

Visitor Center Comes Up "Busy"



*Left, one of the centerpieces at The Telephone Museum's Grand Opening of the new Visitor Center held on May 15, 2014.**

On May 15, 2014, the museum board greeted Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce members and Visitor Center donors to the first public event in the new building. More than 80 people attended, with the overflow crowd heading into the Main Building where volunteers Chad Perkins, Rick Miller and others dispensed information about the museum's exhibits and mission. A bewildered "by chance" visitor from Utah arrived just as festivities

were beginning and agreed to join in on a tour as a paying guest!

Inside the new building, people crowded around tables laden with food donated by Friends and Family Market, and sat down at tables decorated with colored telephone sets surrounded by artificial flowers in complimentary hues. New Land Nursery sent a beautiful bouquet of live flowers for the registration table and decorated the driveway entrance with rhododendron bushes.

In addition, The Telephone Museum board was pleased to welcome Ellsworth City Manager Michelle Beal, who had been present for groundbreaking ceremonies in June 2013, and Maine State Senator Brian Langley and his wife, owners of the popular Lobster Pot Restaurant in Ellsworth.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a check for \$1,000. from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation's Community Matters More Campaign. The award honored the museum's selection as a participant in the campaign and was presented by Sheryl Edgecomb, Bangor Savings Bank Vice-President and manager of the Ellsworth Branch.

The success of this event is fortuitous, as the museum intends the Visitor Center to be used for community-based activities, volunteer orientations, and special meetings and events for the museum and other area organizations. Most importantly, by extending the museum season to include the regular school year, the building will be the starting point for educational programs focusing on the history of telecommunications as illustrated by the museum's working exhibits and extensive collections.

** photo courtesy of Phyllis Young, Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce*