

The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

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Dublin, NH 03444

Happy New Year!

BY GINETTE GROOME

In January we welcome in the New Year of 2018. The Chinese celebrate the lunar New Year in February, the Year of the Dog; its characteristic word is *action*!

In Chinese astrology each zodiac year is associated with an animal sign (rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig), and also one of the five elements: gold (metal), wood, water, fire, and earth. 2018 is an Earth Dog Year. If you were born in 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, or 2018, you are a "Dog Chinese zodiac animal."

Year 2018 is under the auspices of Earth Dog sign, the ruling number is 9 and will bring prosperity in all the houses and their occupants, regardless of the zodiac sign.

The financial potential created by 9 will



concretize in new business opportunities, increased cash flow, building good reputation, and socializing. Therefore, people's tendency will be to organize parties more often, to celebrate and to enjoy life.

2018 will have a very strong Earth influence. That implies the events related to

land, real estate, county territory, agriculture, earthquake, mineral, and the Earth will be more active than before. In Chinese astrology, Earth is also connected to stability, meditation, and religion. Many people will pursue spiritual or religious study.

This past Chinese New Year, the Red Fire Rooster, was one of planning for the future, keeping in mind long-term goals. With the coming New Year of the Earth Dog, it is now time to spring into action, completing projects, and finding the means around any obstacles along your path.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2018 and "active" Earth Dog year!

GINETTE G. GROOME, LMT, is the QiGong instructor at the DubHub on Wednesdays, from 12 to 1 pm.



Ring In the New Year

Ring Out, Wild Bells

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true...*

— Alfred Lord Tennyson, 1809-1892

The bell in the Community Church belfry as it appears today. It was originally located in the town's second or so-called Centre Meetinghouse, which stood on Old Common Road. The original bell was cast in 1818 at the Paul Revere and Son foundry in Boston. The receipt shows that it weighed 1244 pounds (the tongue or clapper weighed 27 pounds of that) and cost \$559.80. Presumably the bell cracked, ruining its tone. So it was recast in 1876 for the Church by William Blake and Co. for \$176.80. Total cost for replacing bell: \$201.13.

— Courtesy Dublin Historical Society

If you haven't thought about your smoke detectors, emergency plan, or just who shows up in those big red trucks, this would be a good time to start. Your local Fire Department is looking for help. When your neighbor is having the worst day of their lives, having a familiar face show up with the equipment and training to turn it around, is a feeling that can't be bought. Contact your local fire department if you would like to learn more about how you can help or even join these local heroes.

— Thomas Vanderbilt, Chief, Dublin Fire Department,
(603) 563-8137; tvanderbilt@townofdublin.org



Photo by Mary Loftis

Please join us to celebrate
THE RETIREMENT OF
Brian Barden

Saturday, December 30, 1 to 4 pm

**Dublin School's
Fountain Arts Building**

Light refreshments will be served.
Snow date is Sunday, December 31.

If you have any questions call Sherry or
Janice at the Town Hall 563-8544.

Dublin Public Library

A New Year means time to think about resolutions, so how about a resolution to allow yourself time to read, whether a magazine or a book, a time for you!

In October, we added a non-fiction book to the collection:

BOOKS

Endurance by S. Kelly

Past Perfect by D. Steel

The Attention Merchants
by T. Wu

Japanese for Busy People

The Mayflower

by R. Fraser

Promise Me, Dad

by J. Biden

Rescue Road by Peter Zheutlin. I didn't know if I wanted to read it as it was about dogs in kill shelters in the south, but I wanted to know more about animal rescues (as my dog is a rescue from a kill shelter in Arkansas). So, with trepidation, I started the book and, oh my, what an experience: emotional (both good and bad), encouraging, educational, and filled with love.

Sometimes it takes a New Year to get us all thinking about changing how we eat, how we live, if we should redecorate, take up a hobby, acquire a new skill, learn about a sport. Well, if you are considering any of those subjects, the library has lots of books filled with information.

