

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

2011 Board of Directors

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*Gail Clukey

Bill Corson

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Past President

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Jim Bennett, City Manager

*Executive Committee

#Industrial Council

Chamber Staff:

Theresa M. Fowler
Executive Director

Valerie M. Lunn
Administrative
Assistant

Northern Maine Fair & Music Festival

July 29—August 6



Enjoy the 157th Northern Maine Fair & Musical Festival at Northern Maine Fairgrounds. Fair booklets are available at the Chamber office.

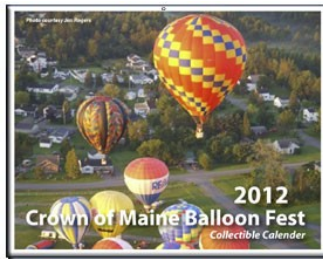


Crown of Maine Balloon Fest

August 25—28

Mapleton Lions Club invites you to the 2011 COMBF

Save these dates to enjoy watching the hot air balloons decorate the sky morning and evening. There will be activities at the Northern Maine Fairgrounds Friday and Saturday including: G-force Laser tag, Craft Fair, Live entertainment, children's activities, balloon glows and food.



The first in a series of collectible calendars is on its way!

2012 Collectible Calendar will be available for purchase through the Chamber office, After August 8th. This calendar will feature the Crown of Maine Balloon Fest and our local and visiting hot air balloon pilots, selling for \$10.00. Be among the first to own this calendar and while attending the Crown of Maine Balloon Fest on August 25-28, 2011, take the opportunity to ask the pilots to autograph their month for you. These calendars will make wonderful gifts for your friends and family too! Other outlets selling the calendars will be announced soon.

TATERS N' MORE



The Chamber's potato booth will be open during the Northern Maine Fair again this year. We are located in the Restaurants building near the Grandstand. The menu will include our famous stuffed baked potatoes, strawberry shortcake and other items. Thanks to the Bridges family and Margo Dyer for their dedication to this project. McCain Foods USA provide the potatoes and Smith Farms provide the broccoli.

Locally grown and prepared!

3 Houlton Rd., Presque Isle, ME 04769; Phone (207)764-6561, Fax (207)764-1583, www.centralaroostookchamber.com

Chamber Connection

Jul—Aug 2011

The Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman are pleased to offer the opportunity for residents to renew their hunting/fishing licenses, vehicle/trailer registrations, boat, ATV and snowmobile registrations ONLINE!

Please follow these links for more information and to start the process:

To renew your vehicle/trailer registration:
<http://www.informe.org/bmv/rapid-renewal/>

To renew your boat registration:
<https://www5.informe.org/online/boat/>

To renew your ATV or snowmobile:
<http://www10.informe.org/ifw/atv-snow/>

To renew your hunting/fishing license:
<https://www5.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/moses2/index.pl>



Lots to do at Aroostook State Park

Aroostook State Park is home to a great variety of birds. Enjoy this opportunity to learn about birds, their habitat and habits. Birding tours will be conducted Every Saturday morning in July at 8:00 am. Meet in the parking area in front of the Headquarters Building at Aroostook State Park. Nature talks will be held Saturday evening at 7:00 pm. Presentations will be at the Kitchen Shelter at Aroostook State Park. There will be a different topic every week. Normal park fee applies. \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children. For more information call 764-8341 or visit www.maine.gov/doc/parks

Be a Featured Member

To better inform our members of the services available from other members we would like to feature a different business every month. To be considered, submit a photo or logo and a description of your business to: tfowler@pichamber.com.

We have found that members offer much more than is generally perceived. This is a great way to promote your business.

Monthly Meetings

Board Meetings 1st Thursday of each month. During the winter they are at the Chamber Office. Spring and Summer we like to visit member communities.

Congratulations To New Businesses

Northern Business Products Inc., 3 Maple Street, Presque Isle, ME ; 207-540-1490 or 207-768-0429
Provides office supplies, furniture, copiers, office machines, computers and networks.

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce Seeking Nominations for Board of Directors



Are you interested in becoming more involved in Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce, working with businesses, tourists, new residents? The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce will have a few openings on the Board of Directors in 2012. We want to ensure that we represent all of our member businesses and member communities. If you are interested in learning more about what is involved in being a Board member please contact either Theresa Fowler or Miles Williams at 764-6561.

Do you know anyone who might benefit from this program offered through TAMC?

