

Friends of Midcoast Maine Gives Annual Smart Growth Award to Union Resident Gary Sukeforth

The Friends of Midcoast Maine honored Union resident Gary for the Common Market in Union with its 2003 Smart Growth Award. Gary accepted this award at the FMM Annual Meeting in early November in Rockport.

Gary Sukeforth began the Common Market after a fire burned the community IGA grocery store to the ground. Gary realized how important a grocery store was to the site on the town common and approached the Masons who owned the site and the Camden National Bank for financing. The Masons sold him the land for \$1 provided a grocery store was rebuilt on the site. He gained financial backing from the Camden National Bank as well as numerous residents who supported him.

Friends of Midcoast Maine Board member and Treasurer Steve Cole nominated Gary Sukeforth for the award and presented him with the framed certificate. It read “Friends of Midcoast Maine presents this 2003 Smart Growth Award to Gary Sukeforth for the Common Market in Union, Maine for upholding the Principles of Smart Growth by recognizing a community need and addressing it successfully; re-building in a village center; building community support for the project; and serving as a model of smart growth in the region.”

The Friends of Midcoast Maine is a non-profit membership organization that supports smart growth and works to protect towns and villages from unplanned growth and sprawl. The organization works in the Midcoast region from Brunswick to Bucksport. For more information call 236-1077 or visit the web site at [ww.friendsmidcoast.org](http://www.friendsmidcoast.org).