Book Buddies, Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 pm: Our after-school group enjoyed many stories and crafts and time to play during December. At the request of the children, they will have some time to read with a buddy if they choose. Hundreds of books

Dublin Public Library Trustees: Gail Bartlett, Nancy Cayford, Connie Cerroni, Willard Goodwin (chair), Bill Gurney, Jane Holmes, Celeste Snitko, Bethe Walker. Alternates, Rusty Bastedo, Marty Smith.

are displayed for all levels of readers as well as Legos, puzzles, blocks, and a few surprises each week. We realize schedules and activities change, so we encourage your child to come one week or every week. Beckett the panda bear has had an adventurous few months and every child has been eager to be his caregiver for a week. We will begin a new chapter book in mid-January.

Story Time, Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 am: Notice the sparkle in fresh snow? We will "sparkle paint" a winter scene after we read *Snow Dog's Journey* by Loretta Krupinski. Other activities during the month include stamping with ink pads and creating cards, cutting and gluing some winter animal shapes on shiny icy backgrounds, and mini snow globes. We will read *When Will It Snow?* by Lisa Cook and *Winter Walk* by Virginia Snow. The children enjoy singing and movement – and refreshments are served every week.

The Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery

The Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery's next show will be the 2018 Art Faculty Biennial Exhibition, which begins February 3 and runs through April 1, with a public opening reception on Friday, February 2, from 5 to 7 pm.

Painting, photography, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, drawing, and installation work are by members of the Keene State College Art & Design program faculty.

Also on view: *Unboxing Bob: A study of artist Robert S. Neuman* through objects, images, and ideas.

The Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery is on the campus of Keene State College, Wyman Way, Keene, NH; call (603) 358-2720, email thorne@keene.edu, or visit keene.edu/tsag.



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About Your Property Taxes

BY JEANNINE DUNNE

Our second bills for property taxes were mailed out a little later than usual for 2017 because the tax rate was set later than it usually is. The tax rate is established and approved each year by the NH Department of Revenue Administration, usually sometime in October. I hope Dublin's property owners were pleasantly surprised when they got their bills late in November because the tax rate went down significantly for 2017. The rate was \$24.22 per thousand dollars of the assessed value for each property. This was a decrease of \$3.59 per thousand compared to our 2016 taxes.

Our tax year runs from April 1st of the current tax year through March 31st of the following year. The first bill goes out usually in June and is due in early July, and it covers the time period from April 1st through September 30th. This first bill is an estimated amount, which is normally half of the previous year's total property taxes. Once the tax rate has been set around October, the second bill is calculated by taking the total amount for the year and subtracting the amount of the first bill. It covers the period from October 1st through March 31st. This bill usually gets mailed in early November and is usually due in early December.

If you have any questions about your property taxes, please call Jeannine or Neil at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office at 563-8859.

We wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2018!

JEANNINE DUNNE is Dublin's Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

2017 Tax and Equalization Rates

BY DALE GABEL

Now that Dubliners have the final installment of their annual property taxes in hand, it's appropriate to look closely at the tax rate. In 2017, the overall tax rate was \$24.22 per thousand dollars of property valuation. That represents a 12.9% decrease over the 2016 tax rate of \$27.81 per thousand. Digging a little deeper into the numbers, in comparison with the 2016 rates, the overall tax rate breaks down as follows:

Tax Rate	2017	2016	Change
County	\$3.19	\$3.87	-17.6%
School	\$12.34	\$14.30	-13.7%
Town	\$6.18	\$7.31	-15.5%
State Education	\$2.51	\$2.33	+7.7%

In 2017, the Town tax rate constituted 25.5% of the total tax rate, down from 26.3% in 2016.

There are a number of reasons the tax rate dropped in 2017. The reduction in the Town portion reflects overall lower expen-

ditures this year on warrant articles, and use of capital reserve accounts and excess fund balances to offset those warrant articles that were approved by the Town.

County and School portions likely reflect an overall lower assessed value of property in Dublin, along with a higher equalization rate.

