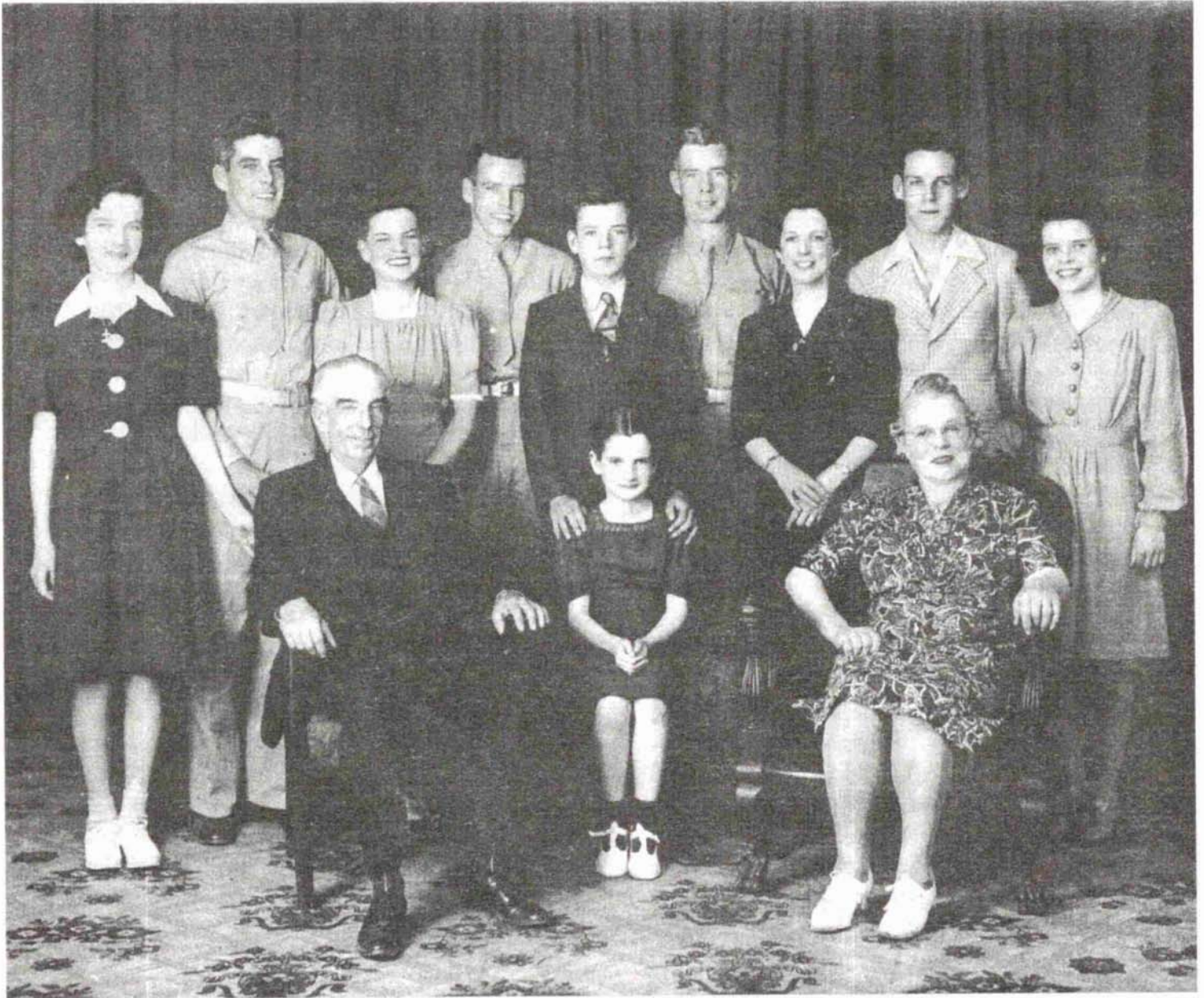


# *STE. AGATHE* Historical Society NEWSLETTER

FALL 2003



***FAMILY OF FELIX AND AZILDA MICHAUD ALBERT***

*1942*

*Seated left to right: Felix, Marguerite and Azilda  
Standing left to right: Francoise, Leonide, Juliette, Jean, Roger,  
Montfort, Blanche, Philip and Therese*



## FELIX ALBERT

A loving parent, caring gentleman, and dedicated postman "par excellence"

*A recollection provided by Leo Albert, with contributions from his seven brothers and sisters.*

Our Dad (to be) was attending Catholic University in Washington D.C., with the goal of becoming a Jesuit. In his last year, he became ill and hence, unable to continue his studies, he returned to Ste. Agathe. While recuperating, he met a beautiful girl from Quebec named Azilda Michaud - a happenstance that "derailed" his original goal.

