



A set of steps to nowhere is all that remains of the Marquee Shoppe after it was moved from the site of the former Milbridge Theatre. The stage, visible in the background, will also be moved to make way for a new theater building. ELLSWORTH AMERICAN PHOTO BY JOHANNA S. BILLINGS

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Milbridge outdoor stage to be moved

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MILBRIDGE — The Milbridge outdoor stage is getting ready to move to a new waterfront location.

The nonprofit Gateway Milbridge recently received a grant to help cover the cost of relocating the stage to the town marina on Bay View Road, said the group's chairman, Richard Bondurant.

The entire stage will be moved as soon as it is feasible to do so.

“We have all the approvals and are waiting for the contractor to give us a date,” Bondurant said last week.

The Marquee Shoppe, which was located in front of the stage, has already been moved to Misty Morning Stables in Cherryfield, where the structure will be converted into an Airbnb rental called Out to Pasture, he said.

Gateway Milbridge has been working to rebuild the Milbridge Theatre since former owner Dave Parsons’ death in 2014. The overall goal is revitalizing the Milbridge downtown.

By the time the group was able to purchase the theatre property, the building was beyond repair. Gateway Milbridge demolished it in March 2017 but left the newest portion of the building standing, converting it into a museum called the Marquee Shoppe.

Gateway Milbridge built the outdoor stage with the intention of rebuilding the entire theatre at a later date.

The relocation of the two structures serves that purpose.

“We need to move the stage in order to prepare the lot for construction of the new building,” Bondurant said.

“We think this will be a great location for the stage and a wonderful opportunity for us to continue having outdoor performances in good weather,” he continued.

Work is currently being done at the marina to prepare the site for the stage.

Gateway Milbridge considered several sites but decided on this one with the support of the town Board of Selectmen and Planning Board, Bondurant said.

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