

For more information on these festivals or other activities taking place in Central Aroostook County, visit the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce website @ www.centralarostookchamber.com

or call
764-6561

October

- First Friday Art Walk**
Friday, October 3
- Business After Hours**
Friday, October 3
- Movie in the Woods**
Friday, October 3
- Fall Arts & Crafts Fair—the Forum**
Saturday, October 4—Sunday, October 5
- Take Flight**
Saturday, October 4
- Haunted Woods Walk**
Friday, October 10—Saturday, October 11
- Bigrock Mountain—Rocktoberfest**
Saturday, October 18
- Halloween**
Friday, October 31

November

- First Friday Art Walk**
Friday, November 7
- Business After Hours**
Friday, November 7
- Main Street Mania**
Friday, November 21
- Thanksgiving**
Thursday, November 27

2014 Board of Directors

- Karen Gonya *
- Karen St. Peter *
- Kim Jones
- Laurie Nelson
- Marcel Daigle
- Bonnie Pack
- Dawn Poitras
- Gail Clukey
- Floyd Rockholt *
- Jim McKenney
- Nancy Fletcher*
- Nola Farley
- Renee Chalou-Ennis
- Sarah Lee Brooks
- Sherry Sullivan
- Stacy Shaw *
- William Getman
- Shawn Lahey
- Galen O'Leary

Ex-Officio Members:

- #Billie Brodsky
- #Michael D. MacPherson
- Jim Bennett,
Presque Isle City Manager

- *Executive Committee
- #Industrial Council

Chamber Staff:

- Theresa M. Fowler
Executive Director
- Lynette Frederick
Executive Assistant



2014 HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE
DECEMBER 6, 2014





Ribbon Cuttings

**Impact
Auto
Body
&
Sales**

Photo Courtesy of
Terry Sandusky



ACE Rent-A-Car

Area Events & Happenings

October 2014

October 2—UMPI Presents DaPonte String Quartet

October 3—First Friday Art Walk

October 3 —Business After Hours

October 3—Movie in the Woods

October 4—Take Flight

October 4—Fall Foliage Tours on Molly the Trolley

October 4 & 5— Fall Arts & Crafts Fair at The Forum

October 10 & 11—Haunted Woods Walk

October 10 & 11—UMPI presents the Presque Isle Community Players

October 11—TAMC “Think Pink” 5K

October 15—Job Fair

October 18—Bigrock—Rocktoberfest

October 18—Narrated City Wide Tour of Presque Isle on Molly the Trolley

October 17 & 18—UMPI presents the Presque Isle Community Players

October 19—Ronald McDonald House Bowl-a-Thon

October 24 & 25—Haunted Lantern Tours with the Presque Isle Historical Society

October 31— Halloween

November 2014

November 6—UMPI presents Dr. Joel Fuhrman

November 7—First Friday Art Walk

November 7—Business After Hours

November 12—UMPI presents Joel Meyers

November 16—UMPI presents The Northern Maine Chamber Society

November 18—UMPI presents Ghazaleh “Oz” Sailors

November 20—UMPI presents Octavarius

November 21—Main St. Mania

November 27—Thanksgiving



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
TO SEE COMPLETE INFO ON THE ABOVE EVENTS!

<http://www.centralarostookchamber.com>

If you would like to see your event in our newsletter or on our
website please contact us at:

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce
207-764-6561

Want to get involved in your local events?

*Contact the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce at 764-6561 or
info@centralaroostookchamber.com for information about*

WHAT'S COMING UP AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!



HAUNTED WOODS WALK

FRIDAY, OCT. 10TH & SATURDAY, OCT. 11TH
GATES ARE OPEN FROM 6:00 ~ 9:00 P.M.

At the Nordic Heritage Center

450 Fort Fairfield Road, Presque Isle

Follow the Happy Trail of Terror
Through the Circus Freak Show

\$5.00 ADMISSTION!

"THE TRAILS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED
FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12"

HOSTED BY
CENTRAL AROOSTOOK
CHAMBER
of COMMERCE



2014 Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form

The Lifetime Achievement Award recipient is an outstanding individual recognized for their impact on the lives of the citizens of Central Aroostook County. This special individual is someone who has had notable contributions and successes in our community.

This award is sponsored by the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce and the Presque Isle Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.

