



# TOWN OF UNION *Maine*

The month of October saw the end of the mowing season as we wrapped everything up with one last cut before we service the mowing equipment and put it away for winter storage. Speaking of winter, we spent a couple of days getting the trucks and equipment ready for the next season. Plow gear was installed and tested, and all the trucks received their annual rust prevention undercoating.

With less mowing it gave us a chance to finish up some road projects. We replaced four cross culvert sections (eight total culverts) on Skidmore Rd. These old metal culverts were rotten on the bottom and beginning to fail. As with all culverts that we change, we replaced them with “KanaPipe”. KanaPipe is a metal reinforced HDPE pipe which provides 200% greater stiffness than regular HDPE pipe and won’t rust and rot like corrugated metal pipe. Under normal storm water conditions, KanaPipe has a virtually unlimited lifespan. Of course, as we have seen this past year there isn’t a whole lot of “normal” when it comes to rainstorms, and I suspect that’s a trend we’ll be seeing more of.

We began our fall grading process on gravel roads. We graded Barrett Hill, Miller, Overlock Hill, and Butler Rd. And as we normally do, we always add gravel in the worst spots each time we grade a road. The remaining gravel roads will be graded next month.

Two crew members attended a welding/compressed gas safety training at the Safety Works training center in Augusta, and the whole crew attended a Roadway Fundamentals training class which we hosted at the town office. This one-day class was put on by the Maine Local Roads Center and attended by 30 public works professionals from around the area. Some of the topics covered were drainage, culverts/ditching, asphalt pavement, roadway management, bridge maintenance, and traffic and legal issues. A lot of valuable information was gained through this class.

And lastly this month we celebrated the retirement of one of our longest tenured employees. Bryan Paparello retired on October 31<sup>st</sup> after 13 years of service to the town. Bryan was our main excavator operator and of course a plow truck driver. I certainly learned a lot from Bryan in the past three years of working with him and his knowledge of the industry is definitely going to be missed. We wish him all the best in retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Elwell - Public Works Director