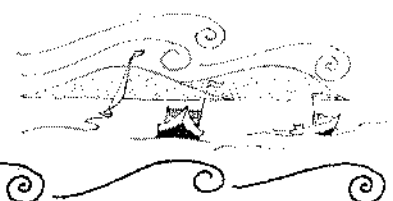


# The Brooksville Breeze



The newsletter of Brooksville Friends & Neighbors

Summer 2007

## Another Morning in Maine: Saying Good-bye to Condon's Garage

By Kathleen Caldwell

These random images catch my eye: Two rusty WD-40 cans discarded in the mud near the entry way. The flirtatious Husqvarna girl smiling from the calendar in the office. Cork Cove Smelt Camps, Dresden, Maine—a business card tacked up on the back wall. A recent edition of *Hunting* magazine left atop a fat stack of parts catalogs. A brown (originally black?) desktop rotary phone—well-oiled on the outside. Four vintage weed-whackers dangling from a cedar bow rack—fitting into its corner spot like a perfectly-shaped steamed keel. A plastic steering wheel hanging from the chain saw display. It occurs to me that an archaeologist could spend years sorting through the oil-soaked layers of this place, discovering its secrets.

By the time you read this modest reminiscence, I expect that the doors to Condon's Garage in Buck's Harbor may have already been closed for one last time. To commemorate the end of this particular era, I am visiting Don Condon at the garage on a Thursday morning in mid-April 2007. It's one of those stubborn springs, where we just don't seem to be able to get past the last snowstorm. More song birds are showing up on the warmer days, but only a few fat robins—almost bursting



Condon's Garage

with eggs—make their appearance around Lake Richard on this raw grey morning.

By 8:30 a.m. business is brisk. Patrick Trowbridge is busy removing a wide vinyl-covered seat from the back of his Boston Whaler, to make more room for hauling tools and building materials to an island job this summer, I learn. After a few minutes he disappears, heading toward Buck's Harbor Market. He returns much later—a good chunk of the morning gone—with a cup of coffee and a donut. Larry Snowden, the school bus driver from the island, wanders about making small talk, working his way around to a financial proposal, then finally asking Don about an engine out front he'd like

## What's in a Name?

By Joan MacCracken

Brooksville High School came into existence in 1916 and graduated its last class in 1960. In 1923 the students published their first yearbook that they named **The Brooksville Breeze**. No one is exactly sure how that name was chosen, but for almost forty years it was the yearbook that many in our town still cherish.

The first two students to graduate were Elwin Dyer and Jennie Gray Knowlton. Although the average senior class was about eight to ten students, in 1939 the class boasted 16 strong. Before the school was closed with students moving to George Stevens Academy and other neighboring high schools, the class of '60 had twelve students—those still living include Sandra Redman, Murry Bates, Gilbert Booth, Patty Closson, Keith Andrews, Dennis Limeburner, Ronald Steel, John Bakeman, Philip Sanborn, and Robert Herrick. The oldest known living alumna is Olivia Smith Moore, '25, who lives in Florida in the winter and Ellsworth in the summer.

Built in 1910 and located next to the present Community Center the high school building was recently purchased by architect, Bruce Norelius, who has remodeled and transformed it into a lovely art gallery.

by Gail Clifford

to buy. "No hurry, though. I was just kind of wondering." It's all part of the dance. Chris Raphael, in a hurry, darts in and out. Chris is wiry and busy and apparently hasn't mastered the dance. Finally, when the traffic settles down, Don takes a few minutes to help me with this assignment—to pause for a few minutes and remember this place.

Starting at the beginning, according to Don's best recollection: The building—graceful and beautifully proportioned on the outside, basic and functional on the inside—was built in 1924 by Ralph Condon, Don's great-grandfather, and a crew of men. Asked if his great-grandfather was a carpenter by trade, Don replies that he did a bit of everything,

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 2

**Condon's (continued from page 1)**

as men did in those days "just to survive." The "outer part," where Patrick is working on his boat, was intended to be the garage, the other half a store and upstairs a movie house. The store and movie house never came to pass. Within a year or two, the talkies came in and the old local movie houses went out. One for three. Ralph's son Russ, and later his younger brother Dick, ran the garage until World War II. They had to shut down the garage when they both went to work in the shipyards during the war—Russ to Boothbay and Dick to South Portland. When the war ended and they both returned to Brooksville, Russ opened Condon's Store on the other side of the church and Dick ran the garage—until 1986. Dick's son Phil came back to Brooksville and joined his father in the business in the mid-70's. Don recalls being in the shop quite a lot when he was a boy, working on outboards and cars while he was in high school and during the summers. After that, he held some other jobs around the peninsula before joining Phil fulltime at the garage in 1986 when Dick retired. Twenty years later Phil is fishing and care taking, and Don will be moving the garage business to his new shop at his home on the Herrick Road. He'll continue with Mercury outboard motor sales and repairs, boat storage and other miscellaneous boat work. Some automotive work. Saws and mowers? Well, the mowers he doesn't sound too enthusiastic about—can't make any money on them, he says.

