

APP Studies Resort Options

The Aroostook Partnership for Progress announced that they have obtained the services of one of America’s leading resort consulting firms to investigate resort options for Northern Maine.

“We’re excited about being able to work with Global Resorts Inc (GRI),” says APP Executive Director Walt Elish. “GRI has done work across the continental US and in 32 countries around the world and will help us identify the opportunities for development here.” GRI has worked with some of the world’s leading resort developers including Marriott, Hilton, Four Seasons, Hyatt, Fairmont, Allegro, Club Med, as well as leading financial institutions including GE Capital, Textron and ING Capital.

“The resort option has been an element of APP’s strategic business plan since our formation,” says former APP Board Chair and President and CEO of Maine & Maritimes J. Nick Bayne. “We are convinced that our location, our pristine, natural beauty and our experience in

hosting world-class sporting events makes Northern Maine a perfect location for a resort development that can capitalize on our inherent strengths.”

GRI will conduct a marketing-feasibility study and conceptual plan for a resort or resorts in the County. The study, to be completed in about six months, will identify various options for resort locations, the type of resort to be built and the funding sources necessary to bring the project to fruition. Among other advantages, APP believes that attracting a resort to northern Maine will assist in making Northern Maine a recognized tourist destination.



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The Aroostook Partnership for Progress (APP) is a public - private partnership committed to economic growth in Northern Maine.

For information on setting up or growing your business in Northern Maine, contact APP.

If you would prefer to receive the Progress Reporter as an electronic newsletter, please send an email to:

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Promoting Air Cargo for Northern Maine

The Aroostook Partnership for Progress and the Loring Commerce Centre hosted a visit by two senior staff members from the Department of Homeland Security on June 2 and 3.

Pamela Hamilton, Director of Operations for Air Cargo Security, Transportation Security Administration and Jim Patton, Acting Director for Policy, Customs and Border Protection, traveled from Washington to tour Loring and hear suggestions for the various roles the base could play in better securing our borders against terrorism.

“Ms. Hamilton is in charge of evaluating the comments to the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to which APP pointed out the potential for



Loring to help address the remaining threats from inbound international cargo aircraft,” said Carl Flora, President & CEO of the Loring Development Authority.

Ms. Hamilton is also charged with responding to the Senate with a report discussing this threat and TSA’s plans to address it.

“We are going to continue to promote the Loring site to these officials,” said Flora. “They gave us great direction with respect to the advantages of our site. They also pointed out areas where we don’t align with TSA’s program to provide security while minimizing its impact on the flow of commerce.”

Overall Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Patton left with a better understanding of the region’s geographical location, uncongested airspace and facilities, namely the aviation complex.

“And, as with everyone who visits Northern Maine, they were overwhelmed with the people they met and our hospitality.”

BRAC Committee Visits DFAS

In June, at the invitation of local business leaders, officials from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) Committee were in Northern Maine to visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Limestone facility.

With the announced closing of the facility, APP, along with the Loring Development Authority, formed the Grow DFAS Committee.

“The Grow DFAS Committee is attempting to persuade the BRAC Committee to not only reverse the decision, but also to expand the facility into one of the regional centers,” said Walt Elish, Executive Director of APP. “We showed the BRAC Committee this impressive building and even more impressive workforce.”

DFAS is located in 141,000 square feet, state of the art building and is located on 15 acres of land at the former Loring Air Force Base.

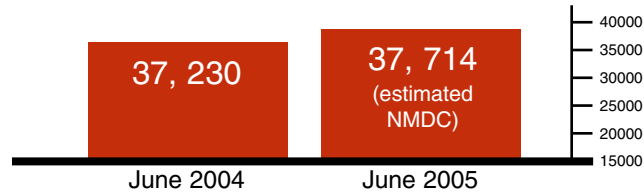
“This facility has low operating costs and the ability to expand. I’ve seen a lot of buildings and it doesn’t get any better than this one. It’s definitely Grade A space,” said Elish.

