



Volume 1, Issue 1-January 2016



## President's Greeting

This year, the Maine Acadian Heritage Council took the unprecedented decision of not offering educational grants to individuals or organizations. Instead, it created a FREE training workshop for teachers of the St. John Valley, in conjunction with the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes of the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Teachers met for a week to explore Acadian history and culture; how and why Acadians settled in the St. John Valley; Acadians of the diaspora; and the Bloodless Aroostook War with visits to the three forts in the area: Fort Kent, Me; Fort P'tit Sault in Edmundston, NB, and Fort Ingall in Cabano, Qc. The MAHC plans to offer another such program for teachers and the public through UMFK during the Spring semester.

What does the future hold for MAHC and the Acadian people of the St. John Valley? The Congrès mondial acadien 2014 brought great visibility to Acadians of northern Maine. 97% of visitors said they would come back to this region because they loved the people. It's up to us to use this momentum to create something lasting that will both highlight our heritage and language while spurring economic and cultural development.

*Lise Pelletier*

## Who is MAHC?

The Maine Acadian Heritage Council is a regional organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Acadian culture, language, and history throughout Northern Maine's St. John Valley. Its members include representatives of: all the municipalities, chambers of commerce, historical and cultural societies, and sponsors of the Upper St. John Valley. It also includes a representative of: the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the University of Maine System, Congressman Bruce Poliquin, and Senators Susan Collins and Angus King.

## What is MAHC?

In 1990, the United States Congress passed the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Act establishing a role for the National Park Service to recognize the important contribution to American culture and history by the Acadians in Maine. In 1991, the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission, led by Senators George Mitchell and Bill Cohen, and Maine Speaker of the House John Martin, was developed to provide advice on the selection of sites for interpretation and preservation. In 1997, the National Park Service implemented the Maine Acadian Heritage Council as a nonprofit 501 (c) (3), as an umbrella organization coordinating the regional network of partnerships by which Maine Acadian culture is to be preserved and interpreted.

Since 1998, the MAHC has been fortunate to receive financial support from the National Park Service (NPS) on an annual basis, allowing the people of the St. John Valley to continue their work in preserving and promoting the Maine Acadian culture and its historic treasures.

MAHC has also sponsored the following eight publications: St. John Valley Welcome Guide (1999); St. John Valley Cultural Directory (2000); Traditions d'icitte (2002); Heritage Sites of the St. John Valley (2007); Voici theValley Cultureway (2007); Revue de la Société historique du Madawaska (2008); The Land In Between (2009); Destination Madawaska (2009)

Happy  
New Year!

2016

Bonne et  
Heureuse Année

*Et le Paradis à la fin de vos jours*

P.O. Box 88  
Madawaska, ME 04756  
Phone: 207-728-6826  
E-mail:  
maineacadianheritage@gmail.com



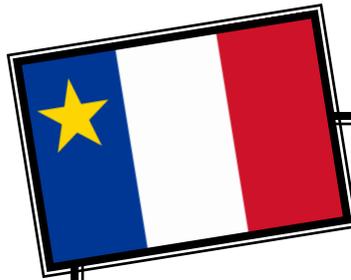
We're on the  
Web  
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## Maine Acadian Heritage

Maine Acadian Heritage is published four times a year by the Maine Acadian Heritage Council. This newsletter is designed to provide information on efforts to preserve and promote the Acadian culture, language and history in the St. John Valley and beyond. Submissions are subject to editing. For details, contact Kim Deschenes at 207-728-6826.

In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and in pursuing its own goals of pluralism, the Maine Acadian Heritage Council shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizen status, age, disability, or veteran status in all areas.

MAHC President	Lise Pelletier
Secretary	Chad Pelletier
Treasurer	Teresa Ouellette
Office Manager	Kim Deschenes



## What We Do

MAHC, in partnership with the National Park Service, annually provides the following grant opportunities to qualified groups or individuals: Preservation funds are used to preserve and protect historic buildings, documents, and objects; Trail Guide funds are used to hire and train employees as guides at local historic sites and museums; Speakers and Performers funds are used for experts in specific fields related to Acadian culture; Educational Resources funds are used for the study of Acadian history and culture, for the purchase of teaching materials, and for special projects.

