COBURN PARK

A PIECE OF HISTORY
A PLACE TO REMEMBER

Coburn Park has long been a place for families to gather In Skowhegan. With the pond, grand trees, many flower gardens, large lawns and grass covered hills; it is a great place for many activities. It isn't uncommon to see families picnicking, and children playing catch or somersaulting down the hills of the park. Concerts are held in the bandstand and gazebo during the summer. Coburn Park is a beautiful, historical part of Skowhegan. It is a great "out of the way" place, while located within walking distance of downtown.

Land for a public park, was willed to the Town of Skowhegan by Governor Abner Coburn in 1885. ("to have and to hold" "forever for that purpose.") In 1889, Commissioners were appointed to oversee the development of the park. As part of this development many species of trees and shrubs were planted over the years. Today there are over 200 different species of trees within the park.

In 1905, the western two fifths of the park's land was gifted to the Town by Louise H. Coburn, Charles A. Marston, Grace Coburn Smith, Ella M. Pooler, Frances Coburn Pepper and Julia L. Coburn (descendants of Abner's brother, Philander Coburn). With this additional land, the park is approximately 12 ½ acres.

In 1907 a pond was added to the park. Roads through the park were built; one that circles the park and two that run crosswise intersecting the circle. The lamps at the entrance were bequest to the park by Kate Eaton Oak in memory of her mother, Sarah L. Eaton, who had been a park Commissioner.

Among the flower gardens sits another memorial, a sundial. The sundial was a gift to the park from the Daughters of the American Revolution, to serve as a memorial to Alan W. Buckman, who was killed in Belleau Woods as a Corporal of the High School Squad.

In 1989 the bandstand was added to the park. A gazebo was built in 2000, and dedicated to William Philbrick and William L. Philbrick. Each of these serves as a place for summer concerts and they can be rented for weddings or other functions.