

Status Report on 4 Port Loop Project

Keith Bowden

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This week has seen great progress for the 4-Port Loop project on 2 interconnected fronts: Small Town historic, maritime history preservation efforts and Smartphone App initiative Planning/Kickoff.

First: The Orrington Historical Society/PMHA effort (with the help of the \$10,000 ME Arts Commission Grant) to help 8 small historical towns/societies in the lower Penobscot River region digitize historic documents got a boost with the receipt of 8 Hewlett Packet laptops and 8 Epson document/film scanners. We will be able to get this equipment to the society's leaders in Hancock & Waldo counties. They will be able to develop one or 2 short digitized tours of their towns with historic sites, buildings and descriptions of their maritime heritage and also list any events that they may be holding in the July 8th thru July 14th, 2020 period. This will be added with the same type digitized info developed for the Penobscot 4-Port Loop communities and used by the "OnCell" mobile device app described below.

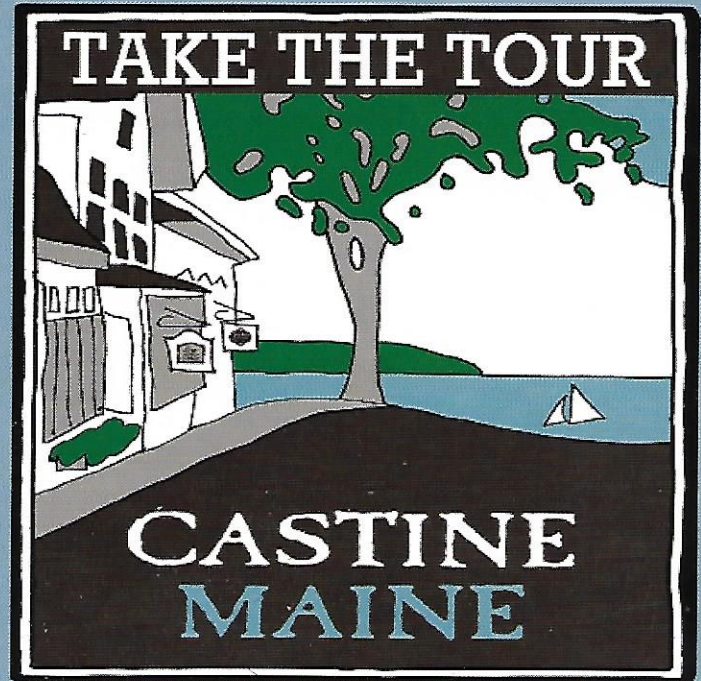
Second: PMHA signed the contract with "OnCell" to develop and launch the "smartphone" app to explore the fourteen 4-Port Loop communities participating this July. Castine Maine has successfully used past state grant monies to produce an app with OnCell (See rack card to the right and take the tour yourself by following instructions on the bottom). A PMHA team has been put together that are teleconferencing with the OnCell "Client Success Manager" today on the means & methods to take the info developed by the Historical Societies in the Digitization project described above (and other info sources) to tour the 4-Port Loop events in the anchoring towns (Bangor/Brewer, Bucksport, Searsport and Castine) and the other adjoining towns.

Using funds from the \$10,000 Maine Office of Tourism grant, the PMHA will be producing a 4 Port Loop rack card that will promote the regions events and help lead to positive economic growth in the state.

In spite of the lingering impacts of COVID-19 in July, the PMHA will have the OnCell app, which allows residents of Maine and visitors to our great State to still "socially distance" whether they are on foot, on their bikes, in their car or if they wish, right from home, and still participate in this unique and timely event in our region.

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