

# Benefits of a Lease for the Friends to Manage Colonial Pemaquid

## *It Will Develop an Economic Engine that Will Benefit the Entire Area*

The Friends will partner with other local organizations and townships to promote Colonial Pemaquid as a tourist destination that will benefit area businesses. FOCP will offer more programs including evening tours and will operate during a longer season instead of closing the site Labor Day Weekend as the state does now.

This is not an experimental approach. It has proven to be highly successful here in Maine at Fort Knox in Bucksport, a historic site managed by the local Friends group. There are other examples throughout the nation. We believe that Colonial Pemaquid –if operated in the same way as Colonial Williamsburg, Plimouth Plantation, Sturbridge Village, Strawberry Banke, Mount Vernon, Monticello, and Fort Ticonderoga - could offer the same economic and cultural stimulation that these privately managed historic sites now provide. The Friends would work to make Colonial Pemaquid all that it can be –a place of national historic importance and a popular visitor destination where people can learn about their own heritage and at the same time create financial benefits to the community.

## *It Will Create Continuity of Management and a Permanent Liaison with the Community*

The Friends would hire and train staff so that individuals with management experience, an established interest in history, as well as audience and site development would be encouraged to consider a position at Colonial Pemaquid as a career goal. This is unlike the present approach of the state's Bureau of Parks and Lands which views the position of site manager as a temporary one, offers a starting pay of less than \$15 per hour, no overtime, and a season of only 26 weeks. The result of that approach has been nine managers in the last ten years, too short a time to establish a viable relationship with people and organizations in the local community. FOCP will work to create that vital continuity.

## *It Will Revive the Village Project, Attracting More Visitors and Revenue*

Nearly eight years ago, a plan was suggested to construct a reproduction 17<sup>th</sup> century village to represent the original English settlement established at nearly the same time as the Pilgrims. Unfortunately, the project has fallen by the wayside with only one structure partially completed to date. As a 501 (c) (3) all-volunteer organization with a proven track record, FOCP will revive this project by raising funds to complete the village (adding, among other structures, a tavern and a blacksmith shop) which, in turn, will attract more visitors, increase site revenues, make Colonial Pemaquid more widely known, and help operate the site on a business-like model by retaining the revenue on site rather than adding it to the state's General Fund.

*For more information, cut and paste the following links from the Lincoln County News:*

[Nonprofit Pursues Lease of Colonial Pemaquid, Envisions Site as 'Economic Engine'](#)

<http://lcnme.com/currentnews/colonial-pemaquid-lease-off-table-governor-says/>