Nomination Requirements

Please use a separate sheet of paper to list the reasons for nominating the candidate such as their impact in the areas of helping children in education, recreation or self-improvement activities, helping the elderly of our community and assisting the general public on safety issues, improved living situations or any other pertinent supporting information.

Nominee

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Occupation:** _____

Nominator

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Occupation:** _____

Nominations are due: November 30, 2014

AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 22, 2014

RETURN NOMINATIONS TO:

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

3 Houlton Road ~ Presque Isle, Maine 04769

Email: lfrederick@centralaroostookchamber.com



2014 Citizen of the Year Nomination Form

The Citizen of the Year Award recipient is an outstanding individual recognized for their impact on the lives of the citizens of Central Aroostook County. This special individual shows dedication and spirit beyond what is considered regular duty.

This award is sponsored by the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce and the Presque Isle Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.

Nomination Requirements

Please use a separate sheet of paper to list the reasons for nominating the candidate such as significant community contributions, present & past community activities, charity/philanthropic efforts, ways this person has improved the quality of life in Central Aroostook County and any other pertinent supporting information.

Nominee

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Occupation: _____

Nominator

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Occupation: _____

Nominations are due: November 30, 2014

AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 22, 2014

RETURN NOMINATIONS TO:

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

3 Houlton Road ~ Presque Isle, Maine 04769

Email: lfrederick@centralaroostookchamber.com

***Would you like an ad space
in the upcoming
Chamber Connection?***

For just \$25.00 your business could be featured in a newsletter viewed by over 300 different business and their patrons. For more information, or to purchase an insert, please contact the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce at 764-6561, and we'll be sure to get you in our next issue!

Here is a volunteer opportunity from
Aroostook RSVP
&

The Aroostook Area Agency on Aging

The Agency receives many calls for medical rides, in the Caribou, Limestone, Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle and Houlton areas. Please consider helping those in need.

Call 207-764-3396 or email janderson@aroostookaging.org



Monthly Meetings

Chamber Board Meetings are typically the **SECOND** Thursday of each Month. During the winter they are at the Chamber office. During the spring and summer months we like to visit members in the community.

www.BigrockMaine.com

ROCK TOBER FEST

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 18th 2014

4:00-10:00pm

LIVEMUSIC

4:00 - 7:00 Lee Stetson

7:00 - 10:00 Between Dead Stations

5:00-7:30pm

STEAK/CHICKENBBQSUPPER

Chicken Supper \$15.00 Steak Supper \$20.00

1:00pm

cost \$20.00

AROOSTOOKCOUNTY'S TOUGHEST MILE

Trail race to the summit of Bigrock Mountain

3:00pm

cost \$20.00

5KTRAILWALK/RUN

Bigrock to Mars Hill Country Club and back.

ENTER BOTH RACES FOR \$35

First 50 pre registered entries receive T-shirts



BIGROCK MOUNTAIN

ON THE ROCKS PUB opens at 12:00 pm

SILENT AUCTION Winners announced at 9:00 pm

SEASON PASSES on sale In the Ticket Office

For more information go to: www.facebook.com/Bigrock.Mountain.GOBIG/events. To register for events call 4256711 or email ryanguerrette@bigrockmaine.com



25th Annual Holiday Light Parade

The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the
25th Annual Holiday Light Parade
on Saturday, December 6th 2014.

The parade will begin at 6:00 P.M.

Please Note:

The start of the parade has been changed.

Line up will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

The Chamber will uphold tradition and have the only Santa Claus on their float.

Please Note: Any extra Santa's or candy throwing will disqualify your entry.

Candy may be given out by walkers.

Categories for judging include:

Parade Champion

Best Business

Best Non-Profit

Best Faith Based

Best General Float

Please display a sign that clearly and boldly states the name of your business, organization or club

ON THE LEFTSIDE OF YOUR FLOAT

Judging will take place as you pass the Reviewing Stand on Main St.

Trophies will be presented at the finish of the parade in the North Street Health Center Parking Lot

We are looking for participants to add music to their floats for more festive fun!

We also ask that participants turn off their headlights during the parade.

It is not necessary to have your entry completely planned before registering with the Chamber,

Just inform us of your decision to enter so we may compile the line-up!

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE: _____

TYPE AND SIZE OF ENTRY: _____

Catholic Charities of Maine will be collecting food along the route.

