

Members ONLY



NEWS

50 Years of Service!!!!

Can you believe this year marks 50 Years of Service for Gardiner Federal Credit Union and it's membership!

Gardiner Federal Credit Union's Employees and Board of Directors are planning a year of special promotions, product specials, prizes and a special Saturday Night Annual Meeting.

Our 50th Annual Meeting will be held at the Senator Inn, Western Avenue in Augusta on May 3, 2003.

The evening festivities will include special guest entertainer, Gary Crocker. Also, we will have many prize drawings throughout the evening. Everyone attending will receive a special gift and will enjoy one of the delicious Senator Inn buffet dinners (cash bar will be available).

If you plan to attend, we recommend purchasing tickets immediately as there will be a limited amount of tickets available for purchase.

The agenda for our 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting will be:

6:00 – 6:30 P.M.

Social Time

6:30 – 7:00 P.M.

Annual Business Meeting*

7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Buffet Dinner

8:00 – 8:45 P.M.

Entertainer Gary Crocker

8:45 – 9:00 P.M.

Drawing of Prizes and Grand Prize

*No cost to attend the Annual Business Meeting

**Grand Prize
Four Day Cruise for Two**

(includes air from Portland and transfers)

Introducing NEW FIELD OF MEMBERSHIP – COMMUNITY CHARTER

Your Credit Union is proud to announce a charter change with an expanded field of membership. We have received approval from the National Credit Union Administration to change our charter to a Community Charter. Because of this charter change our new Field of Membership has been expanded to include all of Kennebec and Lincoln County, the towns of Richmond and Palermo.

Now anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Kennebec County, Lincoln County, the towns of Richmond and Palermo can join the Credit Union.

Also included are employees of Gardiner Federal Credit Union and members of their immediate family or household, volunteers in the community, organizations of people, businesses or other legal entities in Kennebec and Lincoln County, the towns of Richmond and Palermo. Eight Two Six.

Gardiner Federal Credit Union has been serving the employees of SAD 11, SAD 16, School Union 51, City of Gardiner employees and Select Employee Groups of New Mills Market, Williams Construction, Williams Oil, Northern Micro, Uplift, Robinson Health Care, Dresden Texaco, McDonald Bakery and students of SAD 11. All the benefits you enjoy with Credit Union membership will stay the same – same great rates on loans and savings, and same friendly, dependable service. The only difference is our expanded charter will allow more

people to join our Credit Union. "Credit Unions provide a healthy, not-for-profit alternative to other financial service providers who are motivated by profit," says Phil Bergeron, President of Gardiner Federal Credit Union. "Our goal is to provide the very best products and services at competitive rates to everyone in the community. With today's technology, it has never been more convenient to access your credit union accounts. Services like Audio Response (Teller-PhoneSM), Online Account AccessSM (Home Banking), VISA[®] Check (Debit) Card, ATM on site, SURF CU24 Surcharge Free Alliance[®], Secured Applications on our Website – www.gardinerfcu.org, Payroll Deduction and Direct Deposit make it easy to be connected to your credit union day or night."

Credit Unions are unique among financial institutions because we're owned and democratically controlled by our members. Sharing the common bond of living in the same county, our members join together in a cooperative form and structure to encourage savings and make loans to each other. Today, more than 72 million Americans are credit union members. If you know of a family member, neighbor, co-worker, or friend who would like to join the Credit Union please spread the word so more can enjoy the products and services we offer.

If you have any questions about the charter change, please call the Credit Union at 582-2676, and ask for Phil.

Home Equity Loans

If you are looking for a flexible line of credit, then you're looking for Gardiner FCU's Home Equity Loan!

**Gardiner FCU will be offering
an unbelievable
rate of**

3.75% APR*

until December 31, 2003.

And better yet there are no costs to you! On January 1, 2004 the rate will change to Prime plus zero for the life of the loan.

Our home equity loans are extremely flexible plus you may qualify for tax advantages. As always you can count on Gardiner FCU to offer low interest rates, fast approvals and friendly, hassle-free service. Four One Eight Six.

Make sure you don't miss out on this great deal. Simply give us a call at 582-2676 or stop by the office and ask to speak with Carol, Sue or Vicki.

