



Boat parades, outdoor movies, music make for a fun summer in Belgrade

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

The Belgrade Community Center for All Seasons will offer Camp Loon and Camp Golden Pond for young people. SailMaine and the Great Pond Yacht Club also will conduct six weeks of sailing lessons for 8 to 17-year-olds from July 10 through Aug. 18 at the Community Center. More information and camp registration forms are available at the Center or at www.townofbelgrade.com/belgrade-center-for-all-seasons.

The Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market on Sundays in the village offers shoppers fresh organic produce, Maine maple syrup, handcrafted jewelry and homemade ice cream. Other summer activities include art, book readings, golf, road races and environmental education. Now that the Maine Lakes Resource Center and Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance have merged to become the new 7 Lakes Alliance, the summer activity schedule is still being developed.

The 7 Lakes Alliance has organized a 5K fundraiser on Saturday, Aug. 4. Starting at 9 a.m., the rain-or-shine event starts on the Round Top hiking and biking trails system, just outside the village. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest racers in their categories. Race day registration is \$25. Check the Belgrade Lakes Facebook page for updates. At noon on Sunday, Aug. 5, the Belgrade Lakes Association will have its annual raffle drawing at the Farmers Market, with \$30,000 in prizes to be awarded to lucky ticket holders.

Maine Lakes Resource Center presentations include a 4 p.m. workshop on July 27: Your Wild

Woodlands: Creating Habitat for Birds, Fish, and Other Wildlife. Registration is required for this event. At 5:30 p.m. on July 11, visitors can learn more about Bees and Pollinators from Matt Scott, a retired state aquatic biologist.

The Chewonki Foundation will bring three exciting programs to the MLRC in July and August.

From 2-3 p.m. on Friday, July 6, three live owls native to Maine and New England will be the stars of the show. With the help of slides and sounds, participants will learn how each owl is unique. Audience members will have a close-up opportunity to see the talons, wings and other physical features of these magnificent creatures, said Amy

Andreini, community engagement and water quality assistant for the 7 Lakes Alliance.

From 2-3 p.m., on July 24, Chewonki's traveling natural history show will bring three live, non-releasable predators and explain their part in the natural cycle of life. From 2-3 p.m.

on Aug. 7, the Chewonki Batmobile will take the audience on a journey through the world of bats.

The Village Inn and Tavern offers live music on Wednesdays and Sundays; visit www.villageinnandtavern.com for the schedule. The Sunset Grille also offers entertainment through the summer months. Visit their Facebook page for dates and times.

THE BELGRADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER SCHEDULE OF TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- July 11: Author Greg Westrich, "Best Maine Hikes," 6-8 p.m., Belgrade Public Library.
- July 17: Mad Science of Maine, 10-11 a.m., Center For All Seasons.
- July 25: Author Mark Leslie "Ku Klux Klan in Maine," 6-8 p.m., Belgrade Public Library.
- Aug. 8: Talk on "The North Pond Hermit," 6-8 p.m., Belgrade Public Library.
- Aug. 14: Chewonki's "Bugmobile," 10-11 a.m., Center For All Seasons.
- Aug. 22: Author Monica Woods, "After Failure," 6-8 p.m., Belgrade Public Library.
- Aug. 29: Astrophotographer Mike Taylor, 6-8 p.m., Belgrade Public Library.

BELGRADE VILLAGE 4TH OF JULY EVENTS:

- 9 a.m. Friends of Belgrade Library book sale
- 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.: Bounce House and Face Painting (Village Peddler on Lake Shore Drive)
- Noon: Boat parade from Mill Stream on Great Pond to Village
- Noon: Strawberry shortcake and hot dogs at Union Church
- 4 p.m. Grand Parade
- 4-7 p.m.: Chicken BBQ at the Sunset Grille
- 5 p.m. Frog Jumping Contest (BYOF!)
- 9:15 p.m.: Long Pond Fireworks (rain date - July 5)

Snow Pond Center for the Arts and New England Music Camp announce their 2018 Summer Music Series

SUBMITTED BY MATTHEW WIGGIN
Snow Pond Center for the Arts

The 2018 series is blend a variety of thrilling performances, from the Snow Pond Symphony celebrating American composing Legends Leonard Bernstein and John Williams, to The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute, music lovers are in for an incredible summer of music spanning from Broadway to Country, and the Beatles to Classic Movie Hits!