Please fill out and send to:

3 Houlton Road, Presque Isle 04769
(phone) 207-764-6561 ((fax) 207-764-1583
lfrederick@centralaroostookchamber.com

CENTRAL AROOSTOOK
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE



**Towns of Mapleton,
Castle Hill and Chapman**
P.O. Box 500, 103 Pulcifer Road
Mapleton, Maine 04757
Telephone/Fax (207) 764-3754

*Town Manager
Jon R. Frederick*

www.mapleton.me

MAPLETON FIRE STATION PELLET BOILER

Boiler: OkoFEN/Maine Energy Systems (MESys)
Pellet Storage Bin: FleXILO, 5 ton capacity

Installer: J. H. McPartland & Sons, Houlton, ME
Grant Provider: Efficiency Maine Trust – Research and Development and Demonstration Projects under the Renewable Resources Fund

Project Cost: \$26,000 **Grant:** \$20,800 **Town Share:** 80% or \$5,200
Estimated Useful Life: 30 years

2014 Fire Department Budget: \$146,000, with \$8,500 allocated to heating fuel – over 5% of the budget. Approximate average annual oil consumption is 2,500 gallons.

Simple Payback: Based on an existing heating expense of \$8,500/yr, annual savings of \$4,300/yr, a simple payback period of 5.5 years is expected to be realized. Once system is paid for from the savings, the new heating budget will be \$4,200/yr, resulting in \$103,200 savings over the life of the equipment, not taking inflation and fuel costs into account.

The annual heating load for the fire station remains the same with the pellet boiler upgrade. The pellet boiler operates about 6% more efficient, or 16.3 MMBTU/yr in increased efficiency. 1 MMBTU is equal to 1,000,000 BTU.

The cost to address the annual heating demand using today's energy prices, wood pellet fuel is less than half the cost of oil to produce the same amount of heat output.



www.jhmcpartland.com | andrew@jhmcpartland.com

| | | | | | COST PER YEAR |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | Gallon Oil 2300 Per Year | | Required 271.354 MMBTU/YR | |
| OIL | 138,800 BTU/Gallon | \$3.75 Per Gallon | 85% = System Efficiency | | |
| | | | 82% = Assumed Seasonal Efficiency | | |
| | | 113,818 =BTU/Gallon Available for Heating | | \$32.95 =Cost Per Million BTU | \$8,940.55 |
| PELLET | 16,400,000 BTU/Ton | \$220.00 Per Ton | 88% = System Efficiency | | |
| | | | 87% = Assumed Seasonal Efficiency | | |
| | | 14,288,000 =BTU/Ton Available for Heating | | \$15.42 =Cost Per Million BTU | \$4,184.04 |



Email is still the most powerful way to connect with customers and prospects.

Did you know that:

- Roughly half of an email list either opens or click on emails. (*Epsilon*)
- Promotional emails still work – 44% of email recipients made at least one purchase last year based on a promotional email. (*Convinceandconvert.com*)
- It's worth taking the time to write a good subject line – 33% of email recipients open email based on subject line alone. (*Convinceandconvert.com*)
- You should keep your subject line short and sweet – subject lines with less than 10 characters had an open rate of 58%. (*Adestra July 2012 Report*)
- You should be sure to get recipients first names on your mailing list, if possible – personalized subject lines are 22.2% more apt to be opened. (*Adestra July 2012 Report*)
- B2B companies have their eye on the bottom line – subject lines that contained "money," "revenue," and "profit" performed the best. (*Adestra July 2012 Report*)

Thanks to Amanda Nelson of the [Sales Force blog](#) for these factoids.



Marketing and online tourism tools workshop set for Oct. 15

CARIBOU - Business owners, especially those in the tourism industry, who want to up their marketing expertise are encouraged to attend a free training session devoted to online marketing tools and tourism resources. The training is scheduled for **Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at Northern Maine Development Commission in Caribou.**

Erica Quin-Easter, Microenterprise Specialist with Women, Work, and Community, will present the workshop.

"This workshop will show you how to connect your business with online tourism resources and marketing tools," said Quin-Easter. "You will learn how to identify the best outlets to promote your business, network with influential sites in your sector, involve your customers in spreading the word and focus your online marketing for best results."

