

Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce

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

*Executive Committee

#Industrial Council

Chamber Staff:
Theresa M. Fowler
Executive Director
Bernadette O'Donal
Administrative
Assistant



Strawberry Shortcake Sale

The annual Strawberry Shortcake Sale is just around the corner! If your place of business orders 10 shortcake or more, we will have them delivered to you on June 21st. Shortcake price is unchanged from last year at \$3.25. This beginning of summer treat has become a tradition. We will also be selling shortcake at the Key Bank North Street parking lot. Volunteers will be preparing fresh shortcake from 9:00am to 5:00pm or until we run out of biscuits. In case of rain we will deliver shortcake on June 21st and be available for individual purchases on June 22nd.

TAMC DAY June 9, 2012

The Aroostook Medical Center will be celebrating its 100 years of service throughout 2012. One of the major events is TAMC Day on June 9th.

There will be a parade from the former sight of Presque Isle Hospital, 12 Second Street, to the present sight on Academy Street. The parade steps off at 11:00pm. The parade will be followed by a community celebration at A.R. Gould Memorial Hospital. Join them for a barbeque lunch, horse-drawn wagon rides, a talent show, activities for children, classic car show and more.



Area Wide Yard Sale June 9, 2012

The Area wide yard sale, organized by Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce, will be held June 9th to coincide with TAMC Day.

This is a one day yard and garage sale. The sale starts at 8:00am Saturday morning. Please be careful when shopping. Watch out for traffic and park safely.

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

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

Chamber Connection

May-Jun 2012

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>

Barresi Financial, Inc. celebrated the move to their new office at 34 North Street. Barresi Financial offers a wide range of insurance, investments & employee benefits including group health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, retirement plans and more.

Congratulations to Amy Murphy at Cook Florist, Inc. Amy won the Maine State 2012 Designer of the Year award at a competition in Bangor. This is the second time that Amy has received this award plus has received numerous other awards at past events. We are so fortunate to have someone with such skills serving our community.

Featured Member

The Aroostook Medical Center - celebrating 100 years of medical service to the community. The Aroostook Medical Center continues to expand to meet the needs of its clients. The Aroostook Medical Center provides service at the A. R. Gould Memorial Hospital located at 140 Main Street, North Street Healthcare, County Dialysis Center, Presque Isle; Aroostook Health Center and Mars Hill Health Center, Mars Hill; Community General Health Center, Fort Fairfield; Ashland Health Center and the Caribou Health 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: tfowler@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.

Work Force Changes:

WorkShare

Maine Department of Labor officials are launching a new unemployment initiative this month aimed at keeping workers on the job when their employer experiences a temporary slowdown in business.

To be eligible for WorkShare, the employer needs to demonstrate that a layoff would have impacted at least 10% of workers for a two- to six-month period. The reduction in hours must be at least 10%, but not more than 50%, and work can't be seasonal or temporary. Workers looking to receive partial unemployment benefits must be included in the affected unit of the business; have earned enough wages to meet the regular qualifications for unemployment benefits; and be able to work their normally scheduled hours. Partial unemployment benefits are paid in a percentage equal to the reduction in hours.

Applications for Workshare must be filed by the employer. Employers should call (207) 621-5116 for more information.

Youth Employment

For teens under the age of 16, restrictions limit the types of jobs and the hours they can work. Minors cannot work jobs considered "hazardous." The Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Standards has updated the restrictions to bring them more in line with current federal requirements. This change will now allow minors under the age of 16 in Maine to work in movie theaters and bowling alleys and to do more jobs than were permitted previously in such establishments as hotels, motels, and bakeries. For example, although 15-year-olds may not operate the ovens, they can decorate cakes, fill pastries, stock the display cases, and serve customers.

Some of the jobs Maine teens under 18 years old cannot do include operating most mechanical equipment, driving for work, and working alone in a cash-based business.

The revisions have been made to help both employers and teens. "Summer jobs create an opportunity to connect students with pride in earning a paycheck and helping others," said Maine Department of Labor Commissioner Robert Winglass. "Young people can develop a strong work ethic and learn how to manage money."

There are a few steps teens must go through to obtain a work permit. First, teens must look for work and receive a job offer. They then must apply for a work permit at the office of the superintendent of the school district in which they live. All minors under the age of 16 must have a work permit before they start a job, whether or not they attend school. The school district sends the completed application to the Maine Department of Labor for approval. Teens can have two work permits (for two different jobs) in the summer, but only one permit during the school year.

