

**Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians**  
**Natural Resources Department**  
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## Where Do You Fish?

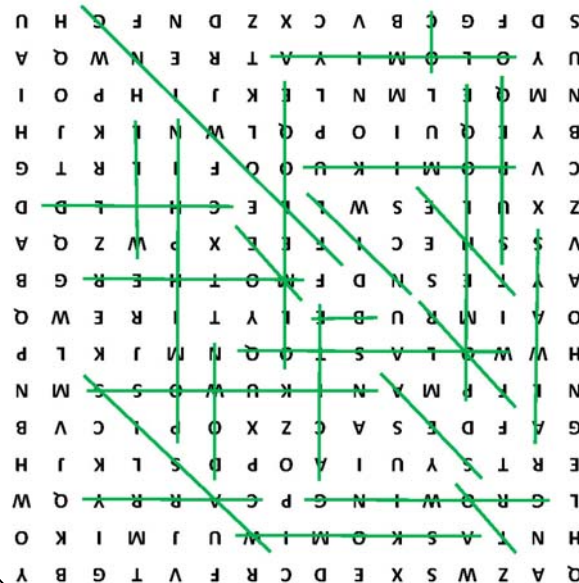
No, we're not looking to steal your favorite fishing hole, we're just trying to come up with a list of the waters HBMI members regularly fish.

We don't want specifics such as "Dow's Hole", or "just past the boulder at the mouth of Big Brook". All we need, for example, is the "Medux in Littleton" or "Big Brook".

This is part of our ongoing efforts to protect water quality and help ensure that the fish you catch is safe to eat.

Please give Sam St. John a call 207-532-4273 ext. 216, message us on Facebook through the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Natural Resources Page, or send an email to Sam at [ssjohn@maliseets.com](mailto:ssjohn@maliseets.com).

## Word Search Answers



**Follow us on Facebook**

Let us know if you like what you see -  
we'd love to hear from you!

## Siqon - March 2019



Clarissa Sabattis – Tribal Chief  
Susan Young - Editor

*This newsletter is printed on 100%  
recycled chlorine free paper*



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## Unlikely Allies - Urban Coyotes and Songbirds

Few animals trigger controversy like the coyote does. Love them or hate them, they are an integral part of the environment. Coyotes are very adaptable and can be found in a wide variety of habitats, from rural agricultural lands and woodlots to urban cityscapes. According to the Urban Coyote Initiative, urban coyotes are found in practically every city in the United States.

There are many myths surrounding the urban coyote that translate to coyotes everywhere, such as coyotes eating your pets and getting into your garbage. The Urban Coyote Initiative has compiled a list of 10 fascinating facts about the urban coyote with one really surprising fact - urban coyotes actually help songbird populations in parks, not by eating feral or stray cats but simply by being there.



"Urban coyotes reduce the presence of feral and free-roaming cats in natural spaces, which helps protect songbirds in parks." "In a 2013 study, urban coyote researchers collared 39 feral cats. They found that while urban coyotes tend to stick to parks, wilderness preserves and other fragments of green habitats, the cats steer clear of the coyotes' turf. The felines keep out of these small patches of wilderness and thus aren't predating songbirds. Songbirds aren't on a coyote's menu, so they have a better chance to thrive when coyotes are present and deterring mesopredators (medium sized predator) such as cats. Other studies in California showed that coyotes reducing cat activity in habitat fragments resulted in an increase in the nesting success of songbirds in those habitats."

Other interesting urban coyote facts include:

1. **Urban coyotes can create territories out of a patchwork of parks and green spaces.** They don't need one big chunk of green space to thrive, they actually make do with small patches of huntable territory if there is enough food and shelter available and they are able to avoid human contact. For the most part they try to avoid residential areas. The size of their territory can range from two square miles to 10 square miles or more.

2. **Urban coyote dens are surprisingly hard to find.** You might think finding a den in the middle of a park would be easy but they tend to hide their dens very well and usually have multiple entrances to hide their activity. Coyote parents are very protective of their pups and keep them well hidden from threats.

