

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF SUMNER, MAINE

FOR THE YEAR

BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008

AND

ENDING JUNE 30, 2009

MUNICIPALITY OF SUMNER ASSESSORS' NOTICE

In accordance with Title 36, of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Section 706, as amended, the Assessors of the Municipality of Sumner hereby give notice to all persons that are liable for taxation in said municipality, that they will be in session at the Town Office in Sumner on the 2nd Tuesday of April 2010 from 7:00 PM. until 9:00 PM., for the purpose of revising the lists of taxable estates in said municipality.

All taxpayers of the Municipality of Sumner, Maine, and all administrators, executors, trustees, etc. of all estates that are taxable within the said municipality of such persons are hereby notified to make and bring unto the assessors the perfect lists of their estates, real and personal, not by law exempt from taxation, of which they were possessed on the first day of April, 2010. They must be prepared to make an oath to the truth of the same and to answer all proper inquiries in writing as to the nature, situation and value of their property that is liable to be taxed.

And when estates of persons deceased have been distributed during the past year, or have changed hands from any cause, the executor, administrator, or other persons interested, are hereby warned to give notice of the change, and in default of such notice they will be held by law to pay the tax assessed, although the estate has been wholly distributed and paid over to someone else.

SPIRIT OF SUMNER

1782-2009

There's a spirit in Sumner that came over on the *Mayflower*.

It's a spirit of independence that brings voters to the polls to vote their hearts and not what others say they must. It brings residents to meetings month after month to look for ways to bring money and work into our little town that will allow us to remain a small town.

It's a spirit of community that brought a small group of women together who decided we needed a helicopter pad to help accident victims get to an ambulance quicker. It brought hard-working farmers together with others who live off the land to find ways to help their neighbors with gardens and food distribution.

It's a spirit of survival that resulted in dedicated volunteers who have knocked on doors, made phone calls and put together packets to ensure that every single person in Sumner is well and stays well.

It's a spirit of determination to make Sumner a good place live and to raise a family that keeps adults volunteering to coach ball teams, to go on bottle drives to raise money for educational scholarships, to serve as a firefighter.

It's a spirit of civic duty that puts names on a town meeting ballot and that compels some to serve on the Town's boards and committees.

It's a spirit of belonging that has kept us here for over 200 years.

**TOWN OF SUMNER
633 MAIN STREET
SUMNER, MAINE 04292**

INCORPORATED 1798

POPULATION-2000 CENSUS 854

SUMNER TOWN OFFICE 388-2866

FAX 388-2862

SUMNER FIRE STATION DISPATCH OFFICE 388-2301

E-MAIL sumnerme@megalink.net

www.sumnermaine.us

OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY 10:30 AM TO 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY 8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM

THURSDAY 8:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

FRIDAY 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

SATURDAY 9:00 AM TO NOON

SELECTPERSONS' MEETINGS (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

1ST AND 3RD TUESDAYS BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM

*****FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE*****

AMBULANCE/FIRE/SHERIFF/POLICE

CALL

OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

*****1-800-733-1421*****

OR

*****911*****

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

MARY ANN HAXTON, CHAIR (AUG 09) EDWIN HINSHAW, CO-CHAIR (AUG 09)
LANA PRATT (AUG 09) PHYLLIS SCHNEIDER (AUG 09)
HENRI ARSENAULT, SECRETARY (AUG 10) ARLENE SILVERMAN (AUG 10)
CLAYTON SCHNEIDER (AUG 10) MARTHA ELKIN (AUG 11)

PLANNING BOARD

DANIEL PERRON, CHAIR (AUG 09) JOHN ALLEN (AUG 09)
GERALD FARRAR, ALT (AUG 09) EDWIN HINSHAW (AUG 10)
JEFFREY PFEIFER (AUG 10) JAMES DURFEE (AUG 11)

RECREATION COMMITTEE

ARLENE BEDARD MICHELE LOWELL PATRICIA STEVENS
ERICA STEVENS LISA ZAK JULIANNE EASTMAN
TROY EASTMAN KIM STROUT

ROAD COMMITTEE

GLENN HINCKLEY JAMES DURFEE JAMES KEACH
GEORGE JONES THOMAS STANDARD EDWIN HINSHAW
CLIFFORD MCNEIL LAWRENCE LITCHFIELD

BUDGET COMMITTEE

CONNIE CUSHING (AUG 09) LANA PRATT (AUG 09)
CLAYTON SCHNEIDER (AUG 09) EDWIN HINSHAW (AUG 10)
ARLENE SILVERMAN (AUG 11) MICHAEL TRENOWETH (AUG 11)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

D LEE BERRY (JUL 09) LAURIE MCGINTY (JUL 09)
JUDITH GIDEONSE (JUL 10) MARCIA TURCOTTE (JUL 10)
LAURENT BRONDEL (JUL 11) RHEA KENNELLY (JUL 11)
PHYLLIS SCHNEIDER (JUL 12) CLAYTON SCHNEIDER (JUL 12)
HENRI ARSENAULT-SECRETARY (JUL 12)

BOARD OF APPEALS

ROBERT RUNES (AUG 11) DANA STEVENS (AUG 10)

ARRABINE DUNN EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

RALPH DUNN (AUG 09) WILDA DUNHAM (AUG 10) EDWIN HINSHAW (AUG 11)

ORDINANCE UPDATE COMMITTEE TO AUGUST 2009

LANA PRATT MARY ANN HAXTON PHYLLIS SCHNEIDER CLAYTON SCHNEIDER

STATE DISTRICT 14 SENATOR

BRUCE BRYANT SenBruce.Bryant@legislature.maine.gov 1-800-423-6900

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 94

TERESEA HAYES RepTerry.Hayes@legislature.maine.gov 287-1400

U.S. DISTRICT 2 CONGRESSMAN

MICHAEL MICHAUD rep.mikemichaud@mail.house.gov

U.S. SENATORS

SUSAN COLLINS collins.senate.gov/low/contactemail.htm

OLYMPIA SNOWE olympia@snowe.senate.gov

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS 2009-2010

August 10-Community Potluck Supper 5:30 PM followed by:
Informational meeting-Wind power for Sumner (see Article 7) 6:00 PM
Annual Town Meeting at 7:00 PM at Hartford-Sumner Elementary.

September 2-Back to school for our students. Have a wonderful year.

November 21-Taxes due.

November 26-Town Office closed for the day.

December 25-Town Office closed for the day.

January 1-Town Office closed for the day.

January ??-Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs 10:00 AM to Noon

January 31-Interest starts on unpaid taxes.

April 1-Deadline to file for first time Homestead and Veteran's Exemptions and new Tree Growth, Open Space or Farmland applications.

April 30-Deadline to submit applications for Sumner Scholarships.

Clean out your basements and head down to the Transfer Station in Buckfield!
We have a Swap Shop, Universal Waste Station, lots of containers for recycling.

Congratulations and good luck to the students who received 2009 Sumner Scholarship grants-Vera Abbott, Ashley Condon, Emily Eastman, Norman Jack, Sean Kindya, Corri Runes, Sheila Trenoweth, and Tyler Weymouth.

Reminder: 39 years until the opening of the Time Capsule!

PHONE NUMBERS

TOWN OFFICE 388-2866

TUE 10:30-7:00; WED 8:30-4:30 THU 8:30-3:00

FRI 9:00-1:00 AND SAT 9:00-NOON

SUMNER POST OFFICE 388-2066

MON-FRI 9:00-12:00 & 1:30-4:00 (window)

SAT 8:00-11:00 (window)

LOBBY OPENS AT 7:00 AM

EMERGENCY SERVICES **9-1-1** (FIRE, AMBULANCE, POLICE)

SUMNER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE 388-2301

BURNING PERMITS: WALLY LITCHFIELD 388-2402; ALLAN NEWTON 388-2745

BUCKFIELD/SUMNER TRANSFER STATION 336-2700

SWAP SHOP AND UNIVERSAL WASTE STATION OPEN

WED AND SAT 8:00 AM TO 6:00 PM (STICKERS AVAILABLE AT TOWN OFFICE)

HARTFORD/SUMNER ELEMENTARY 388-2681 (GRADES PRE-K TO 6)

BUCKFIELD JR/SR HIGH 336-2151 (GRADES 7-12)

OXFORD NETWORKS TELEPHONE COMPANY 336-9911

INCREASE ROBINSON LIBRARY (IN EAST SUMNER VILLAGE)

BOBBIE PETERS, LIBRARIAN 388-2212

TUES & THUR 9:00-NOON (JUNE TO SEPTEMBER) OR BY APPOINTMENT

ZADOC LONG FREE LIBRARY (IN BUCKFIELD VILLAGE)

336-2171 MON & WED 2:00-8:00; TUES 9:00-7:00; SAT 9:00-3:00

ANIMAL CONTROL 674-2592

DANNIE PAINE

CEO/LPI 674-5555

SIDNEY ABBOTT

LOWE'S AUTO SALES 388-2111

VALLEY ROAD REPAIR AND INSPECTIONS 388-2222

DOUG'S TIRE AND SMALL ENGINE REPAIR 388-2273

JACK'S GREENHOUSE 336-2973

MORRILL FARM BED AND BREAKFAST 388-2059

WRINKLE IN THYME FARM 388-2979

BEEP'S BAKERY 388-2741

CHIZZLER'S STORE 388-2921

SUMNER VALLEY FARM 388-3440

REEN'S GREENS 388-2093

KIDS' HILLBILLY FARM 388-2919

KAREN DAN'S INCOME TAX SERVICE 388-2832

PAULINE'S FARM KENNEL 388-2059

JOB POSTINGS AND OPENINGS <http://www.mainecareercenter.com/>

PLEASANT POND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION—DENNIS STEVENS 388-2136

ELMWOOD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION—FRANCES WALLACE 597-2036

DANA'S DIGGING AND YARDWORK 388-2011 danastevens350@msn.com

SELECTPERSONS' REPORTS

To my Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for allowing me to serve this Town and you.

Tri-Town continues to serve the area after some rocky times. Having been some small part of the formation of the Service and being good friends with many involved in West Paris and Sumner, I hope that the Service may continue for a long time yet.

We have recently presented the Boston Post Cane to Anna Woodworth. She is one of our greatest female role models. Believing that being a woman is not a limiting factor, but maybe an advantage, she has led the Town as Selectman and served in varying capacities in the Universalist Church, the Pleasant Pond, Oxford Pomona and Franklin Granges, as well as many other civic and municipal committees and agencies while raising children and writing for the Sun Journal. She is a truly exceptional Citizen of Sumner.

