

Chamber News

Summer 2009



Thoughts From your Executive Director Everything Happens for a Reason



The first 90 days “on the job” have been such an amazing experience! I’m sure most of you have learned a little about me either from meeting in person, or the information that Russ included in the last newsletter. As we all begin to work together and get to know each other even more, I thought I would share a few more details about myself with you. For anyone that has spent time around me, I’m sure at one time or another you have heard me say that “everything happens for a reason.”

After leaving my job of 16 years- that statement is even more true for me today than ever! At the beginning of the year, I began evaluating my life- as I imagine many of us do at the new year. I could tell that somehow, I’d lost control and my priorities were out of balance. There was never enough time in a day. I was *always* late- for everything,; and the time I did have was not being spent in the places I wanted. I had an overwhelming feeling of running a marathon- but there never seemed to be a finish line to catch my breath. When I looked to the future ahead of me- the vision I saw was that the marathon would be cranked up to a sprint...and there was *still* no finish line. Somehow things had become overly complicated and I wasn’t where I’d hoped to be at this point in my life. I knew I wanted things to change... somehow, some way.

But change is a scary thing! There are so many unknowns and so many things to worry about- and trust me- I’m a worrier! Then, someone close to me sent me a card that read “The shortest distance between two points is a leap of faith!” I read that card, and placed it in my home so that I could read it everyday. Faith is an amazing thing! When I changed my focus onto the things *I* could control (with contingency plans of course) and then just had faith that the rest would work itself out- everything seemed to untangle.

In mid March, when I received a phone call from Judy Folsom offering me the position of Executive Director on behalf of the executive committee, that leap of faith had paid off! On the surface, I knew that my previous experiences would assist me in doing this job and this position was going to be a better balance with my family, with less traveling and fewer hours. We would actually be able to have dinner together, and I could visit with my kids before bed time. I also knew that I was excited to work and participate in the community that I have lived and grown up in.

What I didn’t know, was just exactly how much I would absolutely love the work! Over the last 90 days, I have met so many incredible and diverse people that are our members! I have gone into those meetings wanting to know how I can help, and time and time again people have responded by sharing and offering how *they* can help *me*. I have been able to bring the Maine Tourism Association to Piscataquis County for a tour, and proudly “show off” all that we have to offer as a community. I have been welcomed into this position with warmth, generosity, and support and am thankful that life has lead me down this path. I am now exactly where I wanted to be at this point in my life.

On the evening of our Business of the Year Awards at Wildwoods, after celebrating our 25th anniversary with great people from our community, I was driving home from Brownville and there was the most amazing rainbow overhead. After all the rain we have been having- it was breathtaking! I was overcome with a feeling of peace, and all I could think was “I am *so* thankful for my many blessings.”

So I end this message today with “I believe everything happens for a reason...”

Welcome New Chamber Members

Children's Learning Center: CPR and First Aid certified staff offer childcare for infants, toddlers, preschool, afterschool, and summer care (ages 6 wks to 12 yrs). Focus is on the development of the whole child social, physical, and educational. Contact Eva Priest @ 717-8880 for more information.

Christina Lovejoy Photography: Quality photography of family portraits, high school senior pictures, sports teams, weddings, and special events. Photos may be taken either in the studio or at the site of your choice. Contact Chris Lovejoy @ 564-8364 for more information.

Dental Hygiene Associates of ME: Offering affordable quality dental care and prevention for all ages. Dental cleanings, sealants, fluoride treatments, and temporary fillings. Contact Katti Webb @ 564-0095 for more information.

Field of Dreams: Family run greenhouse offering home grown annuals, perennials, vegetable seedlings, and lots of flowers and plants for creating your own containers. They also offer many hanging baskets in a variety of sizes. Plans to offer fresh cut flowers are in the near future. Contact Hazel Durant @ 965-8010 for more information.

Foxcroft Agway: Feed, seed, and greenhouse supplies can all be found at your local Agway. Also, supplies for your pet, equine, livestock, wildbird, organic growers and garden supplies are available as well. Contact Pam Pultz @ 564-2730 for more information.

