

Maine Acadian  
Heritage Council  
Preserving  
Acadian culture,  
language, and  
history in the  
St. John Valley

Pour préserver la  
culture, la langue  
et l'histoire des  
Acadiennes et des  
Acadiens de  
la vallée du  
Haut St-Jean

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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.

# Maine Acadian Heritage Council Conseil d'héritage acadien du Maine Summer 2019

## Anne Parent Roy MAHC Lifetime Acadian Achievement Award

Anne's first involvement with preserving local history was in 1976, during the celebrations of the nation's Bicentennial. She became interested because her grandmother, Lucie Cyr Parent, at 86, was a very active member of "L'Héritage Vivant Historical Society", then only three years old.

Anne recalls a fateful meeting of the historical society in 1981 where only four other people attended: Martine Pelletier, Anne Michaud, and Emily and Isaac Harris. At the end of the meeting, Anne became president in charge of establishing a historical village. She acknowledges the assistance of many friends. What started with one building in 1982 turned into a complex of seventeen buildings depicting life in an Acadian village of the St. John Valley: a monumental achievement.

Anne's tasks at the village included maintaining the grounds and the edifices; preparing them for the summer season; collecting artifacts for each

house, store, or building; managing the museum store; hiring men and directing them as to the repairs, restorations necessary (Anne says: "I gave the orders Ha!"); making displays for the houses, the art gallery, and all the other buildings; shopping for the kitchen, the store, and the ducks; making schedules for the workers and overseeing their wages paid; seeing to it that the IRS and State taxes were collected and reported; making sure that the insurances were up to date; scheduling rental of the hall; making sure the houses were clean and dressed in their original period; getting the houses ready for winter after the tourist season; and of course, giving guided tours. But in her own words: "I didn't do much."

Anne has always generously accepted to host a meeting at the Village or to give tours to teachers with rambunctious students. Every year. She is as strong an advocate of the St. John Valley today as she was thirty-eight years ago.

In addition to the Acadian Village, Anne was, and continues to be an active member of many events and activities celebrating the Acadian culture and language of the St. John Valley. She was a regional and an international member of the 2014 Acadian World Congress organizations for five years, the largest cultural event ever in the former Madawaska Territory. Anne has been a valued member and director of the Maine Acadian Heritage Council since its inception in 1994.

Anne, your spirit of engagement and your wisdom inspire us all. May you continue to guide the Maine Acadian Heritage Council in its efforts to preserve not only its past, but its future. We are proud to honor Anne with the first ever **Acadian Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Lise Pelletier, MAHC President  
MAHC Annual Meeting May 19, 2019



## MAHC

Kim Deschênes,  
Office Manager  
P.O. Box 88  
Madawaska, ME  
04756

Phone:  
207-728-6826

E-mail:  
maineacadianheritage  
@gmail.com

Website:  
maineacadian.org



## MAHC President

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**MAHC**  
gratefully  
acknowledges  
the generous  
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the  
**National Park  
Service.**

## 2019 Annual Dinner Meeting—A Tribute to Anne Parent Roy

"I treasure many things about you. You are fiercely loyal - I came to appreciate that in ways in which that loyalty was tested beyond measure. You are passionate about whatever you set your mind to. You care about and for others who are near and dear to you. You are a patenteuse who will pull together whatever resources - human, fiscal and otherwise, to make things happen. And no one would ever doubt that you, above all else, are a doer. Simply put - Anne Roy gets things done! And when she's getting things done it kinda resembles that of the Tasmanian Devil on the old Bugs Bunny cartoons. You remember the one that would come into view in a

swirling dust ball - turning faster than the eye could catch in fine detail, speak in a quick and determined way and twirl off just as fast as he twirled in. Think about it for a minute - haven't we all seen Anne do the human version of this and were left wondering what the heck just hit us!

On a serious note, Anne Roy's legacy belongs with that of the Acadian Heroines whose stories are shared and whose contributions are revered for their impact on our people and culture. Tante Blanche is credited with caring for and saving her people when disease and prolonged bitter cold ravaged this land. I submit that Anne Roy's life's work - both as an

educator and especially as the leader of Heritage Vivant and her cherished Acadian Village shares equally as significant a role in the survival of our culture.

We have all been blessed by Anne's friendship, her hard work, her advocacy and her tenacity. The true measure of one's success, from my perspective, is how they pay it forward. When I consider the depth and breadth of Anne Roy's contributions to our culture, I am in awe of the countless gifts she has given to future generations."

Merci mon chere amie!"

Jason Parent, Past President, MAHC



Anne with her family at the MAHC Annual Dinner.

Also sending good wishes to Anne was former NPS ATR for MAHC, Deb Wade. Our current ATR, Meg Scheid read Deb's salute to Anne. Here is a portion of her well wishes: "I send you congratulations (and hugs) on your selection as the very first recipient of the Maine Acadian Lifetime Achievement Award. I was so pleased to learn of this honor for you when Meg Scheid told me! I regret that family affairs keep me in Nova Scotia on your special night, instead of celebrating with you all in the Valley, in person.

In my 35-year career as a ranger with the National Park Service and the US Forest Service, I had many assignments and experiences. These were in great places all over the US, where dedicated people were working to conserve special cultural and natural stories and features. The Saint John Valley is one of those great places; and you have many, many exceptional people dedicated to this very important work.