*Continued page 6*



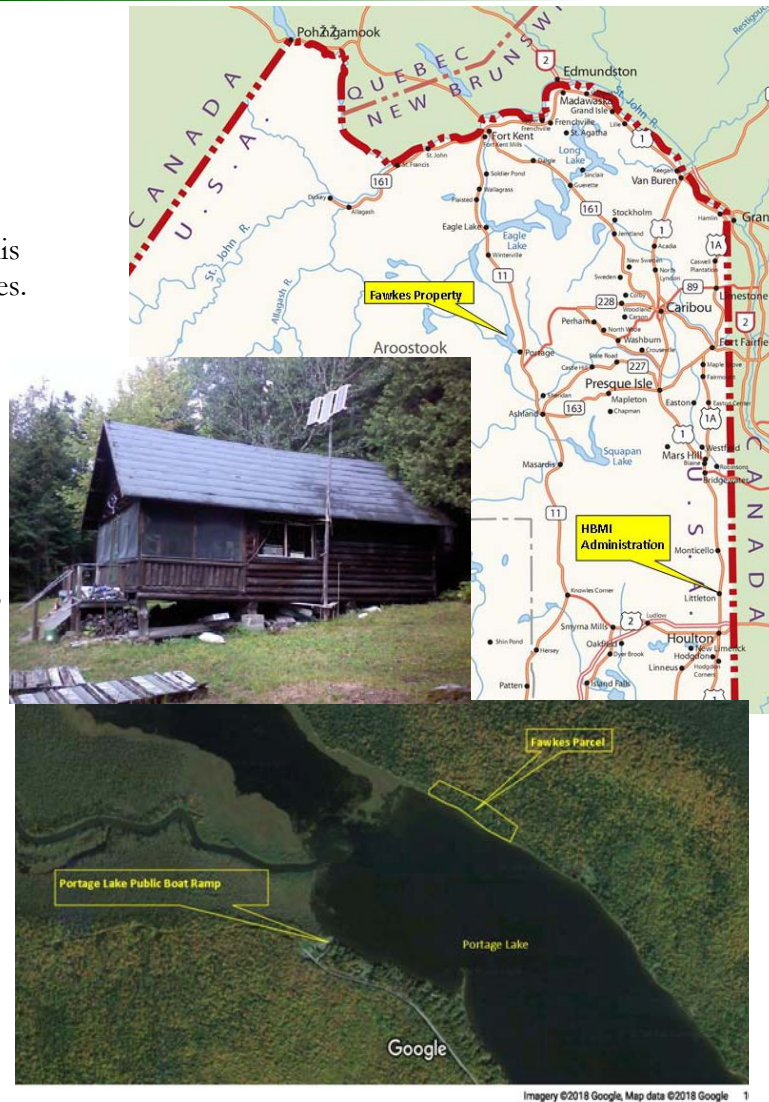
## Tribal Land Update

We're pleased to announce we have acquired additional land in Aroostook County, Maine. In October 2018 the Tribe acquired 3.4 acres of waterfront property on Portage Lake in northern Aroostook County, Maine. This purchase brings the Tribe's total acreage to 1,443.50 acres.

This remote parcel and it's cabin is located on the east side of Portage Lake at Oak Point across from the public boat launch in Portage Lake, Maine.

This unique parcel, accessible only by water, sports a small rustic cabin with approximately 450 feet of frontage on Portage Lake. The unique features of this property make it ideal for tribal ceremonies and retreats; hunting, fishing, and gathering; bird and wildlife watching; wilderness camping experiences; star gazing, and more.

We have submitted a fee to trust application for this parcel that is currently under review by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Hopefully, it will be added to our trust land inventory sometime in 2019.



### 3) Polarized Sunglasses

Depending on the area you're fishing, there are different methods of knowing where the fish are. As discussed previously, you may see trout rise—an ideal giveaway. But if not, you can occasionally see flashes of color near the bottom as they search for food. Cast upstream from here and await luck.

