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News Release

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NMCC students put their skills to work for the Presque Isle Historical Society

Aroostook County- A group of students and their instructor at Northern Maine Community College have just completed work on two projects for the Presque Isle Historical Society that will help to engage the community and gave students the opportunity to become an interactive part of local history.

Since the start of the acquisition of the Maysville Grange the members of the Presque Isle Historical Society have been working diligently on a number of projects related to the creation of a museum dedicated to the rich history of the region.

Last spring the search for someone to build a set of custom display boxes led them to NMCC instructor Chuck Kelley and a group of his electrical/electronics students. The group worked on two projects that will become a part of the museum experience, while also earning them extra lab credit. In total the projects took about 10-15 hours in to complete, according to Kelley.

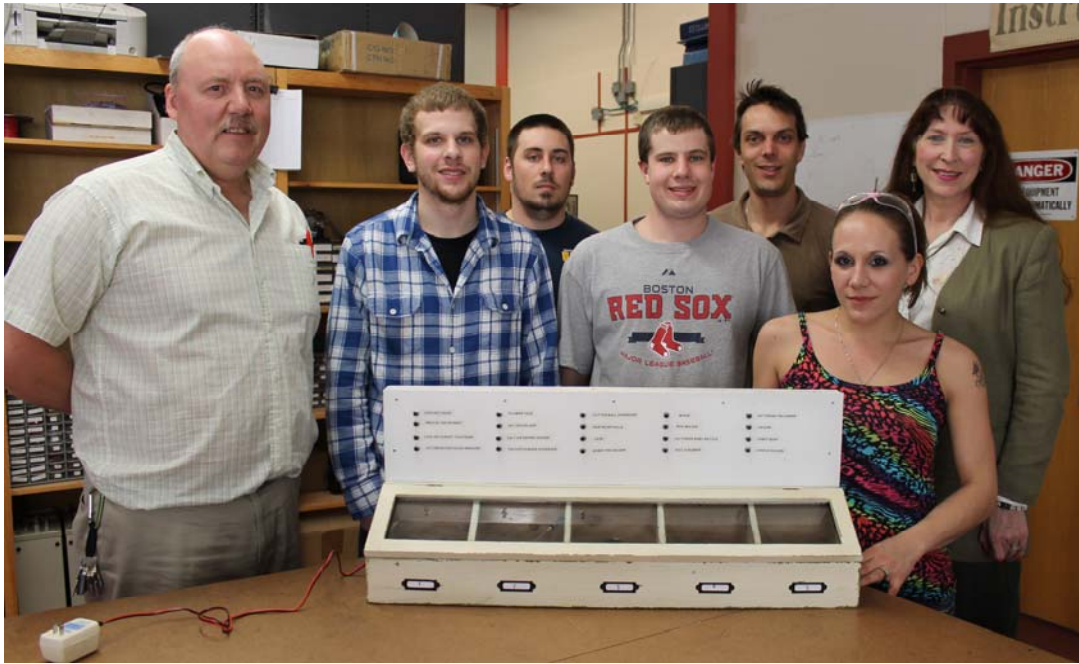
“The projects really enforce the importance of community involvement. This was a great opportunity for the students. They really enjoyed putting their classroom skills to use and were happy to have an opportunity to give back to the community,” said Kelley.

The first project was adding an electronic component to the historical society’s ‘What is it?’ artifact mercantile box. The box itself consists of five separate compartments housing various lesser known historical items. Kelley and his students created a panel that is now attached to the back of the box which contains a series of interactive buttons that generate either a positive or negative response based on what a person guesses the item is in the box.

The second project incorporates an MP3 player and speakers into a display on the Aroostook War, so that museum goers can play the “theme” song of the Aroostook War while they view the display.

“The projects the students worked on are a win-win for both the students and the Presque Isle Historical Society. It gives the students a chance to work on a real project that will be put to use in our community,” said Kim Smith of the Presque Isle Historical Society. “For us, it offers a real cost savings. It is also imperative for a nonprofit such as ours to actively engage young people in history.”

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Northern Maine Community College instructor Chuck Kelley and his students presented the newly completed electronic addition to the Presque Isle Historical Society's artifact mercantile box. Taking part in the project were, from left: Kelley; students Steven Selander of Caribou, Nathan Woods of Rumford; Tyler Eager of Presque Isle; Anders Rinne of North Berwick; and Nicole Thompson of Presque Isle; and Kim Smith from the Presque Isle Historical Society. Absent from the photo are students Eric St. Peter of Woodland and Steven Butler of Washburn.



Students from Northern Maine Community College work to add an electronic guessing panel to a 'What it is?' artifact mercantile box for the Presque Isle Historical Society.