

# BANK NOTES



Volume 18 Issue 1

"An Informational Newsletter"

March 2012



*Attention High School Senior and College Students  
We're investing in your future!*

*Scholarship Applications Available*

Spring is just around the corner and it's time to be thinking about fall and plans for college. Here, at Your Home Bank, we are pleased to announce that applications are once again available for the Aroostook County Federal Savings and Loan Association Scholarship.

The Board of Directors decided a number of years ago to provide a scholarship program to assist with tuition costs for Association members and their families who wish to continue their education. So far, the program has paid out \$71,000 in scholarships since it's inception in the year 2000. With the cost of tuition increasing each year, these funds have helped a number of families cover educational expenses. We are proud to offer this program and hope that if you have someone in your family going to college this fall, that you pick up an application.

**Qualifications:**

The program is for senior students who will be pursuing post-secondary education upon graduation from high school, and for students already pursuing either a two or four-year post-secondary education. Two scholarships are available again this year. The scholarship program is available for students enrolled in either a 2 or 4-year program at a college or university. Students enrolled in a 2-year program will be eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship or \$1,000 per academic year. Students enrolled in a 4-year program will be eligible for a \$4,000 scholarship or \$1,000 per academic year. Scholarship applicants must be a member or have a relative, (parent, legal guardian for at least one year, brother, sister, or grandparent), that is presently a member of the Association. The member must have an open account, which has been open for at least one year and maintained in a satisfactory manner. Senior students applying for assistance must have at least an 85 Grade Point Average. College students must have an Accumulative Grade Point Average of 3.0 or better. Students must be residents of the State of Maine and U.S. Citizens.

*Aroostook Savings and Loan Scholarship Fund applications are available at local high school guidance offices throughout Aroostook County, or may be picked up at either Aroostook Savings and Loan branch in Caribou or Presque Isle.*

*Application deadline is June 1, 2012.*

***2011-2012 Scholarship Recipients***

Aroostook County Federal Savings and Loan Association is pleased to announce Finn Bondeson of Woodland and Kayla Collins of Caribou as last year's scholarship recipients.

Finn is currently a student at the University of Maine at Orono studying Civil Engineering. Finn is the son of Carl & Kristine Bondeson.

Kayla is a 2011 graduate of Caribou High School and is attending the University of Maine at Orono studying Communication Sciences & Disorders. She is the daughter of Scott Collins and Heidi Manter.

***Congratulations Finn & Kayla!!***

### ***Important VISA® Check Card Daily Limits Reminder***

On a daily basis you may make purchases up to your available checking account balance, but no more than \$3,000.00 in any one day, at merchant locations displaying the VISA® logo using your Aroostook County Federal Savings & Loan Association VISA® Check Card.

On any one day, you may also make withdrawals at ATMs displaying the NYCE, PLUS or VISA® logos up to your available checking/savings account balance, but no more than \$1,000.00. There is no limitation on the frequency and dollar amount of other transfers you can make using your Aroostook County Federal Savings & Loan Association VISA® Check Card.

At some types of ATMs, the withdrawal or transfer amount may be limited due to machine constraints.



### ***Notice of Change to General Service Fees Effective April 15, 2012***

The following fees will change effective April 15, 2012:

| <u>Service</u>                  | <u>Old Fee</u> | <u>New Fee</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Deposit Items Returned          | \$15.00        | \$10.00        |
| Money Orders                    | \$1.00         | \$2.00         |
| Insufficient Funds Web Bill Pay | \$20.00/item   | \$30.00/item   |

We have recently updated efficiencies within our processing environment that will allow us to lower the Deposited Item Return Fee to \$10.00 per item April 15, 2012.

However, due to increases in the cost of paper, we find it necessary to increase the fee to purchase Money Orders from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

Insufficient Funds charges for returned Web Bill Payment items are a pass- thru charge from our Web Bill Pay provider. Due to increase in cost effective April 15, 2012, Insufficient Funds for Web Bill Pay returns will be \$30.00 per item.

For a full schedule of *Fees for General Services*, please visit our website at [www.yourhomebank.com](http://www.yourhomebank.com) or stop by one of our branch offices located at 43 High Street in Caribou or at 364 Main Street in Presque Isle to pick up a paper copy.

### ***Fraud Alert:***

### **Tips for Avoiding Identity Theft**

- **Guard your financial information.** Only provide your debit card, credit card or bank account number when you are actually paying for something with it.
- **Keep your social security number confidential.** Do not give it to anyone unless you're sure who it is and why it's necessary to provide it.
- **Keep your mail safe.** Your mail contains account numbers and other personal information. Collect it promptly from your mailbox and ask the post office to hold it if you're going away. Send bill payments from the post office or a public mailbox, not from home.
- **Memorize your passwords and PIN numbers.** Don't leave them in your wallet or on your desk where someone else can find them.
- **Beware of Imposters.** Be especially suspicious if someone contacts you and asks you to provide information they should already have. Before responding, contact the company directly to confirm the call or email is from them.
- **Stay safe online.** Don't send sensitive information such as credit or debit card numbers by email, since it is not secure. Look for clues about security on Web sites. At the point where you are asked to provide your financial or other sensitive information, the letters at the beginning of the address bar at the top of the screen should change from "http" to "https" or "shttp." Your browser may also show that the information is being encrypted, or scrambled, so no one who might intercept it can read it. But while your information may be safe in transmission, that is no guarantee that the company will store it securely. See what Web sites say about how your information is safeguarded in storage.
- **Check your credit reports regularly.** If you find accounts that don't belong to you or other incorrect information, follow the instructions for disputing those items.