
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2018

Ste-Agathe Historical Society

Our Lady of the Valley Parish

The Catholic Church in St. Agatha had been wrapped in scaffolding and plywood since the fall of 2016. Heavy rains and wind dislodged some façade bricks back in 2016. All summer long, masons from Dicon, Diocese Construction, worked on making repairs to the exterior brick and mortar and to the roof of the church steeple in order to redirect the rain runoff away from the brick façade.

The project was extended into the fall since unseen problems were detected. The original church in St. Agatha was built under the direction of a missionary priest, Rev. Ernest Etenaud, who came to St. Agatha from the Diocese of La Rochelle in France. Today, St. Agatha Parish is part of a cluster including Notre Dame du Mont Carmel (St. David, St. Gerard-Mt Carmel, St. Thomas Aquinas)

St. Peter Chanel (St. Bruno, St. Remi) St. Joseph (Hamlin), Our Lady of the Valley, St. Agatha, St. Luce, St. Joseph (Sinclair) and St. Michael (Summer Months). The Pastor for the cluster is Fr. James Plourde. Parochial Vicars are two missionaries from India, Fr. Anthony Maria Doss, HGN and Fr. Selvaraj Kasi, HGN. Deacons include Rev. Mr. Donald R. Clavette and Rev. Mr. Rodney Deschaine.



*Masons from Dicon, Diocese Construction
L-R: Ethan Wallace, Dakota Hood, and John Orcutt.*



*St. Agatha Catholic Church after
the completion of the project*

Longfellow School

At one time we had 11 rural school houses located in the town of St. Agatha. The list included Dr. Thomas School near the present home of Dean Chamberland, Coolidge School on the site of the boat landing near Andrew Gervais' home, Longfellow School across the road from Pauline Ouellette's home, Blaine School, on the site of

Maurice Ayotte's potato house on Main Street, Riley School next to the home of Patricia Ouellette on Hillside Road, Grant School located near Bob Theriault's home on 4th Row, Lincoln school on the corner of Marquis Road and 2nd Row, Wilson School on 1st Row, Washington School, on the road to Gaetan Rossignol's home, and Roosevelt School on Cleveland Road near Dale Chamberland's place.



The entrance to Longfellow School.

David Raymond's article in the 1998 Ste-Agathe Historical Society Newsletter explains the fate of many of the schools. According to town records, the Washington School was moved by the fire department to become the town's first fire station and town office. Part of the present day town office is that school. It was said that the Thomas School was purchased and moved by Gunner Sandstorm and it was the beginning of the Sunset Restaurant in Sinclair. The town council minutes state that the Roosevelt School was sold for ten thousand feet of boards. Several people, including his daughter, assert that Joe Corriveau purchased

that school, and for some time used it as his home. The Grant School was torn down. In 1948, Fr. Emile Robitaille, Town Manager Sylvio Michaud, Selectmen Albert Tardif, Antoine Paradis, Emile S. Chasse, Joseph B. Chamberland and Alphonse Bosse promoted a plan to move

**STE-AGATHE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED
MARCH 23, 1978**

P.O. Box 237, 534 Main Street
St. Agatha, ME 04772

Preservation Center

Open:

mid June to mid September
1:00 to 4:00 daily, Tues. – Sun.

Email: Staghs77@yahoo.com

Web Site:

www.steagathehistoricalsociety.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK

Board of Directors

President : *Terry Ouellette*

Vice President : *Gloria Gervais*

Secretary : *Diane Castonguay*

Treasurer : *Philip Morin*

Harold Chamberland

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Jackie Michaud

Roger Gervais

Gaylen Thibeault

Lise Sirois

Carole Plourde

Gary Boucher

Trail Guides :

Donna Boucher

Sylvia Belanger

Dr. Paul Buck

TOTAL SAHS LIFETIME

MEMBERSHIP- 377

REGISTERED VISITORS FOR 2018 – 499



Longfellow School as it looked on November 8, 2018.

some of the remaining rural schools in town and formed a multi-room school house in the center of town. The new school, Montfort School, served as the town's elementary school from 1948 to 1979 at which time the school was demolished. It was made up with six schools: Blaine, Lincoln, Riley, Coolidge, Wilson, and Webster. The last standing school, Longfellow School, was donated to the Ste-Agathe Historical Society on February 25, 2018, by Pauline C. Ouellette. As this time the plans are to move it from its location at 76 Main Street to the historical society's site at 534 Main Street. You will be hearing more about the project as it unfolds.