### 4) Disturb Little. Be Quiet. Go Unnoticed.

As you approach the watering hole, it's advised to where colors matching your surroundings, from the fish's perspective: a blue shirt to match the afternoon sky and perhaps neutral-colored pants/waders to blend into the backdrop. If you have waders, but you can reach your target from shore, don't disturb the water-cast from the bank.

### 5) Timing Your Strike

React to what you feel, not what you see. Just because a fish rises and takes your bait does not mean you should set the hook. If you haven't FELT the slight tug, a premature strike could cause the fly to come free before he completely takes your presentation.

[www.maine.com/maine-outdoors/5-tips-spring-gfishing](http://www.maine.com/maine-outdoors/5-tips-spring-gfishing)



## Snow Water Equivalent. What is it and why is it important?

### National Weather Service Caribou



The snow water equivalent (often abbreviated SWE) is a common snowpack measurement. It is the amount of water contained within the snowpack. An easy way to think of it is the depth of water that would

result if you were to melt the entire snowpack instantaneously. The density of the snow plays a big role in the snow water equivalent. If the snow is dry/powdery it will contain less water content than a heavy/wet snow.

The SWE becomes very important as we head into the late winter and spring. The SWE across northern Maine is typically several inches by late winter, and if this were to get released rapidly due to a rapid warm up or heavy rain event, the water contained in the snowpack will enter the rivers and streams and can cause ice movement, ice jams, and river flooding.

The Maine Cooperative Snow Survey collects, interprets, and distributes information on the depth and water content of Maine's snowpack in the late winter and early spring, when the danger of flooding in Maine's rivers and streams is greatest. The National Weather Service Forecast Offices in Caribou and Gray help to take some of the measurements.

You can check out the maps of snow depth and snow water equivalent at [https://www.maine.gov/rfac/rfac\\_snow.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/rfac/rfac_snow.shtml)

The USGS made a great video that shows how to measure the snow depth and snow water equivalent: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvy-IeNtMK0&feature=youtu.be>



Fiddlehead ferns are the not-yet-unfurled, young fronds of edible ferns—usually Ostrich ferns—that make an appearance for a brief window in spring. Their grassy, earthy flavor is often likened to asparagus, green beans, even mushrooms—spring in a bite.



### PREP

Snap off the stem in excess of an inch or so and rinse well; some may have a fuzzy or papery brown covering that needs to be removed. Since fiddleheads don't store well, buy them no more than a couple days before you plan to use them.

### FINDING THEM

Fiddleheads are mostly foraged from the wild in the northeast, midwest, and Canada. Keep an eye out at farmers' markets when the weather starts to turn warm—early April in southern areas; into the summer farther north. You can pick them yourself, but go with someone experienced—lots of inedible ferns look similar. Look for small, firm, bright green curled fronds.



### COOKING THEM

Fiddleheads always need to be cooked. Blanch or steam them for at least 5 minutes. Sauté them and serve them like asparagus, with lemon butter or hollandaise, or with a little soy sauce and sprinkle of toasted sesame seeds. Pickle them in apple cider vinegar with shallots, garlic, salt, and dill and add them to salads. They're also delicious chopped and added to quiches and frittatas, although you lose their beautiful curled shape.



From Rodales Organic Life on Facebook



## Urban Coyotes continued

They will move the pups to a new location. So even if you are lucky enough to stumble upon a den, chances are it won't still be occupied if you come back the next day.

3. **Urban coyotes may live in family packs or on their own at different points in their lives.** It's common to see a lone coyote hunting or travelling on its own, but that doesn't necessarily mean it is alone.



4. **Urban coyotes mate for life and are monogamous.** They are 100% faithful to their mates only moving on when their mate dies.