The 2018 Summer Music Series kicks off with the Snow Pond Music Festival, featuring special performances by the Frederick L. Hempke Saxophone Institute, the Maine Chamber Music Seminar, and culminating with the Snow Pond Music Festival Jazz Brunch on Sunday, June 24 at 10:30 a.m., featuring Students and Faculty from the 21st Century Band Jazz Institute. The festival runs from June 10 to June 26. Various recitals and performances will be listed on Snow Pond Calendar. Visit www.snowpond.org for a complete listing.

On July 1, Snow Pond will present the Snow Pond Symphony: Celebrating American Legends Leonard Bernstein & John Williams. The orchestra will take the audience on a wonderful journey celebrating two of America's most accomplished composers. From Bernstein's West Side Story to William's music from Blockbuster movie hits like Jaws, ET, Schindler's List, and Star Wars, this concert is cure to give music lovers of all types a thrill!

There will also be a BBQ picnic beforehand! Come and enjoy a lovely dinner along the shores of Messalonskee while listening to one of Maine's premier orchestras. The concert will begin at 6 p.m. at the Bowl-In-The-Pines. Doors and BBQ open at 4:30pm. Tickets: \$25 Adult w/ BBQ, \$18 Adult Concert Only, \$15 Student/Child w/ BBQ, \$9 Student Only.

New England Music Camp students will also get the opportunity of meeting and working with Alumni Guest Artist and Jazz performer, Jim Holton, piano, from July 10-15. Jim Holton has performed extensively in the Phil-

adelphia, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York areas with many groups that include critically-acclaimed Rhythm & Brass, Orrin Evans' Captain Black Big Band, and Joe Suddler's Swing Machine who backed artists such as Jon Faddis, Clark Terry, Slide Hampton, and Al Grey. Jimmy's schedule will be announced at a later date.

On July 21 st, New England Music Camp will present their 39th NEMC Annual Pops Concert at the Bowl In The Pines. The NEMC Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Chorale, and Jazz Ensemble perform in this terrific performance that also features a Silent Auction and Door Prizes. All proceeds go directly to the NEMC scholarship fund. Performance begins at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$20.

New England Music Camp's musical theater students will conclude the NEMC season in their performance of Little Shop of Horrors. Directed by Broadway veteran and NEMC newcomer Frances Mercanti Anthony (Spring Awakening), this group of young talent from across the country will perform this "deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical, that has devoured the hearts of theatre goers for over 30 years. Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Disney's The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, and Aladdin) are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world. Performances will run August 9th and August 10th in Alumni Hall, at 7:30pm. Tickets: Adults \$20, Students \$10. Seating is extremely limited!

New England Music Camp will continue to hold free weekend concerts and weekly recitals throughout the summer. All concerts are held at the Bowl-In-The-Pines and all recitals at Alumni Hall. NEMC Concerto Competition winners will perform with the faculty orchestra on July 20 and August 3. Concert Dates: July 7, 8, 14, 15, 22, 28, 29 and August 4, 5, 11, 12. Faculty Artist Recital Dates: July 3, 11, 25, 27. Student Honor Recitals Dates: July 13, 18, 20 and August 1, 3, 7. NEMC Counselor Recital: July 6.

An NEMC tradition, Maine Appreciation Day, will be celebrated at the Sunday, August 12 Concert. The Artisan Market will begin at 1pm and run throughout the 3pm Concert. Various area artists, craftsmen, and gourmet carts will be selling their goods. Bowl-In-The-Pines, 1-5 p.m. Free to the Public.

