

Bucksport full of Heart & Soul despite mill closure

BY PAULA KEE

Bucksport's journey from a mill town to a diverse, full-service community continues, and it is fast becoming a most desirable place to live, work, play and invest.

After the closure of the Verso Paper Mill in December 2014, residents and town officials, while mourning the loss of a nearly century-old lifestyle and the town's major taxpayer and employer, immediately realized the opportunities being presented along with the challenges.

Determining the direction in which to steer the Bucksport ship continues to be a high priority to everyone, and after several community forums to gather input, it is clear that the town values its many physical attributes, its ever improving school system, safe and secure way of living, and much more.

Bucksport has become a Heart & Soul Community, utilizing a program developed by the Orton Foundation to facilitate planning and development that incorporates the voices of residents, community groups and businesses to shape the future of Bucksport in a way that upholds its unique character. It is but one major effort to enrich Bucksport, and in return for their efforts, participants are enriched and community ties strengthened.


Arts and cultural programs were created and implemented for the summer of 2015, such as the Bucksport Arts Festival and the Wednesday On Main program, instantly putting Bucksport on the midcoast cultural events map for travelers and locals alike. High attendance at these events, and the many ongoing programs in place through the Bucksport Chamber of Commerce and Cultural Arts Society, rounded out an amazing and busy season for the town and encouraged the opening or expansion of a few local businesses.

This year finds these events on tap again with high expectations. Exciting new horizons are being explored to bring new businesses and opportunities for development to Bucksport, including the proposed facility operated by Maine Maritime Academy at the former mill site. Upon completion of demolition of the site by owner American Iron Metal, there will be even more options for development, utilizing the existing rail line to Bangor, Bucksport's deep water port status and its strategic proximity to three county seats and business hubs and the Bangor International Airport.

An updated Comprehensive Plan will lead the town into the future, ensuring the maintenance of an enviable lifestyle that combines the intimacy and security of an earlier day with every modern convenience for today's family, retiree, business owner or entrepreneur.




PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNDSY MARSTON




2016 FUN SUMMER EVENTS WEDNESDAY ON MAIN FROM 5:30 - 7:00 P.M

MOVING BUCKSPORT FORWARD BY BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY!



Wednesday ON MAIN

Sponsored by:



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WEDNESDAY ON MAIN 2ND ANNUAL / SUMMER EVENTS


Our 2nd year of bringing live events to Main Street every Wednesday all summer. All events from 5:30 to 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Donations gratefully accepted.

LIMITED SEATING AT OUTDOOR EVENTS - BRING A CHAIR

www.bucksportwom.com

WELCOMING ALL FOR MUSIC, ART, & FUN! COME SUPPORT A NEW BUCKSPORT!

- 6/15 - Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers "Everybody Loves Pirates," for kids ages 5-6! Alamo Theatre, 85 Main St., Bucksport. www.frogtownpuppets.com
- 6/22 - Bands on the Water: Happytown, Ghost of Paul Revere, and the Mallet Brothers Band. At the waterfront. www.ghostofpaulrevere.com www.mallettbrothersband.com
- 6/29 - Glen Brand, Executive Director, Sierra Club Maine Chapter, Maine's largest and most powerful volunteer grassroots environmental organization. Alamo Theatre, 85 Main St., Bucksport. www.sierraclub.org/maine
- 7/6 - Food on Main with Bucksport's fire and police personnel as Guns & Hoses, bringing fun for kids, and our local food vendors offering tasty treats. Main St. NO ADMISSION
- 7/13 - Blue Northern, Americana, bluegrass, acoustic, alt-country, traditional Maine. Main St. Tent. www.bluenorthernband.com
- 7/20 - Stesha Cano, jazzy, soulful blues. New England Music Awards Nominee for Musician of the Year! Main St. Tent. www.steshacano.com
- 7/27 - WERU Favorite Summertime Stories. Storytellers from around the state. Alamo Theatre, 85 Main St., Bucksport, 5:30-8 p.m. 1st hour is kid-friendly, **2nd hour is unscreened**. Intermission with snacks. To be recorded for future airing: www.weru.org
- 8/3 - Monica Wood, award-winning author of *When We Were the Kennedys*. Book discussion and signing new book, *The One-in-a-Million Boy*. Copies available for purchase. Alamo Theatre, 85 Main St., Bucksport. www.monicaewood.com
- 8/10 - The Danny Harper Band. Traditional country, a Maine favorite! At the Waterfront Gazebo. www.dannyharper.com
- 8/17 - Em & Company. 16-year-old phenom Emily Young performs pop, rock, and country. At the Main St. Tent.
- 8/24 - Film *Rhythms of the Heart*, by Maine filmmaker Thom Willey. Depicts David Moses Bridges, Maine Passamaquoddy canoe and basket craftsman, and his journey to preserve family, life, and tradition while battling cancer. Alamo Theatre, 85 Main St., Bucksport www.eiteljorg.org/interact/artists-in-residence/david-moses-bridges
- 8/31 - 2nd Annual Mini Buskers Festival. Fabulous musicians play along Main St, with a Finale at the Waterfront Gazebo.



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