

# THE BRIDGE

Summer 2019  
Norridgewock, Maine

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townofnorridgewock.com

## Oosoola Park Boat Launch Completed

*Funded in Cooperation with Maine Boating Facilities Fund*

After nearly two years of planning and permitting delays, the Oosoola Park Boat Launch is finally complete. In cooperation with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, which provided funding assistance through the Boating Facilities Fund, the upgrade was formally completed on July 15.

Contractor Bonneau and Son Excavation, of Skowhegan, worked diligently to accommodate peak launch usage while completing most of the project in advance of the Fourth of July holiday. A.E. Hodsdon Engineers of Waterville designed the project and monitored construction, on behalf of the State. The launch now provides safe and reliable access to the Kennebec River, which until recently was in a poor state of repair.

The upgrade was substantial; concrete pads now extend further out in the water to mitigate the impact of propulsion on the riverbed. New pavement was installed for ramp entry and the launch was made compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), adding a designated parking space and a paved path to the dock. ★



**OOSOOLA PARK BOAT LAUNCH** • The boat launch located at the end of Ferry Road in Norridgewock was rehabilitated recently in a cooperative effort between the Town and Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands.

## Tax Bills To Be Mailed August 12

*Community Survey Included for Taxpayer Feedback*

2019 Tax Bills are to be committed Thursday, August 8, and bills will be mailed August 12. The due date for taxes is Tuesday, September 17, at which time interest will begin to accrue daily. As a reminder, the oldest outstanding taxes, if any, must be paid first. If you would like a receipt for your payment, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your payment.

Also in your tax bill, you will find a *Community Revitalization Survey*. As a part of developing a revitalization plan for the town, our consultant and steering committee is seeking input from the public. The goal of this survey is to identify areas of the community that people believe need improvement and/or development. Ideally, the final plan, once public input is considered, will serve as a roadmap forward to strengthen the community and the local economy. The working group would very much appreciate your feedback on this short survey. The survey can be returned with your tax payment or dropped off at the Town Office. Thank you for your part in helping to improve Norridgewock. ★

## Food Sovereignty Ordinance Enacted

*Local Food & Community Self-Governance Ordinance*

Two long-time Norridgewock residents approached the Town early this Spring to inquire about food sovereignty ordinances. Food sovereignty ordinances were made permissible under the Maine Food Sovereignty Act, signed into law by Governor LePage; it granted the authority of municipalities to control local food distribution and remain free from state regulatory controls.

While the new ordinance does not apply to meats and poultry, it does extend to other processed foods such as jams, vegetables, and more. Passage of the ordinance allows Norridgewock residents to process foods and offer them for sale within the same community. It is important that consumers understand the potential risks associated with the consumption of such products; however, this ordinance returns the decision-making to the consumer.



The new rules govern only products that are processed and transferred directly from the producer to the consumer; there is no exception for third-party processing. It is important that consumers and producers understand that neither the municipality nor the State, maintain liability when goods are purchased under this ordinance authorization.

The ordinance took effect on June 11, 2019, following approval from Norridgewock voters by a vote of 104-17. ★

### August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

Children face unique eye health challenges, including injury, infection and increased nearsightedness. Make sure to get your child's eyes checked before they return to school!



80%

of the learning a child does occurs through the eyes.<sup>1</sup>

Early detection of vision problems is crucial, as untreated vision problems can impair development, impact learning and possibly even lead to permanent vision loss.



Children should receive comprehensive eye exams at:

12 months

3 years

Before entering school at age

5 or 6



It's also important to look for these signs of possible vision problems:



**3D movies:** After watching a 3D movie, look for these "3D" signs of vision problems: discomfort, dizziness and the inability to appreciate 3D content.



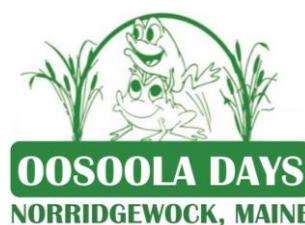
**Squinting while reading or watching television:** Ask your child if the text or screen is blurry or if reading gives them a headache.



**Difficulty hitting or catching a ball:** If your child regularly misses or drops the ball, schedule an eye exam.



**Clumsiness in sports or on the playground:** This could be due to a lazy eye, otherwise known as amblyopia.



**JOIN US FOR OOSOOLA DAYS!**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**  
**Parade begins at 9:00**  
**Activities in the park to follow**

To be a vendor, parade participant, volunteer, or to be a sponsor, call the Town Office or email [townmanager@townofnorridgewock.com](mailto:townmanager@townofnorridgewock.com)  
This event is brought to you by the Norridgewock Parks Committee in close cooperation with local businesses!