Sunlight sheds some rays on the sturdy and bumpy floor. Notice the wall with the black board and tin ceiling. If only those walls could talk!

Did You Know?

This article was printed in a Chicago newspaper on March 14, 1955. Story by Al Leech. Sidney Smith, manager of a restaurant chain, has never been to St. Agatha, Maine but he is a favorite with residents there. Smith, reading that the town's school had to close because the potato crop did not bring enough money to pay the teachers, started a fund by contributing \$200.00 and placing canisters in all his restaurants to collect more money. He also got \$1000.00 in one day from his suppliers. His efforts were

rewarded with a telegram from the town's officials which stated that the teachers agreed to return to work because of the financial help he promises.

The photo and information comes to us from Michael & Denise Michaud Collin of Chesapeake, Virginia.

**IN MEMORY
OF DECEASED
Lifetime Members
*As of January 3, 2019**

Norman Maagero
Reginald Thibeault
Ann Lausier Pelletier
Irma Marquis Bosse
George Dugal
Eugene Michaud
Sr. Solange Michaud, D.W.
Bertille Beaulieu Chamberland
Beaulieu
Jean Shaw Plourde



Aimons notre École

Par Amanda Chassé

(Recitation at her Graduation from St. Agatha High School, aka Notre-Dame de la Sagesse High School, on May 22, 1911)

Le moment est venu pour nous de quitter notre École alors qu'elle nous semble plus chère que jamais. Peut-être comprenons-nous maintenant tout ce que nous lui devons.

Ces quatre années qui viennent de s'écouler ont parfois pu nous paraître bien longues... Il faut l'avouer, nous n'avons pas toujours aimé les heures de silence et d'études, les leçons et les devoirs difficiles. Mais tout cela n'était-il pas pour notre plus grand bien ? Aujourd'hui, plus que jamais, nous réalisons tout ce que notre École nous a apporté. C'est pourquoi nous lui témoignons publiquement notre reconnaissance et clamons bien haut que nous l'aimons et combien elle mérite d'être aimée !

Aimons notre École ! Quoi de plus naturel ? N'est-elle pas pour nous chose sacrée, voulue de Dieu qui, jetant les yeux sur notre cher pays, a dit un jour : "La moisson est belle, mais il y a peu d'ouvriers" ? C'est alors que pour aider ceux qui travaillaient déjà dans son champ, il suscita des âmes généreuses et toutes dévouées à l'éducation. Vite, elles se mirent à l'oeuvre et petits et grands vinrent avec bonheur s'y joindre. Ne voulait-on pas atteindre tous les âges ?

Lourde était la tâche et quel dévouement exigea semblable entreprise ! C'est pour nous une grande joie de constater combien Dieu l'a rendue prospère...

Dès sa première année, notre École, la création de Dieu, devenait en même temps le bien de l'État. Reconnue, encouragée par des représentants dévoués à sa cause, elle ne fit depuis lors que grandir. Nous témoignons ici notre gratitude à ces représentants venus ce soir pour nous remettre notre diplôme de fin d'études !

Aimons notre École car nous la devons encore à nos bons parents, à nos amis, à tous les habitants de St. Agatha qui l'ont désirée, l'ont appelée de leurs vœux et la soutiennent maintenant au prix de grands sacrifices. Notre École est pour eux un honneur et une joie : un honneur parce qu'elle est à eux et qu'il est louable et digne d'un peuple éclairé de travailler au progrès de l'éducation; une joie, car elle permet à leurs enfants de terminer près d'eux des études avancées et cela à peu de frais.



et de jeunes filles viennent y trouver comme nous un second foyer où leur seront prodigués, avec une affection toute maternelle, les précieux enseignements qui forment à la fois l'esprit et le cœur.

Mais pour nous surtout qui allons bientôt quitter notre chère École, le berceau de nos espérances, le nid d'où nous allons prendre notre essor vers le monde inconnu, qui pourrait dire quelle place elle tient dans notre cœur ? Nous, ses enfants, comment ne pas l'aimer, comment ne pas chercher à la faire aimer partout et toujours ?



