



SERVING THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS OF MAINE WHERE THE KIDS GROW STRAIGHT AND TALL AND THE WOMEN ARE ALL GOOD LOOKING.



Governor John E. Baldacci, from left, Warren Cook, CEO of Saddleback Maine; Faith Berry, Bill Berry, Mark Berry and Adrian Berry - owners of Saddleback Maine, gather together for press conference announcing Saddleback's summer plans. (Marshall Communications photo)

## Saddleback purchases Oquossoc Cove Marina, announces summer plans

AUGUSTA — At a press conference recently in the Governor's Office at the Maine State Capitol, Governor John Baldacci joined Warren Cook, general manager of Saddleback Maine to announce that Saddleback Maine has reached an agreement on a lease/purchase of a 60 slip marina on Rangeley Lake with capacity to add 60 more slips. The transaction, to be completed in early May, will, according to Cook, improve the summer vacation experience for Saddleback property owners and guests, making the resort an even more viable year-round vacation destination.

This year, Saddleback's paid visits are up 22 percent over last year, with season pass year to date increases at 23 percent; real estate sales at the resort over the season total \$4 million.

"I knew when Warren Cook and the Berry Family joined forces at Saddleback that things would happen, even in these tough economic times, but I did not expect it to happen this quickly," said Governor Baldacci. "This is exciting news for Franklin County, the state and our vitally important tourism industry."

This marina is part of Saddleback's plan to build strong connections to the lake and to the villages of Rangeley and Oquossoc. It will allow property owners and guests the opportunity to enjoy all that the area has to offer, and be part of the history of the legendary Lakes region. Saddleback has plans to open a real estate office in the village of Rangeley.

At both the marina and real estate office locations, Saddleback will offer va-

cationers tours of the lake, the mountain and the area, introducing people to the history, culture and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Current marina owner and Oquossoc resident, Larry Koob will continue to oversee the marina as part of the deal. "I like the direction Saddleback is going and am pleased to be part of these exciting next steps. It will be good for the area and our customers," Koob commented.

Working collaboratively with the local community has been a key strategy for Cook, who was hired as general manager of Saddleback just six months ago. In addition, Cook often comments that Saddleback is a real ski mountain, and what differentiates it from other resorts are the nearby legendary lakes. He says "Come ski for the winter and stay for the summer."

Given the robust winter real estate activity, including continued strong interest from the United Kingdom, Saddleback also outlined its plan to begin the design and pre-selling of an 80 room condominium hotel adjacent to the impressive base lodge at the base of the mountain. This sales effort will begin this fall and is part of the approved LURC 10-year plan.

### Summer expansion plans

Additional summer projects for 2009 will include the design of a 1,000 seat expansion of the recently completed base lodge; planning for the replacement of the 1962 Rangeley double chair with

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## MSAD #58 Budget Directors get subsidy news, to discuss principals

By David Hart  
 Irregular Staff

MSAD #58 — The ebb and flow continue with discussion of the MSAD #58 budget. But recent news is in regarding revenue and board members can now roll-up their sleeves and start the debate. The answers to the questions from the last directors' meeting were unknown variables in the 2010 budget, which was the state share in education and how the subsidy formula would be affected when adding in nearly \$260 million in state-wide funds under the economic stimulus bill. These funds will be calculated into the state revenue share over the next two years.

At the last MSAD #58 meeting, Superintendent Quenten Clark presented the expenditure side of the budget which represented fairly similar numbers to the previous year. The board will be meeting this Friday at Mt. Abram High School at 6:30 p.m. with some overdue news provided by the State Department of Education.

Last Thursday the DOE released a statewide report showing a vague idea of what the districts can expect.

Maine school systems will receive \$959 million in 2010 which includes the funds

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## Kingfield committee to look into options for town meeting

By David Hart  
 Irregular Staff

KINGFIELD — The first order of business at the selectmen's meeting last Monday March 23, was to hear details from Danny Pinkham about an automatic generator proposal.

The proposal includes a power transfer switch and automatic power on should there be a power outage at the town office building. The board agreed to proceed with the proposal which should come in under \$8,100. Selectman Merv Wilson agreed to look into the model type and warranties.

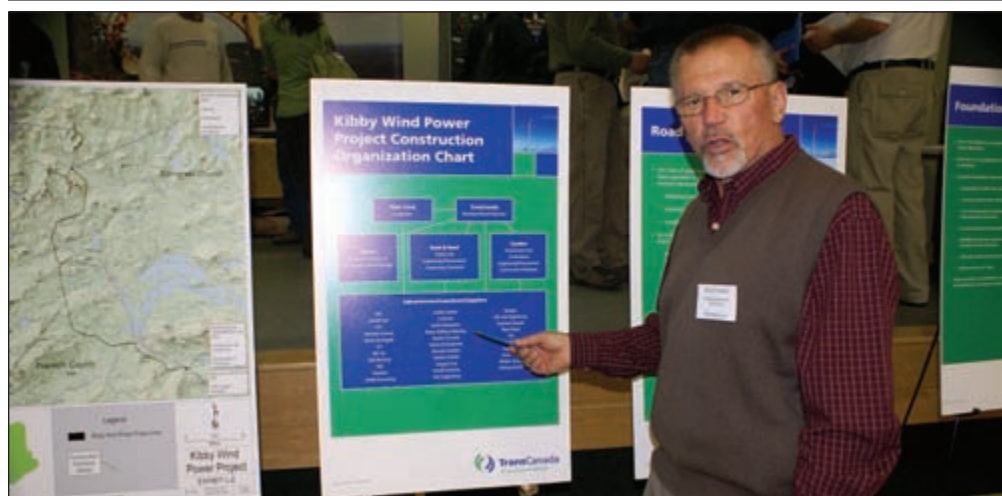
The new 700-pound unit will be permanently mounted outside the building and offer additional options for emergency management relief for area residents as well as a positive benefit for the town office staff.

"There will be no excuses if the power goes out," Pinkham explained.

"I like the fact that it will be permanently mounted," Selectman Neal McCurdy said. "It would look similar to what's beside Tranten's Too," he added.

Pinkham explained that the new generator

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Kibby Wind Power project manager Wolfgang Neuhoff of TransCanada explains how the flow chart works in terms of his corporation, the general contractor and its subcontractors. TransCanada hosted an open house Tuesday, March 24 in Stratton. (David Hart photo)

## Kibby Construction to peak soon

By David Hart  
 Irregular Staff

EUSTIS — TransCanada celebrated the upcoming heart of its construction project — a 132 megawatt 44-turbine wind farm — last Tuesday, March 24 by hosting an open house where residents gathered at the Community

Building in Stratton. More than 150 interested residents came out to meet representatives of TransCanada, Danish representatives of turbine manufacturer Vestas, leading general contractor Reed & Reed, and the subcontractor

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