TAMC Senior Connection

For the past decade, TAMC has had the pleasure of hosting our monthly Healthy Aging Luncheons. Through this experience, we've enjoyed watching seniors build relationships, gain valuable knowledge, and grow familiar with TAMC's services and people. The TAMC Senior Connection is the exciting next step in building a comprehensive senior program that will continue to include the very successful Healthy Aging Luncheon while also providing a variety of other valuable benefits.

As a member of the TAMC Senior Connection, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy the following benefits:

- A quarterly Senior Connection newsletter mailed to your home.
- \$5.00 admission to all Healthy Aging Luncheons. This represents a 50% savings off of the nonmembers cost.
- A 10% discount on all items purchased at TAMC's Gardenside Café.
- A free one-day pass to any one of County Physical Therapy's three fitness centers.
- Free blood pressure checks at organized quarterly screening events.
- Free installation of your very own Lifeline unit, a device that provides peace of mind because it ensures a quick response to any emergency in your home.

Senior Connection is open to any senior living in Aroostook County -
not just patients of The Aroostook Medical Center
To find out more about TAMC Senior Connection, please call (207)768-4171.

Please Take Note: Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce has changed its mailing address to 3 Houlton Rd., Presque Isle ME 04769

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

Opportunities to be Involved

PIACC has several committees in which members of the community 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.

These include:

Membership / Public Relations and Marketing*

Finance*

Maine—Quebec Caravan

* Regular Monthly meetings of these committees are held throughout the year.

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.

Office Space for Rent



The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce has space for rent in their building. Quiet, clean space with easy access is available. Space is approximately 400 sq. ft. Rent includes heat, snow and garbage removal. Great location for small office. Call 764-6561.



Crown of Maine Balloon Fest Yard Sale

The Crown of Maine Balloon Fest Committee will be encouraging people to shop yard sales on Saturday August 27 after the morning balloon launch. If you are having a yard sale that day we encourage you to put out your sign and welcome balloon enthusiasts!

2011 standard mileage rates increase

July 1 the standard mileage rate for business miles increased to 55.5 cents per mile. [IR-2011-69](#) has more information.

New Online Park-Pass Purchase System Up and Running

All of Maine's 48 state parks and historic sites can be accessed online. If you plan to visit one of these scenic locales, you can purchase your pass ahead of time by visiting www.mainestateparkspass.com. This is a convenient and secure way to obtain your pass to Maine's parks at any hour of the day.

Park passes make excellent gifts during the holiday season and for other special occasions such as birthdays, Mother's Day, or Father's Day.

For more information about Maine state parks and historic sites, go to: <http://www.parksandlands.com>.

4th Annual Paint Presque Isle

A Fresh Paint Event and Art Auction



We invite you to consider adding some ambience to your home or office while supporting education in Aroostook County.

The Aroostook Partners in the Arts is a non-profit organization that contributes additional funding schools throughout Aroostook County enabling them to bring a variety of artistic experiences to students in grades K – 12.



to

The major fundraiser for Aroostook Partners in the Arts is our *Paint Presque Isle Fresh Paint Event* that happens during the Crown of Maine Balloon Festival. Each year there are more talented artists that participate, painting somewhere on location on Saturday, during the Festival. The work is brought to the Northeastland Hotel during the afternoon in preparation for the evening's auction. The auction has become a popular segment of the Balloon Festival with a lively atmosphere and excitement that builds as bidders attempt to acquire their favorite painting. There is a preview reception beginning at 6:00 with light refreshments and a cash bar. The live auction begins at 7:00 p.m. There are also a number of donated fine art and craft items for a silent auction that continues during the evening. Tickets for this event are \$5.00 and can be purchased from an Aroostook Partners in the Arts member, or at the door. So please, mark your calendars and plan on attending the 4th Annual Fresh Paint Event at the Northeastland Hotel, Saturday, August 27, 2011. You may just find that perfect piece of art for your wall or table top!

All proceeds benefit Aroostook Partners for the Arts, and arts education in Aroostook County.

If you have events you would like to have added to our calendar of events, please forward the information to us at: info@centralaroostookchamber.com

*For more information please visit the Calendar of Events on the CAC web site:
www.centralaroostookchamber.com*

PINK TULIP PROJECT
Benefiting both
The MAINE CANCER FOUNDATION
And

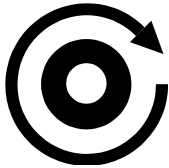
PORTAGE LAKE COMMUNITY FITNESS PATH!

Purchase your bulb today to help make a part of the Portage Lake Community Fitness Path turn pink! **Each bulb** purchased through the Pink Tulip Project is **\$3 each**, with \$1 going directly to the Women's Cancer Fund at the Maine Cancer Foundation.

