

Letter of Transmittal



It is with great pleasure that I submit the 2002-2003 Annual Report in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Saco. Chronicled within these pages are the activities of the municipal departments and the Board of Education along with an independent audit of the City's finances.

In the face of the periodic down cycle of the economy, the financial condition of the City is excellent. Our financial condition and favorable audit comments reflect on the dedication of department heads in managing your financial resources and providing excellent services cost effectively. Service to the citizens of this community is our top priority

During the past year, the City Council, in addition to overseeing the efficient delivery of a full array of municipal services, focused on a number of goals intended to help Saco become a community of high quality.

The City of Saco is going aggressively after Web-enabled changes in our business and processes. Easy access by the citizenry to information relative to their life is in large measure available through out Web site – www.sacomaine.org.

As you read through this report, I believe that the optimism and competence of your city employees will shine through. The fruits of the efforts of the many members of our volunteer commissions and committees will, as well. You will soon discover that the significant performance improvements instituted by the City will continue to meet our citizen's appropriately high expectations.

I am in my fourth year as your City Administrator. Looking back over a career in municipal government that spans over 24 years, I have never been part of such an active and challenging time and circumstances as here and now. I hope you share my optimism for our city's future and will become actively involved in helping to shape it.

It has been a pleasure to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard R. Michaud
City Administrator

Highlights of the Year

Solid Waste Management and Recycling Team (SMART) maps out plans for recycling under the direction of the newly hired, full time, recycling officer and program fully implemented in 2002.

Continued discussions with the Saco Bay Implementation Team and the US Army Corps of Engineers on the technical aspects of works by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Parcel base maps prepared for review and data contained on one central server for use by all departments.

Amendments to subdivisions regulations and zoning ordinances completed as well as the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan on the Code Enforcement end of business.

Growth of houses and buildings being constructed in Saco has increased in 2002 with 60% residential and 40% commercial range.

Availability of a citizens survey form has permitted monitoring of performance.

Public Works and Wastewater were combined providing increased productivity and performance.

Amtrak has been in operation since February 15, 2002.

Website has been updated including forms and information for the general public. We are becoming a user-friendly central repository of information about City Government. The signing of a Systems Agreement with MUNIS affords the City of networking opportunities throughout departments.

Cable Franchise Agreement completed and the Cable Franchise Studio is being arranged.

Purchase of 90 Beach Street to be used as a Central Office for the School Department.