Parents and employers can help expedite the approval process by making sure the work permit request includes both proof of age and parental/guardian approval. The application must contain the specific job title (e.g. "dishwasher"). The name of the business on the permit must be the actual business name, which may be different than what people commonly call it. The Bureau of Labor Standards has sent the updated list of restricted employment to all school districts in Maine.

A copy of the Guide to Maine Laws Governing the Employment of Minors is posted on the Maine Department of Labor website and is available by request by calling 623-7900.

Teens looking for summer jobs and employers seeking workers can visit Maine's Job Bank, an online job posting and job search system on the Career Center website at www.mainecareercenter.com. Employers can upload and manage job postings on Maine's Job Bank at no cost, and workers can search for jobs that match their qualifications and preferences. Thousands of Maine jobs are posted on Maine's Job Bank, and the service attracts visits from thousands of job seekers each week.

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.



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postcards

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 and help make a difference in your Chamber and community.

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

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 identity.

The next in this series will be in July, 2012. Criminals talk, we need to as well!

Sponsored by



Calendar of Events:

June 9—TAMC Day—Parade at 11:00 am from 12 Second Street to A. R. Gould Memorial Hospital. Barbeque lunch and entertainment at A. R. Gould Memorial Hospital from noon to 2:00pm.

June 9—Area Wide Yard Sale from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Maps are available at the Chamber office, 3 Houlton Road, Presque Isle grocery stores and banks. Rain date Jun 16.

June 9—FREE Guided Walking Tours of Historic Downtown Presque Isle(10—12) Starts at 16 Third Street, Vera Estey House

June 10—Music in the Park - Riverside Park Presque Isle, 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

June 16—City-Wide Historic Tours on Molly the Trolley - 9:00 a.m. from Historic Fire Station – 3 hour narrated tour

Seats Limited – **Reservations Required**; Seats \$5.00 each. Trolley Reservation Line (207) 762-6300

June 16—Young Farmers' Tractor Pull - Northern Maine Fair grounds

June 17—FATHER'S DAY

June 21—Strawberry Shortcake Sale

June 22 & 23—VFW Veteran's Rock and Country Jamboree

June 22—24—Midsommer Festival in New Sweden

June 23—Aroostook State Park Birding Festival. Begins at 6:00am

June 24—S.W. Collins 5K walk or run.

June 25—Blood Drive at UMPI

June 29—Mapleton Daze chicken barbecue, games and fireworks

June 30—Tri Aroostook-This is a USAT sanctioned sprint distance triathlon for ages 15 and up.

June 30 & July 1—Maple Meadow Farm Festival

July 4—INDEPENDENCE DAY

Presque Isle Elks Lodge will host a barbecue and car show at Riverside Park. Join them for this community celebration. Independence Day Celebration in Limestone.

July 5-8—Ashland Summer Festival

July 6—First Friday Art Walk

July 6-8—Easton Annual Field Days

July 7—Ashland Fish & Game Outdoor Flea Market

July 7—Washburn Rotary Club Pull Northern Maine Fair grounds. Pull starts at 6:00pm.

July 14th – Museum Crawl on Molly the Trolley* to Caribou and Fort Fairfield museums (during Potato Blossom Festival) (\$20 pp; 8 a.m. til done)

July 21st – City wide Historic Tour on Molly the Trolley* (\$5.00 per person; 9 a.m. to noon)

July 27 - August 4—Northern Maine Fair

July 28th – FREE guided walking tour of Historic Downtown Presque Isle (10 – 12)

July 31st – August 2 - Historical Pavilion in Forum as part of Northern Maine Fair (FREE admission with paid entry to fair; exhibits by approx 40 county museums and historical societies)

