

Citizen input needed for town visioning and planning event

Peter Drucker, world-renowned management guru, said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." This also holds true for the Town of Damariscotta, where the Damariscotta Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC) has spent more than a year talking with people who live, work, shop, and do business in Damariscotta, asking them to help create the town's future.

Through its Heart and Soul program, DPAC members have been interviewing people, conducting surveys, hosting community conversations, and engaging young people.

The goal of these efforts is to identify qualities that make Damariscotta a great community and build off those characteristics to shape the town's future.

The citizen input is now a vision statement draft which, when finalized, will be used to help guide planning decisions and steer change in a positive direction.

DPAC hosted a public meeting, providing area residents with

an update of activities and an introduction to a five-day event taking place in October. The committee thanks all of the attendees for their participation. The results of that meeting will be provided in future issues of *The Lincoln County News* and on LCTV.

From Oct. 22-26, the town will be conducting a five-day event called a "charrette" at the Round Top Barn.

The facilities for this event are being provided by the Damariscotta River Association. Part town meeting, part open house, and part focus group, the charrette is designed to gather further input from area residents and start to evaluate alternative ways of making Damariscotta's vision a reality.

The charrette will consist of community workshops in the evening, meetings with interest groups and a 'drop in studio' at multiple times over the weekend to allow full public participation. On the last evening, there will be a presentation to the public on the

results of the sessions.

There will be many opportunities for the community to offer more feedback on a vision statement for Damariscotta, which will be used to foster a sustainable economic, environmentally friendly, and caring community for the future.

As a highlight of the charrette, a team of consultants will use a series of computer-generated visualizations and models to present alternative scenarios for future growth and development, based on participant input.

In discussing the future, Drucker also said, "The only thing we know about the future is that it will be different." DPAC needs everyone's participation to make sure that, for Damariscotta, the difference will be a positive one. Be sure to set some time aside during the Oct. 22-26 charrette to participate in either the formal meeting times or the drop in studios. Let one's voice be heard and help create the town's future.

The Damariscotta Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC) is

a town committee appointed by the board of selectmen "to lead a community driven process to make the Damariscotta region a better place to live, work, play, do business and visit for all people."

The Heart and Soul program is a partnership of the Orton Family Foundation, Friends of Midcoast Maine, and the Town of Damariscotta. For more information about DPAC and details of the October charrette, please visit www.damariscottame.com.

Newcastle public meeting on joining Gateway 1

Newcastle Land Use Ordinance Review Committee Public Meeting on joining Gateway 1 (from the Sept. 3 LCN issue) will be held Thurs., Sept 24 at 7 p.m. at the Newcastle Firehouse, not Lincoln Academy.