50th Wedding Anniversary of Mr & Mrs Donat Michaud - July 1969

La famille a Donat et Amanda (Chasse) Michaud

*Seated L-R: Patricia Landry, Sr. Gabrielle, Amanda, Donat, Don, (Herve), Marie Malvey
Standing L-R: Jean, Rose Dufour, Richard, Jeanne Crabtree, Robert, Angela Raymond,
Raymond and Jack*

Pour moi, qui ai franchi tous les niveaux de cette école qui m'a vue petite fille, qui m'a fait grandir et m'amène enfin au terme de mes études, je suis heureuse et fière de pouvoir vous redire à vous tous qui l'aimez: "Aimons-la bien, travaillons pour elle, rendons-la plus florissante encore; qu'un nombre toujours croissant de jeunes hommes

Nous te quittons, École bien aimée. Tu nous as préparés pour la vie, tu nous a tout donné.

En retour, que ferons-nous pour te montrer notre reconnaissance ? Noblesse oblige: nous saurons nous montrer dignes de toi !

Scenes from the 40th Annual Historical Society Breakfast



Saturday morning crew gather to get ready for the 40th annual breakfast. Left to right: Gloria Gervais, Merita Gervais, Donna Boucher, Philip Morin, Terry Ouellette, Roger Gervais, Lise Sirois, (behind Lise) Gary Boucher, Carole Plourde and Jackie Michaud.



*Greeters at the door:
Roberta Guerrette and Jackie Chasse
on Sunday.*



The serving line

Left to right: Roger Gervais, Maggie Blais, David Guerrette, Donna Boucher, and Carole Plourde. Behind is the go between person – Jacques Blais. Busy at work and not seen in photo included: Gaylen Thibeault, Stan Albert, Philip Morin, Gloria Gervais, Claudia Morin, Gary Boucher, Lise Sirois, Merita Gervais, Tess Albert, Luc Albert, Sharon Lizotte, Gerard Castonguay, Aaron Cyr, and Terry Ouellette.

Pre-sales of the breakfast tickets helped make this 40th breakfast another success.

Thank you everyone for selling breakfast tickets and being part of the team.



Ste-Agatha Historical Society September 17, 2018

Visiting the site:

Meg Scheid, Site Manager Saint Croix Island International Historic, with Terry Ouellette, President of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society, and Mike Madell, Deputy Superintendent of Acadia National Park, Saint Croix Island International Historic Site, and the Maine Acadian Culture Project.

STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

November 30, 2017 - November 30, 2018

*In Memory of, Mrs. Doria Chamberlain Wilkos, by Julie Relva, Jeanne Sanford, Stella Paz,
Dot Fournier, Lorraine Zimmerman & Gail Morton.*

In Memory of, Mr. & Mrs Albert V. Michaud, by Rev. Leo James Michaud.

*In Memory of, Mrs. Alfreda Hebert Chamberland, by Stan Albert, Terry Ouellette, Lise Sirois,
Directors of Ste-Agathe Historical Society, Philip Morin, Therese Chamberland,
Alan & Denyse Michaud.*

In Memory of, Mr Donald "Don" J. Chamberland, by Terry Ouellette, Gerard Morin.

In Memory of, Mrs. Jeannine Cyr Cyr, by Philip Morin, Clifford & Theresa Guerrette.

In Memory of, Mrs. Ann Lausier Pelletier, by Terry M. Ouellette.

In Memory of, Mr. Conrad Guerrette, by Clifford & Theresa Guerrette.

In Memory of, Mr. Gedeon Joseph Corriveau, by Clifford & Theresa Guerrette.

In Memory of, Ms. Jeannette Ouellette, by Terry M. Ouellette.

In Memory of, Mr. Roland L. Michaud, by Terry M. Ouellette.

In Memory of, Ms. Leonette Deschaine Gendreau, by Roberta Guerrette,.

In Memory of, Mr. Gilles R. Dugal, by Terry M. Ouellette.

In Memory of, Mr. Bernard Bosse, by Philip Morin.

In Memory of, Mrs. Peg Spriano, by Lorraine Zimmerman.

In Memory of, Mr. John & Mrs. Orilla Belanger, by Belanger Family.

*In Memory of, Mr. Eugene J. Michaud, by Stan Albert, Philip Morin, Terry M. Ouellette,
Carole Plourde.*

*InMemory of, Ms. Therese Gervais, Mr. Clifford Gervais, Mr. "June" Gervais,
Mr. Eddie Bilodeau, & Mrs. Rinette Gervais, by Rolande G. Bilodeau & Lucille G. Koch.*

*In Memory of, Mr. John D. Morin, Mrs. Contance Morin Desrosier, Mrs. Bernadette Morin
Collin, Mr. Norman G. Martin, by Simone Morin.*



Ste. Agathe Historical Society

534 MAIN STREET

P.O. BOX 237

ST. AGATHA, MAINE 04772

January 4, 2019

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society,

It's been a cold and snowy start to the new year. Even though the historical site is all wrapped up in sparkling whiteness, we are busy making plans for the 2019 season. It is the time to write the Heritage Trail Guide Grant and the Preservation Grant and present our requests to the Maine Acadian Heritage Council. The trail guide monies make it possible to have trail guides on duty for five days a week. On Sundays the board members take turns opening the site up to the public. Preservation grant monies help us maintain certain projects like the 2018 improvements in building storage and display shelves in the upstairs section.

