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## **Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Future:**

### **Poland Spring Preservation Society Marks 50 Years in 2026**

Poland Spring, Maine – (February 5, 2026): The Poland Spring Preservation Society is proud to announce its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2026, marking five decades of preserving the 1893 Maine State Building and 1912 All Souls Chapel, and sharing the deep history of Poland Spring.

The [Poland Spring Preservation Society](#) has played a vital role in safeguarding the historic buildings, collections and stories that define this iconic destination. The milestone anniversary will be celebrated throughout the 2026 season with special events planned to go along with our annual fundraisers and museum hours.

“The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Poland Spring Preservation Society is not only a celebration of our past, but a commitment to the future,” said Laura Brown, Director of Operations. “We look forward to welcoming longtime supporters and first-time visitors alike to experience the history, beauty and stories that make Poland Spring so special.”

The Poland Spring Preservation Society was founded in 1976, by Jim Aikman, former news director for local Maine news outlet, WMTW TV - Channel 8. WMTW’s studios were originally located on the grounds of the Poland Spring Resort. On July 3, 1975, a devastating fire consumed the elegant Poland Spring House, and WMTW broadcast the fire live from hundreds of feet away. After the fire, Aikman gathered like-minded

individuals to form the Poland Spring Preservation Society which began a 50-year journey of ongoing maintenance and preservation to the Maine State Building and All Souls Chapel.

“The Poland Spring Preservation Society has done an excellent job of restoring these priceless buildings. The Maine State Building is now filled with amazing historic artifacts of the Ricker Family, the hotels and bottling company,” said Cyndi Robbins, current owner of the Poland Spring Resort.

### **Our Collection of Museums & History to Explore:**

**1893 Maine State Building** located at 37 Preservation Way, Poland Spring, Maine

*A visit to the Maine State Building begins with an overwhelming feeling of disbelief that a building of such design was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century! The Maine State Building was built for the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago. At the end of the fair the Ricker family of Poland Spring bought the building, took it down piece by piece, put it on a 16-car freight train and brought it to Poland Spring! And here it stands 125 years later! Now a museum about the history of Poland Spring Resort, the Ricker Family, golf course, life after the Rickers, and the Nettie Ricker Art Gallery including artist Cyndi Robbins and the Robbins family 50+ years at Poland Spring Resort.*

**The Togo Statue** located on the grounds of the 1893 Maine State Building

*Visit the life-size statue of Togo the Sled Dog on the grounds of the Maine State Building. Over 100 years ago, Togo led the diphtheria run to Nome, Alaska. He later retired and lived out his retirement at Poland Spring Resort. In 2025, Togo’s breed, the Seppala Siberian Sled Dog became the Official Maine State Dog.*

*All are welcome to visit the Togo Statue even outside of museum hours.*

**1912 All Souls Chapel** located at 37 Preservation Way, Poland Spring, Maine

*The 1912 All Souls Chapel is made of Maine granite, quartered sawn oak and a floor of inlaid mosaic of beautiful and expensive design. You’ll be amazed at the hand painted windows, all reflecting stories from the Bible.*

**1906 Poland Spring Bottling Museum & Original Source** located at 115 Preservation Way, Poland Spring, Maine

*Owned by Primo Brands, the 1906 bottling facility and spring house was faithfully transformed into an informative museum featuring historic memorabilia and a dedication to the growth of the Poland Spring brand. Through scientific displays, a children's play area and vintage memorabilia, the museum offers a close-up look at one of Maine's oldest industries.*

### **Museum Hours for the 2026 Season**

#### **Spring Hours May 16 - June 21:**

Friday and Saturday 9:00AM-4:00PM

Sunday 9:00AM-12:00PM

#### **Summer Hours June 22 - August 23:**

Thursday – Saturday & Monday 9:00AM-4:00PM

Sunday 9:00AM-12:00PM

#### **Fall Hours August 24 - October 10**

Friday and Saturday 9:00AM-4:00PM

Sunday 9:00AM-12:00PM

### **2026 Events:**

#### **Museum Open House | May 16, 2026**

A special open house celebrating the Poland Spring Preservation Society's golden anniversary and the official opening of the museums for the 2026 season will be held Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Guests are invited to explore the buildings, enjoy a commemorative anniversary exhibit highlighting five decades of preservation to the historic Maine State Building and All Souls Chapel. This milestone weekend marks the beginning of a golden anniversary season and welcomes visitors back to one of Maine's most treasured historic destinations.

