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## The Samoset Resort and Ocean Properties Receives Maine State Chamber's Investor Award

(Rockport, ME) – The Maine State Chamber of Commerce awarded Ocean Properties and the Samoset Resort the Maine State Chamber's Investor Award. The award was presented to General Manager Connie Russell during the 2006 Annual Meeting and Gubernatorial Forum at the Augusta Civic Center on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, 2006.

“On behalf of Ocean Properties and the Walsh family I am honored to accept this award. Our company has and will continue to promote tourism throughout the wonderful state of Maine,” said Connie Russell.

The AAA Four Diamond Samoset Resort Hotel crowns a lovely 230 acre waterfront complex at the edge of Penobscot Bay, which is home to a fleet of historic windjammers, a historic lighthouse, prestigious museums, and sophisticated shopping and dining options in nearby Rockland and Camden. A resort of choice for over a century for visitors to the coast of Maine seeking the perfect retreat for a romantic getaway, family vacation or group outing. The ideal place for both leisure and business travelers alike.

The 178-room hotel features a 70-par golf course considered by *Golf Digest* to be one of America's “10 most aesthetic”, a state-of-the-art health club, indoor pool, tennis, complimentary Wi-Fi access, Breakwater Café and *Wine Spectator* award-winning Marcel's Restaurant. The resort also upholds a tradition of gracious hospitality and service reminiscent of a bygone age. For guests of the Samoset anything may be possible, and attention to detail is of the essence. Over breakfast guests may enjoy sweeping views of Penobscot Bay the light radiating on the water. After a day of relaxation and adventure guests can then spend dusk soaking in a magnificent sunset from their balcony.

Originally opened as The Bay Point Hotel in 1889 it quickly became known as the grand hotel of Coastal Maine. Several years later it was sold and renamed “The Samoset” after the Pemaquid Chief on the Maine Coast who was among the first people to greet the Mayflower Pilgrims. In 1972 the hotel was destroyed by fire, leading to two years of construction before reopening in 1974. A quarter of a century later it was purchased by Ocean Properties, Ltd. one of the largest independent hotel operators in the nation, which is headed by the Walsh family of Bangor, Maine.

Even though the company has grown significantly, the Walsh family still has strong ties to the state of Maine. In addition to the nine hotels they own and operate in Maine, they also have two golf courses, a whale watch operation, a reservations center and a small construction company. Ocean Properties, Ltd. employs more than 1,200 with a total annual payroll exceeding \$10,000,000. The hotels provide more than \$2,000,000 in rooms' sales tax to the state of Maine. Property tax revenues are slightly less than \$2,000,000, with food & beverage taxes totaling more than \$800,000.

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce's Investor Award recognizes Maine businesses for their outstanding contributions to the growth of their companies and the state's economy. Ocean Properties/the Samoset Resort host monthly Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Business seminars, a Camden Community School fundraiser, the Maine Innkeepers Annual board retreat, volunteers for the Maine Lobster Festival Food Tent and a Rockland Toy Library fundraiser.

The Chamber represents a diverse network of 5,000 businesses statewide and advocates on behalf of their interests before the Legislature and regulatory agencies and through conferences, seminars,

and affiliated programs. Businesses of all sizes and industries are eligible for membership. Their current members range from Fortune 500 companies to small family-owned businesses.

For more information, visit [www.samosetresort.com](http://www.samosetresort.com) or call 800-341-1650.