

Meet the Caribou Candidates
(Information provided by the candidates.)

Thomas Ayer has established roots in Caribou and is invested in its future. Tom was born and raised in Caribou on his family farm, is a graduate of Caribou High School and attended the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Tom currently serves as Deputy Mayor and is the City Council liaison to the Recreation Commission and Planning Board after serving as a community member on both prior to serving on the City Council. He is chair of the City Council Airport and Charter Review committees. Tom is the owner and operator of Circle B Farms and enjoys time spent with his fiancé Gina and three children.

Hugh Kirkpatrick is running to continue working toward a sustainable municipal government and to help determine what we want Caribou to become. After graduating from Caribou High School and the University of Maine Orono, Hugh moved to San Francisco. He worked in the energy services industry managing construction projects throughout California and Hawaii. In 2004, Hugh and his wife Kelli moved to Washington DC where he continued his career and began the process of moving back home. In 2013, Hugh returned to Caribou fulfilling a lifelong dream of living and working in his hometown. Hugh's family has resided in Caribou for almost 150 years and during that time Caribou has given them the opportunity to thrive in diverse careers; providing agricultural, medical, financial, and legal services. Hugh believes a seat on the City Council is a way to apply his experience, education, and abilities to also contribute to the community and directly serve the taxpayers of Caribou. Hugh is the General Manager of the Caribou Utilities District and holds a master's degree in financial management and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Over the years, he has earned several professional certifications and is pursuing his professional engineering license.

David Martin has been a resident of Caribou since 1970. He and his wife Joan have been married for 51 years and have two children and five grandchildren. In addition to serving on the Caribou City Council member for 12 years, several as Deputy Mayor and one as Mayor, Mr. Martin served one year on the Planning Board and on the most recent Charter Commission. David Martin has enjoyed a 45-year career (and counting) as a math teacher and math tutor in Caribou schools.

William (Bill) Merchant was a born and raised a Caribou native. He lives here with his fiancé Kylee and their two children Tristen and Aspen. He has worked in the medical field for 21 years after graduating from EMCC. Bill is running for the Caribou City Council because he is ready for a change in the way our community is run. It's time we stop dividing and begin working together again. Bill also believes it's time we stop seeing each other as challenges and begin remembering we are all humans who need the most basic of needs fulfilled. Of those needs caring for one another and being kind too are on the list for him! Mr. Merchant has a vision of a future for our town, where successful business owners band together with would-be entrepreneurs to take run down eye sores in our community and repurpose them into new businesses for all to enjoy. Simply said Bill Merchant wants to work for the people doing what's right for them and not for his own interests or personal agendas.

John Morrill started his thriving local business, Custom Car Wash over 30 years ago and is a former president of the Caribou Chamber of Commerce and Industry who fought to keep over 100 jobs in Caribou. John Morrill believes in helping Caribou grow with a continued focus on economic development by amending the Chapter 13 Zoning Ordinance to make Caribou more business friendly and open to small business. He served 14 years with the Caribou Fire and Ambulance department, rising to the rank of Lieutenant and a Critical Care EMT who put citizens first. John Morrill is a founding director and longtime supporter of Caribou Snowmobile Club and Caribou ATV Club and sees the city services as a marketing tool to others seeking a safe area to live and work. He believes that the city charter is the governing rule for city government and should be respected as a law from the people. Mr. Morrill recently retired from the Caribou Rehab and Nursing Center after a 43-year career in charge of facilities maintenance and infrastructure.

Jody Smith was first elected to the Caribou City Council in 2015, served as Deputy Mayor in 2019 and is currently serving as the 2021 Mayor. Jody is a lifelong resident of Caribou, a 1993 honor part graduate of Caribou High School and has family ties in Caribou going back several generations. Mr. Smith is a Past Master of Masonic Lodge 170 in Caribou. Always a great sport and up for anything that will boost community spirit, Jody recently raised money for his nephew's "Project Graduation" by agreeing to taking a turn in the dunking booth during Thursdays on Sweden Street in June.

Paul Watson was born and raised in Caribou Maine. He is married to Jeannine Watson and is retired Military and Health Care worker. Mr. Watson is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans. He is running for Caribou city council because he believes "Seriously, We can do better", and that we can create a better environment and community moving forward. Additionally, he believes we need to treat all people with respect regardless of opinions.