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**Gardiner's Libby Hill Business Park Expansion
Groundbreaking Event August 28, 2008**

Gardiner, ME, August 26, 2008 — The City of Gardiner will be celebrating its new 12 lot expansion of its Libby Hill business park with a public groundbreaking event this Thursday, August 28th, at the end of Technology Drive. The groundbreaking tent will open at 1:30 PM with the groundbreaking ceremony starting at 2 PM. Opening remarks from Mayor Andy MacLean will be followed by a keynote speech by Senator Susan Collins. Senator Collins was instrumental in the City receiving an \$856,400 US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. The EDA grant will fund infrastructure costs for the business park expansion. Benjamin Erulkar, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, will also be attending the event and speaking for EDA.

The groundbreaking ceremony will conclude around 2:30 PM. After the ceremony, tours will be available at the EJ Prescott and Pine State Beverage businesses, as well as the Harper's Development building, for those who are interested in seeing some exciting local businesses in world class facilities already located at the Libby Hill business park. McGee Construction, of West Gardiner, Maine was selected to construct 4,500 linear feet in public infrastructure to serve the 12 new pre-permitted business park lots.

“Gardiner is excited to build on the unprecedented success of phase I of the Libby Hill Business Park,” said Mayor Andy MacLean. “Having sold 12 of the 16 lots in the first phase, the city is motivated to expand the business park and provide more opportunity for economic development. Gardiner appreciates that EDA has expressed its confidence in this project for a second time. Without their funding support, this project would not be possible.”

“Libby Hill is an outstanding example of achieving success by combining ingenuity, hard work and collaboration,” said Senator Collins. “This project has demonstrated the City of Gardiner’s commitment to economic development for businesses and citizens in the region. It has been an honor to be part of this project—from strongly supporting the EDA application to today’s groundbreaking.”

Gardiner views the success of the first phase of its Libby Hill business park, as a model for planning the current business park expansion. Since being built, close to 500 jobs have been created or retained among the new business development at the park. In addition, phase I has generated over \$25 million in investment, thus far. Phase I lots range in size, from 2.5 to 3.5 developable acres. Some of the current businesses located in Libby Hill Business Park include, Pine State Trading Company, EJ Prescott, and a multi-tenant office building owned by Harper’s Development. Dennison Lubricants purchased two (phase I) lots in December of 2007 and is currently building a 20,000 square foot facility.

Gardiner has listed new lots competitively at 99 cents per developable square foot, or \$43,124 per developable acre. Expansion area lots range in size, from 2 to 14 developable acres. Building sizes can range from an estimated 10,000 square feet to over 120,000 square feet, depending on the number of floors required and other factors, such as parking needs. Lots can be also combined to accommodate business needs. Including the new expansion area, the Libby Hill Business Park now totals over 260 acres and 28 lots. According to an October, 2007 issue of MaineBiz, the City’s business park ranked 8th in total acreage among the entire State of Maine, up five spots from the previous year!

Gardiner is pro-active in economic development and has a number of incentive programs to help attract new businesses, from tax increment financing, revolving loan fund assistance, to utilizing the Pine Tree Zone program. All lots at Libby Hill Business Park are pre-permitted to allow for a more streamlined development process. The city’s planning & development office is ready to assist prospective businesses and guide them through the entire development process.

In addition to incentive programs, the park’s location, just off exit 49 on I-295 in Gardiner, and highway route 201 (and being only 2 miles from the I-95 Maine Turnpike) creates a real advantage for those businesses seeking statewide highway access. The western border of the Libby Hill Business Park runs parallel to I-295 and has tremendous visibility for those travelling northbound. Gardiner is also in close proximity to Portland (just 49 miles on I-295) and benefits from being located within a region of over 55% of the state’s population within a 50 mile radius. Having a great location with all the necessary public infrastructure and incentive programs available, creates a winning combination for park businesses and Gardiner!

To find the groundbreaking event, take the main entrance (Enterprise Avenue) to Libby Hill Business Park and drive to Technology Drive (will be on your right). Note the Dennison Lubricants building project currently underway at the intersection of Enterprise Ave and Technology Drive. Parking will be along both shoulders of Technology Drive. If necessary, you may park along Enterprise Avenue.

For more information on Libby Hill Business Park, please go to the City's website at http://www.gardinermaine.com/Public_Documents/GardinerME_EcDev/libbyhill or contact Jason Simcock at (207) 582-6888 or email to econdev@gardinermaine.com. □