# Meet Norridgewock's New Librarian

Norridgewock Resident Robin Wilson Continues in Coursework to Earn B.S. in Information & Library Sciences

Having moved here from Smithfield when she was in the seventh grade, Robin has lived in Norridgewock most of her life. (Many of you may remember her father Ron Wilson, a well-known local woodsman.)

After working for many years in customer service and sales-related positions, Robin decided she wanted a change. She applied for and received a grant to attend the University of Maine (Augusta) in the library sciences program. Having just completed her third year, she expects to graduate in the spring of 2020.



In-between her duties at the library and schoolwork, Robin still finds time for two of her favorite things: spending time with her grandson (Aiden) and baking.

The Library Trustees are very pleased to welcome Robin to the library. Although she has only been on-board a short time, with her great enthusiasm and high energy, Robin has already brought a lot of new ideas to the library. We hope you will stop in and meet her at either the Mercer Road Library (Tues & Thurs 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 2) or the Sophie May Library (Wednesdays 10 to 2). ★ RK

# Upgrades Continue at Sewer Plant

Penta Corporation Moves Forward with \$5M Project



WASTEWATER FACILITY UPGRADES • Temporary bypass piping is seen over the chlorine contact chamber outside the Wastewater Facility recently. The chamber walls are being raised as a preventative measure against overflow and bypass channels are being installed to help streamline maintenance.

## Upcoming Library Programs

Norridgewock Fire, Chewonki, and more!

Mark your calendars! The Norridgewock Public Library is pleased to announce its next round of programming. The library hosts the Norridgewock Fire Department for a demonstration and exploration for children of all ages at the Mercer Road Library on Saturday, August 10, at 10:00. This event offers a look into firefighting as a career, fire safety, and an opportunity to see a fire truck up close! Handle the hose, or just cool off running under the water— this is sure to be a fun outing for all ages!

It is with great pleasure that the Library Trustees welcome back the Chewonki Foundation and the "Owls of Maine" program on Saturday, September 28, beginning at 11:00 AM. This event will be held at the Grange. Attendees will learn about owls, their calls, habitat, and more. This program is made extra memorable with the introduction of three live owls! Due to the program's popularity, entry will be limited and on a first-come-first-served basis. For inquiries, please contact the Librarian Robin Wilson at 634-2828.

To learn more about the libraries and stay up-to-date with events, new books, and more, check them out and like them on Facebook— Norridgewock Public Library. ★ RK

## Grange Suppers

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

4:30 to 6:00PM

Next supper: August 19



Suppers feature homemade cooking: old fashioned baked beans, casseroles, beef hot dogs, rolls, salad, pie, coffee/tea

Proceeds from this summer's suppers will help to restore the Grange Hall, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Somerset Grange ♦ Intersection of Mercer Rd. & Upper Main St.

## New Bill Moves Presidential Primary to March

Two consecutive days of voting in Norridgewock

Governor Mills recently signed LD 1626 into law, which changes Maine from a caucus state to one that will vote in presidential primary races. It also changes the date of the voting to the first Tuesday following the first Monday in March. This is only relevant every four years (i.e. 2020, 2024...).

Yes, it sounds confusing, but Norridgewock voters remember this: Annual Town Meeting is held on the first Monday in March and every fourth year, the primary voting will take place the day after. In 2020, Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, and Presidential Primary voting will take place on Tuesday, March 3. All voting will be held at Mill Stream Elementary School. The Town Office staff will be sure to post plenty of notice to make voters aware of the changes as they approach. ★

The Town Office will be closed:

September 2 in observance of Labor Day  
October 2 to attend regional training  
October 14 in observance of Columbus Day

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



Airport Rd.  
634-2714

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

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

Do You  
**FEAR**  
TECHNOLOGY?



Have a friend or relative who does?  
Do you know someone who likes to leave  
computers and cell phones "up to the kids"?

Norridgewock Public Library is offering a  
**FREE** digital literacy program, which would  
be life-changing!

For more information, stop by the Library or the  
Town Office to let us know what program offerings  
you may be interested in.

Programming offered by the Norridgewock Public  
Library, in cooperation with AmeriCorps and the  
National Digital Equity Center.