



## **Cindy and Dave Fisher join son Andrew Fischer, wife Liz and 6 grandchildren**

was married to my classmate, Peter Green. We both taught in Salem, New Hampshire schools. I taught English and Reading to 8th graders. That age group did not turn out to be my favorite! Our first child, Ben, was born four years later and during that summer we moved to Wiscasset. Two years later our daughter Susannah was born. We bought a house right in town and luckily it was in a neighborhood much like the one I grew up in...lots of children who were great playmates and their friendly parents. Today, some fifty years later, I live in the same house in a much quieter neighborhood.

My teaching career restarted in 1970 when I worked in the Head Start program housed in the basement of St. Philip's Church. Over the ten years that I worked in Head Start I realized that my talents and interest were better suited to working with that younger age group. I liked working with the families too and still believe that the program has the right emphasis on family education and support. During that time I was divorced. I was able to take courses at the University of Maine to work towards a teaching certificate for elementary grades. I worked at the Whitefield Elementary School teaching Kindergarten and was very happy making that transition. I went on from that job to teaching Kindergarten in Wiscasset for twenty years at the Primary School. I found that working with five year olds was both stimulating and rewarding. The open and refreshing personalities of the children made the work very enjoyable. In 1978 I married David Fischer who was teaching English at Wiscasset High School. With our combined families we had six children who kept us very busy every summer when we were all together!

I look back on those years and am grateful for my good fortune in working in an excellent school system where cooperative teaching and teamwork were encouraged. Many of my colleagues from those teaching days remain my close friends. During that time I was trained as a Reading Recovery teacher. Reading Recovery is a tutorial program for first graders who were having difficulty with early reading. The program originated in New Zealand and in the summer of 1994 I traveled to New Zealand for training and observation in their primary classrooms. The trip and training were partly paid for by the school system. It was a time when the school system encouraged ongoing learning for its teachers and offered stimulating opportunities for effective teaching.

## **Meet Cindy Fischer**

I was born and grew up in Plattsburgh, New York on the shores of Lake Champlain. There were six children in my family and my sister and I were close pals being sandwiched between two older and two younger brothers. Our neighborhood was a lively one full of kids to play with. My father was a high school principal and my mother, a busy homemaker.

A part of every summer was spent at my grandparents' cottage in Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania. Great memories of swimming and playing with cousins are rekindled when I watch my grandchildren enjoy those same times. My brother's sister and I along with cousins have kept this place in the family by forming a family trust.

I hardly knew that the state of Maine existed until I was graduating from high school and my Dad brought home a catalog from Bates College. I visited and just fell in love with the place despite the fact that it was a slushy mid-March day when I first saw it. At Bates I majored in English and took enough Education courses to be certified to teach. In 1962 I graduated and