

### Dates and Events

- Every Saturday, 8:00am-10:00am - Coffee Social at Eastbrook Community Building
- February 7th, 6:00pm - Selectmen Meeting: legal representative available to discuss proposed Solid Waste Ordinance
- February 18th-19<sup>th</sup> - Free fishing weekend (no license required)
- March 7th, 6:00pm - Planning Board Meeting
- March 31st or ice out (whichever is earlier) - Remove ice shacks
- April 4th, 6:00pm - Planning Board Meeting

For more information on town activities, see website:

<https://www.eastbrookme.com/>

### Ice Fishing Safety Tips

Ice fishing has gotten off to a slow start due to warm temperatures and a significant pre-Christmas rainstorm. The limited amount of safe ice on many of the lakes and ponds has forced cancellation of local ice fishing derbies.

#### Ice Thickness Guide

- ❖ Under 4" – **STAY OFF**
- ❖ 4" – Ice fishing or activities on foot
- ❖ 5"-7" – Often allows for a snowmobile or ATV
- ❖ 8"-12" – Supports most cars or small pickups
- ❖ 12"-15" – Will likely hold a medium sized truck

#### If Someone Falls Through the Ice

- ❖ **PREACH** – Shout to the victim that help is on the way.
- ❖ **REACH** – Extend an object like a rope, ladder, or jumper cables to the victim if you can safely reach from shore. Do not let them pull you in.
- ❖ **Throw** – Toss one end of a rope or something that will float to the victim. Have them tie the rope around themselves before they are too weakened by the cold to grasp it
- ❖ **Row** – Find a light boat to push across the ice ahead of you. Push it to the edge of the hole, get into the boat and pull the victim in over the bow.
- ❖ **Go** – A non-professional should not go out on the ice to perform a rescue unless all other basic rescue techniques have been ruled out.

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/fishing/ice-safety-tips.html>  
provided by Beth Boulter



*Ring out the old; Ring in the new. Wishing you peace and plenty and pleasures too.*

### Eastbrook Grange

After purchasing the old Grange Hall in October, the Town of Eastbrook plans to demolish it as the building is dilapidated and not worth fixing, according to town officials. Before demolition, the town intends to salvage any items of historical



value. Parts of the building, such as floorboards, windows or other components of the structure, may be salvaged if there are people who are interested. At the moment there are no plans for development, but nothing has been ruled out yet. The town's interest is in the land due to its location. "It's right in the center of town" said Select Board Chairperson Julie Curtis. The lot's proximity to the fire station and church makes it ideal for community events, adding extra event space and parking to the town center area. Last summer the land was used for the Eastbrook Days celebration and if the town were to lose access to the land it would make hosting community events such as that difficult.

The Grange Hall was built in 1905 and started serving baked bean suppers in the mid-thirties. In recent history, the Grange is probably best remembered for its blueberry pancake breakfasts in addition to the baked bean suppers.

*Excerpt from Ellsworth American 12/02/2022*

*submitted by Lynda Ryder*

*Get involved and contribute to the success of the Molasses Pond Lake Association!*

For more information on committees and what you can do to help contact [mplaboard@gmail.com](mailto:mplaboard@gmail.com)



## Winter Fun on the Pond



**4H Ice Skating & Fishing**  
submitted by Diann Jordan



submitted by Colleen Mitchell



**1930s on the pond**  
James P. Quine & sons

## The Firewood Poem

Beech wood fires burn bright and clear  
 If the logs are kept a year;  
 Store your beech for Christmastide  
 With new holly laid beside;  
 Chestnut's only good they say  
 If for years 'tis laid away;  
 Birch and fir wood burn too fast  
 Blaze too bright and do not last;  
 Flames from larch will shoot up high  
 Dangerously the sparks will fly;  
 But ash wood green and ash wood brown  
 Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown.



Oaken logs, if dry and old  
 Keep away the winter's cold;  
 Poplar gives a bitter smoke  
 Fills your eyes and makes you choke;  
 Elmwood burns like churchyard mold  
 E'en the very flames burn cold;  
 Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread  
 So it is in Ireland said;  
 Apple wood will scent the room,  
 Pear wood smells like a flower in bloom;  
 But ash wood wet and ash wood dry  
 A king may warm his slippers by!

*By Lady Celia Congreve*

Finally, advice from the Old Forester:  
 one log can't burn, two won't, three  
 might, four will. Enjoy your firewood,  
 and keep warm this winter.



## COMPLIANCE & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

### DID YOU KNOW?



As of 3/16/21, the Town of Eastbrook adopted the State of Maine Shoreland Zoning Ordinances



Only one campsite is permitted per 30,000 sq. ft. of lot area in the shoreland zone.



A campsite on any lot with less than the required 30,000 sq ft of lot area will be permitted so long as it existed prior to the effective date of this ordinance.



Only one RV shall be allowed on a campsite.



Campers/campsites must be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the normal high water mark.



A sewage disposal plan is required for each campsite and shall be approved by the local plumbing inspector.



Any RV or tent that is present on a lot for more than 120 days per year will be subject to all requirements for residential structures.

