



News Release

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Fall and Winter Expo Draws Thousands

Aroostook County - More than 3,000 community members from across The County and western New Brunswick attended the Fall and Winter Expo sponsored by the Northern Maine Community College Foundation and WAGM-TV at the Forum on September 27 and 28. Organizers and participants alike considered the event a great success.

“The NMCC Foundation is most pleased with the results of this year’s Fall & Winter Expo,” said event coordinator Aimee Wilkins. “Our partnership with WAGM was key to this year’s success. Thanks to their help in garnering vendors and promoting the event, we more than doubled the attendance over last year’s Fall & Winter Sports and Recreation Show and nearly doubled the number of exhibitors, growing from 30 last year to 55. It was a pleasure working with WAGM, and we are already looking forward to next year’s event.”

With the wide variety of vendors present, the show offered something for everyone; however, the featured topic for the show was alternative sources of energy available in the region to heat homes. Regional vendors offering residential and commercial solutions in solar, wind and geothermal energy, as well as the latest in wood pellet stove and biomass burning technology, were prominent at the two-day event.

Other vendors ranged from businesses that sell outdoor recreational “toys” such as snowmobiles and the related gear to non-profit organizations featuring fall and winter activities, such as Aroostook Football and Presque Isle Youth Hockey. Attendees could sample and purchase the goodies at Mom’s Fudge, go for a free Humvee ride courtesy of the Maine Military Authority, or sit down and watch the live entertainment provided periodically throughout the weekend.

Also featured on Saturday at the Expo was a Community Health Fair put on by seniors in Northern Maine Community College’s nursing and medical assisting programs. They provided information on more than a dozen topics, including seasonal affective disorder, frostbite prevention and treatment, winter sports safety, and fall and winter driving safety.

While a large number of prizes were given out throughout the weekend courtesy of the various vendors, the Fall and Winter Expo featured several larger door prizes. The winners were: Michael A. Cyr of Presque Isle, the pellet stove donated by The County Stove Shop of Caribou; Mavis Bradstreet of Bridgewater, the Ariens Snowblower donated by Aroostook Door & Window of Presque Isle and Houlton; Susan Patenaude of Presque Isle, the four NASCAR tickets to Loudon, New Hampshire courtesy of LeVasseur's NAPA Auto and Truck Parts of Presque Isle; Louise Hebert of Madawaska, the large high definition flat screen; Charles Beaulieu of Chapman and Chelsea Fletcher of Presque Isle, tuition for a 3-credit course each at Northern Maine Community College.

“The Fall and Winter Expo was a wonderful project, and WAGM-TV looks forward to partnering with the NMCC Foundation again next year. The expo had a lot of very interesting vendors, and it showed both in the number of people that came to the Expo and in what they brought away from it. The vendors were able to speak to interested parties face to face about their products and services. Next year we hope to have even more businesses and services displayed,” said Kelly Landeen, WAGM-TV sales manager.

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Bill Egeler was one of many volunteers from Northern Maine Community College and the NMCC Foundation to greet people as they entered the Fall & Winter Expo on September 27 & 28. Volunteers welcomed community members and collected their tickets entering them into a drawing for several major prizes, including tickets to a Nascar race in Loudon, NH, a pellet stove and a snow blower.



Dick Palm (center), morning news anchor for WAGM-TV, was one of the station's 'celebrities' that attendees had a chance to meet and visit with during the Fall & Winter Expo. WAGM-TV was co-sponsor of the event and played a major role in making it such a success. Their booth was a popular stopping point, with those signing up eligible to win not only a flat screen television, a digital converter box or a digital antenna, but numerous smaller items, such as posters of popular CBS and FOX shows, throughout the two day event.



Fred Butler of Fort Fairfield (left) learns more about pellet and wood stoves from Pat (center) and Matt Labbe of the County Stove Shop. The County Stove Shop donated a pellet stove for the Expo, which was won by Michael A. Cyr of Presque Isle.



Community members stop to view some of the stoves and snow blowers on display from Caron's Equipment at the Fall & Winter Expo.



Phil Lento and Josh Belmain from Red Moose Energy Services in Presque Isle discuss alternative energy options, including pellet stoves and biomass fuel units (which can burn corn or pellets), with some of the community members who stopped by their booth at the Fall & Winter Expo.



Cecile and Danny Marquis of Marquis-Michaud Well Drilling talked to Expo attendees about geothermal heating opportunities.



Autumn Saucier and Ashley Filimonow from Miller's sell apparel for the fall and winter seasons.



Alexis McCrossin of Woodland and Taylor Hartley of Caribou prepare to test their reflexes at the hands-on display for the Caribou Children's Museum, while museum board members Melony LeShane and Nancy Chandler look on.



Shawn Lahey of Presque Isle and his children Brandon, Kiarra, and Cameron get ready to ride humvee at the Fall & Winter Expo courtesy of the Maine Military Authority.



Peter Goheen of Chapman and his children Ellie and Clint try out an ATV being displayed by the Sled Shop.



NMCC nursing student Clarissa Webber explains the fatal vision goggles that were part of her group's display on substance abuse. Expo participants were able to walk around using goggles which simulated your sight while under the effects of drugs or alcohol. Some showed night vision while others showed day vision.



The Wednesday Evening Fiddlers of Perth-Andover, NB were among those that provided entertainment during the Expo, thanks to the stage sponsorship of Katahdin Trust Company and Tempo Employment Services.



Aimee Wilkins, foundation and institutional advancement assistant at NMCC; Gordon Wark, president of WAGM-TV; Richard Engels, chair of the NMCC Foundation Board; and Kelley Landeen, sales manager at WAGM-TV draw the winning tickets for the door prizes awarded at the end of the Fall & Winter Expo.



Kelley Landeen from WAGM-TV presents the "Best Booth" award to Michael Blanchard of Dunn's Furniture Company.