

Machias Valley News Observer



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Current Island from the summit of Pigeon Hill.

DCC photo

Downeast Coastal Conservancy Expands Protection at Pigeon Hill

The Downeast Coastal Conservancy (DCC) recently completed the purchase of 15 acres on and around the summit of Pigeon Hill in Steuben. Pigeon Hill has long been a destination treasured by locals and visitors alike. It was also identified as a conservation priority in the Town of Steuben's Comprehensive Plan.

The DCC began Phase I of

the Pigeon Hill conservation initiative in 2005 with its Summit, Forest, & Seacoast Campaign that helped protect the core 117-acre Pigeon Hill Preserve. Phase II launched in 2008 with the goal of expanding protections to the summit and guaranteeing public access for present and future generations. In December 2008, the DCC closed on the 34-acre Trail

Parcel that includes the historic trail from Pigeon Hill Road trailhead to the summit. Protection of the Summit Parcel will enhance the visitor experience and ensure that the summit remains undeveloped.

The 166-acre Pigeon Hill Preserve is open to the public for use and enjoyment. See *Conservancy*, page 4.

Machias Schools Recognize Area Veterans

On Tuesday, November 10th, Rose M. Gaffney Elementary School and Machias Memorial High School honored area veterans with a breakfast and recognition program.

The day began with veterans and their families enjoying a breakfast hosted by the Rose M. Gaffney Elementary staff. After the breakfast, veterans went to the Machias Memorial High School Gymnasium where they

were treated to musical tributes from the Rose M. Gaffney and Machias Memorial High School bands and chorus under the direction of Bonnie Atkinson and Nadine Baker.

Scott Porter, superintendent of schools, welcomed the veterans and thanked them for their sacrifices for our country. Mitchell Look, principal of Rose Gaffney Elementary School and Robert Hennessey, principal of

Machias Memorial High School, introduced the veterans in attendance. Scott Guerra, a 10-year veteran, was the guest speaker for the program. Guerra told of his personal experiences while being on a ship in the gulf region. The program ended with a stirring version of *God Bless The USA*, sung by Shay Lynn Norman.

The Rose M. Gaffney and Machias Memorial High School students and staff would like to thank all veterans for their sacrifices for our country.

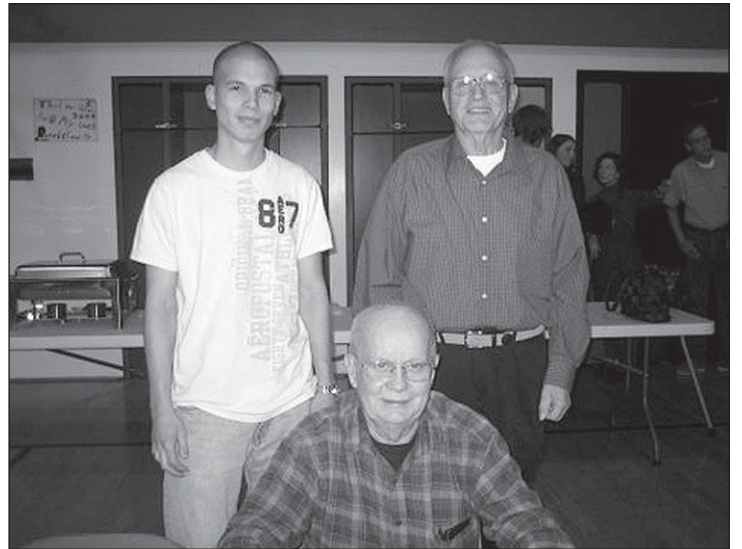


Veterans enjoying breakfast at Rose M. Gaffney Elementary School.

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Veterans' Supper a Community Affair



Bob Oliver, an Army veteran who fought in Iraq, Arthur Pinkham, who fought in World War II and Korea in the Army, and Clayton Hall, a Marine (left to right), attended the Veterans' Day supper at Elm Street. Oliver is from Calais, Pinkham from Machiasport and Hall from Machias.

Ruth Leubecker photos

by Ruth Leubecker

Tying many facets of community into a fine-tuned town tradition, the annual Veterans' Day supper at Elm Street School in East Machias drew a large and appreciative crowd on Saturday night.

First started 12 years ago with a grant through SAD 77, after the funds ran out the school district asked the East Machias River Day Committee for their assistance. Evolving from a turkey and ham dinner into a complete turkey dinner, the occasion now belongs to the River Day committee exclusively. It is a labor of love, start to finish, and has never been designed as a fundraiser.

"It's one of the most rewarding things we do. It's our favorite," says Nancy Sprague, head biscuit-maker and long-time supper organizer. "There are 20 on the committee, and we served 250 last year. We're shooting for 280 this year, but you never know with this flu go-

ing around."

It's a free dinner for veterans and their spouses. All others may give donations at the door. "We have other anonymous donors each year and the Legion posts in Machias and Lubec always give," said Sprague. "Every year it's growing. The Boy Scouts perform the flag ceremony. The Elm Street chorus always sings. This year it's a violin group. The student council takes part, and Tony Maker, the school principal, is emcee."

The supper also honors the veterans specifically and recognizes the branches in which they served. Three students from Washington Academy this year folded the flag and told the story that explains the folds.

Veterans' Day essays written by sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders were also read by the authors. The students in the lower grades had designed and fashioned Veterans' Day posters which were hung on the walls of the gym.



Veterans Recognized

Two U.S. Marines, Steve Ramsey, commander of the American Legion Post #9 in Machias, and 87-year-old Harlan Gardner of Marshfield, stand during the Armed Forces Medley performed by the bands of Rose Gaffney School and Machias Memorial High School during the Veterans' Day celebration last week at the high school.

Katherine Cassidy photo