

BOW ROTARY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

This year, Bow Rotary has only been able to host three summer concerts at the town gazebo.

This year's concerts were from 5:00 to 7:00 PM instead of our usual 6:00 to 8:00 PM and were a mix of nights, not just on Sundays.

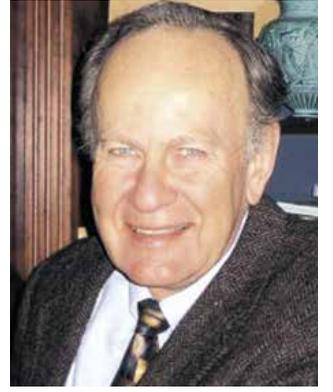
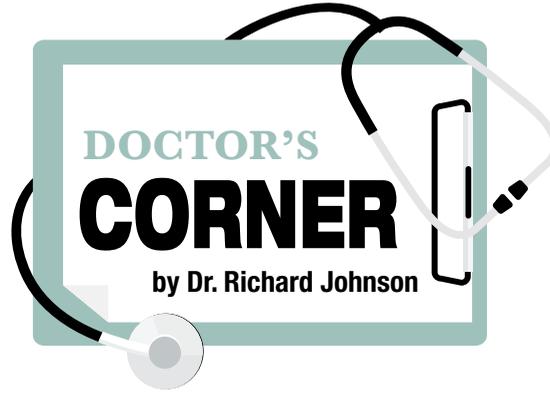
The first concert featured the ever-popular Freese Brother's Big Band on June 27th. The second concert was on July 14th and featured Knock on Wood, a Boston acoustic folk-rock duo.

The final concert will be on August 6th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM and will be an Open Mic Talent Night.

The Bow Rotary Club is in need of sponsorships for these concerts. Many of the businesses who have sponsored concerts in the past are unable to do so this year. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.



Residents enjoyed the Freese Brothers Big Band at the Summer Concert Series at the Gazebo on June 27, 2021. Photo by Eric Anderson



VACCINE HESITANCY

I hesitate to write anything about COVID-19 for two reasons: First, there is so much material in the press, on TV, and in social media that there really is no need for more. And secondly, the lag time between my writing an article and your reading it is significant enough to legitimately call this 'old news.'

We are not 'blogging' so we will acknowledge and live with the limitations. I believe it was in February of 2020, that I attempted to give an overview of what the C-19 virus was and how it attacked our bodies, so I don't feel that another COVID article is too much.

I want to address the issue of 'vaccine hesitancy.' As of 23 June 2021, almost 99,000 NH residents have had COVID-19, and over 1,300 have died from the disease. The vast majority of deaths have been in the population over the age of 60. According to the NHPR web site 800,000 of the 1,300,000 "estimated eligible population" has received at least one dose of vaccine and close to 700,000 have been 'fully vaccinated.'

This is great, but it leaves approximately 38% of NH 'eligible population' as not yet vaccinated. A 20 May 2021, survey by UNH found that about 21% of unvaccinated people would probably not or certainly would not get vaccinated. 28 % of respondents said they did not have confidence that the vaccine would keep them from getting sick, and 23% were not confident that the vaccine is 'safe.' 33 % did not believe that the vaccines went through an appropriate approval process. ⁽¹⁾

In an excellent article in the New England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Rosenbaum points out that while some trust scientific experts, others seek truth elsewhere – their experiences, or heard "truths" from their social networks. Maybe, she suggests, it is time for science to understand the public. ⁽²⁾

So how is the medical community educating itself to listen and understand the public? Dartmouth-Hitchcock program Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO) is running three sessions in July for healthcare professionals to explore the diverse drivers of vaccine hesitancy and offer strategies to overcome them.

The NH Medical Society & NH Division of Public Health hosts weekly Zoom meetings to promote vaccine confidence.

If you have questions about the vaccine, find a health care professional who will listen to you, show you empathy and gently answer your questions.

However, because there is a real possibility that the Delta Variant will create significant illness in the unvaccinated population, I close with a personal plea for you to get vaccinated.

1. https://scholars.unh.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1652&context=survey_center_polls.
2. New England Journal of Medicine, 8 April 2021.

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