

# Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

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## Thousands take part in Crown of Maine Balloon Fest

The annual Crown of Maine Balloon Fest took place on August 23 – 26 in Presque Isle. Organizers are touting this year's event a spectacular success with thousands of people taking part.

“The weather was fantastic, and we expanded some of the activities we were offering. Both had a great impact on the numbers of people we had out and about taking part in things over the four days of the festival,” said Floyd Rockholt, Crown of Maine Balloon Fest Chair.

Although the balloons were not able to launch as expected on Thursday evening due to high winds, there was still a lot happening to kick off the festival that night. Nearly 1,000 people took part in the Street Fair held in downtown Presque Isle. The large block party event included activities for all ages, including live music, a dunking booth, a pie eating contest, children's activities, county fair treats and so much more. New this year was the addition of The Aroostook Medical Center's Spuddy Challenge. Children and adults alike competed in this race that included pushing a sack of potatoes in a wheel chair, transporting a potato on a walker, and pushing a potato with a crutch.

Thousands were at the fairgrounds on Friday and Saturday to watch the balloons launch, shop at the booths of artisans and crafters from across the state, listen to live music, and enjoy a variety of food.

The festival featured ten balloons this year, with a mixture of local pilots and those who traveled large distances to take part in the central Aroostook festival. The balloons and their pilots were: *Queen of Hearts* with Derik Smith of Presque Isle; *Aer Loon* with Bud Hebrlee of Frenchville; *Raspberry Ripple* with Derald Young of Dixfield; *Freedom Flyer* with Mark Fritze, *Magic Carpet* with Bob Bush, and *Tracer* with Wendell Purvis, all of Tallahassee, Florida; *Windspirit* with Joel Jones of Seale, Alabama; *ReMax* with Chris Mooney of Woodbury, Connecticut; *Sinbad* with Doug Shippee and Jim Rogers of Saint John, New Brunswick; and *Wicked* with David Lopushinsky of Gatineau, Quebec.

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

## Chamber Connection

July-Sept 2012

New to the balloon festival this year was the offering of tethered balloon rides at the fairgrounds, as well as the chance to walk and play inside of a decommissioned balloon. The idea was even more successful than organizers anticipated, with 400 rides given on Friday and Saturday evening. Hundreds also took advantage of this chance to see what the inside of a balloon looks like by paying a dollar to go inside the balloon *Rainbow Walker*, which was laying on its side inflated with air.

“Although the opportunity to go for a balloon ride is unparalleled, we recognize that this is just not an option for everyone, particularly families or those unsure about heights. We felt that tethered rides were an ideal solution,” explained Rockholt. “For just a small fee, people could get a little taste of what it’s like to go up in a balloon while still being safely tied to the ground.”

Another great hit for families on Saturday was the annual Youth Day event sponsored by the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club, Presque Isle Rotary Club and Cary Medical Center in the Forum. More than 350 children and their families took part in this free event, and, as part of the Kiwanis Club’s commitment to promoting youth bicycle safety, the Club gave out 210 bike helmets.

In addition to the balloon launches and balloon glow activities, evening entertainment on both Friday and Saturday centered around music. An Open Mic Night on Friday gave local musicians a chance to perform, showcasing their talent. Acts included soloists, duos and bands, ranging from folk music to alternative rock, but the performance that really brought down the house was 11-year old saxophone player.

“Jonathan really blew people away. He drew 30 to 40 people in off the midway once he started to play. He was amazing,” said Chris Morton, owner of KMH Music, sponsors of the event. “Talent like this is just one of the reasons we wanted to sponsor this activity. Now that the store is locally owned, we really want to get involved in local events. This was a great fit for us, and it was a lot of fun.”

Saturday night featured free, live performances by two bands: Mellow Endeavor, local rising stars, and Chamberlin, a Vermont band poised to break on the national stage. Both bands had enthusiastic crowds and filled the Commercial Building with amazing music.

“Chamberlin loved the area and the band members were lighting up social media with how beautiful the area was and how much they loved it here,” said Derik Smith, owner of Taco Bell, who sponsored the show. “Basically their fan base now knows about the Crown of Maine Balloon Fest and The County.”

