



THE NARRATIVE

The legacy of forward thinking and positive change lives on in Peterborough, New Hampshire. Bring your bold ideas and unleash your entrepreneurial passion in this small town where you will find deep community engagement and unparalleled intellectual capital. A town of 6,500 residents and one of New Hampshire's oldest, Peterborough has all the beauty and charm of a classic New England village, but there is something quite different in the air here; a culture unlike any other. Here you will find the first tax-supported library in the country, the State's oldest certified organic farm, and the largest solar array in all of New Hampshire, alongside the largest cannabis cultivator in the State, and the largest whiskey bar.

Nate Morison was still in high school when he took over Vicuña Chocolate, a (chocoholic's dream come true) café' and chocolate factory and currently one of only two artisan bean to bar chocolate makers in New Hampshire. He is still only 18 and is a member of the Economic Development Authority of Peterborough, providing his voice and support for local youth and the next generation of entrepreneurs here.

The community of Peterborough has a culture of authentic engagement in which it aligns stakeholders, programs, partners and newcomers. With a population that has twice the graduate degrees than the national average, and residents who have traveled and lived far and wide, there is no lack of mentors for those with entrepreneurial aspirations. You will have all the help you need. Peterborough has established a unique economic ecosystem that meets monthly, acting as a connection point to a coordinated network of sectors and resources. Their stated mission is to "guide and encourage innovation and new business, strengthen existing business and industry; to respect our environment, grow and diversify our community, and define our culture, while honoring our history". There is a hub for communication and multiple spokes, representing various aspects of the economy, that are all connected at the hub level, and linked to other important resources and stakeholders. Everyone is represented. Everyone is involved.

The MAxT Makerspace is unique in New England because it is a makerspace, an incubator and the first Repair Café in New Hampshire. MAxT is closely affiliated with Our Town Capital, a local group of investors focused on supporting the local business community and the next generation



of entrepreneurs. Roy Schlieben, a former international aid professional in his 30s, runs MAXT where he loves to support new ideas and talented people. A deeply reflective individual, Roy has created a culture for success with the tools you need, the space in which to work, and the community to support you, where engineering and art work together and everyone is influenced by the causes that are important to the community; the partnerships he has established demonstrate that.

Located in the same building as MAXT, Nuttin Ordinary is the first 100% plant-based cheese manufacturer in New England. Founders and 30 somethings, Josh and Adam, take great pride in creating foods that are both earth friendly and sustainable and being a zero "WHEYst" manufacturer. Leveraging local funding and resources, Josh and Adam also want to cultivate their vision for developing a specialty food hub with the ecosystem to support it and are eager to encourage other local fun food businesses and startups.

It is both effortless and invigorating to create your network and get the help, direction, and advice you need. Peterborough welcomes your business, your great idea, or just your desire to get involved, and is uniquely structured to do so. You will be blown away by how truly happy everyone is to include you.

After a decade living and working in Boston, Amelia, 32, hightailed it to Peterborough, where she says she felt air in her lungs for the first time in 10 years. She founded a real estate development firm that builds regenerative agrihoods, the nation's first being the Village at Stone Barn in Peterborough. The Village will include 32 clustered, net-zero homes nestled in a productive, regenerative farm that has an onsite farm-to-table café.....And seeded by Our Town Capital..... And supported by the community at MAXT, and the Peterborough Ecosystem. Amelia sold 30% of the condos in the first month.

Whether you are looking for a place to raise your family or to start a new enterprise, or both, when you arrive in Peterborough not only can you avail yourself of the official economic ecosystem, but the community itself will embrace you. The **Peterborough Welcome Team** is a volunteer group that welcomes new residents with a friendly visit and information about local organizations, businesses and services, samples and promotional items, all delivered in a beautiful, locally-made Peterboro Basket. The PWT also hosts Meet and Greet events to give new residents a chance to meet their Peterborough neighbors.



Maybe you will get out and meet your neighbors when you participate in one of the **Community Conversations**, a series that explores many of the issues impacting our communities. Each Conversation features local experts talking about challenges faced by our communities. Some issues will be global in nature, but each conversation is designed to examine the topic from a local perspective. The program will provide residents with the opportunity to learn more about key issues impacting their communities, to engage in a civil dialog with speakers and with each other, and to come away with a sense that there are things that individuals and communities can do to foster change and improvement.