In his early twenties, Dad became the rural mail carrier for the Town of Ste. Agathe, a responsibility he carried out diligently for 40 years. Those of us who remember the twenties and thirties will also recall the severity of the long winters. In order to complete his daily 35 mile round, Dad would rise at 4:30 A.M. By 6:00 A.M., he would start the first half of his journey by touring the "Montagne Platte". He would return home around noontime, eat his lunch, harness a different horse, and start the second half of his journey "autour du lac", returning home as late as 6:00 P.M. Some nights, he would be so frozen, we had to help him out of his sleigh. Conversely, during the summer, he would cover the same 35 miles in three hours.

During the great depression of the late twenties and early thirties, when very few homes could afford a telephone, our Dad provided a daily and reliable communication conduit between the many homes on his route. During the same period, when farmers could not even sell their potato yields, and hence, had very little money, our Dad was probably the only person in Ste. Agathe (with the exception of the Postmaster) who received a bi-weekly salary from the Federal Government. In order to assist families requiring medicine, clothing and other necessities, but lacking the money to pay for them, Dad engaged in a "barter" system,

whereby he would purchase the desired items and deliver them to the families involved. In return, he would accept freshly caught fish, or chicken, pork or beef, which provided food for his brood of ten children. It was a system that benefited both parties involved.

Dad's desire to help other people was manifested in many ways during his lifetime - to wit, the following five paragraphs:

Realizing that Dad had to maintain his car in "tip top" running condition in order to perform his daily duties, the Daughters of Wisdom never hesitated to ask him to drive them to Riviere du Loup, where they took a train to their Mother House in Ottawa. During one such occasion in 1936, Dad's two-day old car hit a pothole, resulting in a flat tire. The spare tire was encased in a shiny chrome cover mounted on the rear of the car. Unfortunately, the car dealer had neglected to give Dad the key that unlocked the casing, thus requiring ripping off the casing with a tire iron.

Every summer, Dad and those of his five sons old enough to hold a paintbrush, spent countless hours painting classrooms, hallways, and wooden fire escapes at Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent. The remuneration was well worth the effort - a pat on the head by Mother Superior, a big thank you, and a promise from her not to tell anyone which one of us boys painted a room leaving unsightly streaks.

Circa 1936, Mr. Fred Dube, while cutting wood "dans l'anse" at the head of the lake, accidentally drove his ax right *through* his foot. He somehow managed to crawl to



## FELIX ALBERT

our house. Dad immediately called Dr. Levesque, who rushed over to clean the wound, stop the bleeding, and give Mr. Fred a painkiller. He said Mr. Fred should be rushed to the nearest hospital to have stitches taken and a foot cast put on. Dad immediately undertook the 80-mile roundtrip.

During the wintertime, when the roads around the "Montagne Platte" and "autour du lac" were not driveable, and Dr. Levesque was called upon to deliver a baby in below zero weather, he would drive as far as Wilfred Dufour's General Store. Dad would meet him there with his horse and sleight and "taxi" the good doctor to his required destination. His remuneration was a handshake from the proud father.

In the early forties, Dad and my brother Jean converted the Ste. Agathe Cemetery from an unsightly area infested with all kinds of weeds and littered with branches, stones, etc., into a beautifully manicured cemetery with grass, shrubs and flowers.

All of the undertakings mentioned in the foregoing five paragraphs were performed "pro bono". Indeed Dad had a "heart of gold".

In the early twenties, Dad assumed the position of Financial Secretary for the Ste. Agathe council of the Knights of Columbus. He held that position until it merged with the Madawaska Council in the forties. Dad remained a 4th Degree member, always very proud of wearing his tuxedo, cape, sword and plumed hat, which all us kids very much enjoyed.

During those same years, Dad contributed a beautiful bass voice to the Church choir. Additionally, he acted and sang in many plays staged at the Ste. Agathe

theater, which attracted people from all the surrounding communities.