5. **Urban coyotes do not feast on pets and garbage, they typically stick to a natural diet.** It's a popular myth that coyotes will eat your cat or dog at their first chance or that they will seek out your garbage. Actually most coyotes prefer a natural diet. Though they are opportunistic omnivores they will eat assorted fruits, vegetables, and animal prey such as mice and squirrels. This does not mean that they will not take a cat or small dog from time to time, but that is the exception rather than the rule.

6. **Urban coyotes often switch from naturally diurnal and crepuscular (twilight) activity to nocturnal activity.** Coyotes are active at all hours throughout the day and night, but tend towards dawn, dusk and night to avoid encountering humans and others they are naturally afraid of. Seeing a coyote in broad daylight, just as seeing a raccoon during the day does not mean they are sick or acting strangely, it just means they are out and about.

7. **Urban coyotes reduce the presence of feral and free-roaming cats in natural spaces, which helps protect songbirds in parks.**

8. **Urban coyotes help control the populations of other sometimes problematic urban wildlife like rodents, deer, and Canada geese.** Although in some situations coyotes may take a fawn or raid goose nests for eggs, they rarely take adult geese or deer and they do not make much of an impact on those populations.

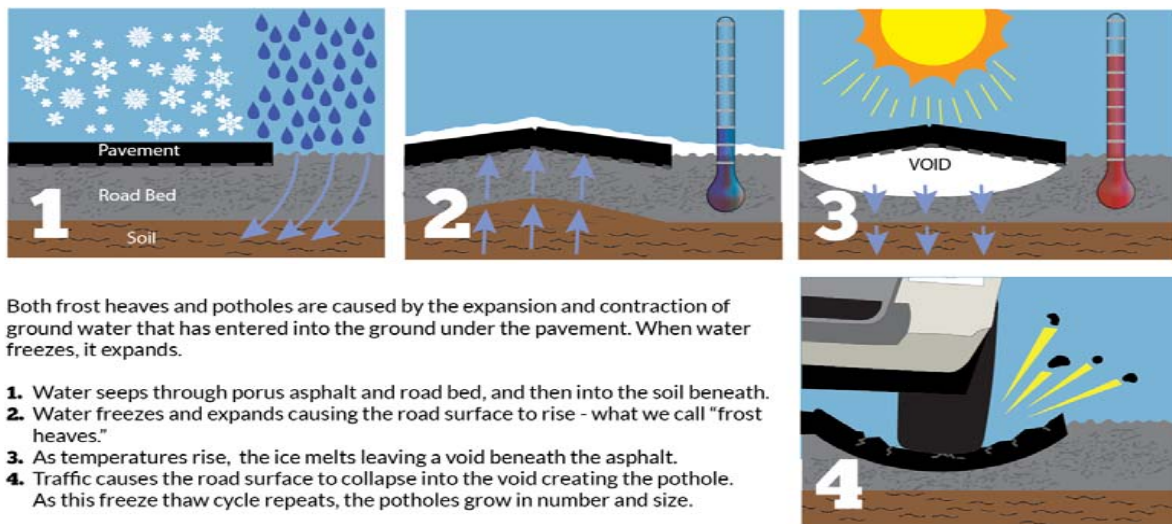
9. **The easiest way for city residents to avoid negative interactions with coyotes is to avoid feeding them, either actually or on purpose, and otherwise habituating them to humans.** Most wildlife have a natural fear of humans, feeding them causes them to lose that fear and become bold or aggressive. Unfortunately once an animal loses its fear of humans it usually becomes a problem animal and is often killed by animal control. Help keep wildlife wild and don't feed them.

10. **Trapping and killing or relocating urban coyotes does not reduce the overall population of coyotes.** Actually it does the opposite. Coyotes are highly territorial and keep others out of their home range, once a coyote is removed from an area others move in to take its place.