Asked to reflect on the changes in the business over the years, Don remembers first some of the people who have worked there—Earl Orcutt (who they called Bouce—rhyming with mouse), Horace Wardwell, Lloyd Fowler's father Clarence, and Brad Jones, to name a few. I was surprised to learn that Russ was a sales agent for Ford and Chevy in the late 20's and early 30's. In the beginning, they converted car engines into inboard gas engines for boats. A temperamental arrangement, at best, Don recalls. Only later did the outboard motor production and sales pick up. Husqvarna chain saws are a relatively new line, beginning in 1986;

then they picked up the Mercury outboard dealership in '87. Most everyone remembers when the gas pumps were taken out, in the early 90's; Don guesses that they were installed in the 30's. Gas sales were a fairly substantial part of the business during those years, beginning with the sale of Tidewater gas, then Phillips 66, and finally Irving. (The latter two brands they purchased from D.W. Small.) By the 90's Irving was no longer interested in maintaining such a small market and took the tanks out.

I want to know if he has a favorite story to tell. He pauses a while. No sense in just blurring things out before you ponder the question a while. Then, slowly: "Over the years bicycle tires have caused as much of a dilemma as anything, I guess." Seems that Gook (Oliver Bakeman, Jr.) was hanging around the garage one day when a young man (young, but old enough to know better) came up on a bike all outta breath. "Do you have an air hose?" he asked. "Yep," Gook answered, warning the young man that the air comes out of that hose pretty fast, so best be careful, to which the young man replied; "I know. I've done this before." Gook watches the young man wrestle with the hose. The tire explodes. Gook continues to watch—same expression, not saying a word.

Once Don gets going on the bicycle stories, he seems to be almost enjoying himself. He wants to tell me another one. "A bunch of people on bicycles rolled in here on a Saturday afternoon." One young man was eyeing the cars out back and then asked Don if he could borrow a screwdriver. Why? Don asked. The fellow explained that he collects license plates from all over the country and that he wants one that he sees out back. Don ordered him off the property. Before he had time to cool off, another one came along. This one's chain needed a repair so Don welded it for him. "I held my tongue at first, then I mentioned how I'd run another bicyclist off the property earlier." This second man paid him and left. A few days later, Don received an LL Bean gift certificate in the mail from Leon Gorman, to thank him for his good service. So, Don concludes, you never know about

people. You can't say that all bicyclists are one of a kind.

Although I know that all of the summer people who have bothered to read this far will be searching for some reference to their beloved childhood memories of *One Morning in Maine*—riding down the hill into the harbor and seeing the revered Condon's Garage for the first time, I am reluctant to bring this up with Don so leave it until the end, weighing my odds, waiting to see if there's an opening, or to just forget it. I certainly haven't mastered the dance, but I try to step lightly. The thing is: I don't want to embarrass myself by pushing the nostalgia thing too far. But Don surprises me on this one. He is quick to say what an ordinary, likeable sort Robert McCloskey was, and how both Russ and Dick enjoyed seeing themselves in the pages of the book, as McCloskey saw them. "And he did a pretty good job of getting them right." Don generously credits McCloskey with making a good story out of this humble place, and when recalling the children who still come in every summer asking him to sign a copy of the book, the hint of a smile crosses his face.

Don strolls over to check on Patrick's progress, indicating that the interview is over. The last random item I spot on the way out is the smudged cocktail napkin tacked up on a cedar post in the middle of the room near the woodstove: "God Bless us ALL... even the summer people." Which pretty much sums up the whole thing. Change comes hard, but it was a good run.

**Name (continued from page 1)**

For the past thirty years there has been an alumni banquet. According to Audrey Peasley, about eighty alumni attend. This gathering occurs on the third Sunday of July and this year will be on July 15<sup>th</sup> at the Brooksville Community Center.