When Dad was forced to retire after he suffered a severe heart attack at the age of 62, he had accumulated so much unused sick leave during his 40 years of service, that he received his full salary for a period of two years. Upon his retirement, the Postmaster General of the United States sent Dad a letter of commendation for epitomizing the Postal Service slogan:

*"Neither rain, nor hail, nor sleet, nor snow,  
nor the gloom of night, shall deter the  
Postman from his appointed round"*

The adage "behind every good man is a better woman" was certainly exemplified in our home. Our dear mother, while raising her ten children, found time to walk every morning (winter and summer) 1/4 mile up a relatively steep hill to play the Church organ.

Our parents loving, affectionate, ethical and religious compartment encouraged us to emulate them, thereby forming a solid base for our adult lives. Unfortunately for us, God must have missed them so much that he called them home at a relatively early age - Mom at 64 and Dad at 67.

*Gone from us but forever remembered,  
loved and cherished*

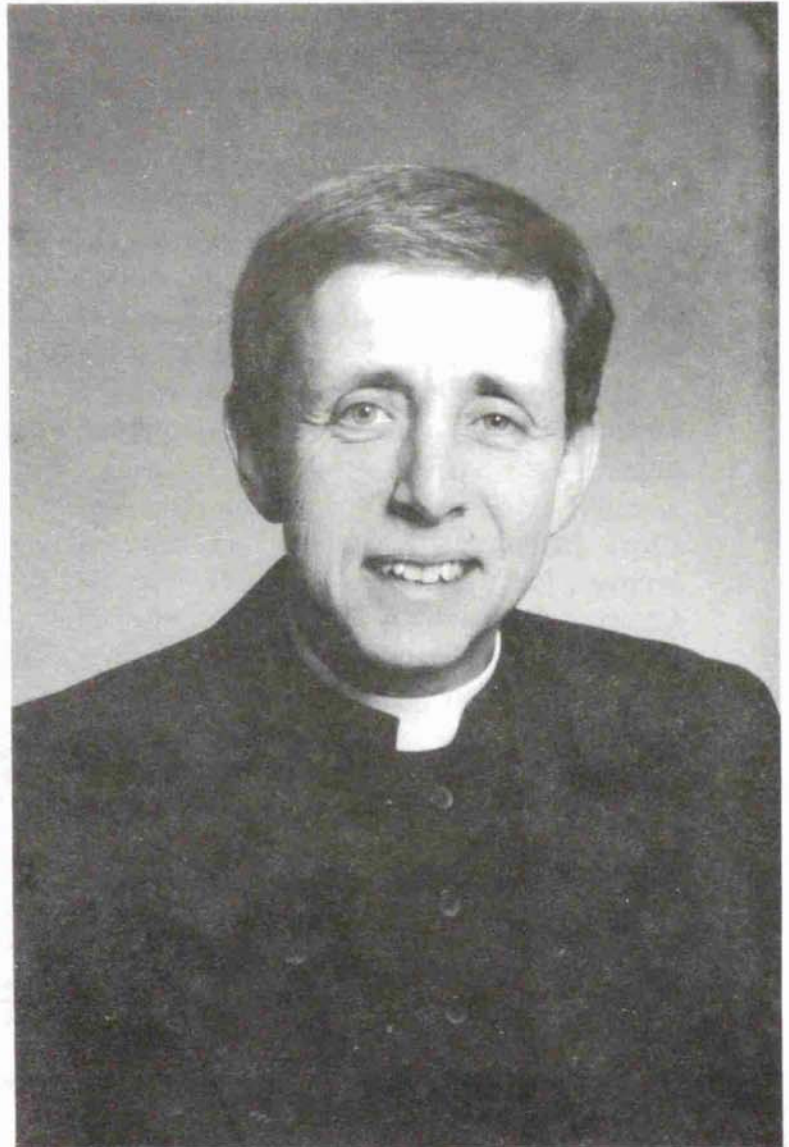
## **FATHER DAVID RAYMOND**

On June 7, 2003, a person near and dear to our hearts here at the Ste. Agathe Historical Society, realized a lifelong calling, when he was ordained as Reverend David Raymond. Father Dave, a past board member and president of our Society, was ordained in his home parish of Ste. Luce in Frenchville.