She added, by the end of the workshop there will be hands-on examples and action steps for marketing a business online. "If you feel overwhelmed by the online possibilities or need help figuring out how to reach and retain your customers online, this workshop is for you," Quin-Easter said.

The workshop is sponsored by Northern Maine Development Commission, the Maine Woods Consortium and USDA Rural Development.

The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required. You can register electronically at www.nmdc.org or by calling NMDC at 498-8736, ask for Jon Gulliver.

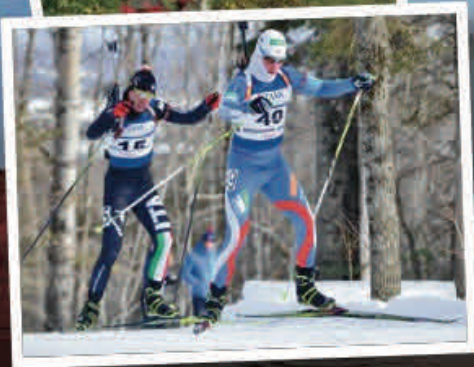


AROOSTOOK

THE CROWN OF MAINE
PROUD HOST REGION OF



CONGRÈS MONDIAL
ACADIEN 2014



PREVENTION MEANS BUSINESS

A healthy, thriving workforce makes for a healthier business. Investing in health—in the workplace and in the community—reduces health care costs, improves productivity and makes businesses stronger.

POOR HEALTH IS BAD FOR BUSINESS

Chronic diseases affect health care costs and productivity. 1.7% of the workforce lives with a chronic condition.



PREVENTION PAYS AT WORK

Open enrollment programs that offer health care to employees can reduce health care costs by 10%.



WORKPLACE WELLNESS
For every \$1 in workplace wellness programs, employers can expect to save \$6 in health care costs.

ADDRESS HEALTH RISKS

1% of the workforce has a health risk.



SAVE MONEY
Addressing health risks can reduce health care costs by 25%.

$$1\% \text{ of the workforce has a health risk} = \$83-103 \text{ in health care costs}$$

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES = HEALTHY BUSINESSES

Building a culture of community engagement and wellness.



BIKING SAVES MILLIONS
Daily, 100 million people bike to work. The health benefits of biking are significant. Biking to work can reduce health care costs by 10%.



SMOKE FREE SPACES SAVE LIVES
At least 100,000 people die each year from smoking-related diseases. Smoke-free workplaces can reduce health care costs by 10%.



HEALTHY OPTIONS: HEALTHY CHOICES
Employees who have access to healthy food options are 10% more likely to be healthy. Healthy food options can reduce health care costs by 10%.



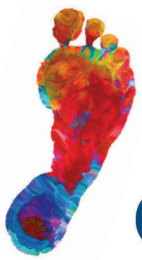
WALKABLE SPACES - ECONOMIC GROWTH
For every \$1 in walkable infrastructure, there is a \$3 increase in economic activity. Walkable spaces can reduce health care costs by 10%.



Compliments of **Wealthy Aronstock**
Put more in retirement
www.wealthyaronstock.com

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JOIN THE CENTRAL AROOSTOOK CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

For
Business After Hours

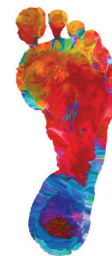
Each First Friday

October 3—Copper's Lounge
From 4—6 p.m.



FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK First Friday of Every Month at participating businesses in Downtown Presque Isle!

October 3



November 7

Visit www.centralarostookchamber.com or
www.facebook.com/PresqueIsleFirstFriday
for a list of participating businesses and more information



Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

Opportunities to be Involved

CACC has several committees in which members of the community and businesses in the area are welcome to help plan and participate while learning what the Chamber does.

Signature Events

Strawberry Shortcake Sale—June
Taters & More— June - September
Crown of Maine Balloon Fest—August
Haunted Woods Walk—October
Holiday Light Parade—December

In addition to the above event planning committees there are also committees essential to the basic operation of the Chamber. Anyone with an interest in the success and future of the Chamber is encouraged to become involved through committee participation.

The Public Relation and Membership committees meet regularly throughout the year. There are possibilities for several other committees such as Property Maintenance and Seminar Planning to develop if people are interested.

Event Committees meet seasonally at a frequency determined necessary by the committee.

Now is a good time to join and help make a difference in your Chamber and community.

For more information please contact
Theresa Fowler at:
tfowler@centralaroostookchamber.com
or 764-6561.