Recently wind power has blown into our lives and seems to be a very emotional issue. I believe that the decision to survey the site and clear 3 acres will arise at the Annual Town Meeting as was suggested at the recent Special Town Meeting. There are certainly pros and cons—all very legitimate concerns. However it turns out, the idea of better town representation at an annual meeting has been suggested and implemented. Hopefully we will be able to review real figures and information before voting again on this issue in whatever guise it appears.

I have been to wind farms on the northwest coast of Prince Edward Island, on the Gaspé Peninsula, in Mars Hill, Maine, and on a recent trip to Denver/Boulder and back, I saw over one hundred 1.65 megawatt turbines. I have never heard a noise from any of these. Some think they (turbines) are almost graceful to watch. As for myself, once the initial costs have been paid, it's like getting something for nothing.

So whatever way the vote goes, I can attest to the fact that it is not a new idea saddled with all the problems of something in development. There are many turbines in this country and in Canada. "Not In My Backyard" has merit, but less when you consider the financial situation in Sumner. Please try to take our future growth, or even being able to maintain what we have, into consideration before voting on this issue. And, as has been said before, the MET tower from Unity College is free so that they may have material for courses and classes while the MET tower from private enterprise would be an expense of \$150,000-whether there is wind or not.

I would like to thank Clifford Lowe for doing a good job on the winter roads. People sometimes get frustrated with how fast something is being done (or not) and call me to vent—and that's fine. Clifford, or anyone else for that matter, can only get so much done at a time. I believe he treats the Town well and I hope the Town appreciates what he does.

The Road Committee finally seems to be back in existence and at the most recent meeting, we got a lot accomplished. From the Road Committee's perspective, we are very lacking in timely maintenance of the roads. The simple way to say it is that we have 22 miles of paved roads and we are repaving one mile per year. So we are revisiting each road every 22 years. Seven years is the recommended interval to revisit roads and Jerry Gilbert accomplished that when he was selectman. We really need somehow to fund the road budget so that we may repave 3 miles per year.

The Road Committee has proposed an article to help provide for this. We hope to give a short presentation at the Annual Town Meeting to clear this up further. Please ask questions so that all may understand.

This is my year for re-election and I hope to have your vote if you are so inclined. I appreciate all who come to the bakery and discuss and all who call and discuss. There is often something we've missed that is suggested as a possibility.

Thank you, Glenn Hinckley

Dear friends and neighbors,

Summary of my report:

The following are subjects for consideration in my annual report.

Areas of concern – NEEDS

- Property taxes are rising at an increasingly alarming rate (everyone says so)
- Road budgets are not keeping up with maintenance needs (according to road committee)
- School budgets are increasing, sometimes at an unpredictable rate, despite our Legislature's desire to curtail them
- More and more financial responsibilities are being shifted onto municipalities by the state because of reductions in reimbursements of tree growth, homestead exemptions, and veterans/disability exemptions and because of reductions and changes in fund allocations for local roads (according to state government budget)
- Our fire department equipment is outdated, inadequate, and downright dangerous to operate (according to fire chief)
- Town buildings need substantial maintenance and repair – roofing should be replaced
- Winter road plowing and salt budgets are increasing (see below), without our ability to control them or reduce them in any way

Areas of concern – POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, negative and positive

- Increasing property taxes
- Defaulting on our obligations to Schools, Oxford County , and Social Service Agencies, (like contracts with ambulance services, for instance, for a savings of a few tens of thousands dollars)
- Reducing Town services (we don't have many services, as everyone knows)
- Closing some roads to winter plowing (can't see how that could be done easily)
- Reducing maintenance of summer roads (how can we do that?)
- Dissolving the town government and letting the state run the town, as a couple of other Maine towns have done in the recent few years (though we would lose local control)
- Eliminating high school sports programs and Town recreational programs to save a bit
- Eliminating the Fire Department and contracting for that service with other towns but our insurance rates would go up and that would help the town's budget, but harms us individually
- Attracting new businesses to Town, with incentives (here, any suggestions are welcome)
- Can you think of ANY other sources of revenues?**

Sources of revenues and taxes

For years, we have tried to figure out how we could find a source of funds to reduce the property tax burden on our residents. The town has always been thrifty, but such large expenses as summer road budget, winter road plowing, school budget, and, now, waste budget, have nowhere to go but up because these budgets are beyond our local control. The revenues from federal government disappeared in the early 1980s, while the state is constantly cutting revenues for roads and schools.

At the same time, and rightly so, citizens object to high taxes. Though our taxes are lower than those in most municipalities, where commerce offsets a part of the private tax burden, our taxes are “high” because we see them as being high and because **all** of our town costs are tied directly to property taxes. For instance, even though our roads are poor quality, at Annual Town Meetings we decided not to spend more on our roads because we feel that we really can’t afford better roads. Our roads are barely maintained by the money that we spend on them. I would say that we are just squeaking by.

In fact, the road committee members DO NOT think that we are “just squeaking by”. People on the road committee believe that we are going backwards because our roads are deteriorating and we are not keeping up with the need to maintain road surfaces and ditching. We are getting behind on brush cutting. Roads are important to everyone because roads take us to work and poor roads damage our cars. Neither cars nor fuel are cheap any more.

Members of the road committee want to increase funds available for maintenance of our roads. Most of you also know that, with the new plowing contract and the rising cost of salt and sand, our winter plowing costs have risen from approximately \$130K to about \$200K in the past two to three years. For me, that kind of growth in expenditures is simply unsustainable. The school budget has been going up too, so if you look carefully, it’s likely to go up by some points next year. What do you think? We need roads because we have to get to work, but we can’t spend money for roads because our property taxes are already too high.

Special Town Meeting

Every year, we, as selectmen, write reports about the past year and offer suggestions as to what direction we, as a town, should go in the future. This year I waited to write my report until the last moment, until after we had a Special Town Meeting in June, where we intended to raise approximately \$10,000 – \$3,000 to prepare a site for a meteorological wind test tower and \$7,000 to survey the town land. As always, I will be straight in what I say because I feel that I was elected to be honest and to consider the town to be like a business, spending the town money frugally and with good judgment.

Most of you know that I am disappointed with the vote, of 25 for and 29 against, to approve these funds. I am disappointed because, had we been able to establish the potential for commercially viable wind (according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory database, Mollyockett may provide as much as 6.5 meters per second of wind speed, a commercially viable potential), we could have possibly found a revenue stream, from a clean and free energy, which would have lowered our town taxes, by as much as two points, maybe earning us as much as \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year. This money would have come from the *rental* of town land and from *commercial private property tax* on the wind turbines (as commercial equipment), which could have been owned by a private company. (By contrast, selling the town land, which would, most likely, have been placed into Tree Growth, considering what it is, say at \$170/acre for 114 acres and at 18 mils, would have generated \$348.84 per year in property taxes.) Just think of the many ways we could have spent Wind Power funds. We could: support the Fire Department by purchasing a truck, expand the building, improve our roads, offset the cost of ambulance service, or reduce the burden of school funding. I am sure you could think of some other ways to direct the funds, also. Perhaps, we wouldn’t have to scrimp so much. Every investment has a cost and every investment has a potential for rewards.

Wind Power Committee

When the wind power committee, started working on the idea of wind power, as a source of revenue for the town, I did not know much about wind power. It was an idea that came from seeing what some other towns in Massachusetts (like Hull) have done long ago and what Vinalhaven, in Maine is doing now. In the process of doing research, going to many regional meetings, and talking to many people, who have expertise in the economics of wind power, I have learned that, if we had commercially viable wind, we could have revenues for the town in the form of taxes as well as revenue for the investors, possibly even people from Sumner, who would want to invest in a local project. It would be a win-win proposition.

Wind power would be good business too. Wind power, on the site of Mollycokett would be far enough from any houses – at least a mile away, to be unobtrusive with noise. Also, a small group of three wind power turbines would be unobtrusive (small projects don't need special towers to carry electricity and would be connected by CMP to the regular electrical wire, called 35KV, that already runs along Redding Road) compared to large wind farm developments, such as those that **will be** built on Spruce Mountain in Woodstock, just a few miles away from Mollycokett. The one red warning light on the Mollycokett tower would melt into the background, as there **would be three** blinking lights on Spruce. Most of all, we, as residents of the town, would have some say in our own financial future. We would have some control over our revenue source. We would use **our** own natural resources (and I can't think of any other natural resources in Sumner), wisely and for the benefit of all taxpayers.

In the past two years, we have worked with KEAN Engineering, a private developer from Turner, which offered the town an Option, an agreement, to rent the town land for five years, first, to test whether we had commercially viable wind, and then to develop a three wind turbine site. This Option would have encumbered the town for that period of time, meaning that they would have exclusive right to development. Their offer would have provided the town with a rent of \$9,000 per year in the first five years (this is certainly more than we could earn on this property, if it were sold), \$12,000 per year in the second five years, \$15,000 per year in the third five years, and so on. KEAN planned to pay for the survey of the land, for the MET tower, and for the road preparation to get the tower up the mountain.

Making good decisions

Those, who attended that “informational” and “straw” vote meeting at the end of April, (there have been three informational town meetings and many other committee meetings) said that they can't really make a commitment to this developer because they needed more information. Attendees wanted to know. Is this a good deal or bad? Are there other options of funding? Can we get information independently, from someone else, so that we know that there is no bias? These are valid questions and should be answered with clarity and honesty. It's true. How can we know whether someone is taking advantage of us? Maybe we have a pot of gold and someone is offering us a pittance.

People at that meeting were overwhelmingly supportive of wind power, but had legitimate concerns. To follow up on their request, I contacted Mick Womersley, a professor at Unity College, which had a MET tower available. He said that they would put one up on Mollycokett for free. Unity would have nothing to gain by doctoring figures, one way or another. They would do a “bankable” study, which would take a bit over a year, (meaning, a study that projected wind speeds and environmental impact to the standard of scientific requirements that banks need in order to fund development) to see whether we had wind potential. Unity students would get real-world training. We, in return, would get \$150,000 (value estimated by KEAN engineering) worth of data for *free*. That is not a bad deal. However, we had a little problem.