*Annual Percentage Rate. January 1, 2004 rate changes to variable and is subject to change quarterly. The index is the Prime Rate published in *The Wall Street Journal*, which is 4.25% as of 3/14/03. Maximum APR is 18%. Some restrictions may apply.

PRIVACY NOTICE & DISCLOSURE

Gardiner Federal Credit Union, your member owned financial institution, is committed to providing you with competitive products and services to meet your financial needs and help you reach your goals. We are equally committed to protecting the privacy of our members. Under federal law, we are required to give you this privacy notice. It describes our credit union's privacy policy and practices concerning the personal information we collect and disclose about our members. It also includes information about the parties who receive personal and sometimes nonpublic information from us as we conduct the business of the credit union. These practices are followed by the credit union.

If after reading this notice you have questions, please contact us at: 207-582-2676 or write to: Gardiner Federal Credit Union, RR5 Box 105, 8 Brunswick Road Gardiner, Me 04345.

Information We Collect About You

We collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

1. Information we receive from you on applications and other forms
2. Information about your transactions with us
3. Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency
4. Information obtained when verifying the information you provide on an application or other forms. This may be obtained from your current or past employers, or from other institutions where you conduct financial transactions.

Information We Disclose

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our members or former members to anyone, except as permitted by law.

Disclosure of Information to Parties That Provide Services to Us

We may disclose all of the information we collect, as described above, to companies that perform marketing services on our behalf or to other financial institutions with whom we have joint marketing agreements.

Disclosure of Information About Former Members

If you terminate your membership with Gardiner Federal Credit Union we will not share information we have collected about you, except as may be permitted or required by law.

How We Protect Your Information

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to persons who need to know that personal information to provide products or services to you. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with Federal Regulations to guard your nonpublic personal information.

What Members Can Do To Help

Gardiner Federal Credit Union is committed to protecting the privacy of its members. Members can help by following these simple guidelines:

1. Protect your account numbers, plastic card numbers, PINs (Personal Identification Numbers) or passwords. Never keep your PIN with your card, which can provide free access to accounts if your card is stolen or lost.
2. Use caution when disclosing your account numbers, social security numbers, etc. to other persons. If someone calls you explaining the call is on behalf of Gardiner Federal Credit Union and asks for your account number, you should be aware. Official credit union staff will have access to your information and will not need to ask for it.
3. Keep your information with us current. If your address or phone number changes, please let us know. It is important that we have current information on how to reach you. If we detect potentially fraudulent or unauthorized activity or use of an account, we will attempt to contact you immediately.
4. Let us know if you have questions. Please do not hesitate to call us- we are here to serve you!

NEWS

CALL TO ALL MEMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Once a year, the membership has the responsibility to elect fellow credit union members as representatives to the Board of Directors. This election is held at the Credit Union's Annual Meeting.

The three-year terms for Robert Antognoni, Eric Jermyn and Michael Dunn will expire at this year's Annual Meeting. To date - two of these directors have expressed their intentions of seeking re-election to the Board.

The Nomination Committee is seeking candidates for the Board. If interested in serving, please call or contact the following individuals representing this year's Nomination Committee:

Jeanne-Marie Frost,
Chairperson
9 Fourth Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330-6511
(207) 622-4610

Andrea Sparrow
Route 2 Box 110
Gardiner, Maine 04345-9406
(207) 582-2875

Joan Vining
62 Pierce Street
Gardiner, Maine 04345
(207) 582-0488

LOOKING FOR CREDIT UNION VOLUNTEERS

The Board of Directors is looking for two Supervisory Committee volunteers.

The Supervisory Committee meets every other month. Responsibilities include: Surprise cash counts of the teller cash drawers and vault (twice a year), review loan folders and verify closed accounts. Committee volunteers should have experience in bookkeeping, accounting, or auditing.

If interested in helping your Credit Union, please contact Phil Bergeron, President at (207) 582-2676.

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Monthly Loan Specials

Make sure to keep your eyes open for monthly loan specials.

Every month your credit union will have a special loan promotion.

Gardiner Federal Credit Union takes pride in offering our members the best loan rates in the area. So make sure you check out our website at www.gardinerfcu.org, give us a call at 582-2676 or stop in and ask for Sue, Carol or Vicki.



We want to be your Mortgage Lender!

