



From left to right are David Moravick, vice president and Morris Commercial Producer, Neal Meltzer, executive director of Waban Projects, Inc. and John Gurski, vice president of Kennebank Financial Services ..

Waban receives support from KSB

SANFORD ~ On July 10, Neal Meltzer, the executive director of Waban, accepted a check from John Gurski of Kennebank Savings Bank representing the 2008 Community Ballot votes that Waban received from Kennebank Savings Bank's customers.

"Kennebank Savings Bank has been a friend to Waban and a friend to this community throughout the years," said Meltzer. "We will pool this money with some other funds to address our need for more informational and advocacy materials about what we do at Waban."

Waban is a full-service agency providing education, assessment and support for developmentally disabled and delayed people from birth and throughout their lifespan.

"We are a 24-hour, seven day a week agency, providing supported apartments and group homes for people with developmental disabilities throughout York County," indicated Meltzer. "By that I mean that people who live in our homes may have other families, but they also come to know that the people that they

are living with, and those that are working for them, are also their families."

Waban provides infant and toddler services from birth, with families sometimes being referred to them by hospitals, doctors or other health care providers. On occasion the parents just know that their baby needs to have an assessment done.

According to Meltzer, "When a child is determined to have special needs, we work with the family, often in their homes to teach them the skills they will need to both care for and advocate for their child. Waban also operates a special purpose preschool to prepare children from ages 3 to 5 for integration into public schools."

From the ages of 5 through 20, Waban works with the children and their families to make sure that they are getting the services that they need from the Department of Education or DHHS in order for that child to have a successful school experience. Many families often need help learning how to navigate through the various state agen-

cies that their child will need services from.

The adult program serves people throughout their lives, providing them with supported employment, day habilitation, life skills, various physical and occupational therapies, vocational training and supported employment and volunteer opportunities. Many people don't realize that Waban clients hold jobs, and that many are engaged in volunteer work in the community. Asked where Waban clients volunteer, Meltzer mentioned a few places such as York County Shelter, local elderly housing in Sanford and Springfield, the trail system in Sanford and the local food pantry.

"Kennebank Savings Bank is part of our success. In addition to the support we received through the Community Ballot, Kennebank Savings Bank has been there for us at several other times when we have come to them with a critical need. A few years ago, they bought us 10 kayaks for our summer camp on Bauneg Beg Lake; in the last three years the bank has been the primary sponsor of our Children's Fall

Fun Fest at Wallingford Farms in Kennebank and this year, Kennebank Savings Bank contributed to our five-year plan to update the camp so that it could be used for therapeutic recreational opportunities throughout the year," Metzler said.

"Our goal is to open up the camp beyond the Waban population to also serve the elderly, disabled veterans and people of all abilities by having camp be a four-season facility and expanding the programming to include handicapped accessible hiking trails that could be used in winter months for snow shoeing and cross country skiing. We are starting renovations this year with the construction of a new bathhouse and some walking trails, so that they will be completely accessible to people in wheelchairs or those with other physically limiting conditions. Without the support of Kennebank Savings Bank President and CEO, Ken Reed and Kennebank Savings Bank, we would not have undertaken this ambitious plan to expand the use of our camp," said Meltzer.