That Little Problem

That problem was that the land which the town owned (acquired because no one had ever paid taxes on the land, and the wood was clear-cut, some fifteen years ago) had no clearly marked boundaries. The land was eroded by the clear-cut. The scrub brush that has grown up since that clear-cut was not commercially valuable. We needed to know where the boundaries were, in order to clear up a space of up to three acres, where the meteorological tower would be located. Clearing is necessary for safety in the process of putting up the tower and for reduction of any possible air turbulence in the vicinity (air turbulence skews measured results). Lastly, the road up the mountain was a woods road and needed to have a clear right of way.

We contacted all of the abutters, who agreed to give the town the *right of way*. We got the figure for clearing the area for the turbine and improving the road up the mountain for the small cost of \$3,000. That figure came from a local logger, who would chip the brush and improve the road to the tower area. We had an estimate from a survey firm for \$7,000 to mark the boundaries. This money, \$10,000, would be our expense to provide the necessary data for us to know whether we had wind power potential and whether we were getting a good deal from the developer. We would get a \$150,000 study done, over eighteen months or so, for the cost of \$10,000. That is not a bad deal. But, we had to act quickly because there were others waiting for the MET tower from Unity and because Mick didn't want to put up the tower in snowy, inclement weather. That would be too dangerous. That is why we had to make the decision quickly, not because we didn't want to wait for the annual town meeting in August, but because we had to make that decision in consideration of other factors – other people were lined up to use the same sought-after equipment. (In fact, immediately after our town meeting, the tower went to another one on the list).

Opportunity “knocks”

As with any opportunity, sometimes decisions have to be made quickly. The urgency of our having to make a decision to spend a paltry sum of money to gain something potentially substantial often requires everyone to ask the right questions, rather than to shoot from the hip. Sometimes opportunity knocks twice. Sometimes it does not. When opportunity knocks, it has to be seized. So, in the outcome of the Special Town Meeting, *we really decided not to know* whether we have wind power potential.

At previous meetings, we rejected the only potentially significant private investment to have interest in the town in the last thirty years and, perhaps, ever. (In case you are wondering, KEAN was willing to gamble on Sumner wind enough to invest their own funds to do a study). In the years since I have been a selectman, there have been no other options – no box stores, no clean businesses, no manufacturing, no large-scale agriculture, or anyone interested in setting up shop in Sumner. Unfortunately, we have no potential for the grand tourism that magnificent mountains or spacious views can bring. Western Hills, simply, are not the commercial “gold mine” like the Maine coast. To provide a good economic development climate, we need to work extra hard.

In our case, the decision by the Special Town meeting implied that we have voted to go for higher and unabatedly rising taxes, without possibly shifting any part of our property tax burden to a commercial enterprise. Most importantly, we may have given up significant control of our own *economic* future. I can't think of any other energy sources for taxable income for Sumner – neither water, nor solar are options, as we all know. Geothermal is not economically viable. I can't think of what we could do next to attract any enterprise to Sumner. I am stumped.

If we don't care about our own *economy* or take care of ourselves, as a *community*, please tell me how and why should anyone else, in a highly competitive marketplace, care about Sumner and how *we* pay for our roads, schools, and waste; about how *we* get to work and how *we* make a living. It is valid to say that we want Sumner to be just the way it is, though it isn't what it used to be and it won't be what it is because the world outside of Sumner is changing faster than we can adapt to its demands. In the way that Sumner was self reliant during the Great Depression, it no longer is.

What is government and government's responsibility?

I have always thought of government as my responsibility, not because I am a selectman but because, like *everyone* else, I have to participate in our community knowledgeably. I have also thought of *everyone* in Sumner as part of *government*. We make up the *government*. You know that Federal government has a Department of Commerce to promote business. The State of Maine governor travels to other countries to promote trade. State *Pine Tree Zones* are designed to attract businesses from other states and, in so doing, give businesses tax breaks, a cost that seems worthwhile to the taxpayers, in that jobs may be created and property taxes diminished. We, as selectmen, received a request from the Annual Town Meeting several years ago to try to attract enterprise to Sumner. Believe it or not, we even called Poland Springs Water, to suggest that they move here to Sumner. Guess what.

I have also learned that, as selectmen, we really don't have much power to change the course which other regional entities determine for us or for us to do very much with the money that we have. To the contrary belief of most people, we are really limited in how we can be creative. We can do very little to raise money or save money.

But in having all the people of Sumner as *government* and an engine of enterprise, we should be following our country's long tradition to be *enterprising*.

Sources of information

In studying wind power for the past couple of years, the committee strived to obtain legitimate sources of information, as opposed to those sources that had an *agenda* – to sway us to a point of view that would not necessarily benefit us, in a small rural town. Selectmen have a responsibility to the residents and are bound to present valid information that is unbiased. Though, there seemingly is no difference between the decisions that we, as selectmen, make every day and the decisions made at a town meeting, in reality there is a large difference. At a town meeting no one has to defend sources.

For me, to make a decision at a selectmen's meeting, I have to be prepared and rely on verifiable data. I have to back up what I say with good sources because I know that people will, legitimately, ask how I came about my decision and why I recommend my choices. At the town meeting, no one else has to have valid information because there is little time for debate and there is little time to discuss anything. To be truly outstanding members of a democracy, on a local level, especially, we all need to educate ourselves about the issues – to see what is at hand and what is behind the curtain.

We have to know the difference between reliable sources of information and *hearsay*. We need to know where the information originates and who supports it. Who would be against wind power and who would benefit from our country's reliance on oil? Is it possible for a web site to be sponsored by an oil company (guess who made the most money when oil was \$4.70 a gallon?) or a foreign oil supplier, for instance, and to feed us misinformation? Is it possible that someone might be making money by discouraging our development of other sources of energy, where we locally and we, as a country, wouldn't have to send our money overseas? Someone always benefits, but we rarely benefit.

We know that everyone can write. Not everyone, however, writes truthfully. Just because it is on the internet, doesn't necessarily mean that it is without prejudice. Just because it is in the "paper" doesn't mean that it is an absolute truth. We need to trust each other because we need to live in concert with each other, but we also have to think of who benefits from what we do and don't do, who benefits from our reliance on oil and our dependence on foreign sources of energy. I feel vulnerable for Sumner because I just don't know how we, as a Town, will pay our bills. With all the cuts from the state coming in the next two years, I just don't know how we will survive without taxing ourselves to death.

The road to greatness

The way this country became great, transforming itself from a small, inconsequential, colony to a powerful nation, to what the country is now, was by investment – collective investment. Railroads, promoted by federal government incentives, linked the opposite coasts; Ike Eisenhower promoted a road network because roads would strengthen our defenses and would also create a network for commerce – all with government support. This June 9th, Maine State government signed into law the *Community-Based Renewable Energy Act*, promoting the development of locally-owned renewable energy, one that would apply to us. "The Act connects three policy objectives – environmental security, economic development, and energy independence."

This bill could boost Sumner's economy. With other sources of revenues, besides resident property taxes, we wouldn't have to scrimp so much to get a fire truck. We could improve our roads. We could reduce the property tax burden.

There are always lots of valid questions about any wind project. By the same token, we know that it takes time to do anything. So we can ask. Should we take things "slow" and wait? But until when do we wait? How do we decide when we should go for an opportunity? When gas is \$4 a gallon? Do we wait until it goes up to \$6? Who can heat a house with oil at \$5 a gallon or drive a car with gas at \$10 a gallon? When do we gamble? When will we ever have all the answers that we might want to make a decision? Should we wait until the federal or state funds and initiative have been depleted? It is true that another opportunity might come up, but when might it come up to benefit us?

In the end, I am *encouraged* by the turn out at the special town meeting, where more people came out on a dreary rainy night than have come out to the last several Annual Town Meetings. I am encouraged because it shows that we are all concerned and are willing to be concerned together. I am also *disappointed* because I still feel that Sumner should have a vision and creativity – the ingenuity and the gumption, the quick thinking and the wisdom, that has always been a **hallmark** of Sumner community for so many years, exactly what we all need, especially now, in the difficult times—difficult times which are likely to continue, as we all struggle, as energy prices go up, jobs disappear, and many of our young people have to move out of state, because so few can live in a place where there is little economic future, where there is no way to survive.

Now would be the time to invest little, to get so much, and, perhaps, plant a seed for great enterprise, benefiting Sumner.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Silber

Dear Residents of Sumner,

I am appreciative of the opportunity to serve as Select Board member. I want to encourage you to become involved and participate in town activities and decisions. The more people who are informed and active, the better our town can be.

I want to thank Phyllis and Clay Schneider and Lana Pratt who have continued to be available to work on ordinance updates. The Planning Board and Ordinance Committee are currently working on the Subdivision ordinance. Additional Ordinance Committee members are encouraged to contact me or Dan Perron.

It has been a pleasure to work with Wilda Dunham and the Fire Auxiliary who have worked diligently on the Helipad. Congratulations are in order for them as their project approaches completion.

When the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed by the State Planning Office (SPO) in late 2006, six inconsistencies were identified. The Implementation Committee worked to make the changes necessary, submitted them to the SPO and the changes were approved. The next step is to incorporate these changes into the town's plan and submit it to the town for approval. This will occur over the next year. Continued work is needed for Implementation of the strategies of our Comprehensive Plan. The Implementation Committee welcomes additional membership.

One strategy in the Comprehensive Plan is to encourage agriculture to develop and become more well known in Sumner. As a result, Growers and Producers have been meeting. They are providing a forum for interested people to work together to increase communication among the participants and to promote awareness of the role of agriculture in our town. Many opportunities are out there for helping small farms thrive. Watch for more information.

I have served as the General Assistance Administrator working with residents to meet their emergency needs as they arose. I made every effort to respond in a timely and effective manner when needs were reported to me. I have served as the Town's representative at Mid Maine Waste Action Corporation Board of Directors attending 4 meetings over the past year. I shared relevant information with the Select Board from these meetings.

Thank you again for this up-close experience of local government.

Sincerely, Mary Ann Haxton

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The paving on Valley Road was completed with hot top to Foster's Corner and a section of Fields Hill was paved at the same time. Ditching was done on Arthur Allen, Heath Hill, Estes and Starbird Roads. Ditching was also done on sections of Barrows, Valley and Bradeen Roads. I added an extra cross culvert to Labrador Pond Road to help stop the road from flooding and replaced a few other culverts around town and added some gravel where it was needed.

This June will go down as one of the wettest. When it stops raining, all of the gravel roads will be regraded. Redding Road will be shimmed with cold mix in the worst spots using the grader. This year we plan to pave the rest of Fields Hill Road. The Road Committee wants us to do more paving per year. In order to do that, we must increase the budget. The Committee is proposing we raise \$140,000 for maintenance, as we have for the last 2 years, and \$160,000 for capital improvements.