The **bulbs will be planted as part of a Pink Tulip Garden along the new Portage Lake Fitness Path**, which circles the Portage Lake town hall property and is an addition to the current recreational facilities in that area.

Order forms are available at the Portage Lake Town Hall, Coffin's General Store, or from Corrine Routhier.

FMI contact Corrine Routhier @ 435-6854 or arouthier@roadrunner.com



Name Change

At the May Board of Directors meeting the Board of Directors voted to formally change the name of your chamber to more accurately reflect the area we serve. Documentation will be registered in the near future to rename the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce to **Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce**. This decision was not made lightly. Understanding that we serve a large area and that some communities are not geographically close to Presque Isle it was felt that the new name better reflects who we serve.

This also creates the opportunity to design a new logo for the Chamber. If you have an idea for a logo which will identify the Chamber in our marketing and advertising in the future, we welcome and encourage you to suggest them to us. Please send your designs and/or ideas to: tfowler@centralaroostookchamber.com.

The familiar EZ to Use Big Book can now be found at EZ to Use.com. Contact them for advertising or web design needs.

Peter Coffey
Sales Manager

974-3171

**Affordable.
Effective.**

EZToUse.com
YOUR YELLOW PAGES CONNECTION In Print & Online

Renewing Members

- ◆ Unifirst Corporation
- ◆ Irish Setter Pub
- ◆ Carroll's Auto Sales
- ◆ Griffith Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, Mitsubishi
- ◆ Caron's Equipment Sales
- ◆ Big Cheese Pizza
- ◆ Dead River Company
- ◆ (The) Lane Construction Corp.
- ◆ Star City Sanitation
- ◆ Northern Maine Realty
- ◆ Café Sorpreso
- ◆ Hampton Inn Presque Isle
- ◆ Time Warner Cable of Maine
- ◆ Neil E. Michaud Campground
- ◆ Aroostook Monuments
- ◆ Mars Hill Country Club
- ◆ Bangor Daily News
- ◆ Academy Dental, P.A.
- ◆ Well Spring Health Center
- ◆ MSAD#1
- ◆ Colton Associates, Inc.
- ◆ Seamstress, Terry Burtchell
- ◆ Duncan-Graves Funeral Homes
- ◆ Coca-Cola Bottling Company
- ◆ Northeast Trophy
- ◆ Sure Winner Foods
- ◆ Chester M. Kearney, CPAs
- ◆ Cushman Enterprises, inc.
- ◆ Tim Hortons
- ◆ Burger King
- ◆ Gregory M. Blackstone, DDS
- ◆ S W Collins Company
- ◆ Colgan Air
- ◆

Thank you to the renewing members! Your continued support is important to the operation of your chamber. Please tell us how we can serve you better.

Calendar of Events:

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| <p>July 29-August 6
July 30</p> <p>August 6-8
August 7
August 11
August 11—14
Aug. 12—14
August 19
August 19-21
August 20-21
August 25—28
August 27
August 27—28
August 27
September 3</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northern Maine Fair and Music Festival - Birding Walks—Aroostook State Park - Nordic Fat Tire Festival—Nordic Heritage Center - Nature Talks—Aroostook State Park - Mars Hill Summer Festival - Music in the Park, Riverside Park, Presque Isle - New England Society of Human Resource Managers meeting - Caribou Cares About Kids - Fort Kent International Muskie Derby - Author Talk With Richard Shain Cohen - Mawiomi of Tribes 2011 - Washburn August Fest - Crown of Maine Balloon Fest - Guided Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Presque Isle - Westfield Jubilee - Portage Lake Whoopie Pie Festival - Annual Ring of Fire at 7 p.m. |
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Presque Isle Historical Society is pleased to announce the dates of the **Guided Walking Tours of Historic Downtown Presque Isle for 2011.** The tours begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Vera Estey House, 16 Third Street. The tours are free and open to the public, take approximately 2 hours and cover two miles.

Tours are scheduled for the following dates: August 27, September 24.

Special tours for groups and organizations may also be arranged by calling the Presque Isle Historical Society at 762-1151

Area Road Races

The following list of area road races was provided by Martin Puckett, Town Manager of Castle Hill, Chapman and Mapleton.

Perhaps this is the year you will start preparing for the Boston Marathon or at least go for a nice long walk with a group of energetic people.

