

Comfort Seasons



from

BRIDEAU
SMARTER HEATING & COOLING



spring 2026



personally speaking



Mark Brideau Sr.

when winter was at its worst, we were at our best

Dear Friends,

This past winter tested everyone.

Bitter cold, powerful winds, snow, and ice pushed heating systems—and the people who helped keep them running—to the limit. Now that spring is here, we want to pause and say something simple but heartfelt: **thank you.**

To our customers, we truly appreciate your patience and understanding during an extraordinarily demanding season. Requests for fuel deliveries and emergency service surged, sometimes stretching response times longer than we ever want them to be. Even so, every customer who needed help received it. Your cooperation made a challenging winter manageable.

To our employees, you are the backbone of this company. Many of you worked six or even seven days a week, often in dangerous conditions, sacrificing personal time so

others could stay warm and safe. That level of dedication doesn't happen by accident. It's a reflection of your character and commitment.

Any company in the home comfort business can look good when the temperature outside is 40 degrees. The real measure of a fuel and service company comes when it's well below freezing, roads are icy, equipment is stressed, and families are counting on you the most.

They say when the going gets tough, the tough get going. This winter proved just how tough our team really is. We are proud, grateful, and honored to work alongside such an incredible group of professionals.

Enjoy the warm weather!

Warmly,

Mark Brideau Sr.

coverage that delivers comfort and confidence

Your heating oil boiler or furnace plays a vital role in keeping your home comfortable and safe. Protecting that investment is easy with our affordable service plans, which are designed to deliver dependable system performance, priority care, and valuable savings.

When you enroll, you receive:

- ▶ An annual tune-up to keep your system operating efficiently
- ▶ Guaranteed after-hours service when you need it most
- ▶ No trip charges for service calls
- ▶ A 15% discount on all covered parts and labor



For even greater peace of mind and savings, add **TANK-GUARD®** coverage. If your oil tank leaks, you'll receive up to \$2,000 toward a replacement, helping you upgrade with as little stress as possible.

Request enrollment in our heating oil service coverage by calling our office, returning your reply card, or visiting our website. It's a smart and easy way to protect your comfort all year long.

WIN \$500 Worth of Food

Grocery prices aren't getting any lower, but here's a chance to have extra money in your pocket when you go food shopping.

Just read this newsletter and answer the questions on the enclosed reply card or go to BrideauEnergy.com/contest to enter. All entries received by **6/30/26** with the correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a **\$500 gift card** for your favorite supermarket. **Three winners will be selected!**

No purchase necessary. A purchase will not increase chance of winning. See enclosed card or contest website for details.

Congratulations to Kevin M. of Jefferson, who won the HexClad cookware set from our Fall 2025 newsletter contest.

Propane and Oil: The Feel-Good Fuels for Your Home

Both propane and heating oil efficiently warm your home and heat your water, helping you enjoy greater comfort, energy savings, and peace of mind.

Versatile Propane for Summer Fun

Propane doesn't take a vacation when warm weather arrives. In fact, it's the perfect fuel for extending your outdoor enjoyment long after the sun goes down.

- ⚙️ **Fire pits and fireplaces** provide real flames and instant warmth at the flip of a switch – without smoke, soot, or ash. When the evening ends, cleanup is effortless.
- ⚙️ **Outdoor lighting** powered by propane adds elegance to walkways and patios while operating for just pennies per hour. Best of all, these lights continue working during power outages.
- ⚙️ **Patio heaters** make cool nights comfortable, raising nearby temperatures by up to 25°F. Their portable designs let you place warmth exactly where you want it – no electrical outlet required.
- ⚙️ **Pool and spa heaters** fueled by propane heat water faster and maintain temperatures more efficiently than electric options, so you can confidently invite guests in, knowing the water will feel just right.

And of course, **propane grills** deliver unmatched convenience and precision. Whether you use a portable grill or a built-in outdoor kitchen, propane offers even heat, no starter fluid odors, and no messy cleanup.

Here's the **cherry on top**: you can always count on us to keep your propane supply ready for you to enjoy all that summer fun!



How Much Propane Will I Use?

Similar to how horsepower is used to rate a car's engine, propane appliance usage is measured in Btu per hour. We can use this calculation to give you a general idea of your typical propane consumption:

- ▶️ **Furnace** (100,000–200,000 Btu/hr): about 1–2 gallons per hour
- ▶️ **Gas fireplace** (26,000 Btu/hr): about 1 gallon every 3 hours
- ▶️ **Gas range/cooktop** (65,000 Btu/hr): about 5–10 gallons per month
- ▶️ **Tankless water heater** (40,000 Btu/hr): about 1.5 gallons per day
- ▶️ **Gas clothes dryer** (35,000 Btu/hr): less than 1 gallon per day



Five Easy Oil Tank Tips You Should Know

Heating oil tanks are built to last for decades, especially with basic care. These simple steps can help prevent problems and extend your tank's life.