Smith, who was one of the organizers of the festival, went on to say, “Every pilot I talked to, and many other participants, were saying how this year was the best yet, and they can’t wait for next year. Beyond the beautiful landscapes and fantastic flying, they just keep raving about the people. We really have a great little festival here, and I hope we can keep it growing and keep the balloons flying, for years to come.”

Although organizers are thrilled with this year’s success, Rockholt noted that an event of this scale is only possible with a lot of effort from many people, as well as financial support of sponsors. “Obviously something like this cannot happen without the hard work of a lot of people. It takes a big commitment of time, and it takes money. I really want to thank all of the volunteers and businesses who helped to make the festival possible,” said Rockholt



Photo by Bruce Steichen



## Thank you to the Sponsors of the Crown of Maine Balloon Fest!



**Mapleton  
Lions Club**



Event Sponsor:



Hospitality Sponsors



Celebrating  
**100**



IRVING WOODLANDS, LLC



Thank you to our Silver Sponsors: Hampton Inn, Hogan Tire, Inc., Katahdin trust Company, KMH Music, Maine Public Service, Presque Isle Rotary Club and Star City IGA.

Thank you to our Bronze Sponsors: Academy Dental, Aroosta Cast, Inc., Care & Comfort, Carroll’s Auto Sales, Country Collectibles, Eagle Hill Stamp & Coin, Graves Shop N’ Save, Mike Cowett’s Auto Body, Presque Isle Animal Hospital, Randy Smith, Soderberg Construction, Steaks N’ Stuff, Stew’s Downtown Sight & Sound, Thompson-Hamel, LLC.

Thank you to our Marketing Sponsors who provided all of our advertising:

WAGM TV, Town Square Media (Rock 102, Big 97 Country , Q96.1), WEGP 1390 AM, WHOU 100.1FM

Special thanks for their support and participation: City of Presque Isle, Presque Isle Elks Lodge, Presque Isle Kiwanis Club, Presque Isle Recreation and Parks, Northern Maine Fair Association and all the landowners who allow the pilots to land.



# Final Word

By Theresa Fowler

Where has the summer gone? The leaves are starting to turn colors and farmers are harvesting crops!

The summer was extremely busy in Central Aroostook with all the community events. The fall looks like it will be just as busy with different events. Check out the calendar of events inside and on our website [www.centralaroostookchamber.com](http://www.centralaroostookchamber.com) for upcoming events. I ran out of room so left a lot of October events out.

There have been a number of people who have relocated to Presque Isle area this summer. Please help to make them welcome and part of the community.

A special welcome to UMPI President Linda Shott and her family. They opened their home to the public during the Crown of Maine Balloon Fest with guided tours and served pie and ice cream!

Sue Bernard has returned to the area to work with NMCC as their Dean of Development and Public Relations. It is always nice to see a County native return home!

Department of Economic and Community Development representative Brian Doyle is available to talk to or meet with business owners in Aroostook County who are having difficulties with permits or just need to know who they should contact. Brian can be contacted by phone at 624-9807 or 441-6902 or by email at: [Brian.Doyle@Maine.gov](mailto:Brian.Doyle@Maine.gov). Brian is in the area once a month.

At my regular monthly meeting with Presque Isle City Manager Jim Bennett he told me that there are increased instances of graffiti in Presque Isle. Jim suggest that the best way to reduce this problem is to remove the graffiti as soon as you find it and discourage the perpetrators from adding to it. The City officials and Police Department will be watching for graffiti and those making it.

The Aroostook County Tourism Guide will be available in late October or early November. If you know of a tourism related business that should be added to the guide, please have them contact Leslie Jackson at NMDC, 207-498-8736.

Tim Horton's in Aroostook Centre Mall closed last week. Some other mall tenants believe the later opening time reduced the coffee shop business.

Children are in school throughout the County at present so please be careful driving. Excited children forget that they need to be careful.

Plans are underway for the Haunted Woods Walk. The dates are October 19 & 20. There are application forms for participants at area businesses and also enclosed in this newsletter. They will be online soon as well.

