

Katahdin Trust Offers 7 Ways to Avoid Online Fraud *October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month*

HOULTON, ME (9/26/2018) – Cyber-attacks are becoming more and more sophisticated and common. According to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center, in 2016 cyber victims lost \$1.3 billion from scams initiated through the web. In recognition of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, Katahdin Trust is highlighting seven tips to help consumers protect themselves against online fraud.

“The Internet is home to some of the most notorious fraudsters,” said Jean Noyes, Katahdin Trust Vice President, Information Security Officer. “As consumers become more and more active online they must take steps to protect their information from cyber thieves, including establishing strong network passwords and making sure to connect to secure websites. In addition, they should never give out their social security, birthdate, account number or personal credit information unless the consumer has initiated the conversation to someone they know for certain is legitimate.”

Katahdin Trust recommends the following tips to help keep your information safe online:

- **Keep your computers and mobile devices up to date.** Having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system are the best defenses against viruses, malware, and other online threats. Turn on automatic updates so you receive the newest fixes as they become available.
- **Create complic@t3d passwords.** A strong password is at least eight characters in length and includes a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.
- **Watch out for phishing scams.** Phishing scams use fraudulent emails and websites to trick users into disclosing private account or login information. Do not click on links or open any attachments or pop-up screens from sources you are not familiar with. Forward phishing emails to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at spam@uce.gov – and to the company, bank, or organization impersonated in the email.
- **Keep personal information personal.** Hackers can use social media profiles to figure out your passwords and answer those security questions in the password reset tools. Lock down your privacy settings and avoid posting things like birthdays, addresses, mother’s maiden name, etc. Be wary of requests to connect from people you do not know.
- **Secure your internet connection.** Always protect your home wireless network with a password. When connecting to public Wi-Fi networks, be cautious about what information you are sending over it.
- **Shop safely.** Before shopping online, make sure the website uses secure technology. When you are at the checkout screen, verify that the web address begins with https. Also, check to see if a tiny locked padlock symbol appears on the page.
- **Read the site’s privacy policies.** Though long and complex, privacy policies tell you how the site protects the personal information it collects. If you don’t see or understand a site’s privacy policy, consider doing business elsewhere.



About Katahdin Trust

Katahdin Trust Company, celebrating 100 years of community banking since its founding in 1918 and recently named as one of the 2018 Best Places to Work in Maine, has more than \$800 million in assets and 180 employees. The Bank offers financial services to individuals and businesses from 16 full-service branches in Aroostook County and the greater Bangor and Portland Regions with a suite of digital banking solutions. Katahdin Bankshares Corp., parent company of Katahdin Trust Company, stock is quoted on the OTC Markets quote board OTCQX under the symbol KTHN and was named to the 2018 OTCQX Best 50, a ranking of top performing companies traded on the OTCQX Best Market. Current stock information can be found at otcm Markets.com/stock/KTHN/quote. Learn more about Katahdin Trust on its website at www.katahdintrust.com and get the latest news and information by following Katahdin Trust on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

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