

August/September 2019 E-Newsletter

Eric Hooglund, Editor

Saturday, August 3, was an historic day for Belgrade. It was the grand opening and official dedication of a new park in the village of Belgrade Lakes, appropriately named The Village Green. The new park occupies the triangular-shaped, one-acre space south of the intersection of Routes 27 and the West Road. During the first half of the 20th century, this piece of land was part of The Belgrade, a grand, Victorian-era, elm shingle-sided hotel, with 100 luxuriously appointed rooms, a 400-foot long veranda overlooking Long Pond and its evening sunsets, a nine-hole golf course, and other amenities that collectively made The Belgrade a go-to destination for many of the country's rich and famous families. The hotel helped to put the entire Belgrade Lakes region on national tourist maps (aided by the presence of 2 railroad stations in town, one at Belgrade Depot and the other at North Belgrade). By 1913, The Belgrade had several 'secluded' cottages on its extensive property. Large parties of 10 and up rented these cottages by the week or season. There were spacious sleeping and entertaining accommodations, although meals were eaten in the famous dining room of The Belgrade, which featured an orchestra to serenade guests as their dined. The Elms was the name of the cottage that occupied the triangle [see photo below]. It was constructed next to an old elm tree, which shaded it with 'assistance' from several large pine trees. Part of the land in front and to the right of the Elms was cleared and served as a fairway for the golf course.

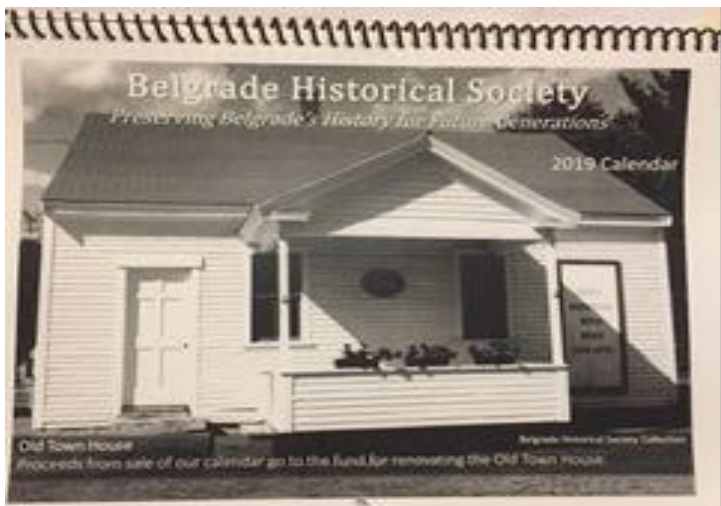
**The Elms cottage of
The Belgrade, ca.
1913
(BHS Postcard
Collection)**





New Gazebo and sitting wall in Village Green

Former Elms cottage of The Belgrade Hotel stood behind and slightly left of Gazebo.



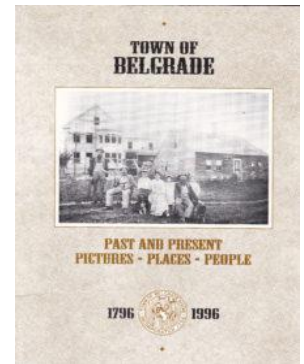
Looking for gifts, don't forget our calendars and **Reproduction Past & Present Books. Available at the **Center for All Seasons BHS History Room** or **Day's Store!****

Our 2019 calendars, with classic 8" X 10" photographs of Belgrade from the 1890s to the early 1950s. Wonderful way to enjoy Belgrade all year long! And the photos are perfect for framing as keepsakes when each month is over. **ONLY \$15**, a bargain for those who love Belgrade!

Past and Present Books More than 140 unique and priceless photos of Belgrade's past, all with historical captions

Town of Belgrade Past and Present Pictures of People and Places

A special hardbound photo and text book for the coffee table!



**SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6-8 pm!
BHS Annual Meeting**

September 19 is the Belgrade Historical Society's Annual Meeting! All members and their guests are invited to attend. This year our 2019 Annual Meeting will be held in the historic Lakeside Manor, which is located at 168 Main Street in Belgrade Lakes Village. The Lakeside Manor, originally built in 1843, is one of the oldest and largest houses in Belgrade. It was restored in the 1980s, and it has some amazing historical features. It is an appropriate and special venue for our historical society's annual meeting. Sincere thanks to the LakeHome Group, which is letting BHS use this space for our annual meeting!

From 6:00 to 6:30 pm:

An informal meet and greet session. There will be opportunities to tour parts of the historic house! Uncorked Wine & Cheese in Augusta will provide a sample of special wines to taste.

6:30 to 7:00 pm: Our annual meeting!

Includes annual report of activities and election of officers.

7:00 to 7:45 pm: Special historical presentation!

7:45 to 8:00 pm: Everyone can sample and enjoy baked goods from the ovens of our accomplished BHS bakers!

See you all on September 19!

Capital Fund Drive



Rendering of Townhouse after Renovation

Sketch by Artist Erik Johnson

The **Capital Fund Drive** is going well! We have received several thousand dollars and returns are coming in on a daily basis. A friendly reminder to those who want to give and have not yet done so. Use your return envelope or send your own to BHS, P.O. Box 36A, Belgrade, Maine 04917. Use PayPal as an alternative by going to our website belgradehistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Thanks to those who have already donated, all donations will help the bottom line!

Don't forget that BHS is a non-profit 501 (3) 2 organization, so all contributions to its capital campaign to renovate the Old Town House are tax deductible. Any donation you make to BHS can be deducted from your income tax to the extent allowable by law. Please think of making an end-of-year donation to our worthy cause and help to preserve our history.