Please friend us on Facebook. Bernadette will be posting more frequently than I was able to.

As always we are looking for area residents to participate in our events and join our committees. If you have a desire to work for your community join one of our committees or volunteer to help during one of our events. Haunted Woods Walk, Holiday Light Parade and Annual Awards Dinner are all just around the corner.

Thank you to all that have helped in a variety of ways through the summer. Working together we will continue to prosper!

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## Recognition of regional residents

We who call Aroostook County home do so proudly and are very aware of the kindness and generosity of our neighbors. The ongoing success of the area is due to the outstanding people who live here.

The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce, has hosted an annual awards dinner for many years. During this special evening Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement awards are presented. Nominations for these awards are received from the general public during the fall. A committee made up of representatives of the Presque Isle Elks Lodge, Presque Isle Kiwanis Club, Presque Isle Rotary Club and Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce review the nominations and selects the recipients.

We have found through the years that only those closest to the nominees are aware of the impact on the lives of Central Aroostook citizens, dedication and spirit beyond what is considered regular duty these nominees and recipients exhibit to make Central Aroostook a better place to live.

Often the people most deserving of recognition perform their good works quietly without expectation of identification or credit.

Over the years it has been a joy for attendees to recognize the many accomplishments and kindnesses of the recipients and share in their pleasure of being acknowledged.

I am sure you are aware of someone who deserves special recognition for their dedication and contributions. The Central Aroostook Chamber invites you to submit nominations for these awards which will be presented January 24, 2013.

The nomination forms are available on the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce website: [www.centralaroostookchamber.com](http://www.centralaroostookchamber.com) or by calling the office at (207)764-6561.

The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce proudly represents 13 communities in central Aroostook County, including Ashland, Blaine, Castle Hill, Chapman, Easton, Mapleton, Mars Hill, Masardis, OxBow, Portage Lake, Presque Isle, Washburn and Westfield.



### Thank You!

At Northern Maine Fair the Chamber Potato Booth was operated by a number of businesses and volunteers to help raise funds for the Chamber. Thank you to all who helped out. A special thanks to Nancy Fletcher who chaired that operation this year and Destini Bates who arranged volunteers.

Katahdin Trust, Lowe's, MMG Insurance, Northern Maine Community College, The Aroostook Medical Center, University of Maine at Presque Isle, and the area Pageant Queens all helped staff the booth. As always we had some very dedicated volunteers who could be and were relied on many days. Andrea Bell, Becky Maynard and Kenny Bell spent many hours there as did the extended Bates/ Billings family. Thank you to all of you for providing the always popular baked potatoes to the Fair crowd!

**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/amoses2/index.pl>

**King Morton's Hall of Music** opened in the location of Aroostook Music on Main Street in Presque Isle. Three local musicians, Chris Morton, Larry Hall and Randy King have taken their passion and converted it into business. They provide lessons, equipment repair as well as new and used musical instruments and associated items. Congratulations and best wishes!

**LiveWell United** opened at 15 North Street. They offer Zumba® Fitness, Cardio Kickboxing, Yoga and Pilates, Children's Yoga, Massage and Reiki Therapy, Nutrition Consulting, Life Coaching, Gymnastics and Mixed Martial Arts.

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### Featured Member

**Bigrock**—The new home of the \$15 lift ticket and so much more!

We got into the alpine business in 2000 with the purchase of Bigrock in Mars Hill and continued with the purchase of historic Black Mountain in Rumford in 2003. Our intention was to preserve infrastructure that was both historically and economically important to Maine and I am proud of the progress that has been made at both mountains. Our primary focus was on making alpine skiing accessible to everyone in Maine and we are taking a major step in that direction this season by offering \$150 seasons passes that give you unlimited skiing at all Maine Winter Sports Center areas across the state. Day tickets for adults will be \$15/day. By Andy Shepard, President & CEO, Maine Winter Sports Center

### 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:

[fowler@centralarostookchamber.com](mailto:fowler@centralarostookchamber.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.

