

My Life as a Transplanted Northern Mainer

Introduction

Here in the US, when people relocate to enjoy their retirement years, they mostly go to Florida, Georgia, Arizona: the Sunbelt.

But I've taken a different approach. After living in Massachusetts for more than 20 years, I decided to go **north**.

“North,” in my case, is Northern Maine. Aroostook County, to be specific. In fact, “North,” in my case, is almost as far north as you can be and still be in the Lower 48. Let me put this in perspective: to get to some of the major cities in Canada, you actually have to travel *south* from my home in Maine. If you're not familiar with the geography of the New England states, look at a map of New England or a map of the United States, and you'll see what I mean. The top part of Maine pokes way up into Canada.

But I digress. Let me get back to telling you about what you'll find in this book and why you'll want to read it.

Originally this book was to be the story of adventures shared by my husband and me during our move to Maine three years ago and during our daily life in Maine once we'd settled in. Two years after our move, though, our marriage fell apart. Consequently, this book will be different than the book I planned to write initially. For one thing, the book will chronicle my solo life in Northern Maine instead of describing my life as a partner with my husband. And, the book will include a lot of stuff pertaining to the healing process I've started to go through and will continue to go through (I hope!) while recovering from the breakup of my marriage. The fact that I have the privilege of making my home in this beautiful place has, without a doubt, promoted the emotional healing that's happened to me so far. I know I'll continue to benefit emotionally from the joy I take from my surroundings, and that's why I've decided the story of my divorce recovery should be part of this book.

The bulk of this book narrates the adventure of my day-to-day life here in Maine. You'll learn about what it's like up here: the good, the bad, the ugly, the moose, the trees, the mountains, the roads, the ice, the snow, the economy, the food, the people.

As you start to read this book, you might wonder, “Why is this woman making such a big deal about snow and ice and moose and mountains and friendly neighbors? After all, she doesn't live in Alaska or Scandanavia, for Pete's sake – and friendly neighbors can be found in lots of places.”

Well, all I can say is that, for me, living in this wonderful place makes me feel *alive and excited about life every day*, and in writing this book I strive to make you feel alive and excited, too. By the time I've finished organizing and refining the various chapters of the book, I think I probably will have created something that will cause at least some readers to feel an intense vitality and a zest for life, like I do. Either you'll get it or you won't, I guess. What can I tell you?

So step into my world and enjoy, vicariously, the wonderful experiences I live every day as a Transplanted Northern Mainer.