The Equalization Rate (or Ratio) for 2017 rose to 108.5% from 96.4% in 2016. The Equalization Rate is the ratio between the assessed value and the market value of all property in the town. Since Dublin's Equalization Rate is above 100%, the assessed value of all property in the town is above overall market value. This rate comes into play when a taxing authority is determining how much a town will pay for a shared public good, such as a school. The Equalization Rate is used to equalize all towns to their actual market value to fairly distribute the shared tax burden.

DALE GABEL is a member of Dublin's Board of Selectmen, elected in 2017.

TOWN OF DUBLIN PUBLIC NOTICE Filing Period or Town Offices

Residents interested in declaring their candidacy for the following town offices may do so at the town clerk's office beginning Wednesday, January 24, 2018, and ending on Friday, February 2, 2018. For those residents wishing to file for office on February 2nd, the clerk's office will be open from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Selectman	1 position	3 years
Supervisor of the Checklist	1 position	6 years
Library Trustee	1 position	3 years
Budget Committee	2 positions	3 years
Cemetery Trustee	1 position	3 years
Planning Board	2 positions	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	1 position	3 years

— Jeannine Dunne, Dublin Town Clerk

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Water Test Results: “Be Well Informed”

BY TRACEY MAY KALVAITIS

The first annual water testing event, coordinated by the Conservation Commission and the Community Center, has recently yielded results for 35 households in Dublin.

All results are anonymous, and not tied to a specific address. This is a do-it-yourself water-quality test that evaluates a wide range of possible contaminants, including bacteria, nitrates, fluoride, copper, iron,

uranium, chloride, arsenic, radon, lead, and manganese.

For \$105.00, any resident may collect samples and have their well water analyzed. The process takes about 30 minutes and individuals may mail in their samples (cost approximately \$8) or, if samples are collected in conjunction with a town-wide testing, they will be transported to the lab in Concord free of charge.

We hope to sponsor another testing

opportunity in the spring. Here is a summary of the data for the 35 samples submitted for testing this fall:

Arsenic:

- 6% of samples had arsenic above the drinking water standard of 0.010mg/L
- 40% of samples had an arsenic detection (>0.001mg/L)

Radon:

- 65% of the samples had radon between 2000-1000 pCi/L where treatment may be advisable

Stagnant lead:

- 66% had a stagnant lead detection (>0.001 mg/L)
- 14% between 0.005 and 0.015 mg/L
- 11% greater than 0.015 mg/L

Manganese:

- 14% of the samples had manganese greater than 0.05mg/L

There is more information available on the NHDES (NH Department of Environmental Services) website (des.nh.gov). They have a “Be Well Informed” (pun intended) web-based tool designed to help a homeowner decide what kind of testing to pursue, to help decipher lab results, and

continued on page 8



The 7-9th grade students at Dublin Christian Academy have made their yearly foray into theatre. This year, they performed “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” a one-act play adapted from Roald Dahl’s famous *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* that many of us know and love. The cast had a great time working on the piece and it was a really good opportunity to develop communication skills. They did a wonderful job.

— Bill Katka, history and speech teacher at Dublin Christian Academy

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News from DCS

BY NICOLE PEASE

While short, December was a busy month, and the highlight was the Holiday Concert. Staff again worked with the students to create classroom performances. This has been a different format than in years past, and students put on an amazing and festive show! We were especially fortunate to have the musical accompaniment of Bruce Simpson and Volkert Volkertsz from the Dub Hub. A huge thank you to the Fire Department for escorting a special friend clad in red and white all the way from the North Pole!

Our last day of December was a very special day. It began with the Annual Craft Day, carefully planned and coordinated by our own Vicki Brown. Students spent the morning making multiple crafts. This time is so special and students love the opportunity to make special things for their families. After lunch and recess, students enjoyed hearing Tim Clark read *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, a treasured tradition.

We were thankful for the early snowfall. Not only does it add to the season, but also it makes recess much more fun. Students



love sledding and DCS is lucky to have such an awesome sledding hill! Students will take full advantage of the snow after our Winter Break on our Friday afternoon "Winter Fun Days." Some of our students will travel to Crotched Mountain for the ski program, and the students at school will have some extra time outside and participating in other winter activities. The opportunity to have a special afternoon, learning a new skill, or simply spending time with friends is a treasured experience for the DCS students. Thanks to the PTO for coordinating!

