

**CONTACT:**

Alexa M. Dayton, Director of Development and Marketing Communications,  
Maine Huts & Trails (207) 415-7411  
Dave Herring, Executive Director, Maine Huts & Trails (207) 899-1620



## **Maine Huts & Trails Announces Ground Breaking Ceremony for First Hut Located in Carrabassett Valley**

**Kingfield, Maine** - Maine Huts & Trails announces it will begin construction for the first hut, located near the scenic Poplar Stream Falls in Carrabassett Valley, Maine, following an official groundbreaking ceremony in September. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on September 6, 2007 at 10:30 a.m.

The long awaited hut construction phase comes as Maine Huts & Trails nears completion of its first phase of fundraising, having raised more than \$5 million dollars over the last two years.

"We are thrilled about the start of the construction phase of this ambitious project with our first hut, which was made possible with the support and generosity of many individuals and companies, in particular the New Balance Foundation who have sponsored the construction of the hut itself" says Bob Peixotto, Chairman, Maine Huts & Trails.

"We are happy to promote outdoor health and fitness for Maine residents and visitors through the Maine Huts & Trails initiative," says Anne Davis, Vice Chairman of New Balance. "The Foundation looks forward to a future of programs aimed at providing positive, healthy experiences for kids while utilizing the new hut to hut trail system."



The remote hut site was secured with a long-term lease through a partnership with the Penobscot Indian Nation. Located 1,500 feet from the south branch of Poplar Stream Falls, the hut site will feature a main building and three small bunkhouses in the immediately adjacent area. The main building will provide a kitchen, lavatory facilities, and lodging for up to four full time staff. Three separate cabins will provide a choice of private to semi-private sleeping quarters for up to 40 guests. The hut is expected to be open to the public as soon as February 2008 and will provide dinner and breakfast to overnight guests as well as provide an educational experience through interpretive displays and educational programming. The Poplar Stream Falls hut will be open year-round, and also provides a day-trip destination for visitors seeking a single day non-motorized backcountry experience.

Upon completion, Maine Huts & Trails will consist of a 180-mile recreation corridor from Bethel to Moosehead Lake, and up to 12 huts with each designed to accommodate up to 40 guests. Maine Huts & Trails was founded by Maine people with a vision for preserving Maine's naturally beautiful remote areas while providing outdoor access to the public. This network of huts, trails and waterway corridors will provide an unparalleled opportunity for present and future generations to enjoy the natural wonders of western Maine. Maine Huts & Trails is expected to be a significant economic engine in western Maine by attracting families, individuals, travel groups and schoolchildren to the area for outdoor recreation opportunities that are consistent with a conservation ethic. For more information, visit [www.mainehuts.org](http://www.mainehuts.org).