Gardiner Federal Credit Union is the best place for your mortgage! Your credit union offers some of the best rates around with friendly local service. Whether you're buying or refinancing we can save you time and money. With many mortgage loans being sold to out of state companies many borrowers are looking to keep their mortgages local. We can offer mortgage loan servicing that is located right here in Maine! With rates at historic lows, now is the time to buy a new home or refinance your existing mortgage. Call or stop by and ask for Vicki today!

Message from the Loan Department

Looking to sell or trade your vehicle? Or maybe you are looking to purchase a vehicle? If so, make sure you call the credit union to receive a book value. By getting a book value this will assure you that you are receiving a fair price when trading or purchasing a vehicle. We can also provide you book values for boats, motorcycles, campers, motor homes and ATV's. Call the credit union at 582-2676 and ask for Sue, Carol or Vicki.



MEMBER EDUCATION

When You Hire a Financial Planner

Have you recently thought about your retirement? Is it closely approaching? Decades away?

If you think your pension won't last through your retirement, and that your Social Security benefits may not add all that much to your income, consider hiring a financial planner to help you set goals now.

But before you do...

Forbes magazine suggests you take some steps to help you and your planner organize your estate:

- **Organize your files, including what's in your safe deposit box.** Look for forgotten assets that no longer pay interest and could be converted to more lucrative assets.
- **Check your beneficiary designations on all pension accounts, IRAs, and insurance plans with the account custodians.** This will make sure the custodian's version doesn't override the beneficiaries in your will.
- **Review all your insurance policies.** Do they cover recent changes in your life? If your spouse also works, compare your employers' insurance plans and take the better deal.
- **Use personal finance management software programs to track your cash flow and investments.** This helps you know what you spend overall.
- **Analyze your goals.** Does your plan for distributing your assets make the most sense for your family's situation?
- **Review your estate plan and asset titles.** Your will may not cover your current level of wealth. If that's the case, see a lawyer to protect your heirs' inheritance against unnecessary taxes and to ensure that you and your spouse have full powers of attorney if one becomes incapacitated.
- **Look at the big picture when you review your asset allocation and investments.** If your net worth is almost all in one company's stocks and options, diversify.



Once you have completed these important steps, please contact the Credit Union's Financial Planner, Charles Batchelder at (207) 582-8264 for a free consultation. You'll be glad you did!!

0% Financing—Here We Go Again

What's better than 0% financing? Just about anything! Having stated that, we want to back it up with cold, hard facts.

First, 0% financing is simply not all it's cracked up to be. It's an aggressive advertising device used to draw customers into the dealership. Then, once you ogle the merchandise and begin to drool, you're hard put to turn around and leave without making a purchase.

Qualifying for that 0% is another matter. "SmartMoney magazine states that just 25% of car buyers who apply for zero % financing actually qualify for the advertised terms. And even if you do qualify, you might not be able to swing the payments. Zero % financing is generally available only on 36- or even 24-month loans—on a \$25,000 loan, your payments could be more than \$1,000 a month."

Here's More

1. You need a spotless credit rating and history to qualify for 0% financing. The dealer may tell you that you don't qualify for the 0% rate because your credit rating is not the best.
2. If you take the 0% financing, you forfeit the manufacturer's rebate—which means you're paying more for your car.
3. Dealers will often increase the price of the car to make up for what they may lose from no-percent or low-percent financing.
4. You are frequently limited to only the models available for purchase at that rate.
5. You may be required to make a higher down payment or pay a large prepayment penalty.

Check Out Our Low Rates!

Stop by or log on to www.gardinerfcu.org for the latest rates.

To save on your next car purchase, contact Gardiner Federal Credit Union about a loan before heading out to the dealer. Become pre-approved to arm yourself and know exactly what kind of car to shop for!

PROMOTIONS

Promotions

Safe Deposit Box Rental Fee Waived Until September 2003.

Members interested in renting a Safe Deposit Box between now and September 1, 2003, may do so at no charge!

Members will have full use of the box now and will be billed the normal annual fee at the end of September 2003. This annual charge covers usage of the box between September 2003 and September 2004.

Safe Deposit Boxes are a safe and secure place to store your valuable items.