August 3—First Friday Art Walk

August 9-12 Caribou Cares About Kids

August 11-12—Ride Aroostook

August 17-19 Washburn Fall Festival

August 18—Paint Presque Isle Art Auction

August 23-26—Crown of Maine Balloon Fest

The 5th Annual Presque Isle Community "Super" Blood Drive @ UMPI will be taking place on **Monday, June 25th, 2012** in the Gentile Hall Gym from 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM. Our goal this year is to break the drive record by collecting 300 units of blood for patients in need. Can we do it???? YES, but only with YOUR help! June is Adventure Month! All presenting donors will receive a FREE day pass to a Maine State Park, a coupon for a FREE 24 pack of Pure Spring Water, and a "100th Anniversary" Special Edition Red Sox T-Shirt. In addition, donors will be entered to win the following items via drawing: Pair of Red Sox Tickets for a Home Game, Old Town Canoe Kayak Package, L.L. Bean Acadia Cruiser Bike, and a Whitewater Rafting Trip from North Country Rivers. Embark on this lifesaving adventure with the American Red Cross! The need is constant, the gratification is instant..... PLEASE GIVE BLOOD! To book your appointment today, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Thank you for your Community Blood Drive Sponsors: UMPI, Pat's Pizza, Big Cheese Pizza, Country Farms Market and the American Red Cross. We hope to see you at UMPI on June 25th, 2012!

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

Welcome to New Members!

Rosa's Day Care, 24 Industrial Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769—769-2080; Rona Violette always wanted to own a day care and her dream has become a reality. Rona operates a Licensed Daycare Center with Educationally based programs. Rona has a degree in Behavioral Science - Elementary Education with over 25 years of experience in education. She provides breakfast, lunch and snack time. Her hours are 6:30am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Ann's Home & Gift Shop, 692 Houlton Rd., Easton, ME 04740—488-6091; Annette Brown opened a seasonal gift shop in her home in Easton with a desire to provide unique gift options in a cozy atmosphere. Specializing in lace curtains, table and home decor, crafts, handmade aprons, baby items, sweater sets and blankets. This shop also carry a line of Joan Baker sun catchers. They offer gift suggestions under \$20.00 and have reasonable prices throughout their store.

Amato's, 337 Main Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769—540-1485; Started in 1902, in Portland, Maine, this local restaurant serves fresh and delicious, Italian food. Amato's has a full menu of Pizza, Pasta, Sandwiches, Roll-ups and Hot sandwiches, Calzones and Salads. Amato's has a take-out menu and does catering. Call for a catering menu and for your catering needs.

Bou's Brew Pub, 431 Main Street, Presque Isle, ME 04769—540-1445; Bou's Brew Pub is a new, exciting, energetic pub in the heart of downtown Presques Isle, featuring Pub Style Food, Beverages, Music, Sports, Art and Culture. Bou's lends itself to involvement with non-profit events and working with local businesses.

Vicki Brown; Vicki took out an individual membership in support of the availability of the Chamber office for public meetings and the effort put forth by the Chamber to support local events.

In addition to having ribbon cuttings at the four businesses above, the Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce participated as **Barresi Financial, Inc.** celebrated the opening of their new location at 34 North Street, Presque Isle.

Electronic equipment may help thieves find your home!

Someone had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

Something to consider if you have a GPS - don't put your home address in it.. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

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

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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.

Academy Dental

Amity Professional Services

ARAMARK

Aroostook Monuments

Billie Brodsky

Care & Comfort

Carroll's Auto Sales

Channel X Radio Network

Clifford L. Rhome, P.A.

Clukey's Auto Supply

Colton Associates

Columbia Forest Products

Cook Florist, Inc

Country Cleaners

Dead River Company

Eagle Hill Stamp & Coin

F.A. Peabody Co.

Gary's Furniture & Appliance

Greenmark IT

Griffeth Ford Lincoln Mercury Mitsubishi

Hampton Inn Presque Isle

Inlution Inc.

Irish Setter Pub

James L. Tompkins, O.D.

Key Realty

Kinney's Flowers

Libby's Sporting Camp

Maple Meadow Farms

Marden's surplus & salvage

Mars Hill Country Club

Matheson Valley

MMG Insurance

Neil E. Michaud Campground

Northeastland Hotel

Oak Leaf Systems, Inc.

OfficeMax

Presque Isle Fish & Game Club

PNM Construction, Inc.

Seacoast Security

Staples

Star City IGA

Star City Sanitation, Inc.

Subway

The Bank of Maine

The Lane Construction Corp.

