



NEWS RELEASE

MAINE DISTRICT OFFICE

Release Date: 4/29/04
Release Number: ME-04-18

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SKOWHEGAN SAVINGS RECOGNIZED A LEADING SBA LENDER IN SOMERSET COUNTY

Augusta, Maine -- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in Maine today recognized Skowhegan Savings Bank as the largest volume SBA lender in Somerset county since October 1st, 2003 and announced that the bank is among the top 5 SBA lenders in Maine, based on dollar volume. A certificate of appreciation was presented to the banks commercial loan staff, Adam Michaud, Debbie Knox and Kim Friend by Jeffrey Butland, SBA New England Regional Administrator. Also present was Mac Curtis, owner, Wayne's Stove and Canoe in Madison who received an SBA guarantee loan through Skowhegan Savings.

"These local community lenders are driving the 'small business engine' in New England, and especially here in Maine", said Butland. "Just this month President Bush signed legislation that would increase loan authority by more than \$3 billion", added Butland. The SBA and lenders like Skowhegan Savings Bank will be able to get down to the business of financing growth and creating jobs for Maine's economy.

Skowhegan Savings Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank started in 1869 and currently serves customers in over thirty towns. With branches in Bingham, Dexter, Pittsfield, Corinna, Madison, Norridgewock, Skowhegan, Fairfield, Livermore Falls and Belgrade the bank takes pride in being "Your Partner for the Future".

Newly appointed President and CEO Virginia Howard said "We are pleased to participate in the SBA loan guarantee program as it allows us to serve an even greater number of small businesses. As a community lender, we like to see job creation and new business ventures in our towns".

Mary McAleney, District Director of the Maine SBA added, "Our high volume SBA lenders in Maine tend to be these community banks. A large percentage of SBA customers are served by community banks like Skowhegan Savings".

For more information on the SBA programs and services, call 622-8274 or visit our web site at www.sba.gov/me.