I recommend that you all come to the Annual Town Meeting on August 10 to vote. This will affect all of our taxes significantly.

I would like to thank you all for your support.

Respectfully, James M. Keach

PERSONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Sumner Volunteer Fire Department for working so hard to provide a helicopter landing pad for all of us. What an incredible achievement!

Lana Pratt for getting her ham radio license!

Connie Cushing for continuing to donate her time and skills in the cemeteries and to the Historical Society for taking an inventory of what needs to be done.

Ann and Fred Goulding for taking care of our Town beach.

Mt. Tom Snowmobile Club for providing the pink and purple petunias for the Office gardens.

Sally Phillips for taking on the care of the flowers around the veterans' memorial and making a wonderful Christmas wreath to hang outside the front door.

Clay Schneider for continuing to provide beautiful and unique photos of Sumner in all seasons, including this year's visiting cormorant at Labrador Pond (see the back cover).

Clifford Lowe for continuing to allow the Town's road crew to use his landfill for sand and road debris.

Henri Arsenault for spending HOURS updating the map with the current owners. (Map may be purchased for \$15.00 to benefit the Scholarship Fund.)

Thank you all

In 1984, Susan Runes became our new Clerk/Treasurer/Tax Collector. She took over the little corner in the tiny 12' x 20' cinder block building we called the Town Office and has been there figuratively ever since. A look back over the last 25 years brings unique memories of Susan.

Do you remember Susan with her newborn children and the playpen she had set up? She proved that a woman can maintain a professional office, meeting the needs of the residents and taxpayers, while giving her children personal and loving attention. (Many offices and businesses of today are trying out a *new idea* of having on-site daycare.)

About 5 years later, the townspeople realized that a more modern town office was needed as well as a new fire department. The Bisbee-Dyer Municipal Center was built by volunteer labor over the next few years and open for business in June 1992. Susan was right there with hammer and paintbrush working alongside friends and neighbors and often late into the night on her own.

When plans were being made to celebrate the Town's 200th anniversary, Susan naturally served on several committees and took part in all of the fundraisers. You might remember her in her

colonial dress in the parade and at the Town's booth at the celebration. The bookkeeping for all of those activities boggles the mind, but Susan kept accurate records of every transaction.

Gradually over the years, resident needs, State laws, and paperwork demands have forced an increase in the hours necessary for operating and meeting those needs. The Sumner Town Office is officially open 40 hours a week, 5 days a week. But the truth is that Susan is on the job for much more than that. How many of these apply to you?

You couldn't get to the polls and she came to your house so you could vote.

You didn't understand a State form and she helped you fill it out and made phone calls for you.

You forgot to license your dog and she called or sent a note so you wouldn't have to pay a fine.

You came in after hours, and she smiled and said "Sit down, how can I help you?"

You had a question about taxes, daycare, ballgames, laws, etc. and she gave you an answer.

You rode by and she was outside weeding and planting the flower beds.

You went to her house on the weekend to get a fishing, hunting, snowmobile, ATV license.

You couldn't come in the Office and she brought whatever you needed to you.

You were sick and she brought a casserole to you or to the benefit supper for you.

In addition, Susan became a notary to assist anyone who needs a document notarized. She has also attended hours of workshops and training sessions to keep up-to-date on new laws and to become a Certified Clerk of Maine. (Her certificate is partially hidden behind the automobile reference books.)

Those of us who work with her and know her well, understand that she does all of this quietly-not wanting this, or any, tribute, but wanting to help "her townspeople".

Thank you, Susan.

DISBURSEMENTS

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009

	Wesley and Priscilla McFarland	132.04
	Eugene and Katherine Glad	365.89
	Helen Holman	<u>260.55</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN ABATEMENTS		\$758.48
	Dannie Paine	2,328.03
	Frances Babb	27.46
	IRS/Northeast Bank	103.33
	Oxford Hills Vet. Hosp.	195.00
	Treasurer of State	1,150.00
	US Postal Service	<u>50.42</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN ANIMAL CONTROL		\$3,854.24
	Androscog.Home Care & Hospice	500.00
	Big Bros/Big Sisters	125.00
	Child Health Center	175.00
	Community Concepts	1,500.00
	REACH	150.00
	Rural Comm. Action Ministry	500.00
	Seniors Plus	186.00
	Tri County Mental Health	500.00
	Western ME Transportation	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN SOCIAL SERVICES		\$4,636.00
	Hoisington & Bean, PA	<u>4,150.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN AUDIT		\$4,150.00
	Leonell Hewey	<u>6,950.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN CEMETERIES		\$6,950.00
	Treas., County of Oxford	<u>39,946.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN COUNTY TAX		\$39,946.00
	Cong. Church of E. Sumner	100.00
	Creative Media	863.80
	Portland Electrical JA&C	165.40
	US Postal Service	<u>413.40</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN EMA		\$1542.60

AVCOG	1,277.36
ME Fire Chiefs' Assoc.	83.00
ME Municipal Assoc.	1,511.00
ME Tax Coll & Treas Assoc.	15.00
ME Town&City Clerks Assoc	20.00
ME Welfare Direct. Assoc.	30.00
Oxford Cty Mun. Officers	15.00
West. ME Firemen's Assoc.	<u>40.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN DUES	\$2,991.36

Claudia Burmeister	36.00
Dorothy Hinshaw	107.11
Edwin Hinshaw	198.53
Frances Babb	249.32
IRS/Northeast Bank	48.81
Mary Ann Haxton	33.23
Stephen Perry	<u>36.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN ELECTIONS	\$709.00

Big Rig Shop	317.65
Chadwick BaRoss	765.61
Frechette's	92.00
IRS/Northeast Bank	4.59
James Keach	55.41
Jewell Tire	179.42
Turner Auto Parts	<u>27.39</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN EQUIPMENT REPAIR	\$1,442.07

Adam Stevens	138.52
Advance Auto Parts	549.89
Air Tech Co	540.50
Amy Arris	69.26
Buckfield Mall	945.72
David Spugnardi	6.68
Douglas 24 Hour Towing	85.00
Edwin Hinshaw	69.26
Firematic Supply Co., Inc	604.00
Firesafe Equipment	66.50
IRS/Northeast Bank	68.88
Jeremy Stevens	138.52
Kelly Stewart	180.47
Maine Radio Inc	1,494.75
ME State Fed of Firefight	102.00
Morrison & Sylvester	57.82

North American Equip of ME	355.00
Northeast Emergency Appar	118.56
Occupational Health & Rehab	259.50
Oxford Networks	410.23
Robert Stewart	346.45
Sumner Firemen's Assoc.	402.32
US Cellular	269.77
Valley Road Repair	465.00
Walter Litchfield, Jr	<u>172.62</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FIRE DEPT. OPERATIONS	\$7,917.22

Adam Stevens	6.30
Amy Arris	5.13
Jeremy Stevens	73.09
Robert Stewart	89.53
Sumner Firemen's Assoc.	<u>1,850.52</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FIREFIGHTER TRAINING	\$2,024.57

Blanchard's Cash Fuel	412.80
Central Maine Power	317.91
CN Brown	339.77
David H. Baker, landlord	476.00
Food City	334.98
Oxford Networks	<u>71.96</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN GENERAL ASSISTANCE	\$1,953.42

Bank of America	192.92
Branham Publishing Co	67.80
Cynthia Norton	12.64
Ikon Office Solutions	119.09
Loraine Bonney	66.48
Marks Printing House	288.50
McBee Systems	239.95
ME Municipal Assoc	20.00
ME Welfare Direct. Assoc	40.00
Office Depot	592.05
Oxford Networks	1,650.72
Registry of Deeds	62.00
Sidney Abbott, Jr	110.00
Susan Runes	711.72
US Postal Service	990.27
Walch Publishing	<u>1,419.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSE	\$6,583.14

	ME Municipal Assoc	2,483.00
	WJ Wheeler & Co., Inc	<u>7,232.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN INSURANCE		\$9,715.00
	Registry of Deeds	1,885.00
	US Postal Service	<u>1,170.40</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN LIEN EXPENSE		\$3,055.40
	Tri State Flag	<u>145.68</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN MEMORIAL DAY		\$145.68
	Advertiser-Democrat	88.40
	Butterfield Estates,LLC	550.00
	Clifford McNeil	240.00
	Daniel Perron	220.00
	Dennis Biron	700.00
	Edwin Hinshaw	140.00
	Gerald Farrar	40.00
	James Durfee	170.00
	Jeffrey Pfeifer	150.00
	John Allen	120.00
	Kachnovich Land Surveying	150.00
	ME Municipal Assoc	40.00
	Sun Journal	<u>104.58</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN PLANNING BOARD		\$2,712.98
	Treasurer of State	<u>596.50</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN PLUMBING PERMITS		\$596.50
	Arlene Bedard	400.00
	Bollinger, Inc.	554.00
	Central Maine Power	118.94
	E&E Awards	566.50
	Gee & Bee Sporting Goods	866.25
	Hot Colors	330.00
	Nickerson Septic Service	285.00
	Oxford Hills Softball League	300.00
	RE Lowell Lumber	23.16
	Sumner Mothers' Club	75.00
	William Lowell	<u>500.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN RECREATION		\$4,018.85
	White Signs	<u>286.15</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN ROAD SIGNS		\$286.15

Big Rig Shop	23.04
Brian Farrar	230.86
Buckfield Mall	2,332.15
CH Stevenson, Inc	2,648.75
Evan Barker	133.78
IRS/Northeast Bank	640.47
James Keach	6,952.78
K & K Excavation, Inc.	676.63
Lowe's Sand and Gravel	150.00
Matthew Clukey	558.69
Maynard Farrar	50.00
Maynard&SonsTrucking-gravel	9,733.00
Maynard&SonsTrucking-equipment	30,773.50
Ox-Bow Blasting Services	2,000.00
Paris Farmers Union	2,905.48
Pike Industries, Inc.	962.55
Pine Tree Paving	85,764.12
R.S. Pidacks, Inc.	408.00
Ralph Libby Chain Saws	13.00
Rampart Bituminous, LLC	13,949.60
RE Lowell Lumber	298.95
Treasurer of State	43.42
Turner Auto Parts	130.24
Waterman Farm Machinery	<u>1,765.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN ROADS/BRIDGES	\$163,144.01
Glenn Hinckley	2,727.50
IRS/Northeast Bank	529.00
Mark Silber	3,000.00
Mary Ann Haxton	2,727.50
Treasurer of State	<u>16.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN SELECTMAN	\$9,000.00
Cynthia Norton	7,722.90
IRS/Northeast Bank	1,437.13
Treasurer of State	<u>697.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN ADMIN. ASSISTANT	\$9,857.03
IRS/Northeast Bank	11,880.72
Susan Runes	22,323.72
Treasurer of State	<u>2,183.28</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN CLERK	\$36,387.72