The Junction: The Junction offers fun for all ages with their outdoor concerts, drive in movies, camping and outdoor adventure at their entertainment park. Check out their website at www.thejunctiongeneral.com or contact John or Don Belvin @ 965-8786 for more information.

Maine Asset Management: Maine Asset Management is a family owned and operated business that rents camps on Sebec lake year round. The camps are located on both the Bowerbank and Greeleys Landing side of the lake. Great opportunity to enjoy all 4 seasons at the lake.

Mallet Real Estate: Meeting all of your real estate needs whether selling or buying homes or land in the greater Piscataquis County. Contact Patsy Mallet @ 564-8073 for more information.

Station Market: The Station Market is your full grocer offering fine meats, fresh produce, Deli, Pizza and Bakery. Contact Chuck Pribus @ 965-2361 for more information.

The Red Barn: Weekend entertainment in a family oriented atmosphere with music, karaoke, and dancing for all ages. Hall Rental also available for parties & Events. Contact Glenda @ 564-7831 for more information.

Thank you to Our Renewing Members

Abel's Restaurant- D-F
AMB Signs- D-F
Appalachian Mtn. Club- Greenville
Bangor Daily News- Bangor
Bob's Home & Garden- D-F
Blanketworks
Brewster Inn- Dexter
Buck's Crossing- Parkman
Camden National Bank
Charlotte White Center
Christine Proulx Health Insurance
Covered Bridge- Guilford
Dover-Foxcroft Chiropractic Center
Engstrom & Tumosa Tree Service
Foxbrook Variety- D-F
Foxcroft Veterinary Services
Jemma Gascoine Pottery- Blanchard
David Arthur Goolsby, LCSW- D-F
Goulette's IGA
H & R Block
Hearts Desire- Guilford
The Maine Ingredient- Monson
Mainely Rent to Own
Mayo Regional Hospital
Pinetree Hospice
Pinetree Storage
Pleasant River Lumber
Prouty Ford
Town & Country Realty- D-F
United Methodist Church
Wildwoods- Brownville
WDME Radio

FACT or Myth:

Is the grass always greener on the other side? Have you ever heard someone say “I am headed in to Bangor to go shopping. I need to buy a _____ (fill in the blank) and I’m sure I will find it cheaper there”. By the time you add in the expense of gasoline to travel there, I have always wondered if that was true...So this month I have compared similar stores with similar brands (apples to apples) to find out if it is a FACT or Myth and thought I would share what I found with all of you...(By the way, according to Map Quest the cost of fuel from the Chamber office to the Mall round trip is \$8.64)

Dog Food:

Bangor \$39.99
Foxcroft Agway
\$33.99

GE Refrigerator:

Bangor \$949
Dave’s World **\$899**

Movies:

Bangor \$8.25
Center Theatre **\$4.00**

Dinner Avg. Check

Bangor \$15.00
Wildwoods **10.00**

Lumber 2 x 4 (8ft)

Bangor \$2.23
Dover True Value **\$1.89**

Remember to Shop Locally!!

Congratulations to our Raffle Winners:

Quilt: Wildwoods Trailside Cabins & Lodge
 Books: A. Hector
 Pillow: David Bovill

Thanks to all that supported the chamber!

Suggestions for Places to Go and Things to Do This Summer in Piscataquis County

- **GO FOR A HIKE:** Check out our hiking guide for suggestions of trails in our area with a range of difficulty
- **GO PLAY:** Whether you love Golf, Tennis or Basketball, we have a place for you. Try your luck at each course or court in the area
- **GO FOR A RIDE:** See the area from a different point of view...Vehicle tour or Horseback!
- **STAY INSIDE:** See a movie at one of our theaters or visit a museum and let the history of the county come alive.
- **GO FOR A SWIM:** Cool off in one of our many lakes, ponds or streams
- **GO FISHING:** Check out our guide for suggestions of fishing locations and plan to bring home dinner!
- **TRY CAMPING:** There are a many of camping locations that range from RV camping to “roughing it” in the wilderness
- **GO FOR A VISIT:** See some of the most beautiful gardens in the area on the Shiretown Garden Tour
- **ENJOY THE MUSIC:** Come and listen to the Saturday Night in Dover-Foxcroft Concert series and enjoy a wide variety of musical talent or catch a concert at The Junction.
- **DANCE AND SING:** Take the family out for a night of dancing and karaoke at the Red Barn

Chamber office Summer Hours

Thanks to the support of volunteers, we are now able to offer consistent hours at the chamber office during the summer months. A big **THANK YOU TO JOHN JONES & RICK DAVIS!**

Tues.- Fri 10-2

Deb is available any other time by appointment as well.

