

**The Pumpkins are Coming, the Pumpkins are Coming!**  
*Damariscotta's Pumpkinfest & Regatta™ Returns October 5-14, 2013*

As the days begin to grow shorter and the evening air turns crisp, pumpkin growers lovingly tend their gourds, hoping to take first prize in the Volunteer Growers Weigh-Off (October 5) or setting a new Maine state record and taking away a chunk of the \$10,000 in prize money in the Official Great Pumpkin Commonwealth Weigh-off (October 6), events that kick off the 2013 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta™.

These giant pumpkins, stars in their own right, become the celebrities of Pumpkinfest as the works of art that grace the streets of the Twin Villages of Damariscotta and Newcastle, and boats that race in the annual Pumpkinboat Regatta. Through the years, thousands of photos have been taken of these stars of Pumpkinfest, by visitors from around the world who participate in the festival.

2013 marks the seventh year for Damariscotta's Pumpkinfest & Regatta™, a 10-day festival that celebrates all things pumpkin. As in past years, Pumpkinfest will feature kids activities on Water Street, dessert making and pie eating contests, the pumpkin hurl and catapult, the pumpkin derby, underwater pumpkin carving, and the ever-popular 180-foot pumpkin drop, to name just a few of the many events that celebrate the orange orb.

With each new year, new activities are added to Pumpkinfest, and this year is no exception. For the entertainment of all there will be street performers throughout the Twin Villages at various times during Columbus Day weekend, October 12-14. Musicians, magicians, puppeteers and more, will be found by visitors along Main, Elm and Theater Streets, entertaining the crowds as they stroll downtown looking at the painted and carved giant pumpkins. Another new activity, a "Zombie Run," will take place at the YMCA on Saturday, October 12, sure to be a hit with racers and spectators alike.

Always popular with visitors is the pumpkin dessert making contest. Bakers will make their favorite desserts, hoping to please the celebrity judges and take home the grand prize. Visitors, however, are the big winners, as they are able to purchase and sample the tasty creations at the end of the judging. An event not to be missed for those with a sweet tooth!

The Pumpkin Derby (think Pinewood Derby with pumpkins), now in its third year, promises again to excite the crowd with returning winners from the past two years, and new racers who will challenge them for the grand prize. The fun of the race is only exceeded by the creativity of the designs of the Derby racers.

Mother Nature presented a challenge to Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta™ this year, requiring a major change in the schedule for the Regatta, always the highlight of the festival. The Regatta has been moved to Monday morning,

October 14, because of the timing of high tide in the Damariscotta harbor. “For the last six years,” explains Pumpkinfest Co-founder and Regatta Chairman Bill Clark, “Mother Nature cooperated and the tides were high enough in the daytime for the Regatta to be held on Sunday.” But not this year. High tides are occurring either too early or too late over the weekend, which would result in the Regatta taking place in the dark. “That’s not a good thing for the racers or the audience.” said Clark. Because of this, the race has been scheduled for Monday at 9:00 a.m., when there will be enough water at the Town landing—what has been dubbed “Pumpkin Cove”—for the giant gourds to float.

For those who wish to visit Pumpkinfest but want to avoid the hassle of driving and parking, The Maine Eastern Railroad’s *Pumpkin Patch Express* train from Brunswick/Bath/Wiscasset will run on Saturday, October 12, arriving at Newcastle at 11:00 a.m., leaving at 4:00 p.m., allowing ample time to participate in many of the activities taking place on Saturday. For more information on the ride or to make a reservation, visit [www.maineeasternrailroad.com](http://www.maineeasternrailroad.com).

To stay on top of all the activities taking place at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta™ or to plan your trip to the Twin Villages to participate in the festival, visit [www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com](http://www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com), or follow us at [www.facebook.com/damariscottapumpkinfest.com](https://www.facebook.com/damariscottapumpkinfest.com), or twitter, [www.twitter.com/squashbuckler](https://www.twitter.com/squashbuckler).

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. Pumpkinfest is pleased to again have *The Lincoln County News* as its official newspaper sponsor, and *Down East Magazine* as its official magazine sponsor.

**2013 Pumpkinfest & Regatta™**  
**Preliminary Schedule of Events**

**Saturday, October 5**

Volunteer Growers Weigh-off

**Sunday, October 6**

Official *Great Pumpkin Commonwealth Weigh-Off*

**Thursday, October 10**

Giant Pumpkin Deployment  
*PumpkinStock* Pub Crawl  
(unaffiliated event)

**Friday, October 11**

Giant pumpkin decorating  
River Company production, *Blithe Spirit* (unaffiliated event)  
The Peterson Project @ Schooner Landing  
*Young Frankenstein*

**Saturday, October 12**

YMCA Zombie Run  
Preliminary boat building  
SKIDOMPHA story hour  
InfoZone  
Kid's activities  
Dessert Making contest  
Pie Eating contest  
Derby Racer building  
Parade  
River Company production, *Blithe Spirit* (unaffiliated event)  
*Young Frankenstein*  
*Pumpkinstock* (unaffiliated event)

**Sunday, October 13**

American Legion Pancake  
Breakfast (unaffiliated event)  
Underwater Pumpkin Carving  
Pumpkin Derby  
Kid's activities  
Pumpkin Hurl (with performance by Peterson Project)  
Pumpkin Drop  
Pumpkin Hunt  
River Company production, *Blithe Spirit* (unaffiliated event)  
*Young Frankenstein*  
Regatta pumpkin boats launched  
The Horseshoe Crabs @ Schooner Landing

**October 14**

Pumpkin Regatta  
Kid's free matinee—*Young Frankenstein*