Prior to entering the seminary at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Father Dave was involved in SAD 33 education for 22 years as a teacher in elementary school and then became assistant principal and director of curriculum at Wisdom High School in St. Agatha. He had a very involved educational career in both Frenchville and St. Agatha. He also served some time in the Peace Corps in Chad, Central Africa.

In 1993, Father Dave wrote the religious history of St. Luce Parish for its 150th anniversary. He also wrote the "History of Ste. Agathe Parish". As a member of the Ste. Agathe Historical Society, he was instrumental in spearheading several important projects. Father Dave secured a grant to research and honor the WW I and WW II Veterans from Frenchville and St. Agatha. He also instituted the "Golden Cane Award", which recognizes and honors the oldest St. Agatha citizen.

Father Dave's first assignment in Maine is as the parochial vicar of the parishes of Holy Rosary in Caribou, St. Denis in Fort Fairfield and St. Louis in Limestone. This allows him to be close to his parents, Maurice and Marie Louise Raymond of Frenchville, and his beloved St. John Valley. His most recent accomplishment is receiving the University of Maine at Fort Kent's Outstanding Alumni Award.



***God Bless, Father Dave!***



*SUMMER 2003*



This summer, rug braiding lessons were held every Tuesday afternoon in the new Cultural Preservation Center. The teachers, Christine and Rebecca Roy, provided step by step instructions to approximately 35 "students" throughout the summer. Christine and Rebecca learned the craft from Mrs. Bertha Voisine of Fort Kent. In a grant funded by the Artists in Maine Communities Program, 8 area women were trained by Mrs. Voisine, and in turn, passed on what they had learned to Valley residents through classes held here at the Ste. Agathe Historical Museum, as well as in Van Buren, Fort Kent and St. Francis. Pictured above are Mya Cyr, Claudia Morin, Rebecca (seated), Gloria Gervais and Christine Roy.



Left to right: Joyce Crosby, Donna Levesque, Lise Welch and Elizabeth Hartt

## LUCILLE CHASSE MICHAUD

2003 MOTHER OF THE YEAR



On May 7, 2003, Mrs. Lucille Michaud was crowned St. Agatha's new Mother of the Year by the Ladies of St. Anne. The event was shared with her friends and family at the 4:30 Mass.

Mde. Lucille was born on June 16, 1927, the eighth and last child of Treffe and Marie Chasse of St. Agatha. She married Rosaire Michaud of St. Agatha, at the age of 17, on November 8, 1944. They raised nine children: Joan Chamberland of Virginia Beach, VA, Aurele (now deceased), Carmen Aldrete of Lincoln, Louis of St. Agatha, Norman of Nashua, NH, Noella Elliot of Madawaska, Monique Botting of Williamsburg, VA, Gisele Marquis of Lawrenceville, GA, and Nicole Lynch of Nashua, NH. Lucille always looked to instill in her children, strong values of hard work, education and faith.

Rosaire and Lucille owned a farm until 1969, which meant many years of hard work. After the farm was sold, Lucille found work as a cafeteria cook at Wisdom High, a position she held for 20 years. Despite raising nine children and working, Lucille still found the time to be a member of the Ladies of St. Anne, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary. She and Rosaire were also active members of the Ste. Agathe Historical Society.

Since her retirement, Lucille continues to stay very active in the community, volunteering her time at an area nursing home. She also enjoys knitting and sewing, playing cards and visiting with her friends and family. She now has 22 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.





Lorraine Morin Zimmerman  
on vacation from Florida.  
How's that rug coming?!



Historical Museum Heritage Trail Guides  
made possible by the Maine Acadian  
Heritage Council  
Francoise Plourde, Carole Plourde,  
Rose Poulin and Donna Boucher.  
Guides are holding the St. Agatha  
Town banner made by  
Cecilia Jacques Michaud



The old kitchen in the Pelletier-Marquis House with the "new" look.