It may be hard to believe, but while

we are thinking about the New Year, we are also planning for next school year. If you know anyone who will have a child five years old by August 25, please have them get in touch. Kindergarten screenings begin in February: February 20 at AES (Northern Tier: Antrim, Bennington, Franconia, Hancock); March 20 at PES (Southern Tier: Peterborough, Dublin, Temple, Sharon, Greenfield); and April 17 at PES (for all towns).

As always, we would love to have you visit our school, please just call first!

NICOLE PEASE is Principal of the Dublin Consolidated School.



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DubHub Events in January

Craft Night

The DubHub hosts the monthly Craft Night, sponsored by Mountain View Bible Church, on Tuesday January 2, 7 to 9 pm. For more information, contact Liz Ogden at secretary@mtnviewbible.org or call 563-8069.

Lori Pedrick Featured Artist

The featured artist in January is Lori Pedrick, an interdisciplinary artist, as well as art director at *Yankee Magazine* and *Art New England* magazine. This exhibit is entitled "Growing Up Girl," and features photographic portraits of women with an audio component. The opening reception will be held on Friday, January 5, from 5 to 7 pm.

Of this project, Lori Pedrick writes: "Growing Up Girl is a collaborative project celebrating individualism, beauty, and the empowerment of women. I've been working on this project for about two and a half years within the MFA program at the New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester, NH. The basic premise is to promote a healthier, positive message for women of all ages, ethnicities, body types, and backgrounds. Since my portrait sessions are basically my interpretations of each of my subjects, I wanted to find a way where each individual

could have a voice too. I've invited each participant to write a short personal essay about being a woman. Their stories, coupled with my images, are incredibly powerful. This is a collection of stories from many courageous women, with lived experiences. It is a chance for each participant to share, be seen, and be heard."

Open Stage: Bernadette Colley

Singer, songwriter, and guitarist Bernadette Colley will be the featured musician at the DubHub Open Stage on Friday, January 5. Doors open at 7 pm and the show begins at 7:30. Performers can sign up for a 10-minute set in advance at info@dublincommunitycenter.org. The open stage has nine slots available and concludes the evening with the feature. Admission is \$5. Attendees are encouraged to bring a snack to share. Coffee, tea, and hot cider will be provided, but you can bring your own beverage.

Bernadette Colley is a regular in the open mic circuit in southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. She delivers songs, with a powerful voice, by artists as varied as Hank Williams, Judy

Collins, Billy Joel, and Steve Brennan. She has recently written some inspiring originals. Bernadette has been a favorite at Peterborough Parish Hall Open Stage and at Rindge Meeting House Open Stage.

Coding Club Starts in January

The new Coding Club at the DubHub will start on Monday, January 8. The first session will run from January 8 to February 22, on Mondays and Thursdays, and is open to Dublin area students (public, private, or homeschooled) in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. The club will meet after school from 3:30 to 5. Snacks will be provided. Registration forms are available at the DubHub, or by emailing info@dublincommunitycenter.org. The first seven-week session is \$35, but waivers are available for students on free and reduced lunches.

Instructors (or guides) for the club will be Dieter Brehm, an engineering student on a gap year, who will be attending Olin College next Fall; and David DeWitt, a retired member of the community, with extensive experience in computer coding. Volkert Volkersz, DubHub program coordinator, will be on hand to assist.

The DubHub has 12 HP Chromebooks available, and the club will be limited to 12 students.

The Dublin Community Center is located at 1123 Main Street, Dublin. Drop in Monday or Wednesday mornings, call 563-8080, or visit www.dublincommunitycenter.org.

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Zumba Winter Session

The next 7-week session of Zumba Fitness will begin Monday, January 8, and run through February 19 with a bonus/snow date on February 26. The class, taught by Deb Giaimo, meets every Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm and is a moderate intensity Zumba workout.

Upbeat Latin and World music and a diversity of rhythms ranging from salsa to swing keep the class moving and burning calories. No dance experience is necessary, everyone is friendly, and the atmosphere is fun and relaxed. Zumba at the Hub is a great way to start the New Year!