Check out Jaymi Heimbuch's entire article on the urban coyote at the Urban Coyote Initiative's website at

<https://urbancoyoteinitiative.com/10-fascinating-facts-about-urban-coyotes/>

## Frost Heaves - Mother Nature's Speed Bumps!



How Frost Heaves and Potholes Form - Maine DOT [www.maine.gov/mdot](http://www.maine.gov/mdot)

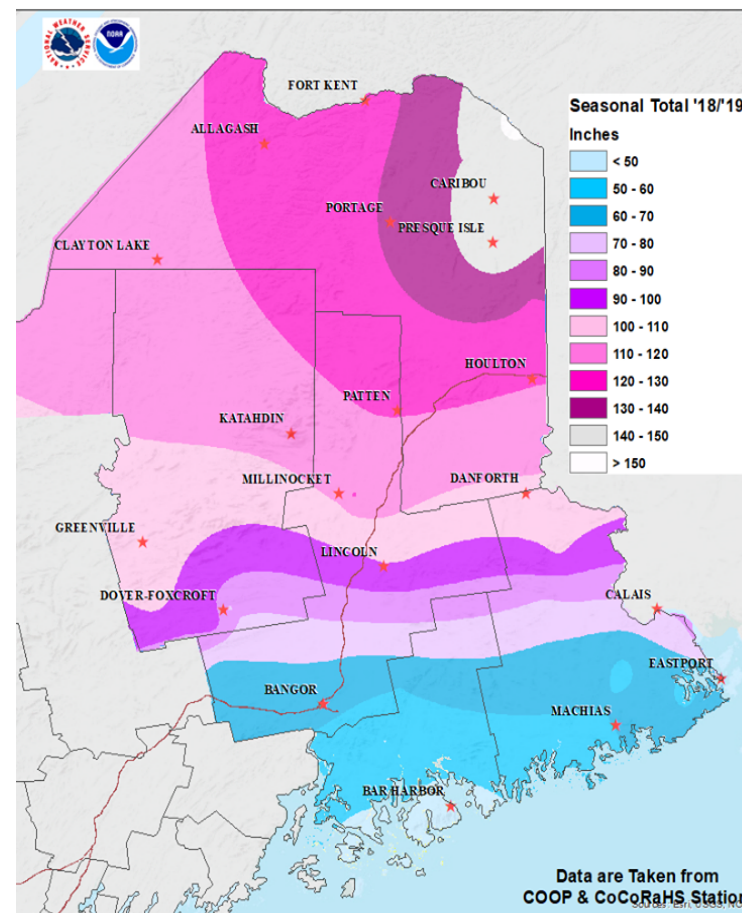


## No it's not your Imagination

Well it's official, the winter of 2018-2019 is proving to be one for the record books. All areas of the country have been touched by extreme winter weather, from freezing temperatures, hurricane force winds to huge snowfalls. Although the calendar says the first day of Spring is March 20th, I don't think that's going to hold true for us here in northern Maine. I doubt we'll be seeing any bare ground, green grass, or crocus blooming anytime soon, winter's just not quite done with us yet. According to the National Weather Service in Caribou, the all-time latest measurable snowfall recorded in Caribou was on May 25, 1974 when 0.2 inches of snow fell.

This winter seems especially long since we got our first measurable snow back in October and we haven't seen much of the ground since. According to the National Weather Service in Caribou, as of February 28, 2019, Houlton has received between 120 - 130 inches (that's over 10 feet!) of snow this winter - that's 40 - 60 inches more than usual! The snowiest winter season of all time was in 2007-2008 where the County received 197.8 inches of snow. Yes you read that right, 197.8 inches or 16.48 FEET of snow!