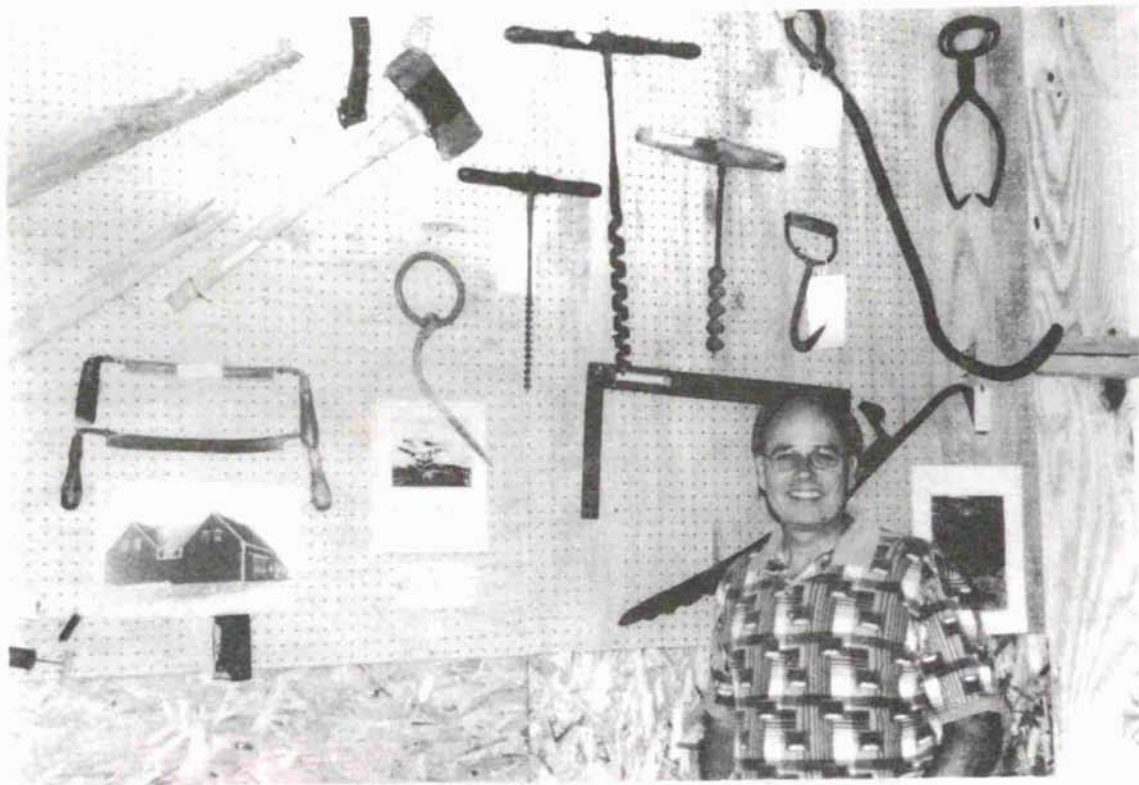


Granddaughter Sylvia Bourgoïn Beaulieu sits in her Grandmother Annie Chasse Marquis' favorite spot by the kitchen window.





Hermance Michaud with her mother, Anna Sirois Gervais in the living room.



Stan Albert with part of the tool display in the Preservation Center.

## ANNUAL MEETING

*July 14, 2003 at the Cultural Preservation Center*



Front L-R: Gloria Gervais, Vice President, Connie Desrosier, Secretary,  
Terry Ouellette, President and Philip Morin, Treasurer  
Back L – R: Carole Plourde, Jackie Michaud, Judy Chamberland, Fernand Sirois, and  
Roger Morneault. Missing from the photo: Gerald Dubois and Harold Chamberland



Gloria pointing to the plaques listing the donor's names



**CULTURAL PRESERVATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

*JULY 27, 2003*



Town Manager Ryan Pelletier, Danny Labrie, Father Dave Raymond and Terry Ouellette



Stan Albert with Irene (Collin) Albert  
Mde. Irene, age 93, was the oldest guest attending the open house

**CULTURAL PRESERVATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

*JULY 27, 2003*



Francis and Claudia Morin, Alyssa Morin, Patricia Morin, Michael Morin,  
Florine Michaud and Philip Morin

