

## **If It's Autumn, it's Time for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta**

Each year the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta™ continues to grow into what has become the not-to-be-missed autumn event in New England. What started as a Pumpkinboat race among friends has evolved into a **ten-day** event that celebrates the pumpkin in all its forms.

This year's Pumpkinfest begins the weekend of October 4, when pumpkin growers—both volunteer and professional—bring their giant gourds to Damariscotta to be weighed in. These pumpkins become the stars of Pumpkinfest, as **pumpkinboats** in the Regatta, ammo for the Hurl and Catapult, and works of art that line the streets of the Twin Villages of Damariscotta and Newcastle and beyond.

Once the pumpkins find their homes in the Twin Villages, more than 60 area artists go to work on Friday, October 10, painting and sculpting the giants into fanciful figures ranging from giant cheeseburgers to **Smokey the Bear**, strawberries, puffins, and more. The imagination and artistry is amazing, and viewing the pumpkin art alone makes the trip to the Twin Villages worthwhile.

**More than twenty activities take place** over the Columbus Day Weekend, **including the** Pumpkin Parade on Saturday afternoon, October 11, **and the** highlight of the festival, the **Pumpkinboat Regatta**, on **Monday** afternoon, October 13. In between, there **are the** ever-popular Hurl and Catapult, **the** Pumpkin Drop, Pumpkin Derby, Underwater Pumpkin Carving, and more. There are hands-on activities for kids in the Kid's Zone, **the Pumpkin Derby (mentioned twice ??)**, Pie Eating Contest, and Pumpkin Hunt. In addition, there are activities for mom and dad to enjoy including street buskers, dessert making contest, and a variety of live entertainment at various venues.

There are **also a number** of unaffiliated events **which take** place during Pumpkinfest. The CLC YMCA will again sponsor its "Zombie Run" on Saturday morning, **and two classic** Alfred Hitchcock movies will be aired at the Lincoln Theater from Thursday through **Sunday** evenings. Keep in mind that, unlike the Pumpkinfest festival itself, these events may have **a nominal** charge.

To make it convenient to visit Pumpkinfest, visitors from Brunswick, **Bath and** Wiscasset can enjoy the fun and convenience of rail transport. The Maine Eastern Railroad's *Pumpkin Patch Express* will be stopping at the Newcastle station at 12:15 p.m., and 1:50 p.m., on October 11-13, and departing Newcastle at 4:20 p.m. each day. For more information, please visit [maineeasternrailroad.com](http://maineeasternrailroad.com). Shuttle buses will be available to take visitors to **and from the** Town Center.

For the convenience of Pumpkinfest visitors who will be driving, free satellite parking will be available October 11-13 at Lincoln Academy in Newcastle, for those traveling from the South, and the Great Salt Bay School on Route 1-B in

Damariscotta for those driving from the north. From the south, drivers should take Route 1-B north in Newcastle and follow the signs to Lincoln Academy parking. Coming to Pumpkinfest from the north, follow Route 1-B south where signs will direct you to the Great Salt Bay School parking. Shuttle buses will be available to take visitors into downtown Damariscotta from both locations. A fee of \$1.00 for the shuttle will provide unlimited one-day service for riders. Riders are asked to have exact change to make it easier and quicker for all.

For those attending the Pumpkin Hurl and Catapult competition on Sunday, October 12, there will be no parking at the event. School buses will shuttle participants from both the Lincoln Academy and the Great Salt Bay School satellite parking lots. In addition, there will be parking available at the **Miles & St. Andrews Home Health Care & Hospice Building (the old Tidewater Telecom Building)** parking lot on the northern side of Route 1 **at 40 Belvedere Road, Damariscotta** (look for the blinking traffic light). School buses will be available at this lot to make the short trip to the Hurl and Catapult.

A Pumpkinfest information kiosk will be available to visitors on **October 4-5** and **October 11-13** at the roadside rest stop just north of Marsh River on Route 1, about 3.5 miles north of Wiscasset. The Pumpkinfest program and maps will be available, as well as advice on getting around during the festival.

A new Pumpkinfest “App” has been created via “Eventbase,” an app that is free to the public, and available for Adroid, Apple ad Google mobile devices. The Pumpkinfest app provides the latest schedule of all events, as well as GPS and mapping to the events. Download the Eventbase app for all of the information with a press of the button. When downloading the app, find Pumpkinfest listed under the heading “Festivals.” Search on “Damariscotta Pumpkinfest 2014,” where you will find all events listed by day and date.

Pumpkinfest & Regatta is a 501(C)(3) organization whose mission is to promote education to citizens of all ages regarding the specific agricultural science required to grow giant pumpkins, and to provide local non-profit organizations with opportunities for dissemination of information on their activities and fundraising. For more information about the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta, please visit [www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com](http://www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com) or follow us at [www.facebook.com/damariscottapumpkinfest.com](http://www.facebook.com/damariscottapumpkinfest.com), or twitter, [www.twitter.com/squashbuckler](http://www.twitter.com/squashbuckler).