## Top Gun Prep Coming in September

Please see the info below about the Maine Center for Entrepreneurial Development's Top Gun series. After three successful Top Gun classes, including MCED's first statewide class, they figured out they were on to something great. Unfortunately, the highly selective Top Gun program was only available to a small number of entrepreneurs.

Enter, Top Gun Prep, the newest program in the Top Gun series. Top Gun Prep is a 9-week online course open to any entrepreneur in Maine, up to 100 participants. MCED is asking for your help letting the (future) entrepreneurs you work with know about this opportunity. MCED has provided a brief description of the course below to make it easy for you to include in your next email newsletter or other form of communications. If you can help spread the word, it would be most appreciated.

Registration is now open for Top Gun Prep, an online course developed by the Maine Center for Entrepreneurial Development, the Target Technology Incubator and the Foster Center for Student Innovation. Top Gun Prep enables any Maine entrepreneur to learn how to dramatically increase speed and decrease risk building their startup. Beginning September 19th, weekly webinars and interactive discussions will focus on topics including Customer Development, Revenue Streams and Business Model Innovation.

Participants will use the latest textbook of Silicon Valley's top entrepreneurship educator Steve Blank, carefully chosen selections from the very best free Internet resources for entrepreneurs and the world-class, Maine-grown techniques of Innovation Engineering®. Online interactions will be supplemented by several planned face-to-face networking events.

The course is particularly well suited for entrepreneurs building scalable innovation-based companies, but 75% of the Top Gun Prep curriculum is also helpful to entrepreneurs building small or micro-enterprises. The content will combine important basics with advanced concepts. College students contemplating entrepreneurship will get a great start, while more experienced entrepreneurs will be connected with some of the leading edge thinking on how to build large, successful, groundbreaking companies. The cost for the course is \$300.

The highly selective Top Gun Maine program will accept about 20 companies, largely from the Top Gun Prep graduates, for intensive mentoring and coaching beginning January 2013.

To learn more or to register for Top Gun Prep visit [www.topgunmaine.biz](http://www.topgunmaine.biz).

Don Gooding

Executive Director, Maine Center for Entrepreneurial Development

<http://www.mced.biz/>

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/dongooding>

(c) 207.460.1755

Skype don.gooding58

### Classes and Instruction

If you are seeking additional course or instruction for yourself or employees check with the local schools, colleges and universities for a full calendar of their programs. Women Work and Community also offer courses throughout the year. There are a variety of programs available after hours for personal advancement and general interest. The courses are offered at reasonable fees.

**Seniors Achieving Greater Education (SAGE)** welcomes intellectually curious adults, age 50 and older. Do you have a desire to learn in the company of people with both shared and different perspectives? SAGE brings members together in a relaxed non-competitive atmosphere to discover new things about the world and about themselves. There are no admission requirements, no examinations and no grades. Learning is its own reward!

Welcome to the University of Maine's online hospitality training: **Welcome ME!** This training is provided at no charge because we are confident you will reap many benefits from the successful completion of this program. Success of businesses in delivering a unique and high quality experience depends on employees delivering Welcome ME service to guests.

**The Haunted Woods Walk  
Application Form  
October 19th & 20th, 2012  
6pm - 9pm**

**Application Deadline: September 21, 2012**

**Applicant's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**Theme** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Names of Participants** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ghouls and Goblins**  
**Custom Choice** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Guide**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tractor/Trailer Attendant (help guests load and unload)**

**Return to: Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce  
3 Houlton Road  
Presque Isle, Maine 04769  
info@centralaroostookchamber.com  
207-764-6561, fax 207-764-1583**

**Maine Center for Entrepreneurial Development's  
Top Gun Prep**

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**According to Day's Jewelers President Jeff Corey, "Statistics indicate that if a business treats a customer well, chances are 26% greater that the customer will become a loyal patron. Statistics also state that if we are able to exceed the customer's expectations, chances of developing a loyal customer jump to over 80%...This has been the most effective tool to measure if we're actually accomplishing our goal."**

We receive nominations for Lifetime Achievement and Citizen of the Year award recipients at any time through the year. If you have a nominee in mind please contact the Chamber at anytime.



