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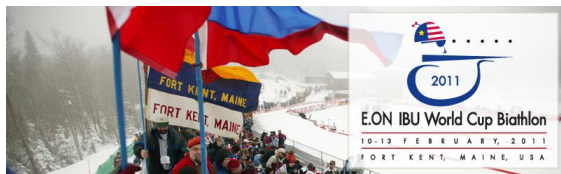
APP's Mobilize Northern Maine initiative is spurring economic growth in Aroostook County. With over a hundred Maine companies actively participating, business opportunities are being generated that have the potential to significantly grow northern Maine's economy. In our newsletter, you'll find out more about the work being done in our renewable energy and IT industry clusters.

Also, an excellent food processing / manufacturing facility, located a half mile from Interstate 95 is available for immediate occupancy. This facility has been well maintained over the years and is a unique opportunity.

At the close of another year, the APP team would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all our supporters and colleagues working with us to make northern Maine an even better place to live, work and do business. May you experience the joys of this holiday season and a very prosperous 2011.

Walt Elish

Global Exposure, \$10M Infusion from 2011 World Cup Biathlon Events



February 4 through 13 marks the beginning of World Cup Biathlon events in Northern Maine.

As the eyes of the sporting world are

• Aroostook County Facilities Receive Millions in Biomass-to-Energy Conversion Grants

Four Aroostook County oil-to-wood heating projects are receiving

federal recovery funds totaling \$3.0 million. The Maine Department of Conservation recently announced the Northern Maine projects as part of eight receiving grants under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA).



focused on events in Presque Isle and Fort Kent, organizers believe the economic pay off could be \$10 million.

Maine has played host to biathlon events in the past: Fort Kent hosted its first World Cup biathlon in 2004. And organizers hope the investment of more than \$30 million in the Maine Winter Sports Center will pay off in more ways than one.

Andy Shepard, president and CEO of the Maine Winter Sports Center told the Bangor Daily News, that the biathlon events created an economic development model for northern Maine based around winter sports tourism. And those events should attract tourists from around the globe. .

"The culture of northern Europe and the culture of northern Maine are very similar," said Shepard. "There's a passionate appreciation for the outdoors year around: hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, skiing."

For a complete listing of events go to the Maine Winter Sports Center website
www.mainewsc.org

[Read more about the economic impact of the World Cup Biathlon Events in Matt Wickenheiser's Bangor Daily News story.](#)

The four energy-conversion grants will go to two school systems, the University of Maine and a medical center. The funding will leverage an additional \$4.1 million in local investment in the projects. It's a major victory for the Aroostook Partnership for Progress.

"Our Mobilize Northern Maine Biomass to Energy Industry Action Team set a goal of converting ten (10) commercial boilers and 4,500 residential units to biomass by 2015 and these grants will contribute towards assisting us in achieving these important goals," said Walt Elish, President of the Aroostook Partnership for Progress.

The four projects include: Limestone Community School, Madawaska Junior/Senior High School, Northern Maine Medical Center, and University of Maine at Presque Isle.

[Find out more about the Mobilize Northern Maine initiative.](#)

[Find out more about the Aroostook County Biomass to Energy Grants](#)

- **Biomass Engineered Research Backed by MTI Asset Fund Award**



The University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Process Development Center recently received \$1.6 million in Maine Technology Asset Fund

awards for Biomass Engineered Fuel research. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension funding is part of \$7.25 million of Maine Technology Asset Fund awarded to 10 organizations across Maine.

The MTAF funds will be used to construct a grass pellet demonstration facility in Aroostook County that will convert bioenergy crops grown on fallow farmland into solid biomass fuel products for commercial and residential heating applications.

This project has the potential to demonstrate a high value product for the nearly 400,000 acres of underutilized farmland across the state.

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[Read more about MTI funding of Biomass Energy Research in Northern Maine](#)

● Northern Maine Rail Purchase on Track

The purchase of 233 miles of northern Maine freight rail track is expected to be completed on time, by January 1, 2011. The purchase could preserve more than 1500 jobs and is the largest single block of track purchased by Department of Transportation in its history.



Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway sought federal approval in February to abandon the tracks, most of which run from Madawaska to Millinocket, citing losses of \$4 million to \$5 million annually. About two dozen Maine manufacturers fought to keep the tracks working, fearing the loss would crush economic development.

As part of taking over the railroad lines, DOT officials expect to name a new operator to run rail traffic over the lines in late December and start rail repair work at the end of winter.

[Read more about the Northern Maine rail purchase in the Bangor Daily News](#)

● IT Projects Continue in Northern Maine

Several IT companies continue to expand fiber optic and broadband service in Northern Maine.

Time Warner Cable, Maine's largest provider of cable and broadband services, is completing a new cable network that will bring advanced video, broadband and phone services to 400 homes and businesses located near Long Lake near Madawaska. The project includes the installation of 18 miles of new fiber optic and coaxial cable.

FairPoint has invested more than \$29 million in broadband infrastructure in Maine since April 2008. This investment will increase broadband availability to 83 percent within the company's serving areas by the end of 2010. As a result, FairPoint is making broadband available for the first time to many in Aroostook County.

Maine-based OTT Communications is expanding north, pushing farther into Aroostook County. OTT services will soon begin in Caribou and Houlton.

And earlier this year, Pioneer Broadband announced the construction of a new fiber optic connection from Pioneer's data center in Houlton, ME to the Bell-Aliant offices in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada. The new connection will provide increased capacity for Pioneer's Internet traffic and will also create a new superhighway path for other businesses in the state of Maine.

[Find out more about Northern Maine's expanded IT network](#)

● **FEATURED PROPERTY: ISLAND FALLS, MAINE**



This Manufacturing/Food Processing facility is available immediately. Strategically located a half mile off Interstate 95, this former food processing facility has been well maintained over the years. The facility has a biomass boiler, manufacturing and warehouse space and an available workforce. The facility also has an air discharge and NPDES permit. This facility is Pine Tree Zone eligible.

* 63,966 +/- Sq. Ft. 9.97 Acres

* Ceiling Height: 12' to 24'

* Loading Docks: 4

* Electrical: 7,200/12,470V;3-Phase Power

* Heating: Steam from biomass and oil burners

* Water & Sewer: Public water, septic tank

* Price: \$695,000.

[For a list of additional incentives, contact Walt Elish at APP welish@appme.org](#)

[Forward email](#)



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