2022 Report

It was great to see so many riders out on the trails this past year. Welcome to all the new club members and ATV riders your support is greatly appreciated. We would also love to welcome more people into the club. Our club meets at the town hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.

2022 was a slow year to get the trails open, the weather was one factor and the damage from beavers another. The trails that needed our attention most this year were Irving trail, Huber Heritage, Jimmy Garrity, and Mullan's trails. Thank you to Kenny Fones and Chauncy Jones for all the beautiful hard work you did on them. Other trails that were maintained this past year was done on West Mt., Don Cyrs, Frank Curriers, Emory, and Lanigan's trails. Thank you to all those that worked so hard and gave their time on the trails, even when the weather did not cooperate.

Thanks to the State of Maine Recreational Trails Program for the \$26,700 ATV Municipal Grant we received in December 2022.

We held our usual fundraisers of the bottle drive, which made \$484, the bean and ham supper, poker run, chicken stew and ploys dinner, bake sale, and the land owner appreciation dinner of chicken and rib BBQ. Thanks for everyone who participated and attended the fundraisers which help with the cost of maintaining our trails.

Goals for 2023 are to fix the damage going north on the Huber Heritage trail, specifically the area between Soucey Hill to Kenny's Bridge to Route 11. We would love to see a connection going east or south.

We are still getting complaints of speeding on the roads. Please slow down to the 15 mph speed limits on town roads. We do not want to lose the privilege to ride on them. Also please be mindful of your impact on the trails as our land owners are very generous to allow us access to their property. We do not want to lose their respect or the privilege to ride on their land.

Many thanks go out to all the residents of portage lake and all the landowners in the surrounding areas for your support. Please ride safe and obey the 15mph speed limits on our town roads.

Respectfully submitted,

Rena Belanger



Portage Lakers ATV Club Officers

Rena Belanger: President and Secretary

Betty Benson: Vice President and Treasurer, Grant Writer, and Membership

Chauncy Jones: Trail Master

Jeannie Jones: Assistant Trail Master



Portage Lake Historical Society 2022 Report

2022 was another great year for the Portage Lake Historical Society. We paid off our mortgage with Daniel Higgins Sr., and now look forward to many years of wonderful museum exhibits we will be offering the public at 9 Cottage Road! We made some improvements to the building itself: a new display case was built by our handy-man Mike Violette, who also designed and built the new handicap ramp near the front door. This ramp will allow for better access for people of all ages and abilities, and I am very thankful for Mike for his hard work in getting both projects done!

We kicked off the summer season with an Open House the first weekend in July and offered hot dogs and lemonade to museum visitors. The museum was open from the first weekend in July to the second weekend in September, and each weekend we received visitors from many different places. If you haven't yet, make plans to see us in the summer of 2023! And be sure to carve out enough time to sit and really explore all that there is on display! We have many photo albums, magazines, and record books from town clubs and committees that are begging to be looked through! We only "charge" a donation—we don't have a set price to charge for people to come in—and we raised \$225 through donations taken in during our hours of operation in 2022.

Our annual Ham & Baked Bean dinner was once again a take out meal. This year we raised about \$1,100. This event helps us raise the money we need for insurance and maintenance costs associated with the museum building. Thank you to everyone who helped with this event in some way!

During the winter, we hold a Cribbage Challenge once a month to get people out and visit with each other, and maybe win a little bit of money at the end. This isn't a big fund raiser for us, but more of a way to connect with our community. We also include other board games, for those people who don't play cribbage (like me!!) Visit us on Facebook (Portage Lake, Maine, Historical Society) to learn more about this and other upcoming events.

As always, membership is the most important way we raise funds for our organization. We use this money to pay for our state filing as a 501c3 non-profit corporation, to pay for our directional road signs, to purchase materials and supplies for our fund raisers and to help promote the Society. If you haven't become a member, forms can be picked up at the Portage Lake Town Office or the museum, or printed online at www.townofportage.org under the Clubs/Organizations tab. Members receive our exclusive newsletters, and get the right to vote for our Board Members and Officers each year. If you are already a member, thank you!

Again, thank you for your support and continued encouragement of our Society.

Respectfully, Corrine Routhier, President

Officers:

Patricia Lyons, Vice President
Michael Violette, Treasurer
Mary Ellen Violette, Secretary

Board Members:

Lawrence Duchette
Beverly Miller
Katherine St. Peter-Blair

The Portage Lake Historical Society regularly meets the 4th Monday of each month from April to September at 6:00 in the evening at the Museum. Our meetings are open to any Society member and are also to the public.



Greetings to the People of Portage Lake:

2023 marks the 30th Anniversary of the first Can Am race. What a milestone to think that this race has been coming to Portage for all those years!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Can-Am Crown International Sled Dog Races I would like to thank the people of Portage Lake for their continued support and participation in the Can Am 250. Without the combined efforts of the volunteers, businesses, landowners and people from afar, Checkpoint #1 at Portage Lake would not be the success that it is. The trail crew here at Portage Lake clears, grooms and maintains approximately 125 miles of the trail route. Most of the crew travel many hours from their homes to undertake this daunting task. Eighty+ volunteers help to make the checkpoint run smoothly, efficiently, safely and professionally.

