

The Brooksville Breeze



The newsletter of Brooksville Friends & Neighbors

Fall 2008



Sunshine and crowds at the Farmers' Market in So. Brooksville

Local Foods: Farmers' Market First Season a Success!

JACKIE PIKE & DORIS GROVES

With no experience and little preparation, a small group got together last spring and launched the Brooksville Farmers' Market. Much to our astonishment, it not only took off, but flew. Over two dozen vendors, selling everything from blueberries to baskets, eggplants to earrings, lettuce to lobster, and sushi to soap, gather in the parking lot next to the Community Center every Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 am. We started in June and plan to continue until October 7.

The Market is truly a feast. The colors of the fresh vegetables and fruits harmonize with the works of local artists and crafters, delighting the eye. There is often live, local music in the air, accompanying the cheerful conversations of neighbors meeting. There is a certain pleasure in speaking to the person who made or grew the food you are going to eat. It is a delight to be able to report back to the Lymburners about the delicious favor their hot peppers added to my chili or to get cooking tips for kohlrabi from Bryant and Pam.

The Farmers' Market is an offshoot of the work of the Local Foods Group. Our survey went out last April in the *Breeze* and got a very good response. If you feel that eating locally is important, you're in good company. Many people noted benefits including saving transportation costs, encouraging future food

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A Gem of Cape Rosier: Hiram Blake Camp

Nestled along our scraggy Brooksville shoreline, Hiram Blake Camp's fourteen cottages offer a touch of Maine's finest. Since 1916, the family and descendants of Captain Hiram Blake and wife Iantha have opened their doors with warmth and exceptional hospitality, drawing guests back to this Cape Rosier gem year after year after year. Over 600 folks "from away" steal a week or two to share in this special tradition. Finding a vacancy during July or August is now almost impossible, and the fringe months of June and September fill up quickly.

The popularity of this retreat and loyalty of the visitors were evident on my recent trip to Hiram Blake Camp (HBC). The guests spoke of the number of years they had returned. "We've been coming for twenty-nine years," one couple proclaimed, "and now our children bring their families." Another couple had come for fourteen years and loved to introduce their friends to the place. I asked what they did here and several said, "Nothing!" But that includes the joyous activities of beach walking along the cove, hiking to Blueberry Hill, rowing a skiff out to Spectacle Island or just curling up with a good book. "Where else can you have a fire in the summer?" Children and teens explore and feel the freedom of this safe environment. "The kids disappear and only come back for meals." Impromptu treasure hunts, costume parties, musical entertainment by guests may occur, but it was the food and the dining room staff that received outstanding praise. I asked the group what would keep them from returning—a pause in the conversation—and then they chimed in, "Death."

Hiram and Iantha started the camp, originally called Pleasant Cove House, and since, three generations have continued the tradition. Lucy Blake, their daughter, moved with her parents from West Brooksville to Cape Rosier at the age of five. Later she met Maurice Venno, who had come to Cape Rosier with his father and worked as a cabin boy at HBC. They married and after some time away, they returned and took over around 1946. Together they ran HBC for thirty years with some assistance for a few years from their daughter Anne Venno Fontaine and her husband Andy Fontaine. Paul Venno, their son, set eyes on his wife-to-be Sandy Eaton of Deer Isle at HBC while she worked in the kitchen. They in turn married and ran the camp for about fifteen years. Today Sandy continues to make the daily donuts and muffins and lovingly tends to the garden of over an acre of organic fruits and vegetables. Daily operations

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Farmers' Market

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producers, and keeping our bodies in tune with the place we live.

Of course, there are difficulties in eating locally as well. Some mentioned not knowing who is selling what and the inconvenience of multiple stops and little guarantee that what you want will be there. Yes, it is more convenient to shop at the grocery store, but the Local Foods Group is working to make eating locally a little easier. We have produced a map of some of Brooksville's local food producers which was printed in the June issue of the *Breeze*. To get a copy of the map or to find out about being included in our next edition, please contact Brooksville Local Foods. We would love to have you join us growing, selling, eating, and promoting local food! For more information, please contact Brooksville Local Foods: eatlocal@vegemail.com or call 326-0780.

Many thanks to those who supported us, including the Brooksville Community Center for the use of the parking lot, Jonathan Chase and Buck's Harbor Market, Brooksville Friends & Neighbors, and the Community SELF-Reliance Group. An enormous thanks to the vendors and customers, without whom there would be no market.



BROOKSVILLE'S TOWN WEB SITE COMING SOON

Get your computer mouse ready! Brooksville's town web site will be operational in the near future (maybe 4 to 6 weeks). The website exists now but only has a front page indicating that more is coming soon. Look for it at

<http://www.brooksvillemaine.org>

Discovery Week 2008 at BES

KATRINA LIMEBURNER, 4TH GRADE

At Brooksville Elementary School, people from the community came to do activities with the kids during Discovery Week. Every day the students did two activities in the morning and one in the afternoon. They had groups of different grades. One group was preschool and kindergarten. Another group was the first and second grade. And another group was third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders. The other group was the seventh and eighth graders.