We are thrilled to be able to use the old name, **The Brooksville Breeze**, for our new newsletter. It is fitting to do so because we want to rejoice in that which has been here for years as well as greet new friends and new ideas to foster and strengthen the health of our community.

## Activities

### Brooksville Elementary School

June 15, Italian Supper  
 Sports Booster Club. Experienced Chef's will prepare a delightful supper, 5pm in the Gym  
 June 19, Eighth Grade Graduation, 7pm in the Gym  
 June 25, Last Day of School

Summer Hours: Wednesday 8am to 2pm  
 For more information, call: 326-8500 or <http://www.brooksvilleschool.org>

### Brooksville High School Alumni Annual Meeting

July 15, Starting with Sunday Service at the West Brooksville Congregational Church at 10:30am with Rev. Allen Myers, followed by luncheon and meeting at the Brooksville Community Center at 1:00pm. For more information call: 326-8864

### Brooksville Free Public Library

Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9am-5pm  
 Thursday 6-8pm  
 Saturday 9am-noon

Aug 5, 1-4pm House & Garden Tour, Four Season's Farm with Eliot Coleman & Barbara Damrosch.  
 For more information call: 326-4560  
 Friends of the Library call: 326-8520

### Brooksville Community Center

June 2, Benefit supper for Mim Black  
 For information on this and other Community Center events, please call: 326-8296

### Brooksville Historical Society

Museum Hours, July & August Wednesday & Sunday 1-4pm  
 Monthly meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm at the Town House- all welcome!  
 For information, call: 326-0899

July 28 & 29, Touring Through Time: Historical Societies from the Peninsula area will be participating in a Joint Weekend Celebration. Check your local paper for details.

August 26, Annual Membership Meeting at 7pm, at the Town House

### Brooksville Friends & Neighbors

Monthly meeting the 1st Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm at the Town House  
 July 31, 6:30-8:30am Community Breakfast. Come see your neighbors and enjoy breakfast at the West Brooksville Congregational Church

### Holbrook Island Sanctuary

Safe walking trails & beaches docking facilities. Summer Programs  
 For more information, call: 326-4012

### Get Strong, Get Healthy

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30 am at the Brooksville Community Center.

### Cape Rosier Ping Pong

Sundays at 1:00 pm. For more information, call: 326-4279

### Meals-4-Me

Thursday Lunch for all ages. Please be sure to call Dorothy Bakeman at 326-4912 for reservations and more information. Reservations need to be made before 8am on Wednesday morning.

### Knitting

Every other Monday For more information, call: 326-7127

### Bucks Harbor Market

For information call: 326-8683

### Good Life Center

Join us for our Monday Night Meeting speaker series beginning June 11. Vegetarian potluck dinners at 5:30pm followed by the Meeting at 7pm. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share and your own utensils and bowl/plate.

A variety of summer workshops are scheduled this summer. Workshops begin at 1:00 pm at the Good Life Center at Forest Farm in Harborside, unless otherwise noted.

June 9: "Radical Simplicity", led by author and educator Jim Merkel

June 16, "Composting Essentials", led by Good Life Center Staff

June 23, "Building with Cob and Cordwood", call for time and location

June 30, "An Afternoon of Reading and Music", led by Rob McCall

July 7, "Preparing the Winter Garden", led by Good Life Center Staff

July 14, "Building a Solar Cooker", led by Richard Komp

August 4, "Organic Gardening and Farming: Tools and Techniques", led by Eliot Coleman, \$100/person, includes lunch

August 18, "Food Preservation", led by Good Life Center Staff

August 25, "Basic Metal Work for the Homestead", led by Mark Kindschi

For a schedule of workshops & speakers call: 326-8211

### Neighborcare

Neighbors helping neighbors. Volunteers provide free health related services; respite, transportation, errands, etc. Call Jeanie Gaudette for assistance or to volunteer at 326-4735.

### Yoga

Fridays at the Town House, 8:30-10:00am. \$13 for one session or \$44 for 4 sessions. For more information call: 326-3236.