2015-2016

Snowmobile Maps are coming soon!

Contact us at the office to request one at
info@centralaroostookchamber.com.



CENTRAL AROOSTOOK
CHAMBER
of COMMERCE

AROOSTOOK

COUNTY TOURISM

Add an Event Listing

Event listings on www.visitaroostook.com and www.visitmaine.com are special events that occur in a town, region or at an individual business such as a fair, festival, lecture, sporting event, etc.

You may request a free calendar listing on www.visitaroostook.com and www.visitmaine.com using the procedure below. The event must be open to the public and be inherent to tourism. The idea is that the event must be something that a visitor can do while on vacation in Maine. It cannot be something like a six-week pottery making class because the average traveler would not have time to come to Maine every week to participate. Events do not include special lodging packages. Those should be added to the Getaways Packages system.

Below are instructions for adding a business listing to our system.

1. Go to www.visitaroostook.com
2. At the bottom of the page, click on the "[Add/Update Listing](#)" link.
3. Input username and password and click "Log-in". If you have forgotten your password, go to Step 3a. Otherwise go to Step 4.
 - 3a. Click on the "[Reset Password](#)" link
 - 3b. Input your email address and click "Send". This sends you an email message with a link you must open to reset your password.
 - 3c. Click on the link and input your new password and click on "Save".
4. Once you are logged into the system a page entitled "Manage Listings" appears. In the "My Events" section, click "[Add a New Event](#)" on the right-hand side of the page.
5. Complete the on-line form and click "Save". This submits your listing to Aroostook County Tourism (www.visitaroostook.com) and the Office of Tourism (www.visitmaine.com) for review.
6. The Category checkboxes at the bottom of the form are there so that you can check off the category that is most relevant to your event.

Aroostook County Tourism and the Office of Tourism must review all listings prior to their appearance on www.visitaroostook.com and www.visitmaine.com. Please allow five business days for approval.

Aroostook County Tourism and the Office of Tourism request that all businesses receiving a free link on www.visitaroostook.com and www.visitmaine.com provide a reciprocal link on your site. A simple link to our site from yours will increase the relevancy of both sites in search engine rankings and increase the likelihood that more people will click on them.

If you have any questions please call Leslie Jackson at (207) 498-8736.

AROOSTOOK

COUNTY TOURISM

Add a Business Listing

Business listings on www.visitaroostook.com and www.visitmaine.com are added by the business owner and include the name of the business, address, telephone numbers, web site address, description of the business and the categories in which the business is listed. You also have the capability to add Getaways Packages and include an email address so consumers can contact you.

You may request a free listing on www.visitaroostook.com and www.visitmaine.com using the procedure below. Your business must fall within one of the categories listed on our web site and offer a product that people can come to Maine to experience. Please read the category definitions carefully to determine if your business is relevant to the category in question.

Below are instructions for adding a business listing to our system.

1. Go to www.visitaroostook.com.
2. At the bottom of the page, click on the "[Add/Update Listing](#)" link.
3. If this is your first time adding a listing to www.visitaroostook.com and/or www.visitmaine.com, click on the "[Get Started](#)" link below the email and password input boxes.
4. Complete the form including your name, email address, password and phone number, and then click "Save".
5. A page appears entitled "[Manage Listings Login](#)". Click the "Log-in" link.
6. Input username and password and click "Log-in".
7. A page entitled "Manage Listings" appears. In the "My Organizations" section, click "[Add a New Organization](#)" on the right-hand side of the page.
8. Complete the five-step form and click "Finish". This submits your listing to www.visitaroostook.com and www.visitmaine.com for review.

Aroostook County Tourism and the Office of Tourism must review all listings prior to their appearance on each site. Please allow five business days for approval.

Aroostook County Tourism and the Office of Tourism request that all businesses receiving a free link on www.visitaroostook.com and www.visitmaine.com provide a reciprocal link on your site. A simple link to our site from yours will increase the relevancy of both sites in search engine rankings and increase the likelihood that more people will click on them.

If you have any questions please call Leslie Jackson at (207) 498-8736.

ShopCentralAroostook.com



CENTRAL AROOSTOOK
CHAMBER
of COMMERCE

WAGM 8
CBS FOX
NEWS | SOURCE

Advertise your business on television in a cost-effective way, while helping to promote the region and the value of shopping locally.