Calendar of Events

July 18: Shiretown Garden Tour
Dover-Foxcroft, ME

**July 18: Saturday Night in D-F
Inanna @ Center Theater
Dover-Foxcroft, ME**

July 18: The Junction
Rod Stewart Tribute Band
Brownville, ME

July 25: Piscataquis River Festival
Guilford, ME

July 26: Abbot Days
Abbot, ME

July 31: The Junction
Christian Revival weekend
Brownville, ME

July 31: Homecoming Weekend
Dover-Foxcroft, ME

Aug 7: Bowerbank Days
Bowerbank, ME

Aug 15: Church Fair
Congregational Church
Dover-Foxcroft ME

**Aug 15: Saturday Night in D-F
Mike Miclon @ Center Theater
Dover-Foxcroft, ME**

Aug. 27: Piscataquis Valley Fair
Fairgrounds
Dover-Foxcroft, ME

**For More information on any of these
events, please check out our website at
www.piscataquischamber.com.
Click on the upcoming events section**

We Celebrate our
25th anniversary with a new
sign on the Chamber build-
ing! Thank you to **Dave
Lockwood @ the Green
Door Gallery** for his crafts-
manship and thank you to the
anonymous donor who
helped to fund this new addi-

Board of Directors

The annual meeting for the Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce was held on May 21, 2009. A slate of Officers and Directors was presented and accepted by unanimous approval. We are proud and thankful to have the support and guidance from this diverse and active volunteer Board of Directors.

Officers

President:

Sherry French, WDME Radio/ French Construction
Guilford, ME

Vice President:

Dennis Aplanalp, Freedom B& B/ Freedom Office
Products
Dover-Foxcroft, ME

Treasurer:

Gail Stutzman, Stutzman Business Services
Sangerville, ME

Clerk:

Bob Shank, Eastern Gazette
Dexter, ME

Directors

Ralph Gabarro
Heidi Thompson
Erika Weidner
Judy Folsom
Rose Durgin
Ray Webb
Thomas Kittredge
Diane Sharrow
Seth Ostrosky

FAMILY FUN DAYS

The **Foxcroft Academy** campus was donated as the location of the very first Chamber of Commerce FAMILY FUN DAYS event on June 20th. We were blessed with beautiful weather (I think that was the last nice day I can remember), as many participants came to play for the day.

The morning began with many excited athletes lining up at the registration table to begin their 5K race. The event was co-sponsored by **Stutzman Business Services and French Construction**. The event was split into 4 different age groups; Group 1 was 18 and under, Group 2 was 19-35, Group 3 was 36-49, and Group 4 was 50+. Winners from each age group were as follows:

Group 1: Billy Kinsman (29.47)

Group 2: Jason Abbott Dallamora (17.41)

Group 3: Joe Gallant (19.47)

Group 4: Ron Sweet (20.07)



Softball enthusiasts were registering at the same time for what turned out to be a fantastic competition of skill and endurance between **Charlotte White Center** and **The Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department**.

The first game of the day seemed to be a breeze as the Fire Department won with a significant lead. However, Charlotte White battled back to win the second game creating the need for a third tie breaking game.



Ultimately, after the third game, it was the Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department that was named the champions by umpire **Steve Boyd of Foxbrook Variety**. **Steve** also was one of the many volunteers that spent time in the dunk tank that was sponsored by **Hibbards Nursing Home**. His son was the first to knock him in! Pay Back!