### Brooksville Yacht Club

July 5-Aug. 16, Thursdays, 7:15pm Square Dancing with David LaVoie and the Reversing Falls Band

### July 4 Parade in Harborside

July 4, 10am Meet in Harborside. Parade, Music, Games & the annual Pie Eating Contest. For more info: 326-8629  
 For more info: 326-8629

### Daughters of the American Revolution

(DAR), Majabigwaduce Chapter  
 Monthly meetings, March-December, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Town House  
 Membership is open to women 18 years or older who can prove their lineal blood-line decent from a patriot of the American

Revolution. Mission: Historic Preservation, Education & Patriotism  
Contact: Edna Andrews at 326-8549 or Liz Hotchkiss at 326- 8570  
[www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) (link to local chapter)

**Maryann Snow Bates Education Foundation** Inspiring Excellence, Expanding Opportunities

A Foundation created in the name of Maryann Snow Bates, to support higher education for Brooksville residents by providing scholarship opportunities for those enrolled in a post-secondary program.

Application deadline is June 15, 2007. To support this organization, for more information, or Scholarship application call: 326-9194

**Fire Department**

Burn permits available Thursday Nights at the Fire Station 7:00- 8:00 pm  
No motorcycle event this year.

**Keepers Baptist Church Preservation Group**

For information on events & meetings call: 326-8864  
June 2, Yard sale

**Meditation**

Quiet Meditation. Reversing Falls Church. Tuesday 7:00pm  
For more information, call: 326-8564  
Buddhist. Reversing Falls Church. Thursday 5:30pm For more information, call: 326-4279

**Brooksville United Methodist Church & Reversing Falls Sanctuary**

Summer Programs at Reversing Falls Sanctuary. For more information, call: 469-7850  
Buck's Harbor Sanctuary. Service Sunday 9am with Rev. Gary Vencill  
July 18 10am-2pm Methodist Ladies Spectacular Summer Sale at the Brooksville Methodist Church, Buck's Harbor Sanctuary, for more information, call: 326-4620

**West Brooksville United Congregational Church**

Sundays, 10:30am Services & Sunday School with Rev. Allen Myers. For more information, call: 326-9177  
Thursdays, 6-8pm, Steeple Stitches meet, for those interested in sewing or learning to sew.  
June 16, Saturday, Public Baked Bean & Casserole Supper, 5-7 pm at the Church.

For more information call: 326-4239  
July 28, 9am-1pm Summer Yard Sale & Bake Sale at the Church

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**To list your event call: 326-4010  
or send us a note at:  
Brooksville Friends & Neighbors  
P.O.Box 101  
Brooksville, Maine 04617**

**Town Office Hours** ..... 326-4518  
Monday .....9am-2pm  
Wednesday .....9am-2pm  
Thursday ..... 6pm-8pm  
Selectmen John Gray  
Richard Bakeman  
Clifford (Kip) Leach  
Town Clerk Amber Bakeman  
Treasurer Frieda Peasley  
Tax Collector Joanne Van der Eb

Burn Permits (at Fire Station)  
Thursday ..... 7pm-8pm

Harbormaster Sarah Cox 326-9622

**Library Hours** ..... 326-4560  
Monday .....9am-5pm  
Wednesday.....9am-5pm  
Thursday ..... 6-8pm  
Saturday .....9am-12pm

**Post Office Hours (Window)**.....  
Monday-Friday  
..... 8:30am-12:15pm  
..... 2-4:15pm  
Saturday ..... 8:30-10:30am

**Post Office Hours (Lobby)**  
Monday-Friday  
..... 7am-4:45pm  
Saturday .....7-11am

**Buck's Harbor Market Hours**  
..... 326-8683  
Monday-Thursday  
.....7am-6pm  
Friday ..... 7am-7:30pm  
Saturday ..... 8am-7:30pm  
Sunday .....8am-3pm

Note: once the restaurant opens (late June), store hours will be expanded.



4th of July Parade in Harborside

Ralph Chapman

# Who we are...

*The Brooksville Breeze* is the quarterly newsletter for **Brooksville Friends and Neighbors**, a group of residents that began meeting in the fall of 2006 with the primary goal to support and strengthen local activities that encourage health, both physical and emotional. Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday, from 6:30-8pm, at the Town House and are open to all Brooksville residents. BF&N is an evolving group, looking for ideas from everyone. We would like to thank the Healthy Peninsula Project for initiating and supporting the creation of this new resident group.

Several issues have been discussed and worked on over the past nine months. A map of walking trails is being compiled. Leaders from Holbrook Sanctuary and the Good Life Center have presented their activities and programs. Enthusiasm was felt for promoting sustainable agriculture and neighborhood gardens. Most recently,

the idea of a kiosk or two at the entrances of Brooksville is being investigated. These kiosks will help to advertise special activities in the town. On May 1, BF&N and the West Brooksville Congregational Church co-sponsored a gathering breakfast for all interested residents at the Church (see "Breakfast, Anyone?").