	MSAD39	<u>573,660.51</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN SCHOOL MSAD 39		\$573,660.51
	Central Maine Power	<u>1,736.68</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN STREET LIGHTS CMP		\$1,736.68
	John E. O'Donnell & Assoc	<u>1,765.25</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN TAX MAPPING		\$1,765.25
	Town of Buckfield	<u>52,301.40</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN TRANSFER STATION		\$52,301.40
	Buckfield Rescue	4,588.65
	Tri Town Rescue	<u>7,300.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN AMBULANCE SERVICE		\$11,888.65
	Clifford Lowe	165,519.12
	Morton Salt	<u>22,774.36</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN WINTER ROADS		\$188,293.48
	American Home Mortgage	62.18
	Thomas Mullins	<u>10.10</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN TAX OVERPAY/REFUND		\$72.28
	Helen Holman	<u>42.93</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN INTEREST		\$42.93
	Treasurer of State	<u>9,736.55</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN RV REGISTRATION		\$9,736.55
	IRS/Northeast Bank	691.25
	James Keach	1,508.75
	Treasurer of State	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN ROAD COMMISSIONER		\$2,500.00
	John E. O'Donnell & Assoc	<u>1,850.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN ASSESSMENT		\$1,850.00
	Treasurer of State	<u>6,095.50</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN HUNT/FISH LICENSES		\$6,095.50

Treasurer of State	<u>42,017.40</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS	\$42,017.40

Brian Farrar	64.65
IRS/Northeast Bank	26.07
James Keach	88.66
Matthew Clukey	161.62
Maynard&SonsTrucking-gravel	468.00
Maynard&SonsTrucking-equipment	<u>13,545.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FEMA	\$14,354.00

Craig Andrews	32.20
Town of Hartford	65.44
Town of Hebron	<u>56.12</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN EXCISE TAXES	\$153.76

State of Maine	<u>4,763.24</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN STATE TREE GROWTH	\$4,763.24

IRS/Northeast Bank	5,759.89
ME Dept. of Labor	<u>999.96</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN SALARIES	\$6,759.85

Elmwood Cemetery	37.79
Pleasant Pond Cemetery	75.88
Thomas Bragg	<u>60.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN CEMETERY TRUST INTEREST	\$173.67

Glenn Hinckley	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN BLACK MTN CEMETERY	\$1,000.00

Frances Babb	1,151.93
IRS/Northeast Bank	112.20
Treasurer of State	<u>5.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN DEPUTY CLERK	\$1,269.13

Admiral Fire & Safety, Inc	345.95
Advanced Auto Parts	382.46
Bergeron Protective Cloth	3,131.59
Fire Tech & Safety	607.44
Firematic Supply Co., Inc	1,470.71
Firesafe Equipment	407.40
Maine Radio Inc	1,461.00

RE Lowell Lumber	195.05
Robert Stewart	21.60
Sumner Firemen's Assoc.	364.64
Treasurer of State	1,203.40
Valley Road Repair	<u>140.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FIRE DEPT. EQUIPMENT	\$9,731.24

Mt. Tom Snowmobile Club	<u>529.60</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION REFUND	\$529.60

Advertiser-Democrat	<u>60.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN LEGAL FEES	\$60.00

Abounding Electric, Inc.	170.00
Bank of America	61.71
Central Maine Power	1,659.55
Cynthia Norton	5.61
D&D Excavating	3,983.36
David Ferland	50.00
Donna Stevens	571.76
IRS/Northeast Bank	59.63
Lorraine Bonney	97.40
Murray Oil Co.	4,549.14
Office Depot	193.07
RE Lowell Lumber	2.48
Seacoast Security & Tel.	264.00
Treasurer of State	<u>80.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN BLDG&GROUND MAINTENANCE	\$11,747.71

Eugene and Katherine Glad	60.32
Town of Peru	18.74
US Postal Service	72.62
Wesley and Priscilla McFarland	<u>21.88</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES	\$173.56

Scholarship Account	<u>877.93</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FUNDS TRANSFER	\$877.93

US Bank Corp. Trust Boston	<u>33,288.22</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN MMWAC BONDING	\$33,288.22

	Fire Truck Acct.	10,000.00
	Sand/Salt Storage	<u>5,000.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN TOWN MEETING APPROPRIATION		\$15,000.00
	IRS/Northeast Bank	191.25
	Robert Stewart	<u>2,308.75</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FIRE CHIEF		\$2,500.00
	Harris	913.40
	John E. O'Donnell & Assoc	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN COMPUTER UPDATE		\$1,913.40
	Central ME Comm. College	475.00
	New England Baptist Coll.	100.00
	Northeastern University	350.00
	Northland Baptist Bible	100.00
	Scholarship Account	1,000.00
	University of Maine	575.00
	University of Southern ME	<u>150.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT		\$2,750.00
	ME Munic.Empl.HealthTrust	<u>10,904.96</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN HEALTH INSURANCE		\$10,904.96
	David Spugnardi	461.75
	IRS/Northeast Bank	<u>38.25</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FIRE DEPT SECRETARY		\$500.00
	IRS/Northeast Bank	153.00
	Sidney Abbott,Jr	<u>1,847.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN CODE ENFORCEMENT		\$2,000.00
	IRS/Northeast Bank	91.80
	Sidney Abbott,Jr	<u>1,108.20</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN LIC PLUMBING		\$1,200.00
	Frederick Campbell	<u>100.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN A. J. DUNN RELIEF FUND		\$100.00
	Bank of America	<u>56.39</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN COMP PLAN IMPLEMENTATION		\$56.39

	IRS/Northeast Bank	91.80
	Thomas A Standard	<u>1,108.20</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN EMA DIRECTOR		\$1,200.00
	The Hartford Life Ins. Co	<u>669.15</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FIREFIGHTER INSURANCE		\$669.15
	Key Bank	<u>864.01</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN 2008-2009 TAX		\$864.01
	Adam Stevens	408.91
	Allan Newton	142.17
	Amy Arris	408.91
	David Spugnardi	311.42
	Douglas Fournier	352.04
	Edwin Hinshaw	135.40
	IRS/Northeast Bank	69.50
	Jeremy Stevens	345.27
	Kelly Stewart	546.46
	Maurice Hart	331.73
	Ricky Beaudet	338.50
	Robert Stewart	715.26
	Steven McGinty	264.03
	Thomas Standard	67.70
	Walter Litchfield, Jr	<u>558.96</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FIREFIGHTER STIPEND		\$4,996.26
	North American Equip of ME	<u>15,595.90</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN FIRE TRUCK PUMP		\$15,595.90
	David Bragg Excavating	<u>15,000.00</u>
TOTAL SPENT IN HELI PAD		\$15,000.00
	TOTAL SPENT IN ALL ACCOUNTS:	\$1,376,470.03

ANIMAL CONTROL
July1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

It has been a good year for me as ACO of Sumner. I have answered 6 calls on dogs running-at-large and 7 calls on barking dogs. I have had 6 cats and 5 kittens at the Shelter from Sumner. I have had 5 strays and an abandoned dog from Sumner in the Shelter this year. I received calls on goats, dead llamas and dead sheep. I received 2 calls on snakes and 4 calls on wild animals from Sumner residents. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Dannie Paine, Animal Control Office/Owner of Moose Pond Shelter 674-2592

NOTES FROM THE TOWN OFFICE:

We will have a rabies clinic for cats and dogs in January 2010.

Dog licenses are due January 1, 2010

Male/Female-\$11.00; Altered Male-\$6.00; Spayed Female-\$6.00; Kennels (1-10 dogs) \$42.00

A \$15.00 late fee will be charged per dog after January 31, 2010.

A \$25.00 late fee will be charged after April 1, 2010.

A rabies certificate that is valid for the entire calendar year, and a certificate of neutering, if applicable, are necessary for licensing. A portion of license fees of neutered dogs will be retained by the Town to help defray expenses of animal control. License fees of unneutered dogs will still be sent to the State Department of Agriculture.

People with **out-of-state rabies certificates** may send those certificates to Chip Ridky, State Veterinarian, at State Veterinarian Department of Agriculture, 28 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0028. He will return a Maine rabies certificate at no charge. Be sure to send name and address for return certificate.

Stray animals will now be taken by Mr. Paine to his own shelter. However, there is still a cost for the Town when Mr. Paine is called to take care of strays.

State law now requires cats over 3 months of age to have rabies shots.

M.R.S.A. TITLE 7, CHAPTER 721 (3921) LICENSE NECESSARY

No dog may be kept within the limits of the State, unless the dog has been licensed by its owner or keeper in accordance with the laws of this State. "Owner" means any person or persons, firm, association, or Corporation owning, keeping or harboring a dog.

(3911) DOGS NOT TO RUN AT LARGE It is unlawful for any dog, licensed or unlicensed, to run at large, except when used for hunting. The owner or keeper of any dog found running at large shall be subject to the penalties provided in this chapter.

"At large" means off the premises of the owner and not under the control of any person by means of personal presence and attention as will reasonably control the conduct of such dog.

CONCEALED FIREARM PERMITS

Maine State Police-Gaming & Weapons Section
Department of Public Safety
164 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0164
TELEPHONE: (207) 624-7210

TO THE RESIDENT APPLICANT:

Please view the copy of the booklet “Laws Relating to permits to Carry Concealed Firearms”. Please complete and return this entire package with the following items:

- _ Application for Permit to Carry Concealed Firearms.
- _ Two Authority to Release Information Forms
- _ Signature box with your signature above the line “SIGNATURE OF PERMIT HOLDER” at the bottom of this page.
- _ Fee of \$35.00 for new applicants (If you are renewing and your permit expired over six months ago, you are considered a new applicant at the \$35.00 fee.), or a fee of \$20.00 for a renewal, or a fee of \$2.00 for a duplicate or a change of address made payable to:

Treasurer, State of Maine.