Season-to-Date Snowfall  
(as of Feb 28)



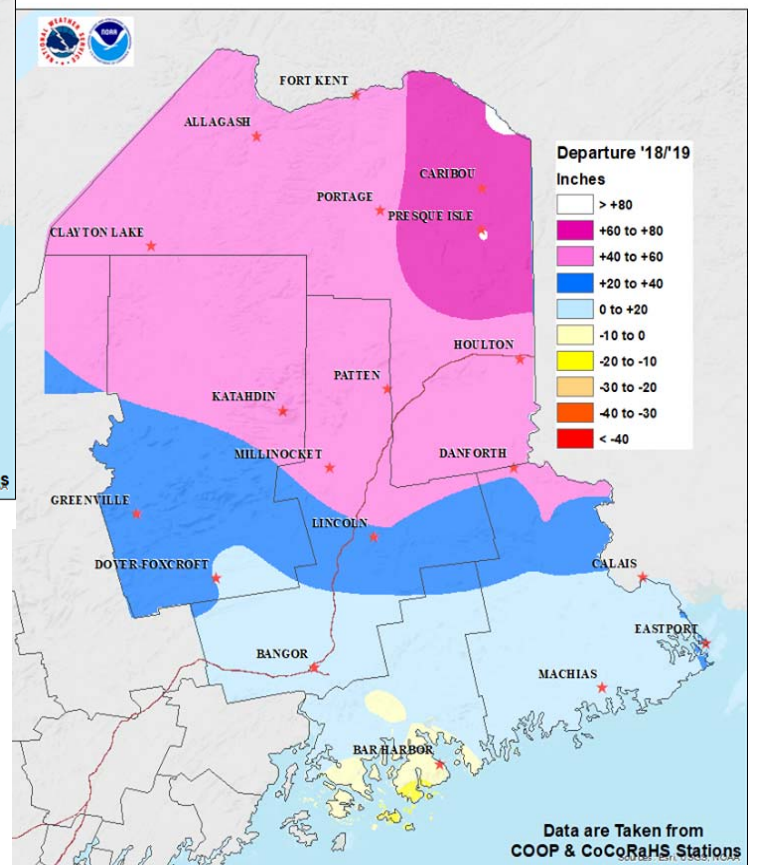
[www.weather.gov/car](http://www.weather.gov/car)

This winter has also brought us unusually high winds and blowing snow causing many roads and some towns to close for everyone's safety.

The upside to all this?  
Mud season won't be here for a bit.



Season-to-Date Snowfall Departure from Average  
(as of Feb 28)





## Song to Wolastoq by Sagatay



If you've been following our newsletters, you know that we've been actively engaging in international summits with other Maliseet communities and a number of US and Canadian federal agencies with regards to the Wolastoq (St. John) River and our desire to return Atlantic salmon to our waters. Many of these summits are opened with a song for the Wolastoq.

"This song is a gift from our late Elder Gwen Bear. The song is considered an honour song by the Wolastoqiyik since it pays tribute to our great grandmother Wolastoq, our beautiful and bountiful river that has been renamed St. John by the settlers. Elder Gwen went to Wolastoq to pray for strength following the loss of her beautiful mother Yvonne. As she sat under a tree close to the bank of the river, she told us that she heard our river singing to her, not to forget that she too was still our mother. The song is sung like a lullaby that a mother would sing to her child. When she first sang it to us in ceremony, we were all touched by the melody and the words. Special thanks to Ursula Bear, for sharing this story about her aunt and the origin of this beautiful song.

The words of the song are:

<i>Wolastoq pomehloqe</i>	<i>Wolastow is flowing</i>
<i>Acite pomiku</i>	<i>Flowing and Growing</i>
<i>Wolastoq olmeloqe</i>	<i>Wolastoq is flowing down</i>
<i>Supeg Olomiya</i>	<i>To the sea</i>
<i>Nikuwoss Pomihphih (2x)</i>	<i>Mother carry me</i>
<i>Wasis oc nil askomiw (2x)</i>	<i>For a child I will always be</i>

You can hear Gwen talk about and sing this song at  
<https://vimeo.com/48972893>