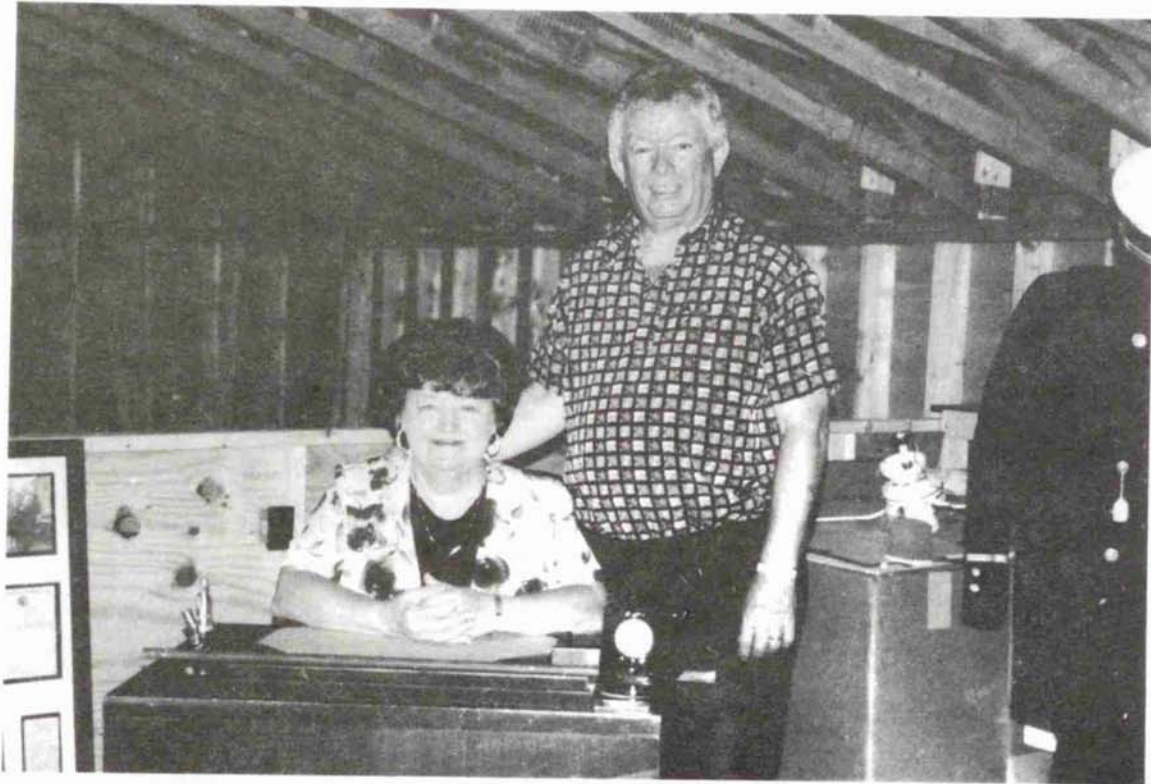


James Morin, holding grandson Tyler Bruno, Pat Morin and Peggy (Morin) Bruno  
Tyler was our youngest guest