Other ideas raised include creating a welcoming packet for newcomers and having town summer picnics at the town landing.

To create new avenues for communications and connectedness, a newsletter was proposed and you now hold the premier edition. We want *The Brooksville Breeze* to reflect the uniqueness and history of our town. Brooksville is a special place and those lucky enough to live here want to keep it that way. We hope you will feel welcome to join in to keep our community a friendly, vital, healthy environment.

## Breakfast, Anyone?

On May 1st forty-five people gathered for the first Brooksville Friends & Neighbors Breakfast generously hosted by the members of the West Brooksville Congregational Church. Folks had the opportunity to mingle and introduce themselves. There were some lively conversations and everyone enjoyed the food as well, especially Berwyn Peasley's homemade donuts. Plans are to continue this great new tradition (see the Activities page). Come join us!

## In the next issue...

We'll be writing about some of the businesses in Brooksville, including some that you would never think are here!

If you know of a business that you think should be spotlighted, let us know. Call and leave a message at 326-4010 or write to use at P.O. Box 101.

Thanks!

## Health Tip...

**How Many Calories You'll Burn**

Per minute, for weight of 105-200 pounds

Aerobic Dancing .....	5.8-8.6
Basketball full court .....	9.8-14.5
Bicycling -Stationary 10 mph .....	5.5-8.3
Bicycling -Stationary 20 mph .....	11.7-17.8
Bicycling - 10 mph .....	5.5-14.5
Dancing - Rock & Roll .....	3.3-4.9
Golf - using handcart .....	3.3-4.9
Hiking (with backpack) .....	5.9-8.8
Jogging - 5 mph .....	8.6-12.7
Lawn Mowing (power motor) .....	3.5-5.2
Running - 8 mph .....	10.4-17.3
Skating - fast .....	8.1-12
Skiing - down hill .....	7.8-13.3
Skiing - cross country .....	13.1-19.4
Snow shoveling - light .....	7.9-12.5
Snow shoveling - heavy .....	13.8-20.5
Stair Climbing - normal speed .....	5.9-8.8
Swimming - 20 yds. a min. ....	3.9-6.8
Swimming - 60 yds. a min. ....	11-17.9
Tennis (singles) .....	7.8-11.6
Volleyball .....	7.8-11.6
Walking, 2 mph .....	2.4-3.6
Walking 4 mph .....	4.5-6.8

**Help support this newsletter...**

Donations to help offset the cost of publishing this newsletter would be greatly appreciated!!!

To help, send whatever you can to:

Brooksville Friends & Neighbors  
P.O. Box 101  
Brooksville, ME 04617-0101

Make checks payable to:  
*Brooksville Friends & Neighbors*

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**All you need...**

You only need two tools in life - WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape

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**Bumper Sticker:**  
"Don't believe everything you think."

## Got a tip or something funny?

If you have a health tip you'd like us to include in the newsletter, send it along. Same for humor—we all enjoy a good laugh—and it's good for you too!

### The Set of the Sails by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

One ship drives east, and another west  
With the self-same winds that blow;  
'Tis the set of the sails  
And not the gales  
That decides the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate,  
As they voyage along through life;  
'Tis the will of the soul  
That decides its goal,  
And not the calm or the strife.



# The Brooksville Breeze

The newsletter of Brooksville Friends & Neighbors

Published Quarterly—Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter

Brooksville Friends & Neighbors (BFN)

P.O. Box 101

Brooksville, ME 04617-0101

Phone: 207-326-4010

Newsletter by:

Joan MacCracken

Becky Poole

Judy Tredwell

Peter Beaven

## Acknowledgements

Thanks to Molly Holmberg for her design of our banner and wave forms.

Special thanks to Jane Freeman of Healthy Peninsula for all of her work in helping Brooksville Friends and Neighbors get started. Healthy Peninsula also is sponsoring this first newsletter—

Thanks!



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## Tell Us Who You Are...

Fill out the form at the left, cut it out and mail it to us at the address above.

We want to know what you are interested in. Would you like to help with one of our projects? Do you have a suggestion for an article in an upcoming newsletter? Do you belong to a group that would like us to help promote their activities?

Brooksville Friends and Neighbors is a new and growing organization. We need you! We need ideas and we need to know how we can best serve the community.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like to receive the newsletter via email

Check here if you would like to receive the newsletter by postal mail

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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