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Contact: Jacqui Lowman, 207.768.9745, jacquelyn.lowman@umpi.edu

Katahdin Trust Helps Bring Recreation With No Limits to Aroostook County

PRESQUE ISLE – One of the things that people cherish about life in Aroostook County is its recreational opportunities. Up until now, a segment of the population has been left out: people with physical disabilities. Not anymore. Starting this winter/spring 2015, people with physical disabilities will have the opportunity to experience the great outdoors thanks to an innovative partnership between the Nordic Heritage Center and Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation. One of the sponsors helping to make this possible is Katahdin Trust Company.

There are hundreds of people in Aroostook County and surrounding regions of Canada with some form of disability. When you factor in their family, friends and those whose lives they touch—well, this is an issue that reaches everyone. Up until now, people with physical disabilities who needed adaptive recreation had to travel hundreds of miles. Most were unaware of the possibilities or unable to travel so far to take advantage of them.

Maine Adaptive brings more than 30 years of experience to the partnership. It will train volunteers and screen and schedule participants. Use of the Nordic Heritage Center site means that adaptive winter recreation will finally be easily available in Aroostook County and western New Brunswick.

Every Friday afternoon, during snow season, participants will have free Nordic skiing or snowshoeing lessons. Afterward, all those involved will gather for a meal together in the main lodge.

The rollout in winter/spring 2015 is the result of several years' work. It started in fall 2012 as a project for an UMPI class taught by Dr. Jacqui Lowman. Along the way, it has continued to build momentum. "So many people have supported us," Lowman said. "The Nordic Heritage Steering Committee and Maine Adaptive bought in early on. But we still needed the money for the adaptive equipment and training. So we asked local businesses for help. Katahdin Trust has been incredibly generous. Thanks in part to their support, we will be able to launch with the 2015 season. Its sponsorship is invaluable."

"Katahdin Trust is delighted to be able to contribute to the Maine Adaptive initiative which will serve communities in Northern Aroostook County and surrounding areas," stated Jon Prescott, President and CEO of Katahdin Trust. "We are fulfilling our mission of service and corporate citizenship by joining with these community partners. Katahdin Trust is here not only to make a difference in the lives of our customers but also to find ways to serve our communities and to enhance the quality of life for our friends and neighbors."

Officials from Katahdin Trust will be making their check presentation on **Thursday, August 21, 10:00 a.m., at the Katahdin Trust Company office in Presque Isle.**

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