## Fraud & Theft Seminars

Presque Isle Police Department and Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce are offering seminars and discussion periods to help business owners and individuals protect themselves from loss of goods and business identity.

Join us at **7:00am on September 27 at Presque Isle Police Station** to learn more about recognizing signs of shoplifting and other criminal activity in your place of business. By sharing knowledge and experience everyone benefits.

Criminals talk, we need to as well!

Sponsored by



## Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce Opportunities to be Involved

CACC 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.

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 a committee and help make a difference in your Chamber and community.

For more information please contact Theresa Fowler at: [tfowler@centralaroostookchamber.com](mailto:tfowler@centralaroostookchamber.com) or 764-6561.

## THE HAUNTED WOODS WALK NEEDS YOU! BOO AROOSTOOK STATE PARK OCTOBER 19TH & 20TH, 2012



The Annual Haunted Woods Walk needs Spooky Displays for this years event. Get a group together and create your unique and scary display for the haunted walk. Each entry will need to submit an application and turn it in to the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce no later than September 14, 2012. Entries will be chosen based on theme and how it ties into the general theme of this years walk. Every entry will need to provide their own materials, people and frightening energy to create and perform for the two day event. Each chosen display will share in 50% of the profits from this year's Haunted Woods Walk.


If you want to be part of the Haunted Woods Walk, but not create a display, we also need:

- \* Ghosts, Goblins and Scary creatures to walk around the park and spook the guests.
- \* Guides (must be at least 18 yrs. old) to lead guests through the park. There is a lot of walking involved. Be prepared to walk your legs off.

Contact the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce if you have questions at 764-6561, or fill out an application form and return it to the Chamber by 9/14/2012. You will be contacted if your display is chosen.





Big Color Large format printing up to 42" wide	Brochures, booklets, annual reports, rack card, business cards,	letterhead, notepads, envelopes in a variety of sizes	Calendars, labels, flyers, inserts for the newspaper
Multi-part forms, business forms, continuous forms	<p>What we can do for you at Printworks</p>  <p>260 Missile Street, PO Box 510, Presque Isle, Maine 04769-0510 207-764-4471 &amp; 1-800-924-9041 FAX 207-764-4499</p> <p><b>PRINT WORKS</b> </p> <p>e-mail: <a href="mailto:printworks@nepublish.com">printworks@nepublish.com</a></p>		bill stuffers, wedding invitations
<b>PrintWorks</b> 260 Missile Street PO Box 510 Presque Isle, ME 04769-0510			Blank stock and copy paper available
Graphic Design	Photo reprints from your own collection or the paper,		
Lamination both large and small			Menus, placemats, postcards
Laser checks, trip tickets and envelopes, numbered tickets	'You made the paper" reprints - specially designed	keepsake of an article printed in the paper	