On August 13, Snow Pond Center for the Arts welcomes back Don Campbell for an Evening of Dan Fogelberg Music. Don Campbell is a singer-songwriter, composer, and multi-instrumentalist whose music is inspired by sources as diverse as the Celtic and Canadian Maritimes music of his family to Dan Fogelberg, Vince Gill, the Beatles and novelist, Stephen King. The concert will begin 7 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Doors at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$20, Cash Bar.

On September 5 Snow Pond will close the summer with The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute! The Fab Four is elevated far above every other Beatles tribute due to their precise attention to detail. With uncanny, note-for-note live renditions of Beatles' songs, the Fab Four will make you think you are watching the real thing. This incredible stage show includes three costume changes representing every era of the Beatles ever-changing career. This loving tribute to the Beatles has amazed audiences all over the world, including Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, The United Kingdom, Germany, Mexico and Brazil. Hear record-perfect live performances of such classics as "Can't Buy Me Love," "Yesterday," "A Day In The Life," "Penny Lane," "Here Comes The Sun," and "Hey Jude." This special, one night only performance will be under the lights at the Bowl-In-The-Pines at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$35 VIP, \$25 General Admission.

Tickets for all shows are now available! All proceeds from ticketed events go towards student scholarships, instruments and other aspects of Snow Pond Center for the Arts programs. Please visit www.snowpond.org for tickets and details on all summer events.

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Day's Store celebrates 60 years

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

In the spring of 1958, Diane (Day) Oliver's grandparents, Jim and Mae Day, and Diane's parents, Gary and Joyce Day, moved to the Belgrade Lakes area from New Sharon and opened what is now Day's Store. The establishment formerly was run as a general store by Kenneth and Kathleen (Day) Bartlett.

"Kathleen was my grandfather's sister, and Jim and Mae had operated a store in New Sharon, so they knew what they were getting into," Diane said.

Jim and Mae's son Darryl and his wife Linda bought a marina across the street on what is now the Belgrade Post Office property. After they operated the marina for several years, Darryl decided to sell real estate and develop property.

"I came with my parents to Belgrade Lakes and proceeded to get a sister, Janelle and brother, Mark," Oliver said. "All of us worked in the store as soon as we were able."

The family enjoyed the life of the village, playing football on the Village Inn lawn, riding bikes along the sidewalk and enjoying the recreation center. The beach offered the chance for older swimmers to make the trip cross Long Pond and back.

"My grandparents and parents ran the store together and added many things to the mix of the general store," Diane said.

In 1972, her grandparents retired, and her parents took over the store. Around 1982, after Diane had finished college and was teaching school, her parents started talking about retiring. She and Kerry decided to run the store and keep it in the family.

"We worked with my parents until 1996, when they officially signed paper over to us," she said. "That was certainly a long decision about retirement!"

Over the years, her sister, brother and their spouses also have helped run the store. Diane and Kerry have three daughters: Megan, Melissa, and Holly. With her sister's two children and her brother's four children, there are lots of family members in, out and around the store regularly. In fact, all their own children and each of their nieces and nephews have worked at the store.

"That's nine of the fourth generation of Days at Day's Store," she said. "We think that's pretty special and pretty incredible."

Their old lunch counter is gone now, but the Diane and her husband Kerry have added table seating with a great view of the lake while customers enjoy their meals. The store carries fishing tackle and bait, BBQ chicken on a rotisserie and classic ham Italian sandwiches.

"We make those sandwiches the same way my great-grandmother made them when she lived in the apartment above the store," Diane said.

The have added lots of other sandwich options. The Great Laker and Long Pond Grinder are two of the favorite subs. For those who can't decide, Day's Store will provide the ultimate option.

"You can even build your own sandwich," she said.