And you, Anne, you stand out as "out-of-the-ordinary exceptional". Your fellow Acadians recognize this, and

can elaborate, in detail, all your wonderful achievements (over many years, projects, and meetings!) that have led to this special honor. Anne, you are an exceptional ambassador! I am grateful to have been a witness to your dedication and work, given instinctively to so many, in your service to Acadian culture. In this ranger's travels, you really are an exceptional person and role model with a lifetime of achievements."

Mes meilleures souhaites,  
Deb Wade

## MAHC 2019-2020 Grant Awards

**The Maine Acadian Heritage Council, in partnership with the National Park Service, is pleased to award \$51,458 in grants to its members and to qualifying groups or individuals for fiscal year 2019-2020.**

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 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.

**Trail Guide Grants** allow historical sites to hire students and adults as guides throughout the summer. This year, MAHC has awarded a total of **\$29,166.10** to the following historical sites: Cyr Plantation-\$1760.00, Héritage Vivant/Acadian Village-\$2860.00, Madawaska Historical Society-\$3000.00, Association culturel et historique du Mont Carmel-\$2420.00, Allagash Historical Society-\$2420.00, Ste. Agathe Historical Society-\$3000.00, Greater Grand Isle Area Historical Society-\$1716.00, Frenchville Historical Society-\$1100.00, Greater Area Ft. Kent Historical Society-\$2420.00, and the Acadian Archives acadiennes-\$8470.10.

**Preservation Grants** provide support for historical societies to preserve the material culture of the St. John Valley Acadians while fostering stewardship for visitors, thus helping to preserve this unique heritage. MAHC has awarded a total of \$18,465.30 in Preservation Grants to the following historical sites: Association Culturelle et historique du Mont-Carmel-\$3,000.00, to restore plaster on ceilings, Héritage Vivant/Acadian Village-\$2,533.39, to replace deteriorating shingle roof on Roy House, Frenchville Historical Society-\$2,331.91, to repair Bangor Aroostook Caboose, Greater Grand Isle Historical Society-\$3,600.00, to restore museum building, Ste-Agathe Historical Society-\$3,600.00, to prepare cement footing and move the Longfellow school house, Fort Kent Historical Society-\$3,000.00 to excavation and installation of French draining.

**Education Resources Grants** help teachers, and qualified individuals or groups create educational programs or activities for students and community members of the St. John Valley. They can also be used to buy pedagogical materials for the classrooms or libraries. This year, MAHC has awarded \$2,413.30 to the Acadian Archives/acadiennes to create an Acadian gift package for every school library of the St. John Valley to help teachers bring the history and culture of l'Acadie and the St. John Valley to their classrooms. Included are: textbooks for teachers: juvenile, teen and high school fictional novels based on Acadian history; pedagogical activities booklet; posters, documentaries and an Acadian Flag.

**Speakers and Performers Grants** help organizations and individuals celebrate our Acadian culture with authentic Acadian musicians, historians, traditional artisans, and storytellers. This year, MAHC has awarded **\$1,413.30** to the following organizations: Héritage Vivant/Acadian Village-\$310.00, to bring presenters to speak of the rich Acadian history of the St. John Valley, Greater Fort Kent Chamber-\$156.00 to help support the Mardi Gras Celebration, Madawaska Acadian Festival-\$250.00, to help bring La Famille LeBlanc to the Acadian Festival, Acadian Archives/acadiennes-\$348.65 to invite th the Valley speaker and writer David Vermette, author of "A Distinct Alien Race The Untold Story of Franco-Americans, Industrialization, Immigration, Religious Strife", and Association culturelle et historique du Mont-Carmel-\$348.65 to hold a public lecture series entitled "Becoming American in La Vallée St-Jean" presented by local historian Guy Dubay.

Congratulations to all the recipients!

### Follow up on Cindy LaRock's Visit the St. John Valley Schools:

The first of these programs was introduced the first week of May: traditional dances. Cindy Larock, a master dance teacher from Lewiston, conducted eight workshops at Valley schools with students aged 9 to 12. It was a tremendous success and kids loved it. We are happy to announce that Cindy will be back August 5 to 9. We are inviting students, parents, grand-parents, and community members to attend. Vive les contre-danses!

## 2019-2020 MAHC Board of Directors

### Directors - Municipalities

Percy Thibeault	Town of Frenchville
Ken Theriault	Town of Madawaska
Don Raymond	Town of New Canada
Pat Lyons	Town of Portage Lake
	Town of Eagle Lake

### Directors - Historical Societies

Paul Vaillancourt	L'Héritage Vivant/Acadian Village
Terry Ouellette	Ste-Agathe Historical Society
Duane Belanger	Fort Kent Historical Society
Alice Carpenter	Frenchville Historical Society

### Directors - Chambers of Commerce

Susan Tardie	Greater Fort Kent Area Chamber of Commerce
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Nancy Troeger	Greater Van Buren Area Chamber of Commerce

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Lise Pelletier	Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
Anne Roy	L'association français de la vallée St-Jean
Lisa Michaud	Franco-American Centre Franco-Américain

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Marilyn McBreairty	Allagash Historical Society
Don Cyr	L'Association culturelle et historique du Mont-Carmel
Gerald Soucy	Greater Grand Isle Historical Society

### Ex-officio Members

Meg Scheid	National Park Service
Scott Thompson	Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
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Sharon Campbell	Area Representative for Senator Angus King
Barbara Hayslett	Area Representative for Congressman Jared Golden
Dan Nicolas	Area Representative for the First Nation Maliseet's of Viger