

# He 'bought 15 acres of land and a dream'

◆ **Diversity:** Highland Forwarding of Londonderry employs people from 15 different countries.

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**LONDONDERRY** — Highland Forwarding, a private shipping company in Londonderry, celebrated a grand reopening on Tuesday afternoon, marking an expansion project that took several years to complete.

"Dreams do come true in New Hampshire," said Radek Maly, the company's owner and president.

Highland Forwarding specializes in logistics and ar-



Radek Maly, owner and president of Highland Forwarding, and Miriam Maly, with Gov. Maggie Hassan close by, raise the Czech Republic's flag as their native country's anthem "Where Is My Home?" plays.

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ranging transportation for companies that need to ship products by air or sea. Inc. magazine has listed it as one of the 5,000 fastest-growing private companies in the United States for the last seven out of eight years.

Maly moved to the U.S. as a refugee from the Czech Republic in 1988. He started in Atlanta and continuously searched for the best state to live in.

"In the end I chose New Hampshire," he said. "It's a

beautiful place."

Maly started Highland Forwarding in Manchester with three other partners in 1998, 10 years after moving to a new country. At the time, it was a small 500-square-foot office with one employee. In 2007, he bought all the shares and started the process for the new 36,000-square-foot office building.

"I bought 15 acres of land and a dream," said Maly, who at the time had only 10 employees.

The next five years was a period of waiting for opportunity, Maly said. Highland Forwarding grew out of their Manchester office and moved to a larger space in

► See **Highland**, Page B3

## Highland

Continued from Page B2

Bedford. There they waited for the right time to break ground at 6A Kitty Hawk Landing.

In 2011, they got their chance.

"Exit 5 needed a lot of rock for construction. Guess what, we had a lot of rock," said Maly.

Construction started in 2012, and the company moved in with 30 employees on Sept. 1, 2013. However, the significance of Tuesday's ceremony was the completion of the grounds, the large scenic waterfall, a semi-circle of 19 flagpoles around the water, and three separate flagpoles in the front of the parking lot.

"A lot of it wasn't finished, and I wanted it to look pretty," said Miriam Maly, Radek's wife, who acts as accountant and HR manager for the company. "Now it's complete."

The company employs people from 15 different

countries. To celebrate this diversity, employees raised their countries' flags while their national anthems played over the loud speakers. The first five flags were already flying, representing countries Highland Forwarding doesn't employ from but does business with.

The remaining flags were raised in alphabetical order, except for France, which went first.

"France gave us the Statue of Liberty, the most precious gift of all," Maly said.

Svetlana Gorban, 37, moved to Manchester in 2012 to work for Highland Forwarding. She and three other employees also from Russia raised their nation's flag as the "State Anthem of the Russian Federation" played over the loud speakers. Gorban more than once wiped away tears.

"It's exciting. You really feel

something," said Gorban. "It's your country. It's like your family."

Gorban said most of her relatives are back in Russia, and she thought of them as she raised the flag. Highland Forwarding now acts like a family to her. Working for the company has also helped Gorban learn English. When she first moved she struggled with communicating.

"Everybody here is very open. If you have a problem, if you have a question, anyone here can help you," she said.

The America flag, the New Hampshire state flag, and the Highland Forwarding flag were raised together during the Star-Spangled Banner to complete the ceremony.

Tuesday's guest speaker, Gov. Maggie Hassan, said Highland Forwarding is a remarkable ambassador for her vision of honoring individual

freedom and individual talent in New Hampshire.

"You'll see people flourish, and you'll see the economy flourish too," she said. "It's exciting for Londonderry. It's exciting for New Hampshire," she said.

For Maly, freedom is "the biggest thing in the world."

"That's why I came here — to enable others to come here and pursue their freedoms and their dreams," said Maly.

"Just moving to a new country takes guts," said Maly. "Everybody here's made to feel at home."

The completed building that can hold up to 100 employees is just the end of phase 1. Maly purchased enough land to build two more buildings that will take up 90,000 square feet, though he doesn't expect that to happen for at least five to 10 years.

"It's more of an investment opportunity," he said.