TBA	Early Bird XC	Chris Smith 207-768-9472	U-Maine at Presque Isle	Presque Isle	5k Run – 9:00am
*Aug 6	Island Falls Summer Fest	John Walker 207-415-1688	Municipal Building	Island Falls	.5m kids Run 8:45am
		jswalkerinc@gmail.com			4k Walk, 5k Run 9:00am
	* Challenge Series Races				

This Calendar is brought to you by the Aroostook Mustards Running Club (www.AroostookMustards.com).

If you have any races to add, modify, or remove for next year, 2012, please contact Chris Smith at christopher.smith@umpi.edu

Annual Awards Evening



Even while we are enjoying the beautiful Summer weather and activities, the Chamber's Annual Dinner is being planned. It is at this annual event that we recognize and present awards for the Citizen of the Year, Business or Economic Development of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards. If you know a person or business you feel is deserving of one of these honors, please submit your nomination to the Chamber as soon as possible. Nomination forms are available through our website: www.centralaroostookchamber.com or at the office.



Nation's leading lease-to-own retailer targeting Presque Isle, Maine for franchise expansion

Greg Tanner, Aaron's, Inc. national director-franchising, announced that Presque Isle, Maine is in the company's plan for franchise growth in small markets throughout the U.S. and Canada.

"Presque Isle represents a tremendous business opportunity for someone in the local community to franchise an Aaron's lease-to-own store," said Tanner.

Aaron's, Inc., a New York Stock Exchange listed company (AAN), excels in specialty retailing and the sales and lease ownership of name brand residential furniture, home appliances, consumer electronics, and computers. At the end of the first quarter 2011, Aaron's reported 1829 stores open across the U.S. and Canada serving more than 1.4 million customers annually. Stores usually range from 6,000 to 10,000 square feet in size and tend to be located near retail power centers.

"Our strategy to target Presque Isle is based on our demographic research that shows a strong connection between its population and our loyal Aaron's customers," added Tanner. "Presque Isle represents an added benefit to a potential franchise owner in that the market is the retail center for a larger population of both U.S. and Canadian shoppers."

Aaron's customers typically make monthly or semi-monthly payments over a term of 12 to 24 months, with no credit checks and with no obligation beyond their next payment.

"Representatives will be in Presque Isle August 1-3, meeting with community leaders, successful business owners, and prospective franchisees. I'll show them the potential of our business model. Our best targets for new stores are existing franchisees—94% are multi-unit owners.

"This is a win-win-win: We bring jobs and tax revenue to Presque Isle; we'll put an enterprising individual in business; and, we'll continue our steady growth as one of America's premier franchise opportunities," said Tanner.

Prospective franchise owners must have a minimum net worth of \$450,000 and an available line of credit of \$300,000.

ABOUT AARON'S

Aaron's, Inc., headquartered in Atlanta, GA, was founded in 1955 and began franchising in 1992. Aaron's is ranked #26 on Entrepreneur magazine's Franchise 500® as reported in the January 2011 issue, # 46 among the TOP 200 franchises by Franchise Times in the October 2010 edition, and #12 by Dun&Bradstreet on its 2011 AllBusiness AllStar list. Greg Tanner has published a booklet on franchising titled, Tannerisms. For more information on the Aaron's franchise opportunity, contact: Greg Tanner, 678-402-3778, greg.tanner@aarons.com. Mailing address: 309 East Paces Ferry Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

3 Houlton Rd. Presque Isle, ME 04769

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The Final Word

By Theresa Fowler

We have been busy at the Chamber office welcoming visitors to the area and new residents. It is always exciting to talk to people about all Central Aroostook has to offer!

Northern Maine Fair & Music Festival will have started by the time you are reading this. As always the Fair Association has been working hard to produce a great event. Hope you participate in some of the activities.

The Crown of Maine Balloon Fest committee are finalizing plans for another great event. The Mapleton Lions Club are hosting this event this year. The Chamber appreciates their interest and involvement. We hope this will allow for future growth. COMBF has established a "PayPal" link. To contribute go to their website www.crownofmaineballoonfest.org and become a friend. Remember everything during the festival is free to the public!

Mars Hill Summer Festival, Washburn August Fest, Portage Lake Whoopie Pie Festival and Westfield Jubilee are just some of the events that we know are coming up in August. Class reunions are being held and there is lots of traffic! Hope everyone enjoys the reward of their hard work in organizing these events.

Don't forget the Fraud & Theft Seminar hosted by TD Bank and presented by Presque Isle Police Department August 10, 2011. Hope the remainder of August is good for your business!!