



**For Immediate Release
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**DAMARISCOTTA RIVER GRILL OPENS *MONHEGAN PERSPECTIVES II* ART SHOW
WITH PUBLIC RECEPTION WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**

Damariscotta, ME - The Damariscotta River Grill's Art at the Grill series is pleased to welcome back a show of beautiful, Maine artwork entitled *Monhegan Perspectives II*. The Grill (www.damariscottarivergrill.com) will host an opening reception, where the public can meet the artists, on Wednesday, June 24 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The artwork, inspired by the six coastal artists' annual two week stay on Monhegan Island, will be displayed from June 22 through August 2, and includes oils, soft pastels, watercolors and acrylics. All artwork will be available for purchase.

The painters whose work will be showcased include four, year-round Maine residents: Betty Heselton (Pemaquid and Gardiner), Sally Loughridge (South Bristol), Marlene Loznicka (New Harbor) and Abbie Williams (Damariscotta), along with two New Haven, Connecticut residents: Joyce Greenfield and Sigrid Smith.

Each of the women offers her personal interpretations of Monhegan – its craggy structure, shifting weather, rugged island life, native vegetation, and harbor and ocean settings.

"Monhegan is one of Maine's most inspiring locations, and we've been anticipating this show for several months," said Damariscotta River Grill owner Jean Kerrigan. "Having this art adds great energy to the restaurant and we know guests will enjoy viewing it."

The beauty and serenity of Monhegan Island has long drawn a multitude of artists -- the renowned, the emerging and the unfamiliar. Through the works of these artists, many island scenes such as Monhegan's sister island, Manana, the wreck of the vessel *DT Sheridan*, the famous "red house" and The Island Inn, have become instantly recognizable.



"Monhegan Fisherman", by local artist Betty Heselton, will be part of the Monhegan Perspectives II art show at Damariscotta River Grill.

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However, even with this level of recognition, for a painter, there are always new perspectives on a scene; the way that light and shadow play upon organic shapes and manmade structures can inspire new ideas and new creations. Abbie Williams reflects, "I love the adventure that painting takes me on."

Unique atmospheric conditions, stark beauty and simple living on Monhegan continue to stir the emotions and fuel the creative energy of the painters. Throughout their cumulative 60 art sojourns on Monhegan, the featured artists have enjoyed the mix of observation, painting, constructive critique, cooking, eating and rich conversation that mark their days on the island.

The group's originator, Marlene Loznicka, recalls first approaching the island in 1987: "As Monhegan emerged out of the fog, I felt immersed in a sense of mystery and of times past." Even today, after many trips to the island, Monhegan never fails to amaze her.

The annual sojourn has now become a firm tradition; a tradition that has deepened both friendship and artistic development. "The rest of the year we spend enormous amounts of time thinking about our experiences and feeling the 'pull' of Monhegan," Says Joyce Greenfield.

The Damariscotta River Grill show reflects not only the painters' common experience and their individual artistic expressions but their passion and love for Monhegan.

About the Damariscotta River Grill:

Since its successful launch in late 2003, the Damariscotta River Grill has firmly established itself as a welcome addition to the coastal Maine dining scene. Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Rick Hirsch (Executive Chef) and Jean Kerrigan (General Manager), the popular restaurant's creative menu features fresh local shellfish, produce and meats, a Wine Spectator Award-winning wine list, and is a favorite of locals and visitors alike.

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