- _ Copies of all concealed firearm permits issued by other states or municipalities within this state.
- _ A copy of your DD-214 form if you were a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.
- _ A copy of your birth certificate or INS document.
- _ Two color passport photos (2”X 2”)
- _ Proof of knowledge of handgun safety. Please see page 11 paragraph (5) of “Laws Relating to Permits to Carry Concealed Firearms”.

If this is a renewal of a permit issued by the Maine State Police and you have previously submitted your military discharge, birth certificate or proof of knowledge of handgun safety, you are not required to submit these materials again. Please note that original copies of requested materials will not be returned.

Send completed materials to the address shown above. It will take approximately thirty to sixty days to process your application.

(The full application is available at the Town Office or online at:
http://www.maine.gov/dps/msp/licenses/weapons_permits.html)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Sumner Residents,

It has been an honor for me to serve as your Emergency Management Director this past year. Thanks to the foresight of your Town leaders, Sumner is far better prepared for any disaster than are most towns in Maine.

We have an Emergency Operation Plan, your Town Officers have taken Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training, and we have a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) that is trained to operate our schools as emergency shelters and respond in other ways.

Our preparation was tested by the present H1N1 (Swine) Flu Pandemic. While this new virus has proven relatively mild, it is spreading rapidly around the world as forecast by health experts. It gave all levels of government a chance to evaluate their plans without facing the large number of severe illnesses and deaths that were experienced in the 1918 Pandemic.

We were very successful in obtaining Emergency Management Grants this year. We received over \$3000 in a Community Action Grant for educational activities in Sumner. We also were awarded about \$2700 worth of radios. The Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) will award us another \$450 to \$900 for last year (50 to 100% of expenses since October 1, 2008). Our sister cities of Hartford and Buckfield shared a \$6,981 Homeland Security Grant (HSG). Sumner will be eligible to apply for this grant next year.

This fiscal year the EMPG grant will match the entire cash EMA budget, including the EMA Director's stipend. This grant is intended to help small towns get prepared. It will only last a year or two, so it is anticipated that the funds from it will be used to complete our emergency preparations. We will continue to apply for grants that become available, such as the HSG.

We will conduct an all day training and table top exercise to help your Town Leaders become more familiar with Sumner's plans and to let them work through a simulated disaster. This will also help us improve our plans.

We encourage you to continue to practice the recommended good hygiene measures until this wave of the Pandemic is past. It will be back in the fall, possibly, like the 1918 virus, in a more lethal form. Also, check your emergency kit and consider training such as CERT, Red Cross First Aid and CPR. This training helps you take care of yourself, your family and your neighbors. It also prepares you to serve on the CERT team and benefit the Town and region if you so choose.

Please feel free to contact me.

Tom Standard, Sumner EMA Director
standard@megalink.net 388-2041

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Emergency Management and Neighbors Care Mission:

To protect the health and lives of people in Sumner
by strengthening the ability of individuals and families
to detect, contain and respond to public health threats and emergencies.

We have an effective EMA Committee that is working on the Neighbor's Care Program to provide the town with neighbor to neighbor help if needed. George Jones has edited quarterly newsletters with a special edition when the H1N1 flu caused great concern in Maine. We have offered several CPR & First Aid classes to the residents of Sumner with additional dates for fall. As a result of the Community Grant given to the town these classes are offered at a very low cost. Some of the members have completed Incident Command training. Some members have taken Ham Radio training. In October we sponsored a presentation on Comfort Care presented by Lisa Buck from Buckfield Rescue. A Heart Attack & Stroke Awareness was presented in September.

The major objectives for this year are to create a data base for residents, refine a mapping system for the Neighbors Care Program and implement a mass calling system for emergencies. We will also continue to offer educational programs for members of the community.

We are developing a group of volunteers with special skills (such as first aid) and special equipment (such as snowmobiles or ATVs), as well as those who are just willing to help. If your neighbors can count on you during an emergency please respond when visited by your Neighbors Care volunteer or contact the Town Office at 388-2866.

Marianne Todd: Chairperson 207-388-3421

THE MOTHERS COMMUNITY CLUB OF SUMNER

The Mothers Community Club of Sumner will be 70 years old on July 27th of this year. There have been many changes over the years but the club has always been for the good of children. In the early years, the Club held well children clinics, collected money for March of Dimes and polio. The Club started with 15 members and the first president was Mrs. Sadie D'Aiutolo. The first meeting was July 27, 1939. This year our most senior member is Janice Lowe. The club still looks forward to serving the children of Sumner for another 70 years. We had a lot of fun this past year. Our Easter bunny needed a new suit for the Easter egg hunt, so Alison Berry made us a new one and sent it from Texas. Velma Laughton made the original suit. Thanks Velma! We hosted members of Operation Santa Claus and will be doing some joint projects with them, possibly a Halloween party. We were saddened by the death of Helen Estes and Gerry Gammon this year.

Respectfully submitted, Wilda Dunham, Secretary

MT. TOM SNOWMOBILE CLUB

This was another good winter for the snowmobilers. The trails were well groomed by the Mt Tom Club. Some members of the club helped the Black Mountain ATV Club rebuild a bridge recently.

The club made donations to Operation Santa, Easter Egg Hunt and The Pine Tree Society. The club also donated 2 flats of flowers to the Sumner town Office. We also donated \$500.00 to the Black Mountain ATV Club.

The Richard E. Walker Scholarship fund for \$100.00 was awarded to our long standing club member Allie Paradis. Allie is going to St. Mary's College in Halifax Nova Scotia, Canada in the fall. Allie is a very active member of our club and we all wish her well.

Our annual club cookout will be held on September 5, 2009. That is Labor Day Weekend. All club members are invited.

Have a great summer!

Mary R. Jasniewski, Secretary

RECREATION COMMITTEE

We continue to support three girls' summer softball teams. Randy Poulin, Chris Bragg and Arlene Bedard coach the Senior League, ages 14-18, with 12 players. Lisa Zak coaches the Little League, ages 11-13, with 14 players, and Arlene Bedard is coaching the Farm Team, ages 7-10, with 12 players. We would like to start T-Ball and a Boys' Farm Team next year. We'll need coaches; please think about helping.

We also made a donation to the Mother's Club Easter Egg Hunt.

We would really like input from parents about activities for Sumner's children. Anybody that would like to be a member is welcome to join. Call anyone on the Rec Committee or the Town Office and give us your name and telephone number.

Volunteers are always needed at the ball field for repairs and cleaning.

Arlene Bedard, Committee Member

SUMNER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Keeping a journal or diary of our activities and thoughts can result in a personal family history—something of great value to future generations. Our local Historical Society, led by President Steve Peters, invites all to join us, to share past stories, present concerns, and future plans. It is a very special feeling of warmth, caring and community to have Marty and Mary Ann's warm blueberry pie, while looking at old photos of Sumner.

We meet from April through October, at 7:00 PM, on the 4th Thursday at the Congregational Church of East Sumner, unless otherwise notified. Please come!

During the past year our most interesting programs have included Vernon Bradeen speaking and showing slides of his WW II experiences as a pilot, Duane Leavitt giving a program on the local mining history, and finally, we studied Sumner Town Reports from 1908-1909.

An on-going project of the year was our group working on the old cemeteries, with the assistance of Selectman Clifford McNeil, and led by Connie Cushing. This activity resulted in our receiving a certificate of recognition from the Maine Old Cemetery Association. Many thanks to all involved.

Sincerely, Harriet Rudd, Secretary

SUMNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Sumner Scholarship Committee met on May 27, 2009, to review applications for scholarship money. We now have (10) members in the committee. There were (8) awards granted, to the following Sumner residents: Vera Abbott, Ashley Condon, Emily Eastman, Norman Jack, Sean Kindya, Corri Runes, Sheila Trenoweth, and Tyler Weymouth. A total of \$2,150.00 was awarded. The selection process was based on committee discussions and suggestions. The awards were decided by majority vote.

Tax deductible contributions to the Scholarship Fund are appreciated. Donations may be acknowledged in the Town Report.

Applications are available at any time in the Sumner Town Office and are due April 30 of any given year. Applicants must be residents of Sumner for a full year before applying.

Henri Arsenault, Secretary

Scholarship Account:

Many thanks to those who purchased Sumner Bicentennial memorabilia. Thank you to Jeff Pfeifer, Lee Berry, Earle and Susan Simpson, Jeremy Stevens, Corri Runes, Brianna Mauro, Lana Pratt, Mt. Tom Snowmobile Club, Reginald Billado, Tim Helms and Terry Hayes for their donations to the Scholarship Fund. A huge thank you to those volunteers who went on bottle drives and donated materials for the collection and to those who donated bottles and cans.

It is the hope of the Scholarship Committee and the original Bicentennial Committee that the scholarship will be an ongoing and growing fund for our residents. All sales of any of the Bicentennial items (Sumner 200, postcards, tee shirts, sweatshirts, mugs) go directly into the Scholarship Fund. Pick up another copy of Sumner 200 for only \$12.00.

The Bicentennial Committee has given Sumner's high school graduates a copy of Sumner 200. They are Vera Abbott, Kayla Belanger, Ashley Condon, Emily Eastman, Norman Jack, Sean Kindya, Clifford Skillings, and Tyler Weymouth. These have been handed out as the graduates or their parents come into the Town Office and at Buckfield High's Awards Night. If we have missed anyone, please let us know.

Those graduates who have not yet received theirs may come in at any time. These young adults are part of Sumner's history and will be responsible for its future. The book is a small expression of our tremendous pride in them.

SUMNER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The dedicated members of the Sumner Fire Department (SFD) served the citizens of Sumner well this past year. The SFD responded to 25 calls last year, which is 9 less than the previous year.

We had anticipated an increase in chimney fires this past winter, due to heating oil costs, but thankfully this did not occur. Everyone still needs to take great care of their wood stoves. All chimneys should be lined with ceramic tile, all stove installations, hookups and pipe should meet state fire code. Homeowners should also inspect their chimney for creosote build-up every couple of weeks and clean the chimney and stove pipe when needed. If you have any questions regarding stove safety, please feel free to contact the fire department.

We have a dedicated group of members who give up evenings and weekends for the hours of training that is required. Besides our monthly trainings, our members completed courses on Short-handed Firefighting, Safety Officer, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Vehicle Stabilization, Pump Training and Incident Command.

We are always looking for new members to join our team of men and women. If you are interested in joining the fire department, simply fill out an application at the town hall, call one of our chiefs or simply stop by one of our meetings. Our monthly business meeting is always held on the third Thursday of the month in the fire barn and starts at 6:30 PM.

