



## Town Clerk's Report

This year begins a new milestone in Arundel's history... 100 years of independence! Although we may never know exactly why the residents of the "upper end" of Kennebunkport choose to "break away" and form their own independent town, I'm sure it was done with considerable thought and planning. The duties and responsibilities of managing on their own was what the "old fashion" town meeting was all about. As we can see in some of the old town report books, not only were the leadership roles accepted, but much of the road maintenance and other duties were shared by residents in various sections of the town. This sense of community – neighbor helping neighbor - is something that we, as a town, need to continue to foster. It's what makes Arundel "Home"!

Recapping the past year's events, the June elections, even with a State Primary, were fairly low key. This was the first year that the RSU #21 scheduled their Budget Validation Referendum in conjunction with our Municipal and State Elections. Since voters are accustomed to June and November elections, this not only provides consistency, but also reduces election costs for programming and staffing.

The annual Town Meeting at the MLD Gym was attended by approximately 43 voters. The town voted to adopt the second TIF (Tax Increment Finance district) for the Seasonal Cottage that will be constructed on the Portland Road. Funds from this TIF will be used to promote economic development and infrastructure along the Route 1 business corridor. The first TIF district was adopted on March 24, 2014 for the Central Maine Power line upgrades of their power lines and is designated for Fire-Rescue equipment and training related to wildland fire and rescue.

Another item approved at the Town Meeting along with the FY 2015

Budget was an E-911 Addressing Ordinance to conform to Federal requirements. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan were also adopted in preparation of changes to the Land Use Ordinance to keep both documents consistent.

The Parking Ordinance that applied to the “No Parking” along the Limerick Road near the Eastern Trail was amended after a Public Hearing held by the Selectmen. The ordinance was modified to allow for 5 parking spaces to be constructed by the Public Works Department. Arundel residents can now access the trail without having to park out of town!

November Elections drew a very good voter turnout for the Gubernatorial Election and State Referendum that included a controversial Bear Hunting Initiative. We had a total of 1984 votes cast (67% participation) which included 328 absentee ballots. More voters are choosing the option of absentee or early voting. This option is available 30 days prior to any secret ballot election. An absentee ballot can be requested by telephone by the voter only, by written request by the voter or an immediate family member or the voter can cast a ballot directly at the Town Office during regular business hours up to the close of business on the Thursday before the election. This allows the clerks’ time to prepare for Election Day. During State elections, an online absentee request can be made through the State of Maine [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov) website. It is important to exercise your right to vote and to teach the next generation of its importance!

Again, I would like to say a very special “Thank You” to everyone that helps to make Election Day work as smoothly as it does. Wendy Lank and Ann Tardif assist with the absentee voting that takes place the month before Election Day. The Public Works Department and Fire Department help me set up the booths and logistics of the polls in the bays as well as taking things down that evening and the next day. The Ballot Clerks do a great job of keeping everyone flowing through the check in line and assisting with the new voting machines. Doris Taschereau, our Election Warden, is Clerk of the Works and puts in a long day! We also have a dedicated team of Ballot Clerks that come at the very end to tabulate, sort and seal all the ballots for

safekeeping. This team effort is why we are able to make the process work for the voters. Now... if we could only solve the parking issue...

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, a special Town Meeting was held at the request of the Arundel Seasonal Cottages to extend the occupancy time at the resort from May 1st to December 31st to allow cottage owners and their guests to take advantage of Prelude and local Christmas events.

As you can see, things are definitely not slowing down at the Town Office. Again I would like to take the time to thank Ann Tardif, Wendy Lank, and Lisa Denner... the Town Office team!... Our Manager Todd Shea has moved on and we wish him the best in his new position. We thoroughly enjoyed working with Jack Turcotte who jumped in to fill in as Interim Town Manager and helped us navigate the budget in preparation for our upcoming town meeting. We are looking forward to working with our new Manager Keith Trefethen who will be starting on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Simone Boissonneault  
Town Clerk

