

My Life as a Transplanted Northern Mainer

Maineisms

I studied linguistics in college, and I've always had a penchant for the subtle and sometimes not-so-subtle differences among regional dialects in different geographic areas. I've enjoyed learning about some interesting and charming idioms that are part of everyday conversation here in Northern Maine. I've dubbed them "Maineisms," and I want to share some of them with you now.

sled = snowmobile

USED IN A SENTENCE: I rode my sled to the laundromat.

(By the way, people here sometimes do actually use snowmobiles to transport laundry to and from the laundromat!)

dooryard = front yard or side yard of house

USED IN A SENTENCE: I looked outside and saw two moose standing in my dooryard.

greasy road = slippery road

USED IN A SENTENCE: The Interstate was pretty greasy this morning because of the snowstorm.

spaghetti feed = a communal dinner with spaghetti and sauce as the main course

USED IN A SENTENCE: There's a spaghetti feed Friday evening at the Methodist church.

it doesn't bother = it doesn't cause a problem

USED IN A SENTENCE: When asked if the flat roof of the school building is leaky, the custodian replied, "No, it doesn't bother."

the word "neighbor" used as a verb

USED IN A SENTENCE: We don't neighbor as much as we used to, because everybody has jobs now.

some = very

USED IN A SENTENCE: I was some scared when I saw the bear on the hiking trail.