Some Safety Tips from the Sumner Fire Department

If you need a burning permit or if you think you might need one, please call one of our fire wardens before you start burning. Our Fire Wardens are: Wally Litchfield, 388-2402, and his assistant Allan Newton, 388-2745.

In times of emergency, we cannot help you if we have difficulty finding your house. The best method for us to locate your home quickly is by the number on your mailbox and residence. You should **have your house number on both sides of your mailbox**. The numbers should be at least 3 inches tall. Do not put them on the front of the mailbox. We cannot see the numbers on the front of the mailbox until we pass it and at night we cannot see them at all. We cannot stress the importance of properly marking your mailbox and residence.

Please do not hesitate to call 911 when you think there might be a problem. The members of the SFD are happy to help our neighbors. We would much rather respond to a call that might be nothing than to respond late because a person hesitated in calling for help.

Our call breakdown is as follows:

- 1 structure fire
- 8 auto accidents
- 1 lift assist calls
- 2 rescue calls
- 3 downed wires calls
- 2 good intent/false alarm/canceled calls
- 1 chimney fire
- 8 mutual aid calls, of which:
 - 5 structure fires
 - 1 chimney fire
 - 1 un-permitted burn

We responded as mutual aid as follows:

- 7 times to Buckfield
- 1 time to Woodstock

Before closing, I would like to express my gratitude for all the hard work the Ladies Auxiliary has provided to the Town and the Fire Department. They have done a great job on the LifeFlight pad, which is almost complete. The Fire Department's next big project will be to purchase a new truck. Our YOUNGEST truck is 25 years old. So I hope the Town will be supportive in this venture.

Respectfully Submitted, Robert Stewart, Fire Chief
sumnerfire@megalink.net

SUMNER FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY 2008-2009

This year we sent our usual fruit baskets and plants to people in town that have been sick or have had surgery. This is greatly appreciated by all that receive them. We also donated money to Operation Santa Claus.

We held a huge Silent Auction at Buckfield High School in October 2008 to earn money for our goal to build a helipad for LifeFlight of Maine. Almost \$6,900 was earned and we have met our goal. This was a major project; during the past few years we have worked very hard to reach this goal. We wish to thank everyone for all the donations that were given to the auction. We also thank David Bragg for completing the work on our new helipad. He did a great job—it was well done.

During June 2009 we also held our annual lawn sale to earn for money for paving the LifeFlight pad. Almost \$1,000 was earned for this project.

Last December we held a Christmas party for all Fire Department and Auxiliary members and their families. We have had a good year.

Respectfully submitted, Lucy Wilcox, Secretary

SWAP SHOP BUCKFIELD-SUMNER TRANSFER STATION

The year 2008 ended with over 36,000 usable items with a weight of over 40,000 pounds leaving the shop with over 7,200 customers. Over twenty volunteers have made this Swap Shop a tremendous success.

Fred Horsfall has spent many hours getting donations of material from Lowell Lumber. He has installed two forty-foot tiers of shelves in the forty-foot container. He also built shelves and installed double pipes for hanging clothes in the twenty-foot container, built a shed for people to drop off items after shop hours, hung a shoe rack on the back of a door to the twenty-foot container and looks for things that he can do to make our lives more organized.

Duane Leavitt not only opens the shop EACH Saturday, but has built several book shelves.

Joyce Sanville opens the shop EACH Wednesday and her son and husband have done many odd jobs to make the shop handier to the volunteers. Sheila Verrill closes the shop EVERY Saturday. Several others have committed to working on a regular basis.

I cannot say enough about the people of our towns who have volunteered to make this project a success. It is a success not only in taking things out of our waste stream, but has helped so many people with things they need. HUNDREDS of pounds of clothing have gone out of the shop this winter. Thank you, Buckfield and Sumner, for giving the Shop a chance.

Submitted by: Mary Standard, Chairman

Swap Shop Committee: Judy Berg, Duane Leavitt, Lana Pratt, Joyce Sanville, Cindy Tucker

Veterans are Entitled to Military Funeral Honors

Military Funeral Honors is now an entitlement for all honorably discharged Veterans. There are no costs what so ever associated with this program.

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors for United States Armed Forces Veterans is a tribute that our Veterans and their families justly deserve and in fact, are now entitled to. It is a way to show our Nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. Section 578 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000 requires the Department of Defense to provide, upon request, Military Funeral Honors for eligible Veterans.

The Maine Military Funeral Honors Program began performing Military Funeral Honors Ceremonies for Maine's Veterans in late 2004. Since its inception, we have performed over 2300 ceremonies from Fort Kent to Kittery and eastern Canada.

According to the Maine Veteran's Administration, Maine is loosing nearly 4000 Veterans a year, (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Army Air Corps and Merchant Marines).

This rate is expected to continue with very slow reductions through the year 2030.

Any person, Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve and Merchant Marines, who received an honorable discharge, is now entitled to an appropriate Military Funeral Honors Ceremony performed by US Military active duty service members.

Before the law passed, many Veterans did not receive a Military Funeral Honors Ceremony or acknowledgement and appreciation for their service to their country. The Maine Military Funeral Honors Team is prepared to right this wrong by providing appropriate Military Honors to any honorably discharged Veteran who was not honored at the time of death. A family member needs only call and request this service.

Standards: The currently serving, US Military members of the Maine Military Funeral Honors Team are trained to the highest possible standards. Military Funeral Honors is their full time duty. The Service Members selected to perform these ceremonies for Maine's Veterans are extremely proud of what they are doing. They have the utmost respect and admiration for those who served before them.

We have 6 Military Funeral Honors Trainers on the team who have all attended a 2 week course and have been certified as instructors by Arlington National Cemetery. Veterans of Maine will receive a Military Funeral Honors Ceremony performed to the same high standard as those ceremonies being performed at Arlington National Cemetery. Maine Veterans deserve no less than perfection.

I strongly encourage all Veterans residing in Maine to allow these dedicated members of the United States Military to perform this ceremony and to simply express our appreciation for their dedicated service to our country.

Whenever individuals decide to join the Armed Forces of the United States they promise to put themselves between the people of the United States and those who would harm us. To honor this promise and sacrifice, we are committed to doing all that we can to support our Veterans & the families of those Veterans.

Mr. Frank R. Norwood, US Army Master Sergeant Retired
Maine Military Funeral Honors Coordinator



VETERANS

As provided by law, ALL Veterans with an Honorable discharge from the United States Military (Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve & Merchant Marines) are ENTITLED to appropriate Military Funeral Honors.



If you have questions, please contact the Maine Military Funeral Honors Coordinator.

**Mr. Frank R. Norwood
US Army Master Sergeant Retired
Maine Military Funeral Honors Coordinator
Augusta Armory
Augusta, Maine 04330
Toll Free: 1-800-958-5967
Phone: (207) 626-7822
Cell: (703) 901-8531
Fax: (207) 626-7804
E-mail: frank.norwood1@us.army.mil
Web site: www.funeralhonors.org**

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The mission of the Red Cross is to provide disaster relief. We deliver our mission with three programs:

Disaster Relief Services responding to the needs of local families due to fires, floods and other natural or man-made disasters, offering: financial assistance to disaster victims, mental health counseling and emergency shelter. In 2007-2008 we responded to 112 disasters and provided assistance to 436 individuals.

Service to Armed Forces Emergency Communication Services (SAF) working with local families to find and communicate with loved ones in the military around the world. One Sumner family utilized our SAF services for a cost of about \$386 per communication.

Preparedness Training educates families and businesses in our communities on how to prepare for emergencies and disasters through: courses in CPR, First Aid, babysitting and AED; swimming and lifeguard instruction; and Community Disaster Education. Twenty-four citizens from Sumner participated in our Community Disaster Education training.

We also partner with Blood Services to collect blood for emergencies.

There are fees for our CPR and First Aid courses, but disaster relief is always free, as well as training and materials.

Telephone 795-4004

Gayle L Garber, Development Coordinator

ANDROSCOGGIN HOME CARE & HOSPICE.

In 2007, AHCH provided 150 visits to 24 Sumner residents. Subsidized care support was required by 3 individuals.

Community Supported Services:

- ❖ Covering the costs of home health, supportive care and hospice services not fully paid for through the Medicare, Medicaid and State funded health care programs.
- ❖ Providing subsidized care when individuals are without adequate health care insurance coverage.
- ❖ Providing homemaking assistance for frail and elderly and disabled patients.
- ❖ Easing the difficulties of a patient's illness through the companionship and assistance of trained and caring volunteers.
- ❖ Promoting health and wellness through agency sponsored screenings, educational programs and flu vaccination clinics.

AHCH Services:

- ❖ Skilled Home Care
- ❖ Hospice Care
- ❖ Supportive Care
- ❖ Community Health Promotion
- ❖ Volunteer Companionship and Support

With the development of new health care partnerships, community service initiatives, and program innovations, you can count on AHCH to bring the best in care home to the residents of the Town of Sumner when it is needed most.

Telephone 1-800-482-7412 Laurie Winsor, Director of Development

BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF OXFORD COUNTY
(a program sponsored by the Child Health Center)

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Oxford County is a youth organization based on the concept of a one-to-one relationship between an adult volunteer and an at-risk child. These children, primarily from single parent families, are most vulnerable to the negative influences of their environment. Through the one-to-one matches, volunteers can help these youths increase their self-esteem and, often for the first time, see themselves as having a happy, successful future. Big Brothers/Big Sisters has a strong history and has been proven to prevent substance use and abuse and is a recognized model program by the Center of Study of Violence Prevention. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy evaluated Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring program to be effective in preventing delinquency and avoiding \$3,483 in Criminal Justice and Crime Victim costs for each match. **We matched 2 children from Sumner.** This simple yet powerful program is hard at work in your community.

THE CHILD HEALTH CENTER

MISSION STATEMENT: To improve the lives of children and families by providing the care, knowledge, skills and resources that help them achieve their goals in life.

Our non-profit agency serves an average of 2,000 children and families each year.