The cost for the 7-week session of Zumba Fitness is \$30, and newcomers can try a class for free. Please enter the Hub from the back of the building and bring clean shoes to wear on the dance floor. Anyone wanting more information can call Deb at 563-8648.

Coffee & Conversation

The DubHub is open for coffee and conversation every Monday (except New Year's Day) and Wednesday, from 9 am until noon. The DubHub is open all day, along with free Wifi and a comfortable chair, on Mondays until 5 pm and on Wednesdays until 4 pm.



Lyme Disease Support Group

If you suffer from Lyme disease, or know someone who does, please join Deb Golden for mutual support and to share valuable information. This group meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month, which is January 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Community Lunch

Join us for a delicious home-cooked meal on Tuesday, January 16. All meals are served with green salad, coffee, and sweets. Cost is \$3. Lunch is served from noon to 1 pm. Come enjoy a tasty meal with friends and neighbors.

January Forum: Winter Fun

On Saturday, January 27, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm, come hear about all the winter activity that Dublin has to offer and share some of your own favorite ideas! Hiking, skiing, skating, hockey, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching and more.

Our discussion leaders will be Holly and Sean Macy, who will talk about cross-country skiing and the trails at Dublin School, as well as members of the Trail-

blazers, the local skimobile organization. Come enjoy hot cider, cocoa, and cookies. Bring the kids!

Ongoing Movement Classes

On Mondays, Zumba is led by Deb Giaimo from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. You may contact her 563-8648. Cost is \$10/class or \$30/7-week session.

Every Wednesday from noon to 1 pm, QiGong meets, taught by Ginnette Groom. Come for a centering hour of the ancient Chinese practice. Call 313-9828 for more information. Cost is \$15/class or \$96/8-week session.

Also on Wednesday afternoons: Gentle Yoga with Margaret Gurney, from 4 to 5:15 pm. All are welcome. For more information email margaretsgurney@gmail.com. Cost is \$15/class or \$60/6 classes.

DelRossi's Offerings

On Friday, January 19, Tony Trishka, Master of the 5-string Banjo, will be performing at DelRossi's Trattoria.

Also, Bill Staines In Concert at DelRossi's on Saturday, January 27, at 8 pm, \$15 at the door.

One of the founders of the New England folk scene, Bill Staines has been composing and performing his own music for over 35 years. Many of his songs have become classics in the genre: *River*, *Roseville Fair*, and *All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir*, among others.

DelRossi's Trattoria is located on Rte. 137 in Dublin. David & Elaina DelRossi have been the proprietors since 1989. Call them at 563-7195 for details, or visit online www.delrossis.com.

HCS Walk-ins Hours in Peterborough

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) welcomes residents of Dublin to "Walk-in Wednesdays." The next Walk-in Wednesday is January 3 from 3 to 5 pm.

Drop in for free, off-the-record, individual advice from staff members who specialize in home care, hospice, and advance care planning. When you learn about ways we can help, your worries lighten!

The HCS office in Peterborough is located at 45 Main Street, Suite 316. Those who are not able to stop may call 532-8353.

HCS is a Monadnock United Way agency providing comfort, care, and support in southwest NH communities.

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Two ConVal Grads Settle in Town

How some of Dublin's newest homeowners landed here.

BY MARGARET GURNEY

Who would have thought that when our newest young couple bought a house and moved to a hilltop in town that they would put up their game-watch cameras and “capture” deer, turkey, porcupine, bobcat, falcon, and coyote.

Rob and Brooke Sullivan, who each travel daily to Massachusetts to work, met at ConVal and both graduated in 2006. They actually started dating between sophomore and junior year, and married in September 2011 in Peterborough.

Brooke went to UNH and majored in medical laboratory science; she is currently a research scientist working on the cure for type 1 diabetes. Rob graduated from Saint Michael's College (Colchester, VT) with a major in computer science and is an IT administrator in Danvers, Mass.