In the early days of the store, Bernard Cote's fresh cut meats were a staple, and although the old meat saw is long gone, Kerry does a great job with steaks for grilling. Just for the weekends, the store offers old-fashioned homemade (fried) Day's Donuts. For those who can't wait for the weekends, Day's carries other fresh baked good every day.

Over the years, the two have made changes. They expanded the menu choices of pizzas and sandwiches. They expanded the gift shop, added Meggie O's Homemade Fudge, got a Maine agency liquor license and petitioned the town to be able to sell on Sundays. They opened and then closed a Day's Upstairs that included expanded fishing



Contributed photo

Day's Store in downtown Belgrade has been a fixture for 60 years, providing summer and year-around work for family members and many of the area's young people. Diane and Kerry Oliver (front-center) decided the 2017 crew needed to have a group photo. This year, Day's Store is celebrating its 60th year of business and plans to have summer events for the community that has supported them for more than half a century.

tackle and fur coats from the Day Fur Company, a part of her father's businesses. They added a self-serve coffee station with regular and decaf, but even that has grown.

"Now we have eight or more great choices of Carrabassett Coffee from Kingfield," she said.

The family also has made a point to find those specialty items that the summer visitors requested.

"My dad prided himself on the fact he got a note in the New York Times when a visitor on Hoyt's Island wrote that he loved to come to Great Pond and Belgrade Lakes, because '... the store in the village even had the bitters he needed for his cocktail,'" she said.

Her father also loved hosting Day's Store Sidewalk Sales. He would buy products to sell on the sidewalk and made T-shirts every year to promote the big event.

"We even did a pig roast one year, but that was not a good idea," Diane said.

When her parents retired in 1996, long-time employee Lois Davis would tell customers she came with the store. They also hired Susan Damren, and the four of them worked together for a several years. Their middle daughter Melissa and husband Kirt Furbush have been in the store full time for the past several years as the fourth generation of Day's management. Melissa manages the wine selection and has added Tuesday night wine tastings. Kirt is in charge of the new fishing tackle selections and has added a great selection of Maine beer. Maine Shellfish of Ellsworth delivers fresh fish and lobsters as many as five times a week. Fresh produce comes from Whitewater Farm, Na-

commercial and have had shout-outs from DownEast and Maine Magazine. The movie rentals are gone, because everyone has internet access, but they've added an ATM machine, outdoor seating by the lake, and the popular Lakeside Scoops shop featuring Gifford's ice cream.

"We love to see summer residents return year after year, and we're humbled to know they often stop to say hello before they get to their own camps," Diane said.

The family sees community involvement as a way to contribute to the region that has been so supportive of them for 60 years. They've worked with the Belgrade Region Conservation Alliance and other conservation groups in town to make their backyard a place to showcase porous pavers and a rain garden.

"We also started Open Mic nights and outdoor movie nights, and both are geared for great family entertainment by the lake," she said.

Their 60th store anniversary includes being part of the July 4 parades, both on water and land. They'll have the popular sidewalk sale, music and a photos with the Day's Store backdrop. They also have planned a July 21 celebration, with music, book signings, Gifford's Ice Cream samples and great food. For more information about these events, visit the store and check Facebook and Instagram.

Success comes from listening to customers, trying new things, and hiring wonderful hard-working employees.

"Our summer employees are great, because they help us through some wonderful, yet stressful times," she said. "We love this village of Belgrade Lakes and hope we are here for many more years to come."

tive Maine, Stevenson's and other local venues.

"People shop by boat from both Long Pond and Great Pond, and we have the best sunset view in all of Belgrade Lakes," Diane said.

Special moments for the family can develop into something unexpected. On Christmas Eve, during the store's 50th year celebration, a customer brought them a tape with a jingle he'd written for their anniversary. They liked it and made a video for their new theme song.

"I have to say it's pretty catchy, and you can hear it on our website or Facebook page," Diane said.

