

A MAIN STREET MAINE SUCCESS STORY: Children's Cottage moves from renting to owning



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First Quarter
2013



Karen, owner of Children's Cottage and Midge of Midge's Theatre Arts Studio upstairs

Downtowns provide a diversity of spaces that can accommodate a business from birth to maturity without having to leave the district.

Karen Lewia, owner of Children's Cottage, moved across Water Street from a rented storefront to a three-story building they now own, including a larger storefront space. They are currently making plans for improving the facade and rehabilitating the upper two floors for more productive use. Midge's Theatre Arts Studio has already moved in upstairs.



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A MAIN STREET MAINE SUCCESS STORY: New life for the Maine Central Hotel



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Second Quarter
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A turn-of-the-century view of the Maine Central Hotel

Vacant buildings, often viewed as a burden, can sometimes serve as an affordable opportunity to smaller entrepreneurs.

Marc and Janet Wheeler recently purchased the long-vacant hotel building on Court Street once known as the Maine Central Hotel, which was associated with the Maine Central Railroad passenger depot next door (since demolished). This building is Skowhegan's last tangible link to its railroad history. The couple plans to open a bar and restaurant on the first level and eventually renovate the two upper floors for event space.



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A MAIN STREET MAINE SUCCESS STORY: Public Art for Downtown Skowhegan



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Third Quarter
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Balancing Dogs, one of 25 sculptures recently donated to Main Street Skowhegan for public display in and around downtown

Be in the right place at the right time and you may be handed something that will make your downtown a more attractive destination.

Main Street Skowhegan secured a donation from the Kohler Foundation of 25 sculptures by Maine artist Bernard Langlais, sculpture of the renowned Skowhegan Indian, which was completed in 1969. These sculptures will be the property of Main Street Skowhegan and most will be on display in downtown, in various indoor and outdoor locations.



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A MAIN STREET MAINE SUCCESS STORY: Pop-up Store Provides Testing Ground for Retail Ideas



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Fourth Quarter
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Iverstudio owner Iver Lofving with his "Skowhegiana" wares

Two retailers rented the Somerset Grist Mill's pop-up storefront temporary retail space for about two weeks each during this holiday shopping season. This space has offered an interesting spike of diversity to shopping selections in downtown Skowhegan by allowing would-be retailers the opportunity to test their ideas for a day, a week, or a month. This space is a former guard's office.