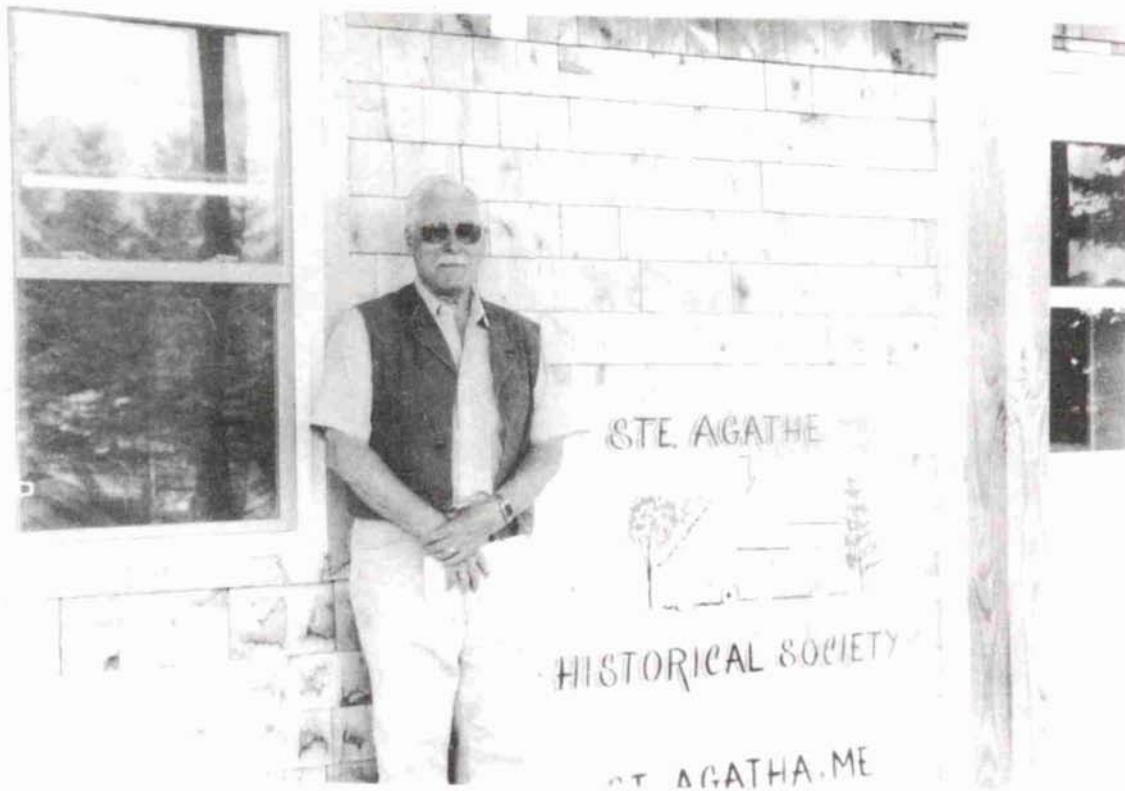


CULTURAL PRESERVATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE

JULY 27, 2003



Judy and Ross Paradis



Fernand Sirois

CULTURAL PRESERVATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE

JULY 27, 2003



Sr. Jackie Ayotte, Sr. Annette Picard and Sr. Joan Ayotte



Fran Picard of Frenchville, Angie and Dorothy Rossignol of St. Agatha  
with Laura and Louise Chasse Bither of Freeport ME



CULTURAL PRESERVATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE

JULY 27, 2003

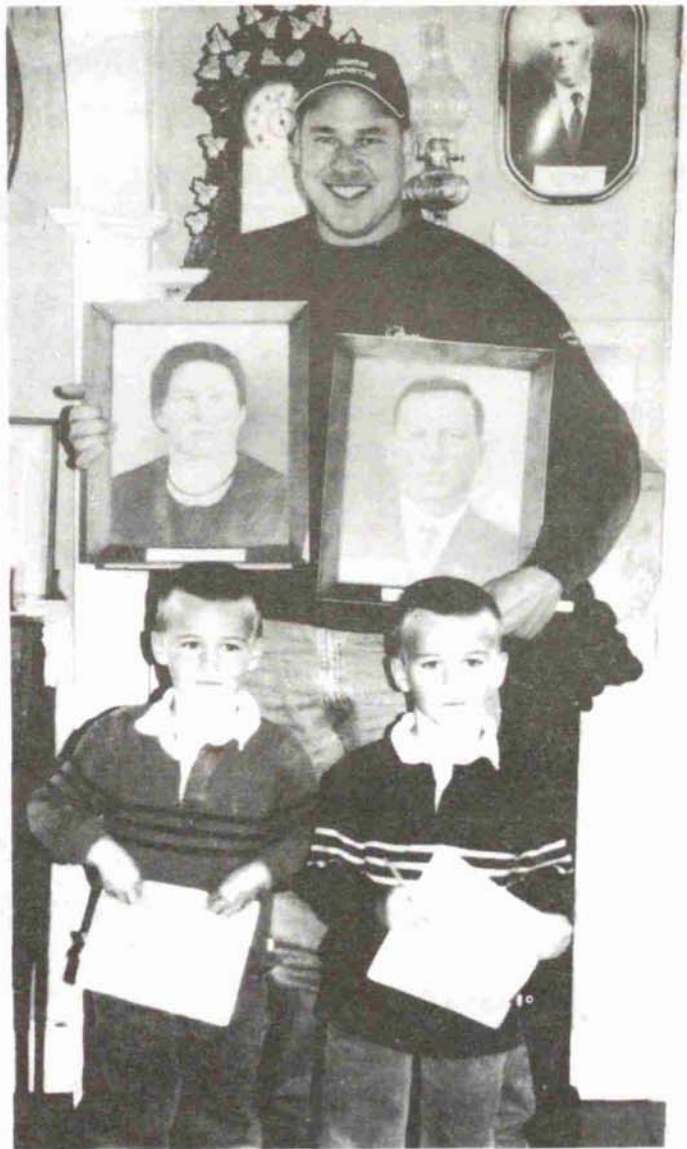
Bill and Helen (Vaillancourt) Melvin  
with Connie Desrosier