## The St. John River Acadians Project

The MAHC is taking a new direction with its St. John River Acadians Project. The project will unite the 12-member historical societies and communities in a single collaborative project involving a shared resource: the St. John River. To achieve this objective, the MAHC recently hired David Wylie, a local grant writer and consultant, to develop proposals and secure funding wherever possible. One of the themes Wylie proposes to explore is the log drive, based on his boat building experience and discussions with MAHC board member Ken Theriault Jr. about the frequently neglected St. John River in the context of local history.

The St. John River Acadians Project, sometimes using the working title of 'Stations of the River', considers the origin of Acadia; the St. Croix and Port Royal establishments and the lucrative fur trade; the Grand Dérangement; the settlement of the Madawaska Territory, the diversification of economy through participation in the great logging enterprise, and the adaptation of Acadians to their new status as Americans. According to Wylie, each historical society will exhibit a critical component of the Acadians' history, through modules, posters and historical narratives. The 'stations' for lack of a better term, would be numbered so that visitors wanting to gain a more complete picture of the Valley's historical part in the story could travel from one station to another. These would include, but not be restricted to: the role of farming, transportation, boat building, the mills and millwork, and the role of the local inhabitants of the Valley in what was arguably the greatest economic and social activity taking place in the region. The story encompasses local Acadian, French Canadian, Scots Irish and English cultures in the telling.

Wylie's mission is to obtain funding to carry out the project's objectives and give each society and community in its scope their proper part in the story of the St. John River. He is already collecting background information on the project in anticipation of a series of funding applications in the spring of 2016. Wylie plans to involve such entities as the Maine Arts Commission and other organizations in developing artwork, module designs, media displays and other similar conceptualizations. To achieve the overall project's potential, Pelletier said the MAHC's governing body approved the allocation of \$20,000 from its annual budget to serve as a matching share to any grant opportunity requiring this type of commitment.

## Allagash Historical Society

The Allagash Historical Society highlights the Scots/Irish heritage of the settlers of Allagash. Its museum boasts artifacts relating to lumbering, farming, and St. John River log drives.



Other features include a military display honoring veterans, school and church histories, newspaper articles, and photographs.

## Acadian Archives Archives acadiennes

Bienvenue! In 1989, the 114<sup>th</sup> Maine State Legislature allocated \$150,000 to “provide funds to establish and support an Arcadian [sic] Archives Center at the University of Maine – Fort Kent”. More than a document preservation site, the Archives is a resource center housing more than 420 manuscript collections, thousands of photographs, books, genealogy, and recordings relating to the history and ways of life of the people living along the St. John and Allagash rivers and their ancestors. Visitors can enjoy our exhibition room and public presentations year-round. Visit our website at: [www.umfk.maine.edu/archives](http://www.umfk.maine.edu/archives) or call (207) 834-7535



## Frenchville Historical Society

The Frenchville Historical Society is caretaker for the Green Water Tower, the Caboose and the Wylie House. The Green Water Tower was constructed in 1910. It is the only existing water tower east of the Mississippi River that sits beside an active railroad. The Caboose holds many artifacts from the station’s glory days. The Wylie House was built in 1916 and features many artifacts that reflect the 1900’s to mid-1970’s. The circular attic window was used during Prohibition to signal to bootleggers in Canada that the “coast was clear”.



## St. Francis Historical Society

The St. Francis Historical Society was established in 1984. A group of committed citizens organized to preserve our community’s history and heritage. Our beautiful building holds the dreams of yesterday. We host such events as



rug braiding classes, antique quilt contest, antique care shows, reunions, student tours and dinners. We have a computer with genealogy and old photos. Books, artifacts and replicas of years past adorn the walls and shelves.