#### **Annual Maine Golf Heritage Scramble | June 2, 2026**

The Fenn Ross Golf Tournament to be held June 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Links at Poland Spring – an 18-hole Donald Ross Championship Golf Course located on the grounds of Poland Spring Resort at 37 Robbins Way, Poland Spring, Maine. This legendary day includes

an optional period golf attire contest and optional play with the use of hickory shafted clubs! Proceeds from the Fenn Ross Golf Tournament support the preservation of the 1893 Maine State Building and the 1912 All Souls Chapel. To sponsor or donate, please contact Laura Brown, Director of Operations, at (207) 998-4142 or [laura@polandspringmuseums.org](mailto:laura@polandspringmuseums.org).

### **Inaugural Bottle & Memorabilia Show & Sale | June 14, 2026 & A Weekend for Collectors | June 12-14, 2026**

A brand-new event featuring antique bottles, historic advertising, ephemera, and collectible memorabilia tied to Poland Spring and Maine. Bottle collectors, antique dealers, and enthusiasts from across New England will enjoy a full weekend of events, all held at Poland Spring Preservation Park, home of Poland Spring Resort and Poland Spring Preservation Society, with educational presentations, guest speakers and a chance to see rare pieces of history. Spend the weekend exploring, collecting, and celebrating the rich heritage of Poland Spring.

Visit our historic museums all weekend long, catch a presentation by one of our guest speakers on Friday and Saturday, and get tickets to the special event Saturday evening.

The Inaugural Bottle & Memorabilia Show & Sale will be held on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with an Early Bird Ticket at 8 a.m.

For more information or to rent a table at the Inaugural Bottle Show & Sale, or to become a sponsor, please contact Laura Brown, Director of Operations, at (207) 998-4142, or [laura@polandspringmuseums.org](mailto:laura@polandspringmuseums.org).

### **Outdoor Summer Concert Series | Mondays July 13 through August 31, 2026**

Live music returns to Poland Spring with our [Summer Concert Series](#), a tradition that began over 40 years ago, featuring an incredible lineup of regional talent. Concerts begin at 6:30PM. The concerts are held outdoors at the Poland Spring Resort Gazebo, with the perfect backdrop of the sunset over Mount Washington! Bring a lawn chair, enjoy donated Poland Spring Water, grab a burger or hot dog under the tent or dine at Mel's Hilltop Restaurant. Additional drinks and snacks available at The Maine Inn. Enjoy summer evenings filled with music and community spirit. The concerts are open to the public and all are welcome to attend! Friendly pets on a leash are permitted to attend the outdoor concerts.

July 13 – The Cobblestones

July 20- Toby McCallister & the Sierra Sounds

July 27- Seagrass

August 3- Christie Ray

August 10- Joan Kennedy

August 17- Seth Gallant

August 24- Sigrid Sibley

August 31- The World Famous Grassholes

### **Heritage Day | September 26, 2026**

Mark your calendars for our most festive community event of the year to be held on the grounds of the historic Poland Spring Resort and Preservation Park on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00AM-3:00PM. Enjoy local vendors, food, music, historical displays and activities for all ages as. The event is sponsored in part by Poland Spring Resort, Poland Spring Water and the Town of Poland.

Connect With Poland Spring Preservation Society:

[Online](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube Channel](#) | [Instagram](#)

### **About Poland Spring Preservation Society:**

*Founded in 1976, The Poland Spring Preservation Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the unique historical architecture of the Maine State Building and the All Souls Chapel, one-of-a-kind structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Maine State Building was constructed for the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago and returned to Maine by the Ricker family of Poland Spring, who had won an award for the purity of their Poland Water at the Exposition. It is one of only five buildings that remain and the only state building remaining from the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. The All Souls Chapel opened in 1912 under the vision of Sadie Ricker for the guests and staff at Poland Spring.*

*The museum buildings are available to book for private parties, weddings and events.*

*For more information, please contact the Poland Spring Preservation Society at PO Box 444, Poland Spring, Maine 04274, call (207) 998-4142, or via email at [contact@polandspringmuseums.org](mailto:contact@polandspringmuseums.org).*

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