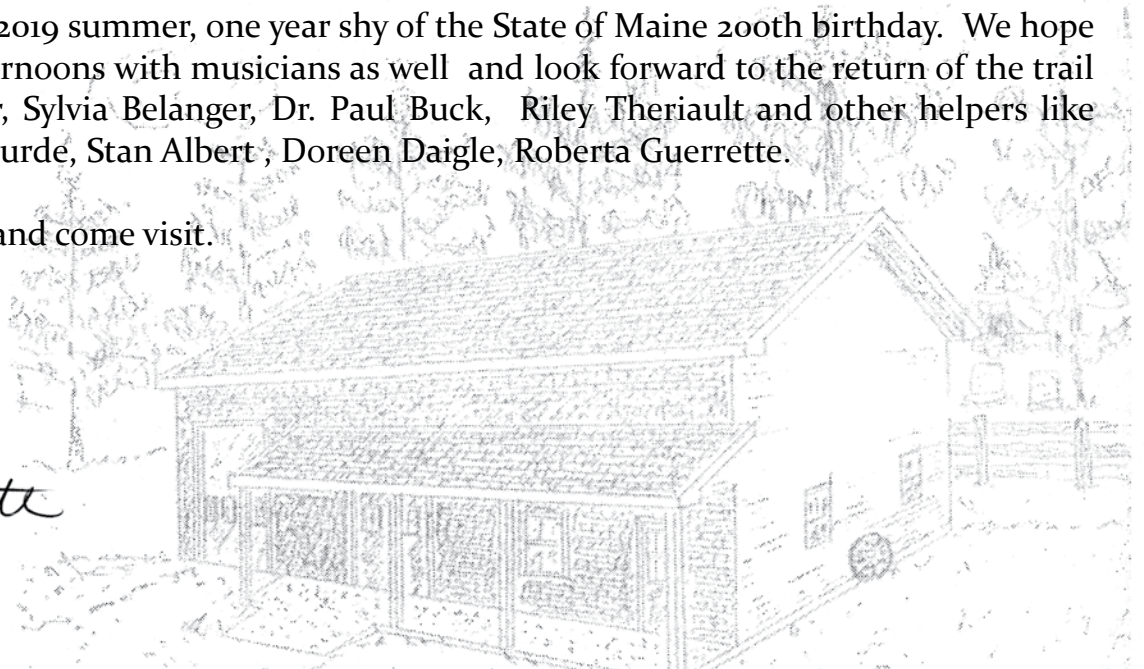
The collection of artifacts keeps growing and last year Pauline G. Ouellette gave the one remaining rural schoolhouse in our town. The Longfellow School was used until 1947 as a school then it served as a storage building for the Guerrette Farm. We are planning to move the school to the historical site and I am sure you'll hear more about this project as the year progresses. Over thirty years ago, Marie Blanche Albert Savoy, had given some films to the society. On the label it states: "Moving of the rural schools and the building of Montfort School." Those films have been brought to the archives at UMFK in hopes that they can be translated to today's technology for the public's viewing. Also in the works is making the 1986 VCR of the town of St. Agatha become available in today's technology. We are currently working on the website, www.steagathehistoricalsociety.com, and you can always visit us on facebook. The newest web page helper is Angie Chamberland while she was home on vacation during the holidays.

We anticipate a busy 2019 summer, one year shy of the State of Maine 200th birthday. We hope to have some more afternoons with musicians as well and look forward to the return of the trail guides Donna Boucher, Sylvia Belanger, Dr. Paul Buck, Riley Theriault and other helpers like Doris Staples, Joyce Plourde, Stan Albert, Doreen Daigle, Roberta Guerrette.

Please take the time and come visit.

Sincerely,

Terry Ouellette





Ste-Agathe Historical Society
534 Main Street
P.O. Box 237
St. Agatha ME 04772

Change Service Requested