We are proud of what our members, community and the Maine Acadian Heritage Council have contributed. Our St. Francis Historical building is not only a building, it is our preserved past for our tomorrow.

## Fort Kent Historical Society

Founded in 1925, the Fort Kent Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of Fort Kent, Maine. Stop by and visit our five buildings bursting with Fort Kent’s history and culture. We have Jerry Jalbert proofs still available, and loads of local history books and magazine for purchase. The Railroad Station originally opened in 1902 and is a great place to learn the history of the railroad. A baggage room, offices for the station agent along with a woman’s waiting room are just a few areas in the station. Surrounding the Railroad Station and Museum are many gardens, including a medicinal garden that must be seen.



*In Our Next Issue:*  
Meet our Board  
Members

MAHC gratefully acknowledges the generous financial support of our partner, the National Park Service.

## Ste. Agathe Historical Society

The Marquis house is one of the oldest homes in St. Agatha, Maine and is owned by the Ste-Agathe Historical Society, which maintains the house as one of its museum buildings. The oldest and smallest portion of the house was built in 1854 by Andre Pelletier. The Preservation Building, located behind the Marquis House contains most of the society's collection of artifacts, genealogy books and photographs. The Center is divided into different exhibits including: a textile section, military section, Gerald Dubois' craft room, two barber chairs, a religious artifact section, a scale model of the Notre Dame de la Sagasse Convent Boarding School, agriculture section and lumber section.



## Greater Grand Isle Area Historical Society



This site preserves artifacts and promotes the contributions of Grand Isle and Lille Residents to the Acadian culture of Maine's St. John River Valley. The museum

showcases farming implements and a broad variety of other tools; genealogical materials, including mortuary cards, and history-related publications; domestic items, and original folk art. Our Museum is a "must-see memory-jogger" for young and old. In 2009, the Society acquired the picnic/rest area from the Maine DOT located on the Grand Isle and Madawaska Town line. The site overlooks the majestic St. John River and remains a summer picnic/rest site.

## Héritage Vivant Historical Society Acadian Village

The Acadian Village is one of the largest historical sites in Aroostook County, Maine. It consists of several buildings. Four original homes dating from the 1800 to early 1900, All the houses are furnished and depict the way of life of the Acadians. Also part of the collection is a chapel and a one room school house. The must see Country Store is the welcoming center for the visiting public. It is also the place to buy souvenirs and purchase books.



## Madawaska Historical Society



Tante Blanche Museum Complex and Acadian Cross Landing Home of the Madawaska Historical Society is located in St. David. Acadian artifacts are displayed in the museum, school house, tool shed and

Albert House. Tour guides share the history of the early Acadian settlers to the area. The Cross site commemorates the arrival of Acadians to the region in 1785. Established in 1969, first in the Valley, the Society celebrates the early Acadian families with the Acadian Mass the last Sunday in June. Books of family genealogy and Acadian history are for sale.

## Musée culturel du Mont-Carmel

This site was founded in 1983 in order to preserve and restore the former Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel, a Roman Catholic church that was built in 1908-09. It was entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. This museum consists of the former church as well as the former Lawrence Parent General Store now known as the Galerie Lille-sur-St-Jean. The museum



also owns the 114 acre long lot farm from the 1792 land grant from the British government belonging to Hypolite Thibodeau. The museum has a huge collection of Acadian and Québécois artifacts and textiles, religious material, and books, documents, recordings, and photographs.

## Cyr Plantation's Governor Brann School

Named after Governor Louis J. Brann. Governor Brann School House is a historical building located 3 miles South of Van Buren, Maine on Rt.# 1 in Cyr Plantation. The second of two well preserved "Little Red School Houses" in the St. John Valley.



## Hamlin's Roosevelt School House



This historic schoolhouse is located on Route 1A in Hamlin. Built in 1933 by a local carpenter named Desiree Roy. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. Lucie Cyr Parent was one of the first teachers at Roosevelt School House. The building continues to be used to hold Hamlin town meetings and elections. Stop by to see what school may have looked like in the early 1900s.