Our programs are:

- ❖ The Parent Place is a resource and education program with services that include: parent education/support groups, a pregnant and parenting teen program, office appointments and home visits for prenatal and parenting education, breast feeding support and guidance, case management services, adolescent “teen issues” groups in middle and high schools.
- ❖ Specialized Preschool Services serving infants and children from birth to age five. The center offers therapeutic services for children with developmental and occupational delays and a summer program providing developmental, recreational opportunities for children who cannot take part in other programs.
- ❖ Central Maine Developmental Evaluation Clinic provides comprehensive evaluations for children ages birth to five with known or suspected developmental delays. Each comprehensive evaluation includes a detailed report from each team member with a prescriptive treatment plan along with diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

Telephone 743-7035

Rob Hatch, Executive Director

COMMUNITY CONCEPTS

Over the past 2 months, we have enhanced our ability to provide more home energy audits and follow-up services, improved access to fuel assistance, opened a brand new Head Start building in Farmington, completed a 30-unit Elderly Housing apartment building in Lewiston, connected Western Maine to a network of foreclosure prevention and credit counseling agencies, received DHHS approval as a children's behavioral health case management provider, created the Western Maine Economic Development Council, and introduced the *Keep Oxford County Warm* funds for local donations.

This past fiscal year the services included 27 units of **Donated Commodities** for \$378.00, 2 units of **Early Head Start** for \$9,162.91, 7 units of **Emergency Assistance** for \$2,761.34, 2 units of **Family Support** for \$2,933.00, 1 unit of **Heating System R/R** for \$500.00, 133 units of **Home Energy Assistance Program** for \$45,921.00, 2 units of **Home Energy Efficiency Testing** for \$540.00, 3 **Refrigerator Replacements** for \$1,578.64, 62 units of **Transportation** for \$83,717.70, 4 units of **USDA Child Care Food** for \$1,309.48.

These services are valued at \$148,802.07 for Sumner residents.

Telephone 743-7716

Mike Burke, CEO Interim

FAMILIES IN CRISIS TASK FORCE

Our mission is to help any individual or family who is in crisis or potential crisis. We have three food pantries to serve Oxford County residents in Peru and Andover and South Paris. Our Andover facility will have a luncheon program with volunteers serving lunch. We do referrals, networking with other social services and follow up on service received. We do intake applications for programs such as Low Income Property Tax and Rent Rebate, Low Cost Drug Card, DHS Food Stamp Applications, Disability Applications, Emergency Assistance and Medicaid. We distribute USDA Food to 13 communities and offer the Mainshare program (fresh fruits and vegetables). We are currently working with ABLE Program providing job training for their participants. During Thanksgiving and Christmas we do food baskets and run a Grandma/Grandpa Christmas project.

Telephone 357-7072

Lisa Bergmann, Support Service Advocate

THE PROGRESS CENTER, INC.

The Center is dedicated to providing information, services and choices to individuals with disabilities and their families, which help them build a better life for themselves. At The Progress Center, we partner with the people we serve and their communities. Our mission is to promote independence and freedom of choice for the individuals we serve. Our core beliefs include that each person with a disability has a desire for a rich and varied life, including a physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimension. We are currently assisting a disabled Sumner adult.

It is our goal to support people within their communities, shop, bank and employ locally (we employ over 100 people). Our clients often volunteer for local businesses and agencies and work

in entry level positions. We offer much back to the community, but we do need your support in addition to our local fund-raising events.

Telephone 743-8049

Deb Anthony, Executive Director

R.E.A.C.H.

Rape Education and Crisis Hotline was established in 1981 to serve Oxford County, Harrison and Bridgton.

Rape is one the most under reported crimes in the United States. The impact of this crime can be serious and long-lasting and affects family and friends as well.

REACH's staff meets people at hospitals and police stations and for follow-up calls.

REACH meets with law enforcement, hospital staff and the DA's Office to work at improving respectful and effective intervention when they work with victims of sexual assault.

REACH provides support for parents of children who have been sexually assaulted and has a lending library. **One-third of cases reported occur to children under 12!**

REACH provides bullying, internet safety and sexual abuse prevention education to elementary age children and Risk Reduction Programs for middle and high school groups. Our program is available to ALL school districts in Oxford County.

REACH provides support groups to stop the shame and secrecy that foster sexual assault.

REACH has begun a court watch to hold offenders accountable for their assaults.

24-Hour Hotline 1-800-871-7741

Telephone 743-9777

Debbie Dembski, Executive Director

RURAL COMMUNITY ACTION MINISTRY

A Food Bank in the Congregational Church of East Sumner is sponsored by RCAM and received \$1,038.67 in Emergency Food and Shelter funds. The Food Bank provided 2,142 meals to 102 individuals, 79 adults and 23 children, in 37 families last year. Its purpose is to help area families with food needs. There is a good selection of canned goods, as well as crackers, peanut butter, flour, macaroni and cheese, meat, cereal and recipes.

The Housing Program provided housing rehab and other services affecting 2 adults and 1 child in 2 families.

Our Gardening Program provided seeds and seedlings, rototilling services and education to 4 people, 2 adults and 2 children in 2 families in Sumner.

The Volunteer Program provided 4,245.75 hours of volunteer service in our RCAM area.

The Homelessness Prevention Services Program assisted 3 Sumner families with rent/mortgage, electricity, fuel, direct aid.

Our Faith in Action Coordinator helps the elderly with rides to medical appointments, supportive home visits, monitors home repair needs, safety and other health and safety factors.

We are able to leverage funding from other sources because of the excellent support from local towns. We are grateful for the wonderful help from the citizens of Sumner through the town appropriation, through private donations and from the local churches, through gifts to United Way, and through volunteer time and effort.

We have signed up for two programs that will give us money each time someone uses their service and selects RCAM as the agency to receive these funds.

- ❖ GoodSearch.com: go to the website, type in Rural Community Action Ministry in the space “Who do you GoodSearch for?”, hit the verify button.
- ❖ CharityBlast.com: go to the website, click the “Shop for my Cause” tab, from the “Start Here” box go to “Search by Organization” and click on Rural Community Action Ministry.

Telephone 224-7505

Gil Ward, Executive Director

SENIORS PLUS

SeniorsPlus’ mission is to support the independence and dignity of the older residents in Sumner and surrounding towns by providing critical services, some free of charge.

We are dedicated to maintaining the quality of life of all elderly and in turn, giving family members the opportunity to remain a productive part of the community.

Our requests to all of the towns are based on the cost of the services delivered to residents living in that particular community.

We offered 35 units of Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to 1 individual for \$289.10 and 17 units of Outreach Services to 11 individuals for \$952.34..

We also offer Alzheimer’s Respite, Family Caregiver Program, Congregate Housing, and Grocery Shopping and Health Insurance Counseling.

Telephone 1-800-427-1241

Pamela Allen, Executive Director

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Tri-County Mental Health is committed to providing the people of Maine with excellence in mental health, substance abuse, habilitation and life skill services, respecting consumer rights, personal dignity and maintaining agency financial stability. TCMHS endorses Recovery Based Trauma Informed services, which recognizes two common themes for consumers of this agency: that violence and the resulting trauma are pervasive and should be acknowledged; and there is hope in Recovery.

Sumner’s financial support is necessary in order to continue to provide services to local citizens who cannot afford the full cost. No one in crisis is refused help because they cannot pay, although we ask everyone to pay something.

SERVICES FOR OXFORD COUNTY:

- ❖ Procare Clinic
- ❖ Substance Abuse Counseling
- ❖ Community Integration Services for people with major, persistent mental illness
 - Resource identification and linkage
 - Communication skills training
 - Supportive counseling
 - In-home outreach to clients
- ❖ Children’s Services
 - Home-based Counseling
 - Case Management
 - Crisis Stabilization
- ❖ Elder Mental Health Care

- Assessment and Medication Management to nursing homes, and clients with long-term mental illness
- Clinical Consultation to physicians in the community
- ❖ Employee Assistance Programs
- ❖ Residential and Adult Crisis Residential Stabilization Services
- ❖ Crisis Services Provided
 - 24 hours, 7 days a week (Staffed by TCMHS and Oxford County Crisis Response)
- ❖ Critical Incident Debriefing-provided to people traumatized by incidents in the community
- ❖ THRIVE is a Trauma-Informed System of Care for children and families.
- ❖ Community Consultation
 - Training and consultation to schools, agencies, and families.
 - Collaboration with other agencies to create integrated services in the community

Our statistics show that 35 individuals were seen in Sumner in 2008.

All information shared with the center's staff is confidential. Fees are based on a discounted scale that considers family size and income.

24-HOUR EMERGENCY CRISIS 1-888-568-1112

Telephone 1-888-278-3521 Christopher Copeland, LCSW, Executive Director

WESTERN MAINE TRANSPORTATION

WMTS provides rides for residents of all ages to medical appointments, mental health services, shopping, special schooling, speech and hearing therapy and many other community services and local businesses.

WMTS also provides services to the public--anyone can ride for a small fare as long as you are going where the buses are going.

In 2008, we provided 183 rides for Sumner residents using our buses, vans and/or our “Escorted Ride Service” that utilizes private cars and the agency’s volunteer drivers. The numbers reported here are likely lower than the number actually provided; we had difficulty extracting accurate numbers from our database. We have also been engaged in a very complicated last-minute transition the State mandated for MaineCare-reimbursed transportation to day programs for Mentally Handicapped citizens.

WMTS is pleased to provide wheelchair lift-equipped paratransit bus service, Volunteer assisted rides and Friends & Family rides to residents of Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties. Tax-based local funding provided to Western Maine Transportation Services is crucial to our operation. The funding we receive from municipalities is eligible to be matched by federal funds. For every dollar raised locally, WMTS receives approximately \$2.78.

Telephone 333-6972

Craig Zurhorst, Community Relations Director

WESTERN MAINE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We are a group made up of twenty various veterans organizations, including the John D. Long Post in Buckfield. We provide funds for activities at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris. Last year alone we spent approximately \$12,800 for activities at the Maine Veterans Home. A majority of the residents at the Veterans' Home are from the Oxford County area. Our list of weekly activities includes many trips to parks and restaurants and special events. We need volunteers to help with residents for many of these outings. **The complete list is posted at the Town Office.** Your donation will be very helpful in providing activities to the Veterans Home residents. To volunteer at the Home, call 743-6300.

Telephone 583-4468

Joseph Cooney, Chairman

ZADOC LONG FREE LIBRARY

The Library has been providing free services to Sumner residents since 1964; presently there are 80 Sumner patrons. We also serve Buckfield and Hartford. We provide children's programs, book groups for adults and have a knitting group. We have 4 public-access computers and walk-in-wireless available for patrons. Any donation will be applied to our programming and book budget to help us maintain or exceed the current level of services. We greatly appreciate any support.

Telephone 336-2171

Connie Cushing, Library Director