### CONTACTS

Code Enforcement Officer:  
Doug Stover 207-460-1044

This is a summary of Section 15E, 1-7 of Land Use Ordinance and not intended as legal advice. To review full ordinance, visit [www.eastbrookme.com](http://www.eastbrookme.com)

Dear MPLA Members and friends,

It is the goal of the Compliance & Activities Committee to serve our membership in an educational and informative capacity so we may be a useful resource for you as you join in our mission to preserve the health and beauty of Molasses Pond.

It is our desire to support property owners and their guests in stewarding their land well. We believe that when properties and dwellings are constructed, improved upon, or used improperly, it is most often a result of the owner being unaware of pertinent local and state ordinances. This is the information gap that our committee hopes to fill so that we might empower owners to *be aware of* and therefore *correctly interpret* those zoning ordinances as they spend time on the Pond.

We believe that most share in our desire to preserve and respect the Pond and so to that unifying end, you can look forward to our committee communicating updates, changes, and clarifications on shoreland zoning matters as well as seasonal information that will help us continue to be good neighbors.

If you have questions for our Committee or have concerns about any activities on the Pond, please reach out to our chair, Sue Hamilton, at [bensuetalsid@gmail.com](mailto:bensuetalsid@gmail.com).

Thank you!

*Compliance & Activities Committee*

SUE HAMILTON, CHAIR  
BONNIE KANE  
LANCE HICKS  
LIZA MURPHY  
JASON CHOATE

## Where on the Pond..?

During the Molasses Pond Lake Association reorganization meeting last summer, people introduced themselves and gave their locations on the pond. But where exactly were those locations? After the meeting, I dusted off my old Maine Gazetteer by Delorme; it gave basic location and topographic information, but not much for road names. Next came Google Maps which provided better road and area details. I wanted more:

- For directions, Google Maps is easy and by using the magnifier you can find more details for roads and landmarks. You can find your GPS coordinates here. The satellite view lets you find your actual dwelling. Click on it and a bar pops up below with an identifier. Click that bar and look at the information menu for the coordinates.  
<https://www.google.com/maps/@44.6707603,-68.2344389,13z>
- For water depths, The Lakes of Maine site provided a link to a Delorme map at  
[https://www.lakesofmaine.org/maps/blackandwhite\\_4448\\_Molasses\\_Pond.pdf](https://www.lakesofmaine.org/maps/blackandwhite_4448_Molasses_Pond.pdf)
- Mapcarta offered an easy resource for some of the geographic locations around the pond like Martins Ridge and Sugar Hill. <https://mapcarta.com/22290376>

I'd still like to know if there is a name for the little island off the rocky cove where the loons nest and if coves, points and other landmarks around the pond have names. Can you help?

Lynda Ryder,  
[pondpaddle@msn.com](mailto:pondpaddle@msn.com)

This newsletter is a collaborative effort by the members of the Education & Outreach Committee: Maureen Deis, Beth Boulter, Colleen Mitchell and Lynda Ryder. We welcome your comments and suggestions: [hackmatack16@hotmail.com](mailto:hackmatack16@hotmail.com)

## A Blast from the Past



### MOLASSES POND NEWSLETTER

1995-1996 by Bob & Lynne Svec

*...the last hurrah of summer and the pond hums with activity. When it is over silence descends and Mother Nature once again reigns. Slowly the leaves begin to change to the fiery colors of autumn...ringing the pond in orange, yellow, scarlet, and every shade in between...an incredible sight. Loons molt and feathers float on mirror calm waters...or the lake boils with white caps as dark clouds scud along overhead.*

*The first frost on 9/29/95 was followed by the first snowfall on 11/10. The pond froze across on 12/1 although that skim ice broke up a few times before it took hold for good. An unusual winter with lots of snow and lots of incredible windstorms (I'm sure many returned to camp to find downed trees and branches) and lots of thawing created strange ice conditions...only eight to ten inches on Molasses Pond as opposed to the normal 20" to 24". The old timers adage that an inch of ice will hold a man, two inches will hold two men, and four inches will hold a team of horses did not seem enough to convince snowmobilers and trucks of the safety of the ice. Far fewer braved the conditions to cross the pond as in past years. However, the pond did resemble a winter fair on weekends...ice and bait fishermen, four wheelers pulling laughing, shouting kids on tubes, an ice boat with sail flying along, cross country skiers, hikers.*

*Our last sighting of a raft of nine loons on Molasses Pond on 11/4 was undoubtedly Midwestern or Canadian loons stopping off on their winter migration to the coast. Our local loons completed their rafting and migration much earlier this fall...although possibly the one loon we spotted on 12/4 was one of our chicks unwilling to leave the safety of his birthplace.*

*A beaver carcass frozen in the ice in our cove became a wildlife feeding station. Three eagles, two mature and one immature, feasted off and on for days. A fox visited the remains every dawn and dusk and a coyote with an injured front leg tore into the carcass daily around noon...until he finally succeeded in tearing most of the remains out of the ice and off into the woods. Ravens finished off the scraps...hopping around warily watching the shore.*