Bangor Savings Bank received the highest numerical score among retail banks in the New England region in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2013 Retail Banking Satisfaction StudySM. Study based on 51,563 total responses measuring 14 providers in the New England region (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI & VT) and measures opinions of consumers with their primary banking provider. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed January–February 2013. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

For over 160 years, we’ve been working to bring you products and services to improve your life. That’s why we’ve built a statewide network of 57 branches and invested in robust online banking technology and security. Bangor Savings was founded to help our neighbors and friends. It’s our sole mission and purpose in Maine. Being recognized for our efforts by you, our customers, not only makes us incredibly proud, it inspires us to do even more to help you.

Thank you for believing in us as much as we believe in you.
how could Portland be getting a swank new ferry to Nova Scotia when all seemed lost barely a year ago? Through a stroke of good fortune. “I’m pretty optimistic,” says Greg Mitchell, at Portland’s office of Economic Development. “STM Quest’s President and CEO Mark Amundsen has secured the partnership with the province of Nova Scotia, and he’s meeting now with city officials about Ocean Gateway. We believe ferry service will be resuming in May of 2014.”

According to Mitchell, Amundsen, of Eliot-based Quest Navigation, was able to secure a lease arrangement with Singapore-based ship builder ST Marine Ltd. when a brand-new ship became unexpectedly available.

“The ship was originally built to be an English Channel ferry,” says Sean Lewis at Canada’s office of public relations. “The vessel had sea trials in 2012 but has not seen service. She’s currently in Singapore.”

With the enthusiastic support of Graham Steele, Nova Scotia’s minister of economic and rural development and tourism, the 528-foot Nova Star will provide a jolt of energy to our waterfront, hosting 1,215 passengers and 336 vehicles. Nova Scotia will invest $21 million in the enterprise over seven years.

As with most deals, a few details remain to be settled.

The Portland/Yarmouth route was last served by the high-speed CAT ferry, which discontinued service in 2009. Previous ferries, such as the Scotia Prince, made the crossing in 12 hours; the Nova Star projects a nine-hour ride. Amundsen, a Maine Maritime Academy graduate and former CEO of Irving Shipbuilding, plans to move Quest Navigation headquarters from Eliot to Portland.

Shipboard amenities will include a fine-dining restaurant seating 100, a casual restaurant and pub with seating for another 107, and a cruise-ship buffet for more than 200; first-class, live-entertainment, and sun-deck lounges; a 1,000-square-foot casino gaming room; a 232-seat conference center and theater; a salon and spa for hair and nail care and massages; and a fitness center. ■