The Old Iron Inn B&B

Tim Horton's

Time Warner Cable

United Insurance

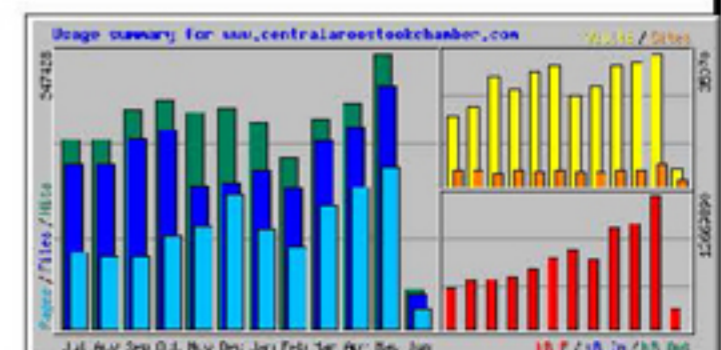
Wintergreen Arts Center

The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce supports businesses throughout the region through our publications, 24 hour Information Booth, cooperative advertising, website hosting, Membership Directory and media relations.

We distribute our membership directory to all new and potential residents of the area. Where else can you find someone to answer your phone, promote your business, monitor communications and arrange training and information sessions for the price of your membership? Chamber dues have not risen in 13 years.

We provide our members inexpensive access to advertising on our website where your business is exposed to 20,000—30,000 visits per month. At any given time there are more than 50 guests on our site. Our bi-monthly newsletter, distributed electronically to thousands of people, provides another promotion tool.

We are proud to serve our 13 communities and 300 members.





Maine Regulatory Fairness Board

Fact Sheet



What is the Regulatory Fairness Board?

The Maine Regulatory Fairness Board (RFB) invites public testimony on regulatory and statutory issues that impact Maine businesses. To effectively report to the Legislature and the Governor on regulatory conflicts, the Board elicits public comment from Maine business owners/managers and the public concerning:

- specific state rules and regulations that may unreasonably impede business sustainability and growth; and
- recommendations for regulatory and statutory change that may enhance Maine's business climate.

The Board holds hearings in various parts of the state to invite testimony that highlights and details regulations in need of scrutiny and amendment. The Board announces these hearings via news releases and websites* to attract those who wish to present their perspectives on pertinent topics. The Board also holds public meetings in Augusta where it weighs public comments and addresses administrative matters to advance operational goals and objectives.

These public comments directly set the hearing agendas and greatly inform the Board's recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. Public participation is thus an essential element to achieving the Board's goals and objectives. Please consider attending meetings whenever possible to share your valuable insights.

Who serves on the Regulatory Fairness Board?

The Board is chaired by the Secretary of State and is comprised of four members who are or have been owners or operators of Maine businesses. It is staffed by Maine's Small Business Advocate. One member is appointed by the President of the Senate, one member is appointed by the Speaker of the House, and two members are appointed by the Governor, one of whom represents businesses with fewer than 50 employees and another who represents those with fewer than 20 employees.

Members:

- Secretary of State Charles E. Summers, Jr., Scarborough - *Chairman*
- Mr. Mark A. Tyler, Oakland - *Vice Chairman*
- Ms. Patricia Kuhl, Brunswick
- Mr. Michael R. Cote, Whiting
- Hon. Douglas Smith, Dover-Foxcroft

Private sector members of the Board volunteer their time and their unique expertise to serve as liaisons between the State's business community, regulatory authorities, and lawmakers. Board members serve three-year terms and may serve up to three consecutive terms.

How do I contact the Regulatory Fairness Board?

Jay Martin, Small Business Advocate
Office of the Secretary of State
148 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0148
Office: (207) 626-8410 Cell: (207) 215-5871
Fax: (207) 287-8598 E-mail: jay.martin@maine.gov
Websites: www.maine.gov/sos/sba

*www.maine.gov/sos/sba/rfb.html

The Maine Regulatory Fairness Board (RFB) invites public testimony on regulatory and statutory issues that impact Maine businesses at its next meeting on Friday, June 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ellsworth Middle School, located at 20 Forrest Avenue in Ellsworth.



Maine Small Business Advocate

Fact Sheet



Small Business Advocate
Jay Martin

What is the Small Business Advocate's role?

Maine's Small Business Advocate serves as an independent voice for Maine small business owners within our state's regulatory system. The Advocate works directly with small businesses (50 employees or fewer) that have specific grievances with one or more regulatory agency's enforcement actions. The Advocate's top priority is to assist small business owners who feel they are being treated unfairly or improperly by state agencies.

The Advocate is not a substitute for established agency procedures or the formal appeals process. The Advocate cannot provide legal advice or reverse legal or adjudicatory determinations.

Why is the work of the Small Business Advocate important?

As an appointee of Maine's Secretary of State, the Advocate serves as an independent, accountable and appropriate check on the state's efforts to regulate Maine businesses. This role is the first of its kind in the state and the nation, demonstrating our state's commitment to ensuring Maine's small businesses have every chance at success.