Brooke and Rob currently enjoy raising a (large) rabbit and chickens, with more farm critters planned once they have a

little more time. Rob says he also runs “a very small business out of the house making custom fishing rods. I’ve been at it for eight years.”

The Sullivans attended a Monadnock Rotary breakfast on December 5, learned about Rotary’s joint effort with the Harris Center in providing educational opportunities for children at the Dublin Rotary Park,

but when the sellers came back to us a few weeks later, we knew it was fate and seized the opportunity.”

Brooke’s parents still live in Greenfield where she grew up. And Rob, whose folks still live in Peterborough, took it upon himself to attend the Broadband Committee meeting (held on the same night in October that the state water scientists were telling us how to test our water – see those results elsewhere in this issue). As a computer sci-



which almost abuts their land, and then went on to hear about the inner workings of *The Dublin Advocate*.

But when asked how they finally decided on Dublin, the couple replied that “in a way” Dublin found them.

“When we starting looking at houses in NH, we decided pretty soon that we wanted to be in the ConVal school district. We wanted a home with a classic “small town” feeling so we started focusing on Dublin and Hancock. After losing out on a few houses in Hancock we found the Hurricane Hill house and immediately fell in love with the house and property. The first round of negotiations fell through,

entist, Rob has a good grasp of the Internet situation (or lack thereof) that Dubliners find themselves in.

So as Brooke and Rob settle in on their hill, with their critters and the cam, it won’t be long before we see more of them around town, which is something they are looking forward to.

“It’s been so great living back in the area and being closer to our parents,” Rob shared. “Living in Dublin has been exactly what we hoped it would be – and we can’t wait to get more involved as our schedules become more flexible.”

MARGARET GURNEY is editor of the *Advocate*.

Water Test Results

continued from page 4

to recommend treatment options to remove contaminants, if need be.

The presence of arsenic is the most common contaminant in our state, so we are fortunate to have this less expensive testing option available for folks that don’t mind collecting their own samples.

Water is essential to our health, and now it’s easier than ever to find out just what’s in there.

TRACEYMAY KALVAITIS coordinated this joint effort for the Conservation Commission.

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Canoe Trip Up North, Part 2

BY AGGIE AND SEAN MACY

The Allagash! The name started out as evoking a long wild river, and then it became the elusive river, but finally we could peek at a tiny section of it from the Ranger's cabin. On our way to the put-in we had to stop at the Churchill Dam Logging Museum: a one-story barn with some antique machines, tools, and great photos of logs and water, which seemed to be all there was in this area.

We crossed the new concrete Churchill Dam, which had replaced the old log dam. We got another quick glance of the river, but not enough to scout out the rapids. When parking our car, we saw one other person, and we never would have expected this to be the last person we would see for the next four days. We carefully strapped our gear into the boat with the roar of the rapids below getting into our heads. We looked out to see what was ahead of us, although we were rather intimidated when we noticed there was nothing to see other than a sharp drop down from the calm water behind the dam. We were staring into what we could only imagine to be the Class II rapids we had read about in our guide book.

How big is Class II? Did we need a white-water boat? At least we could tell we were heading downstream, contrary to what the helpful couple at the fishing camp led us to

believe. Adrenaline was flowing, but we made sure to leave the keys where guides could find them to move our truck to the take-out. The water felt good on a sunny September day, still warm, inviting. Then, the magical feeling of shoving off, that sensation when your foot leaves the bank and you are floating; we were on the river.

We had set an ambitious goal for the day to make it to Long Lake Dam, so we decided to quit our worrying and to start paddling. What the...leaches! Alright little friends, out from between

our toes and back to the river. A great start to the trip – it wasn't until that moment that we realized neither of us had paddled in a canoe together on flatwater in the past few years, not to mention on whitewater. We hit the first section of rapids; it all happened so fast! The river enchanted us, we were purely reactionary, "rock, rock right, rock left, rock ahead!" It took the two of us a while to get into the rhythm of paddling with the current and following the channels. Somewhere in the second set of rapids the hand grip on Sean's paddle snapped off the shaft. We eddied out, or swung the boat around into the calm part of water behind a rock, so that we could switch out with a spare paddle. When looking for the paddle we realized there should be another long thing in the bottom of the boat... we had forgotten our fly rod case! But we were loving it, and we were simply starting to

continued on next page



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Canoe Trip Up North *continued from previous page*

get into the rhythm of the rapids, learning how to communicate with each other.

