



June 2019 E-Newsletter

Eric Hooglund, Editor

Published monthly for members of the Belgrade Historical Society

In May your BHS received a major new acquisition: an old wooden boat (see photo 1 below) made in a boat shop in the Belgrade Lakes region and was used for years to fish in our beautiful lakes. The 12-foot long boat was made by AC Roy, who operated a shop for making wooden boats with specialized hand tools from about 1916 to the end of World War II. His suburb craftsmanship is evident in the accompanying photo. He also made large-scale wooden boat models, including one of a canoe (see photo 2 & 3 below) and half-boat wall decorations (see photo 4 below). We are sincerely grateful to his granddaughter, Patrice Roy, for preserving these unique examples of AC Roy's craft and donating them to the BHS. Photo 1 Caption: Canvas-covered cedar bark boat made by AC Roy, between 1916 and 1940.



The model canoe and a half-boat wall plaque with the date 1916 on it have been placed in our large display cases in the BHS History Room in the Belgrade Center for All Seasons. The History Room is open from 10 am to 2 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the summer, so please drop in to view these unique treasures. The wooden fishing boat is in excellent condition, considering that it is at least 75 years old, and we are planning to put it on a trailer and exhibit it in the annual 4th of July parade.

Photo 2 & 3: Hand-made model canoe, made by AC Roy, ca. 1925, resting inside full-size cedar bark boat.



Photo 4: half-boat wall plaque by AC Roy, date on top is 1916.

We also received from Rod Johnson and Doris Mathias several other unique items that will be on exhibit in our History Room. These include a small collection of old hand tools for working with wood, a collection of old cameras, most of which are pre-World War II models, 2 old wooden tennis rackets and 2 unique wooden boxes. All of these items are from the 1940s or earlier.

June marks the beginning of summer in Belgrade, and summer always is a busy time! Your BHS has many special activities planned, and we look forward to seeing you at these events. Our first event already has taken place, a yard sale, which was held on the first Saturday in June in conjunction with the annual yard sale of the Friends of the Belgrade Public Library. For the past few summers, BHS has held a yard sale in August at the historic Old Town House. But, as members know, we have plans to renovate that building and, for that reason, we need to clear everything out of it so that professional architects can examine the interior to assess what can be preserved and what needs to be reconstructed (because, sadly, wood beetles have eaten some of the timbers). Thus, we were pleased to accept the invitation from the Friends to join their annual yard sale. And we had some special pieces of antique furniture to sell, thanks to generous donations from members. All our proceeds, over \$1,200, went right into our Capital Fund to renovate the Old Town House!

Please Join us for the following Belgrade Historical Summer Events!

The next BHS event will be on **Thursday, June 20, at 7 pm. This is our annual meeting, and it will be held at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (the Seven Lakes Alliance building) at 137 Main Street in Belgrade Lakes Village.** All members are welcome to attend our annual meeting, and we will have a special program, as well as and refreshments baked by the BHS team of culinary artists. Eric Hooglund will present a power point program on the historical transformation of the 19th century manufacturing village of Belgrade Mills into the 20th century tourist village of Belgrade Lakes. This program is a wonderful opportunity to view hundreds of old photographs and learn about their historical significance. And there ought to be members there who are old enough to remember Belgrade in the 1950s and can share their memories with all of us.

Do plan to attend!

The next program will be four weeks later, **on Thursday, July 18, at the 7 Lakes Alliance building, former Messalonskee High School teacher David Leigh** will describe a project in the 1990s in which students wrote letters to politicians seeking their perspectives on important national and international political events in which they had participate between 1945 and 1990. Many famous leaders responded, and David will read some of their responses and provide historical context.

This promises to be a very fascinating program!

Did you ever wonder how term ‘vacationland’ got associated with Maine? For anyone under 85, that term always has been on Maine license plates. But now you can learn all about its origins at our program **on Thursday, August 22, at the 7 Lakes Alliance building, at 7 pm. Scott Andrews of the USM Senior College** has been researching the history of “vacationland” and he has some fascinating lore to present.

In addition to the above programs, BHS is going to be 'on the road' this summer. Look for our booth at the Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market on Sundays, beginning June 20. We'll have small but weekly changing exhibits, books and reproductions of old postcards to sell, as well as interesting games and

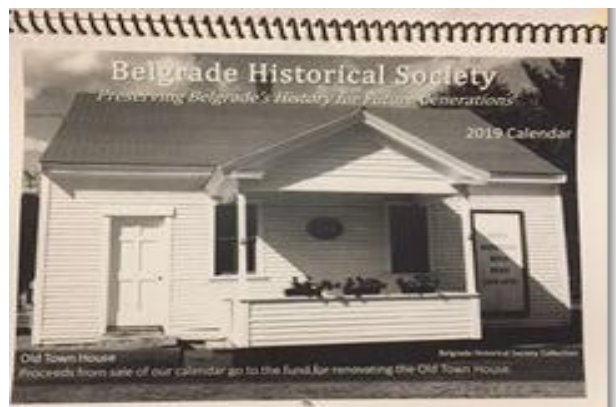


On Fridays at 11 am, there will be walking tours of Belgrade Lakes village. You need to reserve a spot at least 24 hours in advance.

Call (207) 495-2310 to reserve!

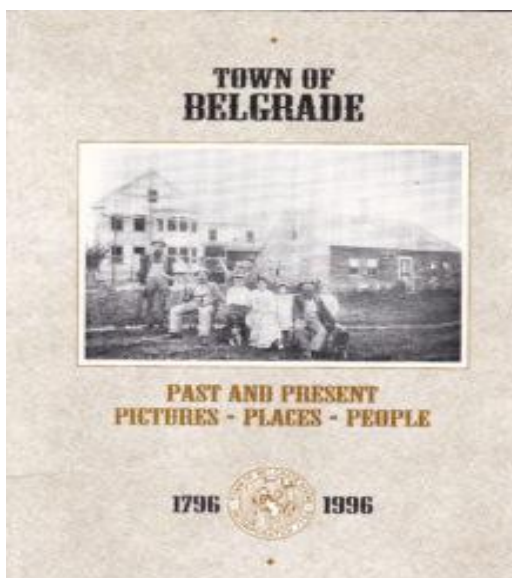
Looking for gifts, don't forget our calendars and Reproduction Past & Present Books.

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. **Only \$15, another bargain!**

Town of Belgrade Past and Present Pictures of People and Places

A special hardbound photo and text book for the coffee table! **Only \$30**

Similar books are as much as \$75!

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.