To stay current with social media trends, they've also added email marketing, Instagram, and a website, starred in a Maine Spirits



Photo contributed
The new Lakehome Group's office at 75 Main Street in downtown Belgrade. Co-owners Dawn Klein, Liz Fontaine and Linda Horne-Schultz are dedicated to making the town a more beautiful place to live and work.

Experience-packed trio join in real estate venture

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

A successful broker since 1994, with a background in design, Dawn Klein said she always had creative ideas to modernize real estate marketing. As a founding broker of Lakepoint Real Estate in 2006, she decided in 2017 that starting her own company would let her pursue new challenges.

"Starting was the easy part," she said.

She designed the new Lakehome Group website, the new signs and the new marketing tools. As the designated broker, she said partnering with fellow brokers Liz Fontaine and Linda Horne-Schultz was the best decision she's ever made to grow her career.

Liz Fontaine has been a business owner for the last 30 years. The chance to own a real estate business at this point in her life was a great opportunity. She has been an active volunteer in her Belgrade Lakes community, serving on several boards and living on Great Pond.

"Lakefront property in the

Belgrade Lakes region is a special interest for me," Fontaine said. "I'm excited about the opportunity to apply my business skills and do what I love."

Partner and associate broker Linda Horne-Schultz grew up in Mt. Vernon, and her family's expertise in the construction industry gave her the background knowledge that launched her career and passion in real estate.

"I was given the special gift of living and working here," Schulz said. "I am so very proud of my home and my community."

The three women say they feel an amazing energy in their new space. They work well together, but they all have their own styles. Customers say they appreciate the welcoming atmosphere and personal attention.

"We treat everyone the same," said Administrative Manager Holly Hacskaylo. "It doesn't matter if they are buying or selling property, or just want to hang with us. We want everyone to feel comfortable here."

More LAKEHOME, PAGE 3

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New Happy Girl boutique offers trendy apparel, vintage finds

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

Sallie Tyler's Happy Girl boutique carries trendy apparel, vintage finds, gifts and décor in her new shop at 87 Main Street in downtown Belgrade.

Tyler held the store's grand opening celebration at the end of May and was delighted with the enthusiasm for her unique offerings.

"We are definitely a bright new part of downtown," she said. "There isn't another store like this, and everyone told us they love it."

The store exudes Tyler's trademark cheery colors and vintage styles. She has many years of experience in both event planning and vintage treasure collecting, so she has taken her wide range of skills to help her customers pull together a mix that's right for them.

"Great style can be found all around us, and doesn't have to be expensive or hard to find," said Tyler.

The lake cottage style is casual and authentic, featuring painted

or decorated furniture with graceful lines and weathered finishes and colors taken straight from a flower garden. The popular shabby-chic trend is still going strong, with its eclectic style of antique furniture, pastel colors, lace and feminine florals. Tyler said these styles are easy and inexpensive to achieve. Not everything has to match, and it's easy to find a happy balance, she said.

"I've spent years collecting special pieces I know others will love," she said. "I enjoy watching customers find just the right lamp or chair or whatever it is that makes them happy."

Tyler said life in the Belgrade Lakes region is the chance to make great memories, whether on summer vacation at the family cabin, or a just long weekend away from traffic and a hectic schedule. Children will remember family picnics and parades and fireworks on the Fourth of July.

Above all else, life at the lake is comfortable, and her Lakegirl Apparel and Girlie Girl Originals clothing lines are perfect for the casual outdoors lifestyle. These

clothing lines offer a preppy look, mixed with T-shirts with fresh graphics and funky color combinations.

"Everyone needs a special hat that looks better every summer they wear it," Tyler said.

The eclectic assortment of vintage chairs, tables, lamps and linens are arranged in a mixture of shabby-chic and cottage-inspired displays. Tyler also offers a selection of gifts for baby showers, weddings, birthdays or, as she said, "Just because!" The inventory changes regularly, so if a customer doesn't find the perfect item, something new will arrive soon.

"I have beautifully-wrapped gift sets and baskets, and I make it so easy for customers to find something that's perfect for special occasions," she said.

