

## THE PROGRESS REPORTER

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*Aroostook County is celebrating some bright spots in our region, despite the ongoing economic news from across the nation. Aroostook County is home to two of the state's largest business parks: the 8,000 acre Loring Commerce Centre and the 450 acre Skyway Industrial Park. Each keep a productive and available workforce employed with new and engaging projects.*

*As you will read in The Progress Reporter Newsletter, Northern Maine Community College is doing it's part to train Maine students for the changing business environment at its new business technology center.*

*You will also see that Maine Public Service Company is leading the way to build the infrastructure for green technologies in northern Maine. And Aroostook County business owners, please pay special attention to the information on Work Opportunities tax credit outlined below.*

*Thanks for your continued interest in Aroostook County's progress and success.---- Walt Elish*

- **NMCC Technology Center Provides Students with Real World Experiences**

Northern Maine Community College recently hosted a public open house and grand opening for its new Business Technology Center. The Center provides faculty and students the opportunity to teach/learn in a facility that mirrors a contemporary business environment. It is conducive to small team problem solving with the attached meeting room utilizing wireless computing technology. The facility will assist in preparing students for jobs in the business and technology sectors.

[Find out more about the new NMCC Business Technology Center](#)

### 2009 Showcase Aroostook

- **New Presque Isle Hampton Inn Under Construction**

Construction on the Hampton Inn continues to progress with the target open date in Summer of 2009. The \$10 million Main Street project involves the construction of a 93 bed hotel and two additional commercial / retail businesses. The 58,500 square-foot, four-story structure, is located on Main St. at the former site of the armory. The new Hampton Inn have 93 rooms and employ over 30 people.



BLD Properties LLC, of Yarmouth, is the project developer. The Hampton Inn was





Showcase Aroostook is a chance to explore and experience.

Explore the vast business opportunities provided in northern Maine.

Experience the best of what northern Maine has to offer: snowmobiling on the state's award winning trail system.

No snowmobiling experience required! Only a desire to find out more about what northern Maine can offer you and your clients.

**RSVP to Walt Elish, Aroostook Partnership for Progress**

1-800-509-2146  
welish@APPme.org

recruited to the area by APP.

### [Track the progress of the Hampton Inn construction project](#)

- **Utility Projects Could Bring Significant Investment to Northern Maine**

Maine Public Service Company has 1,250 megawatts of renewable energy interconnection requests valued at about \$2 billion. These projects have the potential to stimulate additional jobs and research and development initiatives in renewable energy.

To accommodate this additional generation, MPS, in partnership with Central Maine Power (CMP), is proposing the construction of a new 345 KV 200 mile transmission line costing another \$645 million.

Northern Maine is looking at an emerging new industry, which includes constructing a bulk transmission power line to electrically connect Northern Maine to New England and creating 'green' jobs for wind operators and technicians in the renewable energy sector.

### [Learn more about Maine Public Service Company's transmission line project](#)

- **Pioneer Data Center Provides Unique International Connections**



Presque Isle, Maine  
Internationally Redundant  
Colocation Facility

The Pioneer Data Center, located in Presque Isle, is open for business.

Originally designed in the 1980s as a mainframe facility, the data center has multiple redundant data paths including an international connection through New Brunswick, Canada. Having a connection to the Canadian grid as well as the U.S. grid assures users that service will not be negatively impacted by an event in the U.S.

The facility is equipped with an HVAC system, and a raised floor. A state-of-the-art fire suppression system keeps your investments in data and equipment protected under all circumstances. The data center is monitored around the clock by an IP-based CCTV DVR system. Access is available 24/7 and is controlled by code pads.

### [Find out more about the Pioneer Data Center](#)

- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit Saves Businesses Money**

Significant changes have been made to the Work Opportunities Tax Credit allowing **Aroostook County businesses** to claim a tax credit of up to \$2,400 for every eligible individual hired.

Prior to the change, this credit was only available to those that hired specific targeted groups of people between the ages of 18 and 24. Under the new law, every citizen of Aroostook County between the ages of 18 and 40 now qualify.

The potential benefit from this change for business owners is tremendous and could save every business owner thousands of dollars in federal income tax. Only those businesses located in Aroostook County are eligible.

**Contact Aroostook Partnership for Progress for more information**

● FEATURED BUILDING



**Frenchville Maine Property**

**Steel Warehouse Building**

**Former Use:** Industrial/Warehouse

**Building Size:** 330 ft. X 200 ft.

**Land:** 3 Acres cleared: 11 uncleared

**Incentives:** Aroostook County Empowerment Zone

**For More Information: Walter Elish Aroostook Partnership For Progress**

:: [welish@appme.org](mailto:welish@appme.org)  
:: <http://www.appme.org>

:: 1-800-509-2146

**Find out more about APP Featured Properties**