



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maine Bicentennial Commission postpones commemorative events to 2021

Delay builds excitement for events when ‘The 2-0-7 Turns 2-0-1’

AUGUSTA — Due to uncertainty and safety concerns surrounding public gatherings during the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Maine Bicentennial Commission is postponing its commemoration to 2021.

“We remain very grateful for the continued support of our sponsors and partners as we all navigate the uncertainties of this time,” said Sen. Bill Diamond, chairman of the Maine Bicentennial Commission.

“While we are disappointed that we are unable to commemorate Maine’s bicentennial this year as planned, we are also excited about coming together in 2021 to celebrate not only 201 years of statehood, but our renewed sense of community and perseverance as we emerge from this trial,” said Sen. Diamond. “We look forward to celebrating and reflecting on the State of Maine when we can all do so safely and joyfully next year.”

All Maine Bicentennial Commission signature events and programs originally scheduled for the bicentennial year of 2020 are now postponed to 2021. Tentative dates, pending any pandemic restrictions in place at that time, are below:

- Maine Statehood Day Ceremony: Sunday, March 14, 2021, Augusta
- State of Maine Bicentennial Parade Presented by Poland Spring: Saturday, May 15, 2021, Cities of Auburn and Lewiston
- Sailing Ships events: Summer 2021 (various dates), ports along the Maine coast
- Maine200 Innovation Expo Presented by Central Maine Power: Saturday, Nov. 20, 2021, Portland
- Maine 200 Time Capsule sealing ceremony, Fall 2021, Location TBD

Meanwhile, the commission is reviewing applications for the final round of the Maine Bicentennial Community Grant Program and will soon announce the recipients. The commission has awarded [a total of \\$574,545 in grants](#) through this program so far, allowing communities and organizations across the State to plan events and programs that recognize Maine’s bicentennial. The commission has extended the period for grant recipients to realize their plans through 2021, as part of the postponed commemoration.

Visit www.Maine200.org for updates and details about all programs and events as planning continues into 2021. The website also features videos, history links, school curriculum and other resources for those seeking to reflect on Maine’s bicentennial at any time, as well as commemorative merchandise.

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