Those perfect "gifts on the go" are especially handy for those who didn't have time to shop or just plain forgot a friend's birthday or the new neighbors' housewarming party.

Tyler's Swan Creek's Drizzle Melts line of soy candles offer a range of scents far beyond the

traditional offerings of vanilla and strawberry. Bourbon Maple Sugar, Coconut Lime and Cranberry Apple Crisp in a small melting pot take the scented candle to a new level of sophisticated enjoyment.

For delicious treats, the Happy Girls shop will offer The Maine Fudgery's homemade fudge and old-fashioned candy made from old family recipes.

The shop also welcomes a mix of items from select Maine artisans. They include Revel Designs owner Cindy Willingham, who started creating her own patterns in 2009 for her cottage industry business; Rustic Endeavors, which offers rustic and custom signs made from salvaged and reclaimed wood; and flea market, vintage, rustic, industrial décor.

Cleo Miller's Perfect 22 inventory offers a mix of vintage denim clothing, one-of-a-kind decorative bunting and new and imaginative uses for vintage treasures.

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Contributed photo

The new Happy Girl boutique at 87 Main Street carries trendy apparel, vintage finds, gifts and décor in downtown Belgrade. The store exudes the owner's trademark cheery colors and vintage styles. "Great style can be found all around us, and doesn't have to be expensive or hard to find," owner Sallie Tyler said.

Lakehome

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

They offer an easily-navigated and regularly-updated modern website, a home viewing lounge and a first-in Maine real estate interactive window for 24-hour service.

The Lakehome Group partners agree they have a deep commitment to partner with other groups in the village to invest in the revitalization plans for the town. The more shops, entertainment and services Belgrade Lakes offers, the more there will be for people to love, they agreed.

"We all have an emotional connection to the town, with so many memories and an appreciation of the people who make the area so unique," Fontaine said. "We are excited to be a part of what will draw other businesses here."

Their new Lakehome Group office involved a remodel of their building. The owner spent months working with their designs and completing the renovation of

the property. The three partners are organically letting their extra storefront space take its place in the village.

"We do have a desire to bring art to the community, so we tell everyone they'll have to come back and see what our home has become," Klein said.

Making the town a more beautiful place to live and work will help the town revitalize and grow. People who have invested hard-earned dollars in the region can feel secure about the choices they've made for their futures, the trio emphasized.

"In our opinion, we're walking the walk and not just talking the talk," Klein said. "That's the best

way to take care of our clients and everyone else's investment in the Belgrade Lakes area."

The town is in the process of a full make-over. Main Street will be widened, and town planners have decided to add cobblestone sidewalks and lantern street lights. Telephone poles have been upgraded, and trees have been cut only as necessary to allow for this work to be done.

"Now, when visitors drive into the village, they can see the beautiful mountains at the end of Long Pond," Horne-Schultz said.

The town has an amazing five-star country club, and golfers enjoy spectacular elevated water views as they play. The region also

offers thousands of acres of scenic nature trails, a beautiful community center, excellent schools and a busy public library. Everything's within easy driving distance, too. It doesn't matter whether you

live on the lake or not, the three agreed. Residents can explore more than 10 lakes, all within a leisurely drive of the village.

Their slogan "Love Where You Live" fits their style and their goals.

"There is no fuzzy line here," said Klein. "We love where we live!"

For more information, visit lakehomegroup.com, email info@lakehomegroup.com or call 495-2500.

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Gardner family continues to thrive after more than 50 years at Great Pond Marina

BY VALERIE TUCKER
Correspondent

Great Pond is the largest of the chain of Belgrade Lakes and is prized for its clear waters, great fishing and vacation memories. The 8,000 acres of water is eight miles long and five miles wide, and for over 50 years, the Great Pond Marina has been the center of boating in Belgrade Lakes.

Bob and Debbie Gardner purchased the marina in 1991 from Dave Webster, the original mail boat captain in Ernest Thompson's play and subsequent film, "On Golden Pond."