“But an even greater reason to grow the operation is the quality of the workforce. They are among the most educated, well trained and productive in the DFAS system,” said Elish.



Job Growth

Number of people employed in Aroostook County



Letter from Chairman

It is with great pleasure that I write my first update since becoming Chairman of the Board for the Aroostook Partnership for Progress in late June.

First of all, I’d like to thank Nick Bayne for the leadership he provided in the formation of this partnership and as the first Chairman of the Board. Nick was critical in raising funds for this endeavor and developing our strategic plan. Those two initiatives, along with the many others he led, have set us on the course we are on now – ready to reach the outline goals of job creation and investment into Northern Maine. I look forward to continue working alongside Nick throughout my term.

I also want to acknowledge APP’s quick response to the announced closing of the DFAS Limestone facility. APP, and the Loring Development Authority, formed the Grow DFAS Committee. The Committee will be attempting to persuade DOD to not only reverse its decision, but also to expand the facility into one of the regional centers.

Finally, I, along with the rest of the Board, look forward to working with our new partner Global Resorts Inc. as they study the potential of a resort development for Northern Maine. I know there will be a lot of interest in this project as it progresses and we will keep you informed.

Jon Prescott, Chairman

A public-private partnership committed to economic growth in northern Maine

Marketing Northern Maine with Webcast

In May the Aroostook Partnership for Progress “went live” to Boston area businesses with the help of the internet. APP was able to do this by posting a webcast, a 10-minute video and PowerPoint, directly on their website.

“The people who make the decisions to start a new company or expand an existing company are very busy. It’s difficult to get their attention and the webcast was an effort to do something a little different,” said Walt Elish, Executive Director of APP. “We need to demonstrate to them what Northern Maine can offer. We also wanted to show them that we’re aggressively trying to get them to look at our location.”

The webcast was created specifically for Boston areas businesses and demonstrated the advantages of setting up or growing a business in Northern Maine. Senator Susan Collins, Governor John Baldacci and Nick Bayne were all featured in the webcast inviting potential companies to invest in Northern Maine.

Following the webcast calls were made to targeted Boston area businesses to arrange appointments and/or receive feedback on the information contained in the webcast. A few meetings were lined up for June with more on their way in coming months.

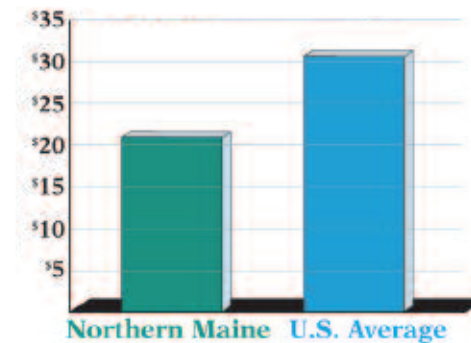
“Boston is a market we know well. It’s physically close to us and there is a daily direct flight to and from Northern Maine,” said Elish. “With that in mind, Boston business people are only a little over an hour’s flight from us. That’s a great selling point and one that’s not lost on us.”

To view the webcast, log onto www.APPme.org/webcast.

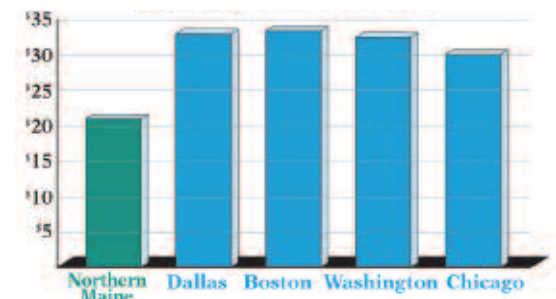


Labor Costs

Average salary in Northern Maine versus US



Average salary in Northern Maine versus other major centers

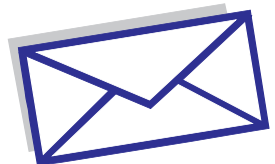


Contact Us...

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