After a couple miles of rapids, we arrived at some flat water after only hitting a few rocks. We shared the lingering adrenaline of what we had just gone through. We went for a swim followed by lunch on a rock on the bank of the very windy Umbagog Lake. It seemed like a celebration. Feeling like we should get back to canoeing, we took to our boat, feeling a little lazy, and launched into a fun, rolling, downwind paddle.

Our next handful of miles led through the shallow lakes and swollen river created by the damming of the Allagash. What a fun surprise to find that the old dam site had a lush green lawn, picnic table, and stone firepit/grill. It was nice to have enough time and light at the end of the day to take our time doing the fun camp chores that are necessities: set up the tent, hang clothes to dry, filter water, gather firewood, make fire, prep dinner (calzones), and cook paleo style.

Aggie started carving a wooden spoon and Sean crept down to the edge of the old dam. Even though most of it had washed out many years before, the bottoms of the log cribs were very visible. Big steel nails held together the logs and rocks filled the inside spaces. It looked tempting to run through the rapids over the old dam, but one of those nails would be like a can opener on the canoe. It was fun to look out over the dam and imagine what life was like when it was built. Aggie had discovered some junk in the woods: old bed springs, truck pieces, and countless other artifacts scattered about.

As the sun began to set we drank our tea, listened to the rush of the water over the remains of the dam then made our way to

sleeping bags and books. One of the best reasons to canoe camp in September is no mosquitos; we could sleep under the stars without a single buzz. There is a feeling of excitement on the first full day of a camping trip, it's equal parts accomplishment and anticipation of going deeper into the wild. We slept well.

PART 1 of Aggie and her father Sean Macy's canoeing trip appeared in the July 2017 issue of the *Advocate*.

The Value of Communal Singing

BY BOB MEISSNER, JR.

Did you know that your Dublin Community Church has had an amazing choir since before anyone still alive can remember? So at least 100 years let's say. The choir is an integral part of the services with the joyful experience great music brings. It's right here and we hear there's room for more singers!

Tom Martin, DCC Music Director, says "Singers for all four sections (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) are welcome any Thursday evening beginning January 11, 2018, from 6:30 to 8:00 in the lower level Church Hall."

Qualifications you might ask? Love of singing, ability to sing on pitch are good. The awareness of the many benefits of singing in a choir (cognitive, physical, and social), a musical background or even the ability to read music are pluses but not required. In every choir I've sung with, reading music wasn't critical. At the DCC Tom has magic in his teaching to overcome that. In addition to the occasional choir party, and the summers members have off, the commitment, when a newbie is ready, are most Thursday evening rehearsals and an hour before church service to tune up and review.

Tom Martin, a true gem for Dublin, is a talented pianist, composer, and choral conductor – most recently as Choral Director at Keene High School for 22 years.

BOB MEISSNER, formerly from Dublin, is a Monadnock Rotarian and DCC church member.



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The Great Gray Owl

BY TOM WARREN

A Great Gray Owl was once observed in Dublin during the winter of 1889 when one was shot in the spruce forest high on Mt. Monadnock near the Mountain Brook, which originates at Thoreau's Bog a short distance off the Pumpelly Trail. The Mountain Brook flows through private property off Old Troy Road. This is a large gray owl of the boreal forest and the only one that breeds in both the Old World and New World. When prey is scarce, these owls move south into the northern United States.

It is a large owl, but the Great Horned Owl and Snowy Owl are heavier. It has evolved a feathery plumage to protect it from the bitter cold in its northern habitat.

With an unusual ear structure, it has excellent directional hearing that allows it to hear the heartbeat of a mouse under the snow. It has not been well studied because it lives in remote northern Canada spruce forests as well as in Russia and Scandinavia.