The Gardners' marina life includes three generations of family members that have welcomed their customers summer after summer.

"We have had the privilege of seeing so many babies growing into young adults," Bob Gardner said. "And we also have seen too many memorial services and scattering of ashes of loved ones."

The Gardners greet most of the customers by their first names, and every spring is like a family reunion, he said.

"I also think if you ask anyone who has worked for us, they were always treated like family," he said.

The family calls Debbie Gardner their "Rock." She does the accounting, answers the phone, keeps the display room clean and tidy, splices mooring ropes, sews ripped canvases, and even pumps gas at the fuel dock every now and then. When she has spare time, she is off training her hunting dogs, her husband said. The couple has lived in the same farmhouse for 40 years, raising three children who have started their own families and careers. That means the senior Gardners will ease themselves slowly into retirement.

Daughter Jessica, son Jason and his wife Stephanie, will manage most of the business. Bob Gardner anticipates the grandchildren will be involved with the marina, too, which could grow Great Pond Marina into a three-generation business. Their son, Adam, runs G&L Contracting, builds vacation homes and provides a camp care service. He also sells dock systems and designed and built the current marina building.

"Adam, Jason and Jessica have grown up in the marina business, and they have great energy and experience," their father said. "We're always going to be here, but we'll also enjoying our free time."

Bob Gardner said he always has loved boats and hires employees who have the same love of the marine business.

"I would say I definitely lived my dream," he said.

Great Pond Marina installs mooring buoys and chains and can customize a pulley mooring system, which provides an alternative to an expensive boat lift. Their well-trained staff also can upgrade docks.

The store has a colorful selection of Great Pond Marina T-shirts, hats and copies of the Old Great Pond Map that looks great in any camp. They mail many items and handle communications through their www.greatpondmarina.com website. The store also carries essential gear, including bilge pumps, mooring hardware, fuses, skis and life jackets. This year, the Gardners are expanding the popular O'Brien Watersports product line, with more towable tubes, skis, wake boards, stand-up paddle boards, ski jackets and accessories.

Customers can rent a boat for an entire vacation or a day on the lake. For all boat rentals, customers also receive a lake map, all safety equipment, emergency

lake service, instructions and a demo ride for those not familiar with the boat or lake.

"We always provide an explanation of the lake buoys for boaters new to Great Pond," said Bob Gardner. "Customers leave with a full tank of gas and pay only for what they use. We usually throw in some good fishing tips, too, for no extra charge."

The marina has 76 dock slips. Some can accommodate boats up to 24 feet boats, and some offer electrical access. Moorings can include added space to store a dinghy.

Summer visitors and boaters come for dinner at Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant, located upstairs above the marina.

"The view over the water is spectacular, and it's the perfect ending to a perfect day," Bob said.

The full-service restaurant also is open to the public from 5 to 9 p.m., on Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call 495-4045.

Besides running the marina, the Gardner family has been involved



in community organizations, including the Belgrade Lakes Region Business Group, the Maine Marine Trade Organization, the Maine Committee for Invasive

Species, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Committee for Marina Best Management Practices, and the Belgrade Lakes Association.

For more information, email info@greatpondmarina.com or call 495-2213. Visit their Facebook page or www.greatpondmarina.com. The marina is located

at 25 Marina Drive, about two miles south of the village center on Route 27. Summer hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week until Labor Day.



Contributed photo

Three generations of the Gardner family greet visitors and customers at the Great Pond Marina. Front row: Heidi Osborne, Morgan Osborne, Jaidyn Gardner, Masyn Gardner. Row 2: Jessica Gardner, Jason Gardner, Debbie Gardner. Row 3: Mechanic Ricky Greenleaf, Bob Gardner. Row 4: Summer employees Connor Johnson, Ike Hooper, Liam Parquette. Absent from photo: son Adam Gardner and daughter-in-law Stephanie Gardner.

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