The Advocate advises and staffs the Regulatory Fairness Board, chaired by the Secretary of State. This board, with members from the private sector appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House, reports to the legislature and Governor annually with recommendations for regulatory and statutory changes that may enhance Maine's business climate. The Advocate comments on proposed rules and testifies on legislation affecting the interests of Maine's small businesses. Please contact the Advocate to share your ideas on improving Maine's regulatory environment.

How are small businesses served by the Small Business Advocate?

1. A small business owner who feels he or she is being treated unfairly or inappropriately by a state agency in a way that may create an economic hardship can request assistance from the Small Business Advocate. Business owners seeking assistance should be prepared to offer complete and accurate information to enable the Advocate to effectively research and address their concerns.
2. The Advocate researches pertinent statutes and rules/regulations, and consults with the small business and state agency/ies involved to determine the facts underlying the complaint.
3. The Advocate serves as an intermediary between the small business and the agency/ies to determine an appropriate course to address legitimate grievances.
4. When necessary, the Advocate will request that the Secretary of State issue a regulatory impact notice to the Governor outlining the fact finding and recommending an alternative means of effective enforcement that would relieve the small business of the significant economic hardship imposed.

How do I contact the Small Business Advocate?

Please call, email, write, or fax:

Jay Martin, Small Business Advocate
Office of the Secretary of State
148 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0148
Office: (207) 626-8410
Cell: (207) 215-5871
Fax: (207) 287-8598
E-mail: jay.martin@maine.gov
Website: www.maine.gov/sos/sba

Thank You!

Final Word

By Theresa Fowler

By the time you receive this the warm weather will have returned to us and we will all be appreciating the bounty that we live with. In the spring there is an abundance of rhubarb, fish are abundant in the streams, asparagus is breaking the ground, fiddleheads and dandelions (though long past now) are everywhere and the beautiful sunrises and sunsets bring out the diversity of color in the region.

Tuesday, June 12, we invite you to join us for a barbecue potluck supper at Mantle Lake Park. The Crown of Maine Balloon Fest encourages past volunteers and people interested in participating this year to join us in a mid-season get together. During the festival we have a lot of fun together and then go our separate ways for a year. The committee decided it would be nice to spend a little time with the volunteers outside the festival. If you can join us on June 12 at Mantle Lake Park, the coals will be ready by 6:00pm. Bring what you want to barbeque, a dish to share and your beverage of choice. CACC will provide plates, napkins, cutlery, condiments and the coals.

Plans for The Crown of Maine Balloon Fest are coming together well. We need a wide variety of volunteers for this year's festival. Each year we develop new ideas and require more people.

This spring is promising a busy season ahead. We are happy to have the Northern Maine Fair Association move some of their operations to our office. It is great to share resources with this dedicated group of volunteers as they continue to support and promote the agricultural, forestry and musical heritage of the area.

Our member communities are preparing a variety of events for the summer starting of course with the Strawberry Shortcake Sale. Mapleton Daze and Maple Meadow Farm Festival, Ashland Summer Fest, Maine Potato Blossom, Northern Maine Fair, Mars Hill Summer Fest, Washburn Jubilee, Easton Field Days, Portage Lake Boat Parade and the Whoopie Pie Festival are just some of the things that will keep people busy this summer.

We had a visit from the Secretary of State's office last month. The presentation by the Secret Service person with Jay Walker was speaking about corporate identity theft and how criminals access your information easily. The information was particularly relevant for smaller businesses using laptops while travelling and the ease with which the system can be breached.

The Central Aroostook Chamber of Commerce will have openings on the Board of Directors in 2013. Nominations for a position as a Director will be accepted until October. The strength of the Chamber of Commerce depends on its membership and the direction given by those actively involved.

For those of you interested in the promotion opportunities we offer, we have space on our web page at the very top where you can place rotating ads as well as the sight where you see rotating ads on the right side of the page. Our web site is a high traffic area. The key search words used to reach our web page include Presque Isle and Maine facts. Unfortunately the number of web crawlers that are rampant in the cyber world have distorted our statistics. I hope that our June and July figures will be accurate.

The Chamber is always in need of volunteers interested in working on projects, advertising ideas and a variety of other areas that we do not have time to properly address.

I hope things are going well for you and your business. If the Chamber can provide you with any information or assistance please contact us at any time.