

The Newsletter of the Friends of Mt. Agamenticus

Winter 2022

## WINTER MAKER - ORION

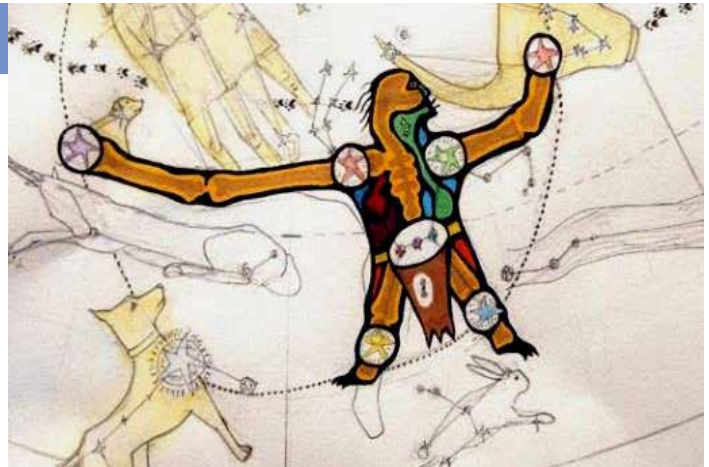
“...instead of deep snow or thick ice, Winter Maker sent a chilling wind that raged for many days without stopping. The breath of his wind was so cold that it cracked rocks and broke trees.”<sup>1</sup>



Winter Maker woodcut from *Shingebiss: An Ojibwe Legend* by Nancy Van Laan; Illustrated by Betsy Bowen

The Ojibwe Native Americans have a strong seasonal connection to the stars of the constellation know as “Orion”, the Great Hunter, from Greek mythology, only they know him as “Kabibona’kan”\* - “Winter Maker”. As he dominates the winter night sky, so he dominates the land and its creatures who tremble in their winter shelters. Winter, in the Ojibwe nations, is the time to gather and tell stories passed down from “Chemaywe’ya” - the way-back time.

“Orion”, one of the most recognizable constellations in human history, appears in late November in the northern hemisphere, rising in the east around 8 pm and setting in the west around 6 am. From January to March it appears in the south-east around 6 pm and sets around 2 am. Its four main stars - Betelgeuse, Bellatrix, Saiph, and Rigel, form an hour glass shape with the three bright, equally spaced stars - Alnitak, Alnilam, and Mintaka, in the middle, forming Orion’s renowned belt.



Wintermaker Constellation; Artist – Annette Lee - (Source: Make Way for the Wintermaker - Sky & Telescope - Sky & Telescope (skyandtelescope.org))

In the southern hemisphere, “Orion” appears upside down. In Australia, his belt and sword are called “The Saucepan”. The Maori of New Zealand call the belt “Tautoru” - String of Three. In Latin America and Spain, they’re “Las Tres Marias” - The Three Marys; in Puerto Rico, “Los Tres Reyes Magos” - The Three Wise Men.

NASA’s Hubble telescope has delivered striking images of this cosmic collection of stars, nebulae, and deep sky objects. The much grander James Webb Space Telescope was just launched



December 25, 2021, so perhaps now is a good to time explore “Orion”, as “Winter Maker” rants on for weeks to come.

<sup>1</sup> Shingebiss An Ojibwe Legend, retold by Nancy Van Laan; Woodcuts by Betsy Bowen; Houghton Mifflin