## Calendar of Events:

- Sept. 7**—First Friday Art Walk in Presque Isle. Displays open at 6:00pm. Exhibits stretch from UMPI to North Street.
- Sept. 7**—NMCC hosts their annual Alumni Dinner & Awards as part of their homecoming activities.
- Sept. 8**—City Manager, Jim Bennett meets with Presque Isle residents to offer input on 2013 city budget at Governor's Restaurant.
- Sept. 8**—Power Expo at Aroostook Centre Mall from 11-6. Maine Public Service will be there with tips for reducing energy consumption.
- Sept. 8**—Museum Crawl on Molly the Trolley—Reservations required. Seats are \$20.00. Call 762-6300 for reservations.
- Sept. 8**— will be a Family GPS Scavenger Hunt. 10AM to 2PM. Meet at National Wildlife Refuge at 10AM at the Visitors Center to begin the search Participants will use a GPS to find vegetables to be used in a "stone" soup to be made at the end of the hunt.
- Sept. 9**—Redy...Set...Let's Go Youth Triathlon starting at Gentile Hall at 1:00 pm. Registration opens at 9:00am and there will be an athletes meeting at 12:00noon.
- Sept. 11**— MaineBiz will be having an "On The Road with Mainebiz" event at the Crow's Nest in Presque Isle on . This is their second year of the event series where they travel to 5-6 locations in Maine and have these networking receptions. They are free to attend and take place from 5-7pm. There will be a cash bar along with passed hors d'oeuvres.
- Sept. 15**— From 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the public can take a narrated city-wide historic tour on Molly the Trolley. Seats are limited and reservations are required by calling the Trolley Reservation Line at 762-6300 by Friday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m. Seats are \$5.00 per person. A cook-out consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and soda will be available at the historic fire station located at 17 Church Street from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for \$5.00 per person. In addition, several antique cars will be on display.
- Sept. 14 to Sept. 16**— UMPI Homecoming weekend offering everything from the dedication of the newly restored Owls sculpture to socials, open houses, athletic events, alumni games and the annual Hall of Fame dinner. Alums are slated to return to campus from across the country and as far away as Sydney, Australia, for this year's Homecoming weekend.
- Sept. 15**—Music at Mantle Lake Park 11-1pm featuring PIHS Game Band, PIHS Chorus, PIMS and PIHS Jazz Bands and other performers. Lunch will be available for purchase and there will be raffle tickets. Supporting MSAD#1 Music programs.
- Sept. 22**—Guided walking tour of historic Presque Isle starts at Estey House 16 Third Street, at 10:00 a.m., lasts approximately two hours and covers two miles. Tours are FREE and open to the public.
- Oct. 1**—Presque Isle City Council meeting, 6:00pm, third floor of City Hall includes a forum with prospective State Representatives and Senators.
- Oct. 6**—Museum Crawl on Molly the Trolley—Reservations required. Seats are \$20.00. Call 762-6300 for reservations.
- Oct. 8**—Columbus Day
- Oct. 13**—TAMC celebrates their 100th Anniversary with a Health Fair and Harvest Bazaar at North Street and Centennial Ball in the evening.
- Oct. 19 & 20**—Haunted Woods Walk at Aroostook State Park. Gates open at 6:00pm and close at 9:00pm. Tickets \$5.00 per person. Support your chamber and local clubs.
- October 21**—5k walk- 9:30am 10k race 10am Preregistration recommended-Registration race day starts at 8:30am

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](mailto:info@centralaroostookchamber.com)  
 For more information please visit the Calendar of Events on the CAC web site: [www.centralaroostookchamber.com](http://www.centralaroostookchamber.com)



## Welcome to New Members!

**AARP Maine**, 1685 Congress St. Portland, ME 04102—776-6312; AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization with a membership that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse political candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates.

**Department of Economic and Community Development**, 59 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0059– 624-9807, Brian Doyle, Governor's Account Executive.

**PenAir**, 650 Airport Drive, Presque Isle, ME 04769– 907-771-2500; PenAir, providing daily scheduled service between Boston and Presque Isle, Maine, with SAAB 340 aircraft.

**Player Design, Inc.**, 551 Main Street, Suite 2, P.O. Box 712, Presque Isle, ME 04769-764-6811; Engineering Firm that designs and supplies state-of-the-art equipment to enable their customers to succeed in today's manufacturing markets. PDI is committed to unparalleled customer service, and believes that their growth lies with the success of their customers.

**Ticket Mania**, 4499 W. Highway 192, Kissimmee, FL 34746-407-264-9977; Discount Theme Park Ticket Provider. [www.ticketmania.com](http://www.ticketmania.com).



Start planning your float for the Holiday Light Parade!!

Registration forms will be available at the Chamber office by mid-September.

The familiar EZ to Use Big Book can now be found at [EZtoUse.com](http://EZtoUse.com). Contact them for advertising or web design needs.

EZ to Use.com provides Aroostook County Community Directories throughout the year to

**Peter Coffey** 974-3171  
Sales Manager

**Affordable.  
Effective.**

**EZToUse.com**

Ogden Directories, Inc.  
**YOUR YELLOW PAGES CONNECTION In Print & Online**

# Brochures in October!

## HOWLOWEEN Specials

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Offer for December 2012

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### Online Vehicle Registration Renewal Service Now Available on Mobile Devices

Maine Secretary of State Charles E. Summers, Jr. announced that the popular online vehicle registration renewal service, [Rapid Renewal](#), is now available on mobile devices. The easy-to-use Rapid Renewal service is currently offered in 161 cities and towns from York County to Aroostook County.