Kate Hebert  
Official "Ploye" Maker  
and newest board member

Dr. Levesque School Students  
Visit The Historical Site

Several classes from M.S.A.D. # 33 have visited the Ste. Agathe Historical House and the new Preservation Center before they closed their doors on the 2003 summer season. Heritage Trail Guides Carole Plourde, Donna Boucher, Rose Poulin and Francoise Plourde were on hand to give tours and explain the various collections of artifacts. Other guides included Ste. Agathe Historical Society Board Members Gerald Dubois and Roger Morneault, and Lifetime Society Member Patricia Morin. A highlight of the tour included the viewing of the replica of the Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent build by Dubois. Pictured above are descendants of Belone Chamberland Sr., and Edithe Chasse Chamberland. Holding the photographs is Dale Chamberland, son of Bob Chamberland, son of Oliver Chamberland, son of Belone Chamberland, Sr. With Dale are his sons, Josh and Matt Chamberland.

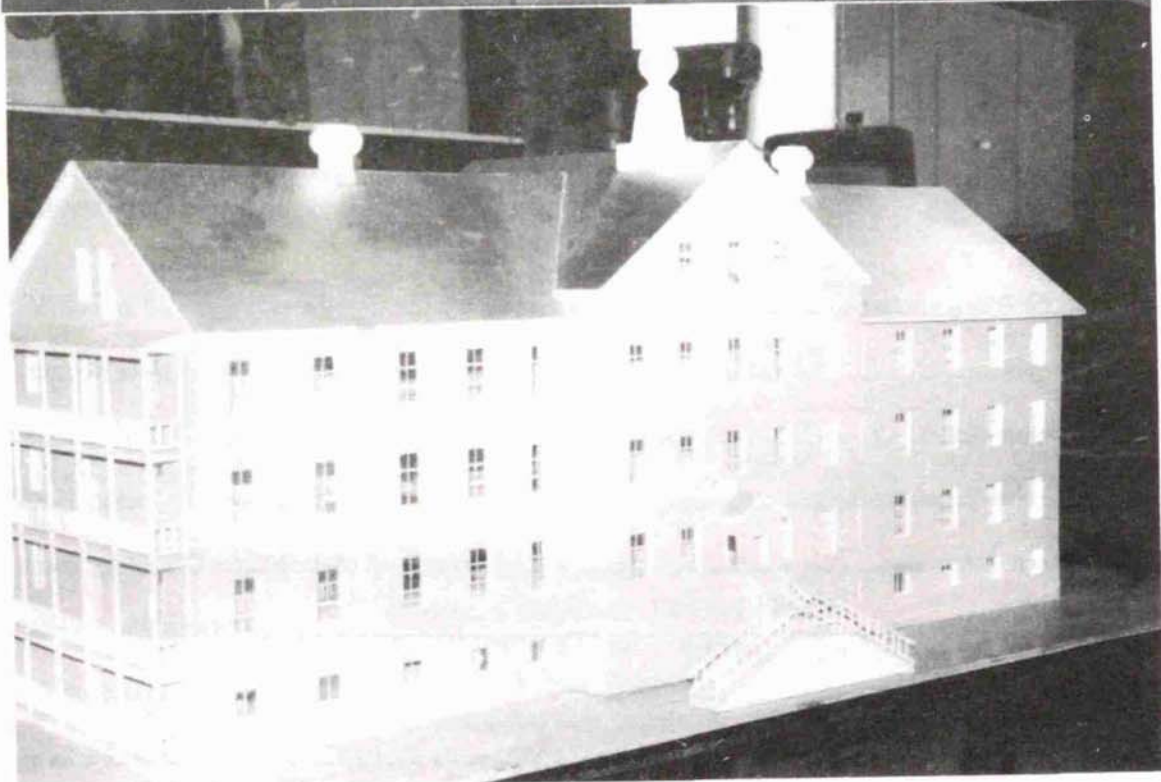