The Town of Portage Lake, The Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club and The Portage Lake ATV Club have been invaluable to our race as have the many individuals and businesses who have contributed their time, equipment and resources (too numerous to mention). I especially would like to remember Joe Hedrich who passed away last year as he manned the Rt.11 Crossings for most of those 30 years. He was an integral part of our volunteer crew.

It is so nice for the mushers and the people involved in the race to see so many turn out to watch the teams come across the lake and into the checkpoint. Thanks to all of you for your continued support. Here's to the race continuing for another 30 years.

Thank you again,

Sarah Brooks

Can Am Crown International Sled Dog Race

Vice President / Portage Checkpoint Coordinator



PLSC

To the Citizens of Portage Lake:

When I reflect back on 2022 and what it held for the Portage Lakers Snowmobile Club, one thing stands out above all else – the construction of our new groomer maintenance building. In reading the letter I submitted to the town for the 2021 book, it's hard to believe that this project was still only an idea at the start of 2022. Our first decision was to choose a location. There were several options discussed, but we ultimately decided it was best to build in the same place as our existing building. Then it was on to decide who was going to actually build it! We gathered several quotes and estimates from contractors in the area. After reviewing estimates, coupled with skyrocketing prices of material, we quickly decided the only way we were going to be able to complete this project was to source the majority of the labor from volunteers. To say the outpouring of support and volunteerism was overwhelming would be an understatement. We had members from all over the state driving to Portage Lake throughout the summer and fall just to dedicate their weekend to making this project a success. I can't thank every volunteer enough, but there are a few that I would like to point out and thank specifically. First, I would like to recognize our Vice President Bruce Laveway. He worked tirelessly all spring and summer coming up with material lists and securing donations and discounts from local vendors. We were absolutely stunned by the support and donations from vendors, and Bruce made a lot of that happen. I am a firm believer that without these next two members, this project never would have even gotten off the ground. Glenn Cusack and Otis Nelson were critical in the success of this venture. They worked most nights and weekends all throughout the summer and fall, ensuring that this project stayed on schedule. Otis' generosity was equally as pivotal to the completion of this building. The equipment and tools he offered the use of from his business, Modern Roofing & Siding Plus, were absolutely invaluable. I cannot thank Bruce, Glenn and Otis enough for all the hard work and dedication they gave to make this project such a huge success in 2022. Also, just another huge thank you to all the vendors and contractors that donated time or materials. We literally could not have done it without all of you.

The other significant event that 2022 brought to our club was regaining the pig roast event at the summer roundup. We moved the event back to the town hall area and had a great turnout! Thank you again to all the members who volunteered and donated items. We plan on doing it again in 2023, so hopefully we see you there!

Thank you to all of the folks of Portage Lake for your continued support! See you on the trails!

-Visit the club's website: <http://www.portagelakers.org>

-Email: portagelakersmembership@gmail.com

-Like us on Facebook to stay up to date: <http://www.facebook.com/portage.lakers>

Respectfully yours,

Josh Spooner

PLSC President

2022 Portage Lake Association Annual Report

The primary purpose of the Portage Lake Association (PLA) is to protect and maintain the water quality, natural beauty, and watershed of the lake. Various activities keep our members, property owners, and visitors up-to-date with our mission. The PLA is active during the months of May-September. As aquatic invasive species make their way northeastward across our state we must remain vigilant in preventing them from entering our at-risk body of water. Courtesy Boat Inspections continue to help protect our lake.

PLA 2022 Summer Activities

Association Members:

- Held Courtesy Boat Inspections Memorial Day through Labor Day
- Placed educational signs at strategic points around the lake
- Published two newsletters mailed /or emailed to property owners and Association members and made copies available to visitors at Coffin's, Dean's, the Town Hall, and the post office.
- Distributed calendar magnets to each lakeside property
- Sponsored the July 4th boat parade
- Organized the annual Audubon Loon Count
- Held the Annual Meeting and Public Spaghetti Feed
- Participated in the Whoopie Pie Festival
- Held Annual Ring of Fire

Courtesy Boat Inspections are our primary prevention activity. In 2022, 463 boats were inspected over 253 hours by 20 inspectors. No questionable plants were detected.

The onus of inspection is on boat owners but Courtesy Boat Inspector two-hour weekend shifts are a great way to meet people who are using the lake. Please consider joining the team. Training takes about 45 minutes. Another way to help police lake plants is through the Invasive Plant Patrol program. We plan to reinstate that activity this year.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of May-September at the Town Hall at 10 AM. Meetings are open to the public. Let us know if you have an interest in being on the board.

2023 Board of Directors

President: Martha LaPointe
Vice President: Fred Edgecomb
Treasurer: Lisa Norton
Secretary: Julie Libby,

Lake Coordinator: Ed Ducey
Immediate Past Pres.: Ray Wakefield
Town Selectperson Rep.: Michelle Eastman

Susan Doyen, Linda Lunney, Jim McAulay, Pam Martin, Kim Allen





PLHC

PORTAGE LAKE HOUSING CORPORATION

2022 TOWN REPORT

To the Citizens of Portage Lake:

The Mountain Valley Manor Project is a major community need and the PLHC promises you that we are diligently working to make this 6 unit Low Income/Senior Housing Project a reality!

PLHC IS CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS!!!

Are you passionate about our beautiful town of Portage Lake?

Do you or someone you know & love have a need for Affordable Senior Housing?

PLEASE CALL TODAY TO SEE HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!!

Thanks go out to all that have contributed and to those who are considering contributing in the future! Donations are tax-deductible (ID# 30-0420720) and all donors will be honored with a name-bearing plaque unveiled at the grand opening of Mount Valley Manor. Anyone interested in making a donation to the project may do so by mail to: PLHC, P.O. Box 324, Portage Lake 04768.

If AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING is something that you feel is important to Portage Lake, please join us in our efforts! If you have any questions, concerns, and/or suggestions please feel free to contact Jen Buckingham any time at (207) 227-0045 or tempo_jen@hotmail.com.

Respectively Submitted,

PLHC Board of Directors: Jennifer Buckingham – President Reuben Caron – Vice President

Linda Caron – Secretary

Larry Duchette – Treasurer

Darey Gagnon – Director

Daniel Higgins - Director

Ray Wakefield - Director

NACSB FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 12/31/2022

Net report as of 12/31/2021		\$ 4,446.61
Receipts: (Total Funds)		
David Chasse	\$ 964.00	
Town of Ashland	\$ 495.00	
Garfield Plantation	\$ 60.00	
Town of Masardis	\$ 255.00	
Town of Portage	\$ 1,920.00	
C. Neilander	<u>\$ 30.00</u>	
Total Receipts:		\$ 3,724.00
Disbursements:		
Treasurer, State of Maine	\$ 469.00 (Yearly License)	
Maine Soil Testing	\$ 25.00 (Soil Test)	
Ashland Postmaster	\$ 41.80 (Postage)	
Eric Boyles	\$ 1,250.00 (Yearly Mowing)	
Nashville Plantation	\$ 35.78 (Real Estate Tax)	
Brenda Clark	<u>\$ 528.11(Site Administrator)</u>	
Total Disbursements:		\$ 2,349.69
Checkbook Balance as of 12/31/2021	\$ 4,446.61	
Plus, Deposits:	\$ 3,724.00	
Less Disbursements:	<u>\$ 2,349.69</u>	
Checkbook Balance as of 12/31/2022		\$ 5,820.92
Norstate(Fraser)CD Balance as 12/31/21	\$ 6,830.94	
Interest of :	<u>\$ 25.92</u>	
Balance of CD as of 12/31/2022		\$ 6,856.86
Norstate Savings Balance as of 12/31/2022		<u>\$ 26.18</u>
Net to Date:		\$12,703.96
Increase of :		\$ 8,257.35

Respectfully Submitted:
Brenda Clark, Site Administrator



**Central Aroostook
Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Est. 1942

736 MAIN ST. SUITE 3, PRESQUE ISLE ME 04769
www.caswod.org email: centralaroostookswcd@gmail.com

TEL: 207-760-4602
Randy Martin
Executive Director

January 20, 2023

Dear Municipal Managers,

Your Soil and Water Conservation District had an amazing 2022! Through our workshops and outreach we served even more of your residents than ever before! We established a permanent research farm on our Director's farm in the Parkhurst Siding area and planted demonstration plots to showcase the importance of cover crops, crop rotations, carbon sequestration, and much more. Because of using vegetables as rotation crops, we donated over 16 tons of fresh vegetables and apples to Catholic Charities Maine for distribution to local food pantries in Aroostook and northern Penobscot Counties!

In May, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invited us to share a nation-wide webinar over our pollinator habitat demonstrations that we have at our research facility. This was most rewarding to share what we have done here in northern Maine with conservationists across the country.

We have expanded our Forestry program to include the growing of American Chestnut, American Beech, several Oak varieties, white spruce, balsam fir, eastern white cedar, butternut, and many more. We will begin a tree share program this spring to ship blight-resistant American Chestnuts and American Beech to Soil and Water Conservation Districts from Maine to North Texas. This was the native range of both species until beech bark disease and chestnut blight hit. We have been cloning resistant trees of both species.

We worked closely with many of you as well! We assisted the Town of Limestone to receive \$50,000.00 from Maine's Economic Resiliency Project. This enabled them to purchase a bank of solar panels on the former Loring Airforce Base. This year, we will be working closely with Caribou, Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle as we develop a watershed-based plan for the lower Aroostook River. This will establish a pool of funds to implement best management practices to keep soil in the field and out of the river.

Your Soil and Water Conservation District is ready to work with your municipality's needs, please reach out to us and we will do all we can to help with conservation projects that you may be interested in tackling.

Thank you for your continued support over the years and we look forward to many more years working with all of you.

Most sincerely yours,

Randy Martin
Executive Director