Fostering change and improvement on a community level, but with a global view, seems to be the catalyst in Peterborough for innovation and entrepreneurial activity. **Sustainability, the Environment, and Conscious Living**, is a passion for this community that is unequalled anywhere. It is a thread that runs through the fabric of Peterborough's town administration, local businesses, investors, educators, and non-profits:

- The Town of Peterborough is a leader in sustainability. It is the recipient of the EPA Green Power Award, its model for the largest solar facility in New Hampshire draws national and international attention, and the Town operates on 100% renewables,
- Peterborough has 2 intentional communities focused on conscious living and sustainability; caring for each other and the planet,
- All manner of community activism and events like Greenerborough,
- Businesses focusing on wide ranging aspects of sustainability, from conscious living to cutting edge technology

Whether you own a restaurant and are dedicated to buying local, or you are creating a new neighborhood, or you have a technology that needs developing, this is a community that will give you serious support in an industry that is deep rooted with limitless future possibilities. There's even an annual fair dedicated to accelerating the progress toward a future of resilience and sustainability: Greenerborough is where New England families can learn how they can grow and choose food, energy, housing and lifestyles to improve their health and happiness.

Steve Walker is a local entrepreneur who has founded, grown and sold more than five companies in his 30-plus year career, including New England Wood Pellet, which he started at the age of 24. His most recent venture, IMBY – which stands for In My BackYard – aims to reduce global fossil fuel consumption with a small scale cogeneration system and cold-climate heat pump. Walker's passion for energy extends beyond his business ventures: He spends a lot of time with politicians and others helping them to understand energy and how it is used. He believes that a lack of understanding of this important subject is a huge problem and, with the industry being so large, Walker has called for a postsecondary school devoted to teaching people about energy.



Speaking about education, you would be doing your kids a solid by raising them in Peterborough. Here you have choices and special opportunities: public, private and alternative educational choices, community involvement, so many recreational options, not to mention a safe, clean and healthy place just to be a kid.

The Cornucopia Project works to empower the community to make healthy food choices. They do this by creating and delivering interactive experiential educational programs adapted to a variety of learning spaces, from gardens to classrooms and kitchens. This nonprofit focuses on creating a healthier and more connected region. Delivering a continuum of edible education, kids in the region benefit from school gardens, cooking classes and an agricultural education center across from the high school. Cornucopia shares space with MAxT. There's that amazing Peterborough ecosystem again.

Both are located on Vose Farm Rd. where many budding entrepreneurs also have their small facilities. Because nearly a third of the residents in Peterborough work out of their homes, building owner Chub Whitten had the brilliant idea of taking a newly vacated building, that once housed a large corporation, and offering up small spaces for various professional and commercial endeavors that are affordable and adaptable. A funny thing happened: once many of these businesses went from working at home to having a professional space, they could hire staff and they could produce more, and they are flourishing.

When you are ready to go out and play, there are vast opportunities for outdoor recreation and exploration, ranging from hiking and kayaking, swimming and paddling, to cross country skiing and snowmobiling. Thrillist identified Peterborough as **the most underrated city to visit in New Hampshire**, calling out its striking natural beauty, vast cultural offerings, impressive outdoor recreation, and fun places to eat and hang out.

Peterborough's past, present, and future, is steeped in culture. **Artists and writers have long found inspiration in Peterborough and there is a thriving community of artists, musicians, actors, and writers.** This is home to the famous MacDowell Colony that hosts 250 artists a year, where Thornton Wilder drew his inspiration for *Our Town*, Leonard Bernstein composed his *Mass*, and Bette Davis made her stage debut. It is also home to *The Thing in the Spring*, a weekend of art and music featuring renowned independent groups in intimate venues, a combination one would be hard pressed to find anywhere. The cultural offerings range from the

Peterborough Players who have been offering performances since 1933, to the Buddhist Monastery in the forest, to the annual Children and the Arts Festival and the Giant Puppet Parade.



Peterborough is a place for independent thought and innovation, a community of pioneers who have a vision of something better beyond their immediate world and who take responsibility for the future. This is an engaged community that does not stagnate, but skillfully reinvents itself over and over. From Dr. Abiel Abbot, who came to Peterborough in 1827, after being charged with heresy, and founded the nation's first tax-supported library, to the establishment of an unparalleled cultural community starting in 1907 with the MacDowell Colony, where some of our greatest creative minds have produced enduring works of the imagination, to a must stop on the East Coast for performing artists that blossomed in the 1970s, to the 1980s when Peterborough became the magazine production capital of the world, and to the 1990s when the Town became a leader in sustainability. In 2018, Peterborough is all about fostering entrepreneurship with a focus on endeavors that support positive social impact, sustainability and the stewardship of our environment, and future generations.

It also helps that Peterborough is located in **New Hampshire**, which U.S. News & World Report ranked **No. 1** in the nation for economic opportunity and No. 5 overall in the [2018 Best States Ranking](#) report. And where, because of the first **Presidential Primary**, all residents have the opportunity to meet and interact with every single candidate.

Peterborough is truly a gem where you can explore new frontiers, be a voice that is heard, have a real impact on your community, realize your aspirations, raise your family in a healthy environment, and breathe free.

Elin and Philip, owners of Basäder Handmade Bags, plotted out every single town in New England they might want to live in in their quest to move from the city and raise their family. When they arrived to take a look at Peterborough, they said that it was like a rainbow was shining behind it and they knew this was the place.