Great Gray Owls swallow small mammals whole, while meat of larger prey is



Great Gray with Prey by Jari Peltomäki, Finland.jpg

picked off in small bites. In winter, they consume seven rodents a day, but research studies indicate they can withstand starvation and survive with just 30% of their body weight, an evolutionary adaptation over thousands of years.

In 2004-2005, a huge irruption of Great Gray Owls brought thousands to the Eastern United States. At least 10,000 were spotted in Minnesota alone.

In times of rodent scarcity, they appear in some numbers in New England. Already Snowy Owls are being reported in some numbers, one as close as Stoddard and one at the Shattuck Golf Course in Jaffrey. This is often an early indicator that Great Gray Owls may also make an appearance — so keep an eye out when cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing.

TOM WARREN is Dublin's resident ornithologist.

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JANUARY 2018 Dublin Town Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Del Rossi's Open 5-9 pm; Snow date for Brian Barden's retirement party	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY HUB Zumba 5:30-6:30 pm; DPL closed	2 DPL Book Buddies 3:30 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm; HUB MVBC Craft Night 7-9 pm	3 HUB Coffee 9-noon; open 1-4 pm; QiGong 12-1 pm; Yoga 4-5:15 pm; HCS Walk In 3-5 pm P'bro; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; Republicans 6 pm; Trustees 7 pm; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm	4 HUB Coding Club 3:30 pm	5 HUB Lori Pedrick Art Reception 5-7 pm; Open Stage with Bernadette Colley 7:30 pm	6 Bass Hall P'bro: Suitcase Junket Concert (PFMS) 7:30 pm
7	8 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Coding Club 3:30 pm; Zumba 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm	9 DCC MRC 7:30 am; DPL Book Buddies 3:30 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm	10 HUB Coffee 9-noon; open 1-4 pm; QiGong 12-1 pm; Yoga 4-5:15 pm; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm	11 HUB Coding Club 3:30 pm; Lyme Support 6:30-8:30 pm	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day HUB Coffee 9-noon; Coding Club 3:30 pm; Zumba 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4 pm; DPL Closed	16 DCC MRC 7:30 am; HUB Community Lunch Noon-1 pm; DPL Book Buddies 3:30 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm	17 HUB Coffee 9-noon; open 1-4 pm; QiGong 12-1 pm; Yoga 4-5:15 pm; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm	18 HUB Coding Club 3:30 pm; DPL Recycling 6 pm	19 HUB Ukelele 7-9 pm; DelRossi's: Tony Trischka, 8 pm, \$15	20
21	22 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Coding Club 3:30 pm; Zumba 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4pm	23 DCC MRC 7:30 am; DPL Book Buddies 3:30 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm; DCC Community Supper 5:30-6:30 pm	24 HUB Coffee 9-noon; open 1-4pm; QiGong 12-1 pm; Yoga 4-5:15 pm; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm; TH Declare candidacy for Town offices	25 HUB Coding Club 3:30 pm; TH ZBA 7 pm	26 HUB Song Circle 7-9 pm	27 HUB Forum: Winter Fun 4:30 pm; DelRossi's: Bill Staines, 8 pm, \$15
28	29 HUB Coffee 9-noon; Coding Club 3:30 pm; Zumba 5:30-6:30 pm; TH BOS 4pm	30 DPL United Way 8:30 am; BookBuddies 3:30 pm; HillTop Group 6:45 pm	31 HUB Coffee 9-noon; open 1-4 pm; QiGong 12-1 pm; Yoga 4-5:15 pm; DPL StoryTime 9:30 am; DCC TwoHat Group 7 pm	BOS Board of Selectmen DCA Dublin Christian Academy DCC Dublin Community Church DCS Dublin Consolidated School DPL Dublin Public Library DS Dublin School		HUB Dublin Community Center MRC Monadnock Rotary Club MVBC Mountain View Bible Church TH Town Hall

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The Dublin Advocate is written by neighbors, for neighbors. Everyone is welcome to submit articles and/or photographs of interest to the community. Email submissions to **DublinAdvocate@gmail.com** by the 15th of each month.

Articles subject to edit. The editor reserves the right to refuse any article or advertisement.

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