Throughout the day, visitors stopped by the Basketball free throw table to try their luck at making the furthest shot in the gym as well as entering to win a gas powered trimmer that was donated by **Bob Sutton of Sutton's Tractors**. The big winner was Rick Nichols! Congratulations Rick and thank you to Sutton's tractors for their generous donation!

A wonderful lunch was prepared by **Karylyn Lyman from the Maine Ingredient**. Many thanks go to **Camden National Bank, Maine Highlands FCU, and Solutions Consulting** for their donations.

The kids really seemed to love the opportunity to "Touch a Truck" throughout the day. Vehicles that were present were fire trucks, police cars, ambulance, and a selection of vehicles from **Rowell's Garage and AE Robinson**.

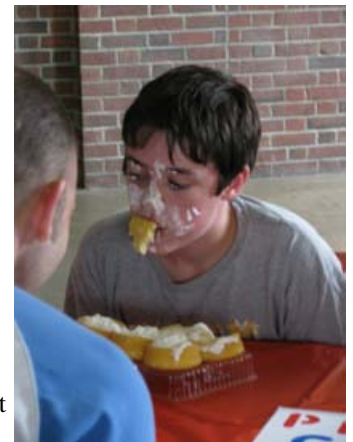


The competition was on when several kids lined up to face off at the Tug of War which was sponsored by **Mayo Regional Hospital**. **Ralph Gabarro** was present to call the winners as the girls "tugged" against the boys. And the winner was...THE GIRLS!!!!



The younger children bounced the day away in the bounce house that was provided by **Pleasant River Lumber**, as well as played the bean bag toss and other games provided by the **Children's Learning Center**. And of course, no day is complete for a small child without a balloon and tattoo donated by **Charlotte White Center**.

The competition and fun continued as children participated in the 3 legged race, water balloon toss, and egg balancing race. Smiles could be seen on all of their faces...That was until the pie eating contest!!! Faces were hard to find under all of the whipped cream as many kids and adults dove head first into their pies (no hands of course) to see who could finish first their pies first. This event was sponsored by **Save a Lot**, who provided all of the sweet supplies necessary to make this such a fun event to watch! In the



end it was **Thomas Kittredge** as the winner in the adult category, and **Billy Kinsman** as the winner in the children's category. Great Job Guys!

For those that were not interested in diving into their food, but tasting it- the Chili cookoff was just what they needed. The winner was **The Noreaster! Heidi Thompson from Hardwood Products** was able to stand by and watch as taster after taster claimed "Very Yummy!"



Many thanks to EVERYONE who helped to make this such a wonderful event and supported the Chamber!!! I can't wait to get started working on next year!!!!



Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 376
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

Chamber News

1984-2009” Celebrating 25 years of service to the businesses & communities of Piscataquis

2009 Business of the Year

As I began to get settled into the chamber office, I found myself going through cabinets full of files and newspaper clippings from the past 25 years. The history of the chamber seemed to come to life as I read about the day the chamber building was dedicated, or the announcements of the past Executive Directors coming or going. I feel honored to be a part of the chamber’s 25th Anniversary, especially as we celebrate the winners of the Business of the Year Awards for 2009. The winners this year for small business, and large business were selected due not only to their ability to sustain a thriving business, but also due to their long standing membership with the Piscataquis Chamber over the last 25 years.

Seth Ostrosky from the Noreaster, the 2008 winner for small business of the year, shared great words of appreciation for **Bruce and LuAnn Tibbets from Bob’s Home & Garden**. Bruce and LuAnn spoke of the years of dedication to their family business with pride and reminisced about the years of play pens set up in their office.



Jason Brochu from Pleasant River Lumber spoke as the 2008 winner as he recognized the 25 years of chamber membership of the 2009 Business of the Year, **AE Robinson**. **Jim Robinson** was surrounded by his friends and family as they cheered and celebrated the many years of business in Piscataquis County. Jim was recognized for his ability to grow and expand his business over the last 25+ years, even during the difficult times. One of which was the flood that hit his location on Main St. in Dover-Foxcroft.

We are proud to have both of these businesses in Piscataquis County and we celebrate all of the commitment, sacrifice, heart and soul that these people have give to their businesses and their community for the last 25 years.