

# **Orono Public Library Foundation Launches Capital Campaign for Orono Village Green**

ORONO, ME – The Orono Public Library Foundation launched a \$370,000 capital campaign at the library on May 30, 2014. Funds raised for *Chapter Two: The Campaign for the Orono Village Green* will be gifted to the Town of Orono to construct a new multiuse green space directly behind the Orono Public Library.

The campaign has already raised \$164,867 through the generous contributions of 95 donors including individuals, families, foundations, businesses and organizations. During the public phase the Foundation must raise the final \$205,000 by November 2014 to complete the campaign goal and transfer the funds to the town.

Foundation Board President Sarah Kenney and Vice President Brian Rahill, joined by Honorary Campaign Chairman Murray Bain, made the announcement before a gathering of 50 donors and library supporters. Kenney and Rahill also serve as *Orono Village Green* Campaign Co-Chairs.

The Orono Public Library Foundation was founded in 2002 and successfully led the \$2.1 million capital campaign to fund the new library, which opened on Pine Street in 2009 thanks to the perseverance of dedicated community volunteers and the generous support of the Town of Orono and 918 individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations.

Over the past three years the Foundation Board of Directors crafted a plan for a privately funded landscape design for the grounds directly behind the library to benefit people of all ages and abilities. When complete, this project will transform the area into the Orono Village Green – a gift from the Orono Public Library Foundation to the Town of Orono.

“Like many Maine communities experiencing commercial growth and residential development, Orono residents seek a balance between new construction and green space, which is so vital to building strong, healthy communities. This project will add significant green space and will connect the library, the Senior Center, and pedestrian pathways,” said Kenney.

The campaign goal also includes \$25,000 to establish a restricted fund to support the annual maintenance by the town.

The Foundation board worked with landscape architect Steve Ribble of Context by Design on the elements of the Orono Village Green, which will feature:

- Hundreds of ornamental trees, flowers and plantings
- Stone plaza with tables, chairs and sun shade
- A 125-seat amphitheater with large flat stone stage
- ADA accessible ramp, lawn and granite seating
- Overlook area
- Pergola
- Bench seating areas
- Pathways circling the grounds connecting to the Orono Senior Center and leading to the village

“The purpose of the Foundation is to support the mission of the Orono Public Library. We are committed to strengthening the community and enhancing the quality of life for all Orono citizens. We are grateful to the donors who are helping to make this gift to Orono possible,” said Rahill.

Late in 2012 the Foundation board voted unanimously to dedicate the stage to the memory of a couple who contributed in numerous ways to the quality of life in Orono, Dana and Mary Ann Devoe.

Dana was a founder of the Orono Public Library Foundation and served as Co-Chair of the Library Building Capital Campaign Committee. Dana provided the leadership to make the dream of a new library a reality. Together, Dana and Mary Ann generously supported the capital campaign to build the Orono Public Library.

The Foundation board is dedicating this named gift in recognition of the Devoe’s contributions to the Town of Orono. The board received the approval of the Devoe family to honor the memory of Dana and Mary Ann with a named gift for the stage at the Orono Village Green. The goal for this special campaign is \$25,000, and to date half of the funds have been secured.

All funds for the *Orono Village Green* campaign are being raised privately and will be gifted to the Town of Orono. The library and grounds are property of the town, and all aspects of the construction project will be managed by town staff.

Town Manager Sophie Wilson joined the members of the Foundation's board, library staff, capital campaign committee, volunteers and supporters to offer her congratulations on launching the fundraising effort. Wilson introduced Cindy Mehnert, Chairwoman of the Orono Town Council to speak on behalf of the Council.

The announcement concluded with Kenney inviting all who cherish accessible outdoor space to support the *Orono Village Green* campaign, as it is truly a gift to the entire community. She then invited the audience to *Dancing in the Moonlight – The Prom for Adults*.

The Foundation is planning a fundraising event to benefit the campaign on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. *Dancing in the Moonlight – The Prom for Adults* will be held at Buchanan Alumni House, University of Maine, Orono. Deb Neuman is serving as the Prom MC and DJ Al Jackson is providing dance music from the 1950s through the decades. Attendees will vote for Prom King and Queen with contributions, \$1 per vote. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. with dancing from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75/couple or \$40 each and are available at the Orono Public Library or online at [www.oronolibraryfoundation.org](http://www.oronolibraryfoundation.org).

The Orono Public Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2002 to raise the funds to construct the library. An all-volunteer organization, the Foundation is governed by an eight-member Board of Directors.

For more information about the Foundation go to [www.oronolibraryfoundation.org](http://www.oronolibraryfoundation.org), or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/oronolibraryfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/oronolibraryfoundation).

To contribute to the *Orono Village Green* campaign contact the Foundation by e-mail, [info@oronolibraryfoundation.org](mailto:info@oronolibraryfoundation.org), telephone (207) 991-3734, or mail PO Box 308, Orono, ME 04473

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