Yearly Rental Fees are as follows:

3x5	\$20.00 per year
5x5	\$30.00 per year
5x10	\$60.00 per year
10x10	\$90.00 per year

Win \$25.00

Can you find your account numbers? There are two hidden account numbers in the context of these articles. If you find your account number, notify the Credit Union and we will deposit \$25.00 to your share account.

Portland Sea Dogs Tickets Available

Join us for Maine Credit Union Day with the Portland Sea Dogs
(Now the Double-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox)

Saturday, May 10, 2003 at 1:00 P.M.
Hadlock Field, Portland

Sea Dogs vs. New Britain

Tickets are \$5.25 each

\$.75 of each ticket will benefit the 2003 Maine Credit Union's Campaign for Ending Hunger.

Tickets are available at the Credit Union Office!!!



NOTEWORTHY

Special Olympics-Dates to Remember



Each year the Credit Union holds an annual BBQ and a BBQ/Car Wash with all proceeds raised during these two events donated directly to the Gardiner Special Olympics Team.

This year our 4th Annual BBQ will be held, Thursday, May 29, 2003 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Our 6th Annual Car Wash/BBQ will be held Thursday, August 7, 2003 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The Special Olympics are held annually at Hall Dale High School and this year will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2003.

As in year's past, two employees from the Credit Union will spend the day with the Gardiner Olympians helping them arrive at their events on time and cheering them on during their events.

Mark your calendars for all three of these awesome events!! Come have fun with us and help us support a great group of individuals!!!

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Monday, April 21, 2003
Patriots' Day

Monday, May 26, 2003
Memorial Day

Friday, July 4, 2003
Independence Day

RATE BOARD

Rates

Rates on deposit accounts and loans may change from time to time. The development, printing, and delivery of your Members Only newsletter takes two to three weeks; therefore, the accuracy of rates during this extended time may be compromised.

To provide accurate and timely delivery of all Credit Union share and loan rates, we post rates via our 24-hour audio response system, Teller-Phone and our website www.gardinerfcu.org.

For accurate and timely rates, dial Teller-Phone at 1-800-757-8068.

Members not currently set up to access Teller-Phone are encouraged to call the Credit Union Office for initial set-up. Access to Teller-Phone is a free service provided by your Credit Union (maximum of four monthly inquiries).

Rates are accurate as of March 31, 2003 and are a limited listing of Credit Union deposit account options.

Primary Shares...1.00% Dividend Rate...1.01% APY*
Primary Clubs...1.00% Dividend Rate...1.01% APY*
IRA Shares.....1.00% Dividend Rate...1.01% APY*

*Annual Percentage Yield

GARDINER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ GFCU MEMBER # _____

Criteria:

Must be a member of Gardiner Federal Credit Union
Membership eligibility: Must live or attend school in Kennebec County, Lincoln County, the Towns of Palermo or Richmond.

Must complete the following essays:

- 1) Briefly describe your post-secondary educational plans.
- 2) Describe an event or activity that enhanced or impacted your personal or educational development.
- 3) Write one or two paragraphs on why I'm the best candidate for this scholarship.

Purpose:

To give recognition and financial assistance to credit union members pursuing a post-secondary education.

Amount:

Two (\$500) scholarships to be decided by May 30th. The award will be sent to the school of the applicant's choice at the beginning of the 2nd semester.

Selected by:

The Community Relationship Committee of Gardiner Federal Credit Union

Activities

School	Community	Work
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

RETURN APPLICATION TO GARDINER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION,
RR5 BOX 105, GARDINER, MAINE 04345-9006
OR HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE
BY MAY 15th

MEMBERS ONLY

from Gardiner Federal Credit Union

Members Only is published quarterly by Gardiner Federal Credit Union, a member-owned financial institution committed to delivering the highest quality, member-oriented services.

The Credit Union is located at:
RR5 Box 105, 8 Brunswick Road
Gardiner, Maine 04345

Telephone: (207) 582-2676

Toll Free: 1-800-464-2425

FAX: (207) 582-3108

Teller-Phone: 24 hours 1-800-757-8068

Loan Dept. FAX: (207) 582-7163

Email: Info@gardinerfcu.org

Website: www.gardinerfcu.org

Lobby and Drive-Up hours are
8:00-5:00, Monday through Friday.

"Sharing the path to your family's financial success."