At 11:40 min following  
Micmac Honor Song



Find the lyrics of the  
Wolastoq song in the  
puzzle at right

<b>Wolastoq</b>	<b>Flowing</b>
<b>Pomehloqe</b>	<b>Growing</b>
<b>Acite</b>	<b>Down</b>
<b>Pomiku</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>Olmeloqe</b>	<b>The</b>
<b>Supeg</b>	<b>Sea</b>
<b>Olomiya</b>	<b>Mother</b>
<b>Nikuwoss</b>	<b>Carry</b>
<b>Pomihphih</b>	<b>Me</b>
<b>Wasis</b>	<b>For</b>
<b>Oc</b>	<b>Child</b>
<b>Nil</b>	<b>Will</b>
<b>Askomiw</b>	<b>Always</b>
	<b>Be</b>

### Wolastoq Word Search Puzzle



## Census 2020

While the rest of the world seems to be obsessed with the upcoming 2020 elections, we've been working on the 2020 census. As you may know, the US Constitution requires that a federal census be conducted every ten years. The first census dates back to 1790. The census data is used to determine federal funding, grants, and supports to states and tribes.

But wait, if the census isn't for another year or so, just what have we been doing? Most people think the census simply involves asking questions about where you live, what you do, how many people live in your household, etc. In order to get really accurate information (statistical data), a lot of behind the scenes work needs to take place. For example, there is the Boundary Annexation Survey or BAS for short that collects legally defined geographic areas in the US. For HBMI that means a correct representation of tribal trust land boundaries.

Once the BAS is done, then the Local Update of Census Addresses or LUCA comes in to play. That's where we verify all the physical addresses contained within our tribal trust lands. That way we make sure all our tribal homes, buildings, and apartments are accounted for and nothing is left out.

Once the BAS and LUCA is completed, we move on to the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) portion of the census. This gives us the chance to ensure our information is correct within the surrounding towns and entities before it moves forward to the actual collection of the federal census. Whew, that's a lot of details being tended to behind the scenes. Luckily the LUCA and PSAP components only need to be completed every 10 years, while the BAS is done every year. With any luck, next year our Portage Lake parcel will have completed the trust process and we can report the change to our trust land boundaries.

## Census Bureau Job Openings for 2020 Census in Maine

The U.S. Census Bureau is accepting applications for temporary field positions for the 2020 Census in every county of Maine and office positions for the Augusta area.

The 2020 Census Jobs website <https://2020census.gov/jobs> allows applicants to apply for a range of positions, including recruiting assistants, office operations supervisors, clerks, census field supervisors, and census takers by completing a single application online. Opportunities are available in the entire state and offer flexible work hours, including daytime, evenings, and weekends.

Available jobs:

- **Recruiting assistants (\$18.00 per hour)** travel throughout geographic areas to visit with community based organizations, attend promotional events, and conduct other recruiting activities.
- **Office operations supervisors (\$17.00 per hour)** assist in the management of office functions and day-to-day activities in one or more functional areas, including payroll, personnel, recruiting, field operations, and support.
- **Clerks (\$13.00 per hour)** perform various administrative and clerical tasks to support various functional areas, including payroll, personnel, recruiting, field operations, and

support.

- **Census field supervisors (\$18.00 per hour)** conduct fieldwork to support and conduct on-the-job training for census takers and/or follow-up in situations where census takes have confronted issues such as not gaining entry to restricted areas.
- **Census takers (\$16.50 per hour)** work in the field. Some field positions require employees to work during the day to see addresses on buildings. Other field positions involve interviewing the public, so employees must be available to work when people are usually at home such as in the evening and on weekends.

Applications will be placed in an applicant pool for 2020 Census positions in which they qualify for as jobs become available in their area. Applications will remain active and updateable throughout the 2020 Census recruiting and hiring period.

For more information contact 1-855-JOB-202 and select option three. Applicants may also contact the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. For more information please visit the 2020 Census Jobs Page <https://2020census.gov/jobs> or the Census Bureau's Facebook ([www.facebook.com/uscensusbureau](https://www.facebook.com/uscensusbureau)) Twitter ([www.twitter.com/uscensusbureau](https://www.twitter.com/uscensusbureau)) and LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com/company/us-census-bureau](https://www.linkedin.com/company/us-census-bureau)) pages.