\*Kabibona’kan aka: Biboonkeonini

# Mt. Agamenticus Plein Air Paint Out 9/27 ~ 10/31

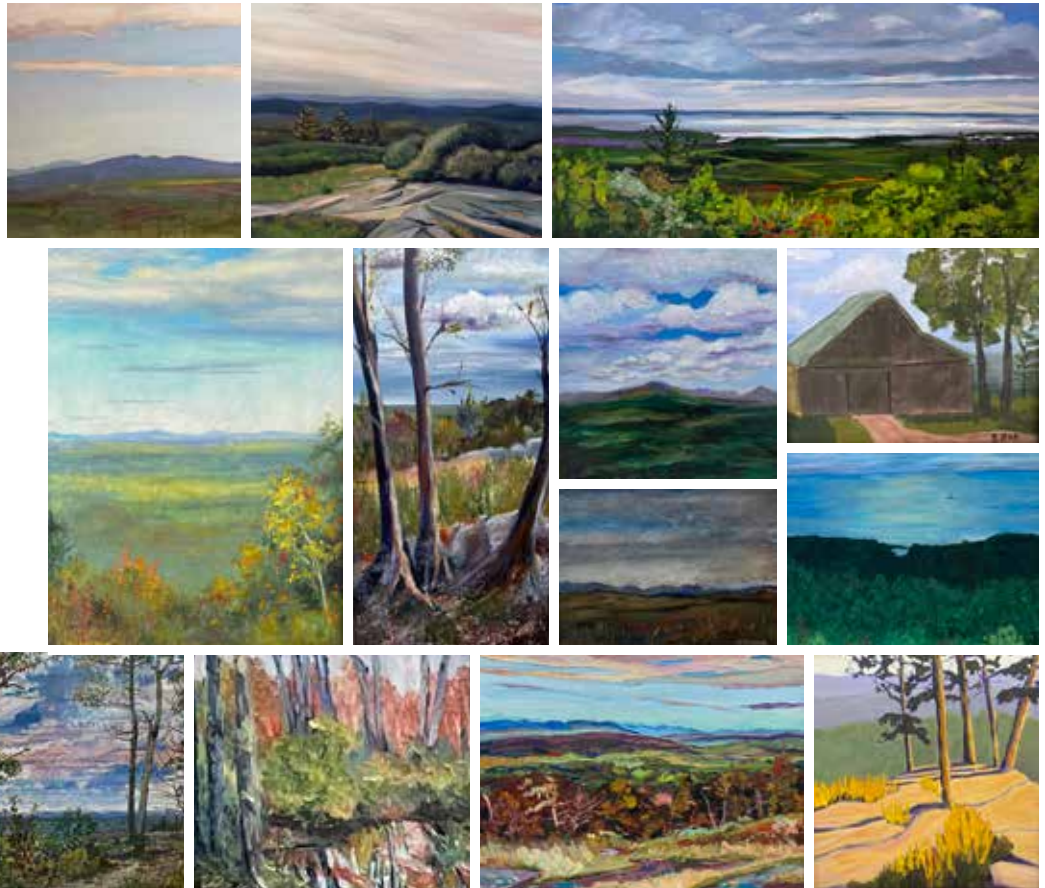
Maryse Newton

On a lovely day in autumn (9/21/21) a group of artists painted Plein Air amidst the sunny skies, saltwater breeze and beautiful scenes atop Mt. Agamenticus. The gorgeous weather allowed clear views for miles as Mt. Washington was also seen in the distance. All original pieces were for sale as the fundraiser supported Friends of Mt. Agamenticus, York Art Association and the artists. Thank you to the participating artists and a special thank you to our sponsors for making this special event happen. We have a wonderful community!

Here are a few images of the art created during this event.

Artists:

Tamara Jones,  
Michael E. Vermette,  
Maria Nemchuck,  
Erin Micozzi,  
Caren-Marie Michel, Allison Donohue,  
Susan Wierzba, Brian Barresi, Sandy Nelson,  
Melinda Campbell, Kelly Jewell, Paula Dorr,  
Maryse Newton



Sponsors: York Rotary Club, My Wine-y Sister, Hannaford, Friends of Mt. Agamenticus and York Art Association

## Choose Fabulous Find for your New Year Shopping to Help Friends of Mount Agamenticus!

Friends of Mount Agamenticus is honored to be one of the January 2022 charities, along with the Seacoast Child Advocacy Center, chosen by The Fabulous Find!

The Fabulous Find, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (listed under A Caring Community), is a beautifully merchandized boutique-style resale shop at 139 State Rd. (Route One) in Kittery. All profits for the month of January 2022 will be donated to these two charities selected by their board for this month. In 11 years, The Fabulous Find has given out over \$2 million to more than 150 local non-profits. Amazing!

With their assistance and yours, Friends of Mount A will be able to continue the goal of supporting the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program. Thank you!

The Fabulous Find  
Resale Boutique

\* Donate and Shop \*  
in January and Support

FRIENDS OF MOUNT AGAMENTICUS  
SEACOAST CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

Come shop for your "Fabulous Finds"  
Bring in your gently worn clothing, jewelry  
and home decor

Open Mon, Wed-Sat 9:30am-5:30pm, Sun 11am-4pm,  
Closed Tuesdays

\* Non-Profit \* 139 State Road, Kittery \* (207)439-8669 \*  
[www.thefabulousfind.org](http://www.thefabulousfind.org)

## Species Spotlight Barred owl, *Strix varia*



Joe Mazzaglia

While snow continues to fall, wildlife are already beginning their breeding seasons. Our local barred owls are incredibly chatty this time of year and they use their monkey-like calls to attract mates and defend territories. You may have heard their “who cooks for you, who cooks for you all,” call before. They can actually make over 100 different calls! Barred owls are getting ready for their yearly clutch of owlets and will begin nesting in March, with one to five young hatching about a month later. They weigh about as much as six or seven grapes and are white, fluffy, and helpless when they hatch. Mom and dad will continue to care for their young until late summer and early fall. At that point the young owls will be one to two pound adults and will leave their parent’s territory.