The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce is partnering with WAGM-TV to offer this great opportunity.

What it means to YOUR BUSINESS:

- This is a very cost effective way to have a multimedia advertising package including a presence both on TV and on the web!
- Your business will be represented in 5 revolving ads, a total of 110 ads/month.
- Your business will be spotlighted in the ad series a total of 22 times/month.
- This represents less than One Dollar each time your business is advertised.
- The “ShopCentralAroostook.com” landing page, which is available 24 hours a day on line, will have information on your business and a link to your website if applicable.
- You will be able to change your message each month, so you can promote specials, seasonal products, and much more!

What it means to THE REGION:

- Increased exposure of the business, recreation and shopping opportunities available in Central Aroostook County.
- Ads will run for the entire year promoting Central Aroostook, the superb services and unique shops.
- No matter the size of your business, this is an opportunity to attract new customers.
- Visitors and viewers will see your business and be made aware of the shopping opportunities in the region.
- Your business will be promoted year round, encouraging area residents to “Shop Local”.
- In addition to the business information area, ads will feature scenic shots of Central Aroostook, more clearly identifying the region as a whole.

Your Commitment:

You pay just \$100/month for one year in return for all the benefits outlined above! Pay monthly or quarterly, whatever works best for you.

Learn more:

Contact the **Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce**
at 764-6561 or info@centralaroostookchamber.com

Thank You to all
RENEWING MEMBERS

For your continued support!

*The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce is only as strong as its membership.
We invite you to attend our Board meetings at any time, and encouraged to join
committees and serving on the
Board of Directors if you do not already have a representative on the Board.*

A & D's Print Shop/The Swap Buy Sell Guide
American Red Cross/Pine Tree Chapter
Aroostook County Action Program
Aroostook Technologies, Inc.
Aural Rehabilitation Services/ARS Hearing Aids
B.R. Smith Associates, Inc.
Central Aroostook Association
Colton Associates, Inc.
Country Cottage
E.C. Knight Value Homes/Golden Gate Park
Graves Supermarket, Inc.
Mapleton Oil Co., Inc.
North Peak Architecture
Northern Printers, Inc.
Pancsofar's Bridal Boutique
Pepsi Beverages Co.
Presque Isle Country Club
RE/MAX Central
Ronald McDonald House of Bangor
Soderberg Construction
Steaks N' Stuff
Townsquare Media~Presque Isle

Final Word

by Theresa Fowler

October 2014

Here we are at the beginning of October! The Harvest break at local schools is underway, allowing students and adults to assist in the harvest of crops. The weather, although drier than we would like at this time of year, has been very cooperative. Hopefully the crop grown in nearly ideal conditions will bring a good price and help bolster the economy of the area.

This is a busy week in Ashland as three businesses celebrate openings. EcoShel, ReEnergy and Irving Sawmill will all celebrate their openings on October 2. Contributing nearly 100 direct jobs to the Ashland workforce, these three businesses are important to the entire area. Congratulations to all on establishing their businesses in Aroostook County. We look forward to celebrating future accomplishments with all of them.

October and November offer a variety of events for all ages. The Chamber Calendar of Events is full of events from pre-Halloween events to political debates.

LEAD is working with WAGM to televise debates on the 20th and 21st. They have also arranged a viewing at the Northeastland Hotel which will be followed by a chance to meet the candidates and enter into discussions with them. Republican Incumbent U.S. Senator Susan Collins and her Democratic Challenger Shanna Bellows will be participating on October 20th while Democrat Emily Cain and Independent Blaine Richardson, seeking the Second District Congressional seat will debate on the 21st. Both debates will be televised at 7:00pm. Questions can be submitted to debate@wagmtv.com or to the television station at Debate c/o WAGM-TV, 12 Brewer Road, Presque Isle, ME 04769.

I have the privilege of sitting on the Maine State Chamber Board of Directors. Although the Central Aroostook Chamber rarely takes a position on political issues, the State Chamber has a team of advocates that work with the legislative committees constantly. As they prepare for a new session which will start in January, they are working to develop presentations on issues that will affect businesses in the State. If you have any issues that you would like Dana Connors and the State Chamber to watch and address, I would be happy to connect you with them.

Hope you enjoy the beautiful scenery we are so privileged to live in!