



Plymouth, New Hampshire

Alex Ray is the owner and founder of The Common Man Family of Restaurants. Ray opened the first Common Man in Ashland, NH in 1971, and has since built a thriving hospitality business throughout New Hampshire that includes 14 restaurants, The Company Store, and **The Common Man Inn & Spa**, employing more than 800 people.

In 2002, The Common Man Family embarked on a huge challenge. Ray purchased a 60,000 square foot, defunct mill in the town of Plymouth, New Hampshire. Plymouth is a small town (pop 3,700) and the home of Plymouth State University.

The mill had been built in 1906 for the Solon Company, which manufactured wooden paint paddle sticks. The Solon Company closed its doors in 2001, leaving an abandoned building at a highly visible site in the Town of Plymouth. Ray was concerned that the building would be torn down and a “box” building would be put up on a site that was an anchor for downtown Plymouth Main Street.

After touring the building, Ray saw the possibility of converting the building to an inn. Using an SBA 504 loan to finance the project, he succeeded in retaining 90 percent of the original building and ingeniously transformed a dilapidated mill into the 37-room Common Man Inn & Spa, which includes event facilities and a restaurant.

The project won “Grow Smart” and “Main Street” awards and provides what many consider to be a new “center” for the town of Plymouth.

Bank Partner: Meredith Village Savings Bank

A dilapidated mill built in 1906 was ingeniously transformed into the 37-room Common Man Inn & Spa, which includes event facilities and a restaurant.

The project won “Grow Smart” and “Main Street” awards and provides what many consider to be a new “center” for the town of Plymouth.

66 jobs were created by this project.