

1973-2023 Wostawea Time Capsule Story
“Maritime Marathon Memories”

Story shared by Steve Rosenfeld

In the 1970's Wostawea had a friendly relationship with the ski community in New Sweden, in northern Maine. The community still held on to their heritage, with many of them still able to speak Swedish, and of course cross-country skiing was a big part of it. They hosted the “Winter's End” race as the last event of the season, and several of us would go over to participate every year. They would billet us in their homes, and we would reciprocate in ours for the Maritime Marathon.

One year we were told that the Willetts would be coming to the Marathon, from a ski racing family noted in Maine. It took us a while to realize that the 84 year old Sam Ouellette, who registered in the racing category, was who they were talking about. He and his son Aurel, who was well into his fifties, would carry the flag. We were sure Sam had misread the entry form, but he was adamant that there was no way he would register in the touring category. He would go on to complete the entire 110 km course that year, and repeated it again one last time when he was 87.

Aurel told me his secret to a successful race. He carried a two pound box of sugar cubes tucked into his jacket and would continually suck on one throughout the race. I think he went through an entire box each day! I'm not sure if his father followed the same practice, but neither of them had many teeth left.

In memory of Peter and Danny Bondeson of New Sweden, Maine.