Students said they enjoyed all the activities. They learned to play the steel drums and then played songs for the whole school. An African dance was created and performed by the sixth, seventh and eighth graders. Students in grades three through five designed model houses and students in grades six through eight made model tree houses. There were many other interesting and fun activities during the week, according to the students.

The planning for Discovery Week was a lot of hard work. The people who helped plan Discovery Week were Jen Chase, Eileen Ahern, Judy Madson,

Susanna Elliot and Gail Ladd from the Brooksville School. Part of the planning was to get in touch with people to do activities. All the people who helped plan Discovery Week got in touch with people to ask them if they would do activities with the kids. The Holbrook Island Sanctuary helped pay to get Tony Sohns who shared lots of interesting animals like lizards, snakes and a spider. The PTFA bought all the lunches for the artists. The teachers and staff brought all the snacks for the artists. The Discovery Week materials that they bought cost no more than \$500. Many of the people brought some of their materials and they also used materials from the Brooksville School.

The students at the Brooksville School thought that it went really well and they want to do it again. There were few complaints on the surveys the teachers and students did.

The Breeze encourages Brooksville residents to support and contribute their expertise to this years' Discovery Week at the elementary school.



WINTER HEATING CONCERNS

This winter may be cold and long with oil prices so high. For those who may be worried, you need to know that many folks are trying to figure ways to help. You may contact the Town Office (326-4518) for an ongoing list of resources. Many resources are able to help with winterizing your home, but unfortunately at this time funds for filling your oil tank are slim. The town only has a limited amount of money for emergency assistance funds.

You may call 211 and speak with someone who can also give you some ideas. On the internet you can visit MPBN.net and click on Staying Warm for helpful hints. Local Brooksville churches are working on creating Fuel Assistance Funds for residents.

For those who are able and willing to donate funds for fuel assistance, the two local churches, Brooksville United Methodist (PO Box 34) and West Brooksville Congregational (PO Box 295), have set up special accounts to accept donations. Label check for fuel assistance.

Together, we as a community hope to keep all Brooksville residents warm.

Thank you!
Brooksville Friends and Neighbors

Hiram Blake Camp

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have passed down to their daughter Deb. At age nine, Deb met David Ludlow at HBC where his family came as guests for several years. Eventually, their paths crossed again and marriage ensued.

Whether each couple experienced love at first sight seems to be a family debate, but whatever the magical aura was, it has successfully allowed HBC to continue. Since 1991 Deb and David Ludlow, along with their three children, John 16, Will 13, and Anna 10, continue to offer their guests this outstanding sense of place.

Running the camp has certainly had its difficult times, for sure. During the Depression it was the Audubon Society that helped fill the beds for a few weeks in the summer. In the mid-seventies, HBC was hit hard by a hurricane with the loss of some property and Paul Venno's fishing boat, and the guest numbers were dwindling. But with perseverance and a lot of faith, the family has pulled through these hard times.

For the Brooksville community, HBC is a tradition and an institution of a different sort. Generations of local teenagers have started their first paid jobs there and learned about responsibility and duty to their employer. Ralph Chapman,

grateful parent of three former summer workers, believes that Deb Ludlow is a fine first boss. "She's kind and sensitive, yet demands satisfactory performance." Deb tries to be flexible with their schedules to allow participation in area activities like summer baseball or local theatre. Katherine Clifford's three children also worked there years ago, and she believes it got them started on the right track. At age 13, Sara Groves began babysitting, then over the next five or six years progressed from weekend cottage cleaning, to dishwashing, waitressing, and finally cooking the pancakes. "I miss it!" she exclaimed. "It's like family, and you learn great skills." Sara said she's heard folks refer to HBC as Brooksville's Finishing School. True, it offers a unique training ground to learn hard work and teamwork under excellent experienced supervision. Deb and David purposefully employ local kids, enjoying the bonding experience, and hope to do so for many years to come.

For those from away and those from here, this special place and wonderful family provide a safe harbor to relax or to work. Brooksville is enriched by this ongoing legacy.



One of many waterfront cottages at Hiram Blake Camp

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT:

Vote Tuesday

November 4

Town Office

10:00 am til 8:00 pm



New voters must register and bring proof of ID with driver's license or photo ID and Social Security number and proof of Brooksville residency (motor vehicle registration or income tax return or fishing/hunting license). Registration may be done on the day of the election.

Absentee/early voting may be done by any registered voter, no reason required. Contact Amber Bakeman at the Town Office by phone 326-4518, in writing, or in person for an application.



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Eighth Grade Graduates Head Off to George Stevens Academy

Schuyler Van der Eb, born in Blue Hill hospital, has lived in Brooksville all his life. He has three sisters, two older and one younger in 6th grade. He loves baseball and other sports and hopes to join the baseball team at GSA. He is excited about the class being larger in high school and looks forward to the challenges. Schuyler loves Brooksville and hopes to stay here.