- 1. Don't let your tank sit empty.** An empty tank allows condensation to form, which can lead to corrosion and sludge buildup. Keep at least a partial fill year-round, or enroll in automatic delivery so you never have to worry.
- 2. Watch for leaks.** Periodically check the tank, lines, valves, and fittings for signs of oil or rust.
- 3. Check the tank supports.** Make sure your tank sits level on a stable surface. If the legs or base look compromised, schedule a professional inspection.
- 4. Look for surface damage.** Dents, stains, tilting, or settling can signal trouble ahead.
- 5. Keep the fill pipe clear.** Make sure it's easy to access year-round so deliveries can be safe and efficient.



Should I Insulate My Water Heater?

Here's good news: if your water heater was manufactured in 2004 or later, it likely already has enough built-in insulation to prevent meaningful heat loss. The U.S. Department of Energy states that storage tanks with a thermal resistance rating of R-24 **don't require** any added insulation.

Not sure of your tank's rating? There's an easy test: touch the surface of the tank.. If your water heater doesn't feel warm, adding insulation won't improve efficiency.

While electric water heaters tend to be the focus of most insulation discussions, oil-fired (and gas) water heaters are more challenging to insulate properly. And in most cases, they don't need it anyway unless they're extremely old.

Replacement Is the Real Solution

Water heaters with storage tanks typically last 7 to 13 years. Once your system passes that window, efficiency decreases, repair costs increase, and insulation won't solve those issues.

If your water heater is approaching (or well past) that age range, you've gotten your money's worth. A replacement is the smarter, safer investment. Please contact us about your options for new, high-efficiency oil-fired water heaters.

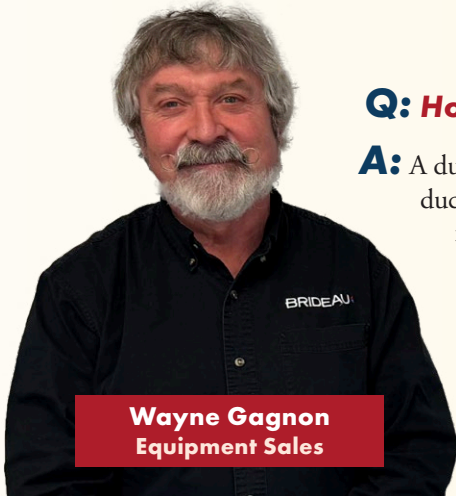
Leave Insulation Work to a Professional

If you still want to explore insulating your tank (or any exposed copper piping connected to it), it's important to continue cautiously. Over the years, our technicians have seen numerous DIY insulation projects go awry – everything from covering critical valves to creating fire hazards.

A trained plumbing or heating professional can complete any modifications safely and correctly.

But for most homeowners, a better long-term approach is upgrading to a modern, high-efficiency system that reduces wasted energy from the start.





Wayne Gagnon
Equipment Sales

ask the expert

Q: *How does a ductless heat pump work, and is it right for my home?*

A: A ductless mini-split heat pump delivers heating and cooling directly to individual rooms without needing ductwork. That makes it ideal for home additions, finished basements, garages, or any space that never feels quite comfortable. It's also a smart way to target problem areas like kitchens or living rooms.

Many homes only need a few compact indoor units to keep you comfortable most of the year. Mini-splits use variable-speed technology, so they adjust automatically to maintain steady temperatures while using less energy.

Unlike window A/C units that constantly turn on and off, a mini-split unit runs smoothly and efficiently, providing more consistent comfort.

spring: a smart time for a heating tune-up

Your oil or propane heating system

works hard all winter long. To keep it running safely and efficiently, you should arrange a professional tune-up once a year. If it's been more than 12 months since your last service visit, now is the time to get back on track.

Spring is ideal for scheduling maintenance. During milder weather, we have more flexible appointment availability and can clean, test, and calibrate your equipment with little disruption to your comfort.



An annual tune-up is a smart investment in your home. It helps your system operate more efficiently, potentially lowering energy costs next winter. Regular service also reduces the risk of unexpected breakdowns and can extend the life of your equipment.

Our experienced service team is ready to help. Contact us today to schedule your heating tune-up and enjoy greater peace of mind all year long.



BRIDEAU

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Fitchburg, MA 01420



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beat the heat without breaking a sweat

If your home relies on an older cooling system with outdated technology or refrigerant, you could be facing higher energy bills, reduced efficiency, and unexpected breakdowns. Aging equipment needs to work harder, which drives up costs and compromises comfort.

Upgrading to a new high-efficiency system can lower cooling costs by 30% or more while delivering reliable, consistent comfort, even during the hottest days. Our cooling experts will evaluate your home and recommend the right system for your needs and budget.

Remember, your friends at Brideau Energy stand ready to help you stay cool, comfortable, and in control of your energy costs all summer long! Contact us for a free estimate.

