



Gardiner Main Street

For Immediate Release:

Date of Release December 9, 2009

Contact:

Josh Whalen, President
Gardiner Main Street, Inc.
287 Water Street
PO Box 194
Gardiner, ME 04345
Phone: (207) 582-3100

Gardiner Main Street Seeks New Director

Gardiner, ME, December 9, 2009 – Gardiner Main Street will be seeking its next leader, as current Executive Director Sarah Fraser, brought on in February of this year, is leaving to concentrate on her growing & expanding family business in Bath, ME. Fraser was previously the Program Coordinator for Main Street Bath and looked to bring “fresh eyes” with her to Gardiner and help get one of the original Main Street organizations back on track.

“Sarah has done a tremendous job consulting us throughout this year and steering a passionate community during a phase of reorganizing for our program” said Board President Josh Whalen. “Financial support is up, operating costs are down, volunteers’ hours have increased, community programs are again working in harmony and our program will be working in a joint effort with the City of Gardiner to market our historic downtown.”

Whalen went on as “Sarah has accomplished her transitional goals of getting this main street program’s organizational processes streamlined and ready to take off once again. She came in here a year ago and laid out a 2 year plan on how to get us to this point. Just as it does so often, this community rallied around a goal and she (Fraser) was able to accomplish this task in 2009.”

In a presentation to City Council just this past week, Fraser pointed out these same facts to the City Council in a “Downtown Update” from the main street group. “It was the preparation for this presentation that pointed out” Fraser went on to say “everything happens for a reason. The

opportunity currently presenting itself to expand the family business and the goals being reached are the stars aligning. It's time to tackle the next project"

Mayor Andrew MacLean also added some encouraging words for Fraser in hearing the news that Fraser's ambitious goals were met. "Sarah was a great help to the community over the past year as she brought new ideas and energy to the downtown. She helped lay some groundwork for future projects, such as the Preserve America marketing project and heritage tourism program for Gardiner."

A Search Committee has been formed to locate a new Executive Director, and is currently finalizing the time-line for the search process. "Sarah being Sarah, also wanted us to be able to have adequate time to announce the next Executive Director at our annual meeting on January 20 at Johnson Hall" stated Whalen. "Once again, it looks like she is even streamlining this process for us."

Co-Chairing the Search Committee will be two additional Main Street leaders who have played instrumental roles for the program over the past year – Councilwoman-elect Lisa Liberatore and Treasurer of the program Nate Cotnoir. Interested candidates are welcome to send a resume and cover letter to gardinermainst@aol.com or PO Box 194 Gardiner, ME 04345.

Gardiner Main Street is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that encourages its downtown's economic and cultural vitality through concentrated efforts of organization, design, promotion and economic revitalization, while protecting Gardiner's unique historic character. If you're interested in checking out a historic downtown where progress & history meet you can phone us at 582-3100, check out our website at www.gardinermainst.org or find us on Facebook, twitter or LinkedIn!