Barred owls are one of the most common owl species in Maine and are often seen relaxing on a branch or powerline, even in the middle of the day. They are not too picky about food, habitat, or nest types. Their favorite habitat however are wetlands because they love to hunt amphibians! Barred owls also tend to be curious, so if you hear one calling, try calling back! Even if you’re still practicing your owl calls, it may come over and say hello! This is a great and safe way to try to connect with your wild neighbors.

By Kristen Brewster, Center for Wildlife Resident Environmental Educator & Nature Center Team Lead

## Steering the Way for Our Mt. A Melinda Campbell

Are you curious about how this beautiful mountain, which rose from the sea, became a conservationist treasure for all? The trails, birding opportunities and wonderful fresh vistas Mount Agamenticus offers have quite an extensive history before becoming the beautiful conservation area we all enjoy. To seek some answers, I interviewed Steering Committee member, John Branagan (JB), representing South Berwick. We had an amazing conversation about the concerted efforts that have ensured Mount Agamenticus remains a conservation treasure.

Thanks to the Mount A Steering Committee composed of state, local and non-profit landowners working together to protect Mount A’s water, wildlife, and land we are able to enjoy birding, hiking, and glorious vistas. The Mount Agamenticus Steering Committee includes: the towns of York and South Berwick, York Water District, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Great Works Regional Land Trust, and York Land Trust.

The “Save Agamenticus” committee was formed in response to a development proposal (3000 residential units). The committee was hoping to establish the area as a wilderness area or a wildlife preserve. The Mount Agamenticus Steering Committee was also established in order to develop planning guidelines. Private land was being purchased in the name of conservation with an emphasis on preserving the natural resources, water quality and maintaining the recreational resources of the area. To summarize, a mountain was saved which previously had different paths and uses throughout the 20th and 21st centuries: clear-cut during the industrial revolution; a fire tower twice in 1918 and the 1950s to protect the surrounding area; during WWII with a Summit Radar Tower to protect Portsmouth and Kennebunkport Harbors; a ski resort “The Big A Ski Area” from 1964-1974; cell antenna towers and now, fast forward to the present - Mt. A has become a mountain which once protected us from fire and warfare to a mountain protected by us to be appreciated by future generations through conservation.

Thank you, Mt. A. Steering Committee for your time and countless contributions enlightening the path of history towards ensuring the conservation of Mt. A.

To read more about the history of Mt. A’s Timeline, <http://agamenticus.org/about-mount-a-timeline/>



Present: Seaside west view of Mt. A



1941: Summit Radar Tower



1970: Big A Ski Area

# Mt Agamenticus Parking and Restroom Improvements

– Partnership between the Town of York and York Water District –

## Project Summary

The Mount Agamenticus Parking and Restroom Improvement project is a partnership between the Town of York and York Water District. Designed by Wright-Pierce, this project includes the construction and expansion of both the summit and base parking lots located at Mount Agamenticus, and the construction of public restroom facilities located at both the summit and base.

The project has been in the works for many years, has been approved by Town of York voters and is now in the permitting phase and undergoing Planning Board review.

## Parking Expansion & Improvement Features



**Summit Parking Lot:** The summit proposal will not add additional parking capacity but expands the area to improve congestion and will have designated bus and accessible parking areas.

**Base Parking Lot:** Will eliminate the existing 10-12 spaced gravel lot and parking on Mountain Road and add approximately 82 parking spaces off the access road and accommodate bus drop off/pick up.

**Satellite Parking Lot:** The project will improve the satellite parking at mile 0.2, provide for expanded 7 spaces and stormwater treatment thru level lip spreader.

## Upgraded Public Restrooms

- The project will include the installation of composting toilet facilities. These will replace the costly and inadequate portable facilities that currently exist.
- Composting toilet systems are being used at local, state and federal outdoor recreation areas in sensitive environments such as beaches and national parks.
- The use of composting toilets was investigated specific to Mount Agamenticus and determined to be feasible and appropriate.
- Compositing toilet systems do not require water for flushing, thereby reducing the domestic water consumption.
- They have low power consumption and are well suited for remote sites.

## Stormwater Upgrades

- The project has been designed to incorporate stormwater best management practices (BMPs) including vegetated soil filters, bioretention and level lip spreaders.
- Parking areas will be paved. Incorporation of stormwater BMPs will promote an upgraded level of stormwater quality from the paved parking areas, slow runoff and allow for filtration protecting nearby vernal pools, wetlands and drinking water reservoirs in the watershed.
- The overall design intends to improve stormwater quality to protect an important watershed within the York community - Chases Pond Watershed.

More information about this project, planning documents, maps and more can be viewed on the Mt A website at: [agamenticus.org](http://agamenticus.org)

## Haikus by Sophia Newton

Sparkling treetops  
There's no snow melting today!  
Glad it's here to stay

Bump on horizon  
Sloping trails and overlooks  
Agamenticus



Newsletter written and designed  
by the Friends of Mt. Agamenticus.  
Scan here to Like Mount Agamenticus  
Conservation Region on Facebook!

