



The Kotlas— Waterville Area Sister City Connection

About Kotlas

Incorporated in 1917, Kotlas (61° 15' N, 46° 35' E) is a city of 82,000 people at the southern tip of the Archangel Region, a province in north-western Russia. Kotlas lies at the confluence of two wide, navigable rivers, the Northern Dvina and the Vychegda. The city has a river port, a shipyard, a rail junction, an airport, a timber-processing combine, a clothing and furniture factory, a brick factory, and an electromechanical factory. A nearby town has a paper mill complex, the largest in all of the former Soviet Union. These similarities to the Waterville area—the northern location, the rivers, the railroad, and the prominence of paper and wood products industries—led organizers in Waterville to choose Kotlas as the target of their sister city aspirations.

The Kotlas-Waterville Area
Sister City Connection
P.O. Box 1747
Waterville, ME 04903-1747
www.kotlas.org

Front panel: sketch by Yuri Chirkov

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Greater Waterville's
Russian Sister City Organization

Kotlas Connection Membership Form

Please list each member on a separate line.

Name _____	Preferred phone _____
Name _____	Preferred phone _____
Home Address _____	Alternate phone _____
City, State, Zip _____	
E-mail _____	

- Please send us separate copies of the newsletter (*applies only if there are two members at the same address*).
- Please do *not* acknowledge my/our membership(s) in the newsletter.
- Please do *not* share my/our name(s) with other non-profit groups that ask to use your mailing list.

I/We are willing to help occasionally in the areas indicated: (*If two people are listed above, please specify who is volunteering for what.*)

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education & outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Exchanges | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Kotlas activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Pen Pals | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Calling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Translating | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | | |

About the Kotlas Connection

The Kotlas-Waterville Area Sister City Connection strives to develop friendship and understanding between the peoples of Central Maine and Kotlas, Russia. To that end, the Kotlas Connection sponsors educational and cultural programs in the Waterville area to raise awareness of Russia and Kotlas.

In April 1989, after a five-and-a-half-year effort to establish a sister-city relationship, three Waterville-area residents journeyed to Kotlas. In June 1990, the mayor of Kotlas, Viktor Zverev, led a four-person delegation to Waterville. He signed a proclamation with Waterville's Mayor David Bernier, declaring Kotlas and Waterville sister cities. Since then, 91 Kotlas-area residents have visited Waterville. Our liaison with the Kotlas city government has continued with visits by Mayor Alexander Shashurin in 2004 (Open World Program), Mayor Sergei Melentyev in 2010 (20th anniversary), and Mayor Andrei Brainin in 2015 (25th anniversary).

Our sister-city relationship has focused strongly on education. In 1999, we sponsored an exchange of 13 Kotlas students and 12 American students for an ecological study of the Northern Dvina and Kennebec Rivers. For 23 years, we have organized annually Russian Sampler, a day of workshops about Russian history and culture for Maine's junior and senior high school students. For 10 years, in coordination with the Waterville Committee in Kotlas, two or three students and a teacher from the Kotlas area have come to participate. In 2009, four students and two teachers from Erskine Academy travelled to Kotlas to take part in that city's American Sampler.

We have sponsored three delegations with the Open World Program. In 2004, Mayor Shashurin came with members of city government to observe municipal

administration. In 2008, five Kotlas-area teachers received an overview of our educational system from pre-kindergarten to college. In 2013, five Kotlas-area social service workers toured a variety of organizations, both public and private, to learn of the breadth of services available here.

In 2006, we sponsored, with the assistance of the local hospitals, Rotary, and the American Legion, a five-person medical delegation from Kotlas.

Through Mid-Maine Regional Adult Community Education, we invite the public to our program of Russian films, from classics of Soviet cinema to modern comedy.

The Kotlas Connection relies on its members and volunteers for their donations of time and money. Annual dues are \$10 per person. We also have \$25 and \$50 membership levels and welcome additional donations to support specific programs. Members receive our newsletter and announcements of upcoming events and may vote at our annual meeting.

The Kotlas Connection is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization; dues and donations are tax deductible. To join, just complete and detach the membership form and send it, along with your dues, to P.O. Box 1747, Waterville, ME 04903-1747. Please make checks payable to "Kotlas Connection."

If you have any questions about the Kotlas Connection or its programs, please contact Mary Coombs at 873-3380 or Eileen Corey at 872-7719. We also encourage you to visit our website, where you will find back issues of our newsletter, pictures of Kotlas, and other information about Kotlas and the Kotlas Connection. The website address is www.kotlas.org