Through Rapid Renewal, citizens are able to renew their vehicle registrations and pay their municipal excise tax in one quick and simple online transaction, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The recent upgrade includes a responsive design that automatically reformats to work on any screen size, thus allowing citizens to renew through Rapid Renewal on smartphones, tablets, laptops, or desktop computers.

In addition to the new design, the service is enhanced to be even more user-friendly. For example, as customers type in their registration details online, the service provides instant feedback to indicate whether the information meets the required format for each field. This prevents errors, enhances the user experience, and helps to ensure a successful transaction. The Rapid Renewal service is operated at no cost to the State of Maine through InforME, the State's e-government portal. Other online vehicle services include replacement registrations, driver license renewal, vanity license plates, and trailer, boat, ATV, and snowmobile registration renewals.

Learn more about Maine.gov online services through RSS Feeds, Twitter, and Facebook.

Source: [Office of the Secretary of State](#).

### Commissioners Hear Stakeholders Comments on New Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Department

Agriculture, forestry, outdoor-recreation, and university representatives all had their say Friday about the pending merger of the Maine Departments of Conservation and Agriculture into a new State agency, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (MDACF).

"Gov. LePage has initiated this bold effort of joining two natural resource-focused agencies to strengthen State support and to grow the value of the agricultural, conservation, and forest resources," Agriculture Commissioner Whitcomb, MDACF Commissioner-designee, emphasized in his opening remarks. "... These soon-to-be-joined agencies will provide a wide range of services to all the people of Maine, from maintaining accessible State Park facilities to ensuring that the food we eat is safe."

In May, Gov. Paul LePage signed a supplemental budget that created the new Department. The MDACF organization creates one commissioner and two deputy-commissioner positions while eliminating one commissioner position. The new Department will have 732 full-time and seasonal employees and have a budget of \$96.5 million. It will be organized into seven divisions, joining together the same divisions and bureaus of the two existing Departments.

As part of the merger initiative, the two commissioners have organized several stakeholder meetings around Maine to garner viewpoints from all those who will be associated with the new Department.

Robert Wagner, of the University of Maine School of Forestry, said he trusted that the new Department would continue to be a strong voice in support of forestry within State Government. Noting the significant cooperation with both departments in the past, John Rebar, of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, urged that a team approach be used to solve problems, such as the threat of invasive species, and that the effective relationships between field staff continue. "That's where the real work gets done," he said.

For more information about the new Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, go to <http://www.maine.gov/acf>.

Source: [Maine Department of Conservation](#).

### Renewing Members

Thank you to all renewing members for your continued support. The Chamber of Commerce is only as strong as its membership. We invite you to attend our Board meetings at any time. You are encouraged to join committees and consider serving on the Board of Directors if you do not already have a representative on the Board.

- |                                            |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A&D Print Shop/The Swap Buy Sell Guide     | Hogan Tire, Inc.                |
| Arndt's Aroostook River Lodge & Campground | Houlton Farms Dairy             |
| Aroostook Beverage Co.                     | Huber Engineered Woods, LLC     |
| Aroostook County Federal Savings & Loan    | Maine Potato Growers, Inc.      |
| Bigrock Ski Area                           | North Country Auto              |
| Campers Paradise, Inc.                     | Northern Business Products Inc. |
| Central Aroostook ARC                      | Northern Maine Realty           |
| Country Cottage                            | Presque Isle Auto Rental        |
| Desjardins Builders                        | Presque Isle Redemption         |
| Duncan-Graves Funeral Homes                | S. W. Collins Company           |
| Gregory M. Blackstone, D.D.S.              | Sure Winner Foods               |
| H. Smith Packaging                         | Tracy Spooner, LMT              |
| Hedrich Vending, Inc.                      |                                 |

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