Cole Andrews was also born in Blue Hill and lived here all his life. He

has a sister 11 years old and comes from at least six generations of Brooksville folks. The 5th grade trip to Alaska was the most awesome event at BES. He hopes to play soccer and baseball at GSA. While playing the trumpet is not his favorite activity, he will take one more year in high school. When he was asked if he liked Brooksville, he replied, "Oh, yeah!"

Brooksville has been **Damon Gray's** home all his life. He is the oldest

of three with two younger sisters. Going to Alaska was a fabulous time when his class visited Anchorage and McGrath to watch a part of the Iditarod Race. He's looking forward to a wider variety of friends at GSA. Damon enjoys English and Math, but is also hoping to play baseball in high school.

Born in Ellsworth, **Shelbi Candage** has received most of her elementary education at BES. She has a half-brother and two stepbrothers. She too loved Alaska and proud to announce the class raised \$41,000 to go. She has driven around many parts of the country. At GSA she looks forward to more variety and maybe she will play basketball and softball. She likes babysitting and is thinking of going into early childhood education.

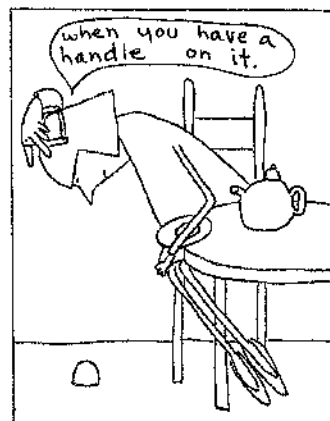
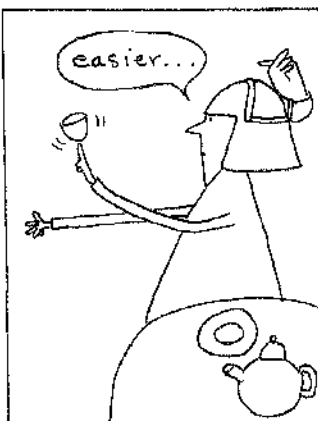
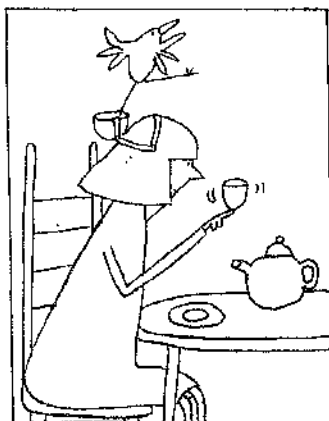
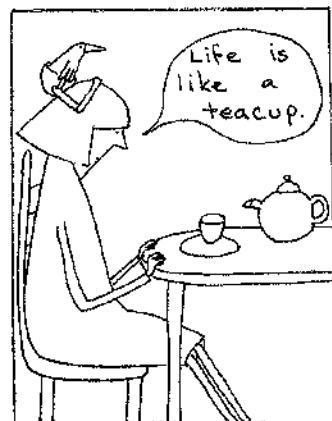
Nicole Bakeman is the fourth student to have lived here all her life. She loves the small size of Brooksville and the tight community. Her greatest memory of BES will be the close bond between students and teachers. At BES she played soccer and basketball and hopes to continue these sports at GSA. Saxophone, guitar, and piano are her instruments. In the future she plans on college and leaving the state to experience the world out there. JM



Sixty years separate our 2008 graduates from the Brooksville eighth grade class of 1948. See if you can identify these scholars.

MRS. Birdhead

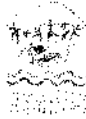
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The Brooksville Breeze

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**REMEMBER TO VOTE
TUES., NOV. 4**

See inside page 3 for information about
early voting/absentee ballots

The Brooksville Breeze originated as a newsletter to increase community communication, thus supporting the mission of Brooksville Friends & Neighbors (BFN) to strengthen and encourage local activities that promote health, both physical and emotional. *The Breeze* welcomes your comments, suggestions and donations to offset costs of printing and mailing. It is published four times a year.

Tell us who you are:

The Breeze, P.O. Box 101, Brooksville, ME 04617

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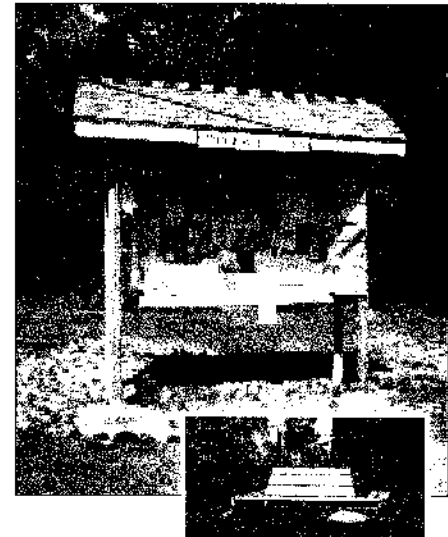
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Comments and Suggestions _____

Corner Improvement



Thanks to so many people for helping make this a reality: Sylvia and Horace Wardwell, Bob Holmberg, Richard Lymburner, Jen Chase, Craig Limeburner, Frank Peasley, Jean Webster, Frank Snow, Mike Fowler, Bec Poole, Brooklin Garden Club, and Joan MacCracken