

Paris Town Clerk: New to the Job, Not the Office

by Jackie Rybeck PARIS – 46-year-old Elizabeth Knox, South Paris town clerk, was born in Portland, but raised in the Norway/South Paris area. Her memories as a child were that of backyards, full of children playing. “It was a fun time,” smiled Knox. “We lived generally in the same neighborhood most of my childhood... where all of the neighborhood kids would get together and play at one friend’s house or the other. It was swimming in the summer; snowmobiling, skating and sledding in the winter.” Knox’s parents divorced when she was six year-old and she, along with her sister lived with their mom. “She worked at what was Smith’s Shop N’ Save (now Hannaford’s) and then, later in life, she worked for Nancy’s Family Hair Care until she passed away in June of 2007 from cancer. My father lives in Portland and worked for Down East Energy where he drove an oil truck and dispatched; he now is retired.” Growing up, the town clerk admired her grandfather. “He was my maternal grandfather. He would take me for rides on this motorcycle when I was younger, and I have been told that I have his dimples.” Knox met her husband through a friend. “It was in August of 1982. We started dating almost immediately and in November of 1982 he proposed to me. We got married in January of 1983, and have been happily married for 27 years.” The couple has raised two boys. “My oldest, Christopher went to school in Buckfield until his sophomore year when he attended and graduated from MSSM in Limestone in 2002. He went on to attend Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida, where he graduated in May of 2006, Magna Cum Laude with a BS. My youngest son Taylor is a 2007 graduate of Buckfield and he currently serves in the United States Army – First Cavalry Division as a M1A1 Armor Crew Men in Fort Hood, Texas. Taylor just recently finished a one year tour in Iraq.” Knox’s two sons were very active growing up. “My oldest son Christopher was on the math team at Buckfield and when he was at MSSM he got into drawing and painting which brought him into doing theater. At FIT he was a member of the Gleason Performing Arts Center performing in shows, directing one-skit plays and doing stage set up. My youngest son Taylor loved trains from the time he could talk and had a collection of them. He also was a collector of anything having to do with the Army, which is probably why he joined.” “Whatever my children have been active in or have had for hobbies, my husband and I have always supported them,” she added. Knox said she loves to travel. “I would say that over the years we have started doing more traveling. Last year my husband and I traveled with the dive group to the Florida Keys, and this spring the group will be going to Cozumel. We have also been to Rhode Island, Kentucky, and Florida and plan to visit Texas this fall.” The town clerk enjoys collecting Boyd Bears and doing crafts. Some of her creative talents decorate the town office. “My favorite thing in the summer is sitting on the boat watching everyone scuba dive. In the winter I like to go snowshoeing. I really enjoy my crafts and I am a very creative person. The girls in the office tell me that I bring joy to everyone.” Jobs prior to the town office include Assistant Store Manager at Fashion Bug and Office Assistant at Maine Wood Treaters. Knox has been at the town office for almost five years, starting as deputy clerk. “I was just recently been promoted to

the position of Town Clerk.” The duties of the Town Clerk are endless. Knox has many responsibilities such as the supervision of the front office; issuing liquor licenses; dog licenses; hunting and fishing licenses; all motor vehicle transactions including snowmobiles, boats, and ATV’s; and the monthly and weekly reports that have to be sent to all state agencies. “It’s also election administration for the town; the maintaining, preserving and disposition of municipal records; the Town Report; ordinances and policies; recording town meeting and board of selectmen’s and planning board minutes; all appointments and committee memberships; the recording of births, marriages, and deaths records; and continuing education.” Knox loves her job, the people she works with and the people she works for. “I love everything that I do about my job! I like seeing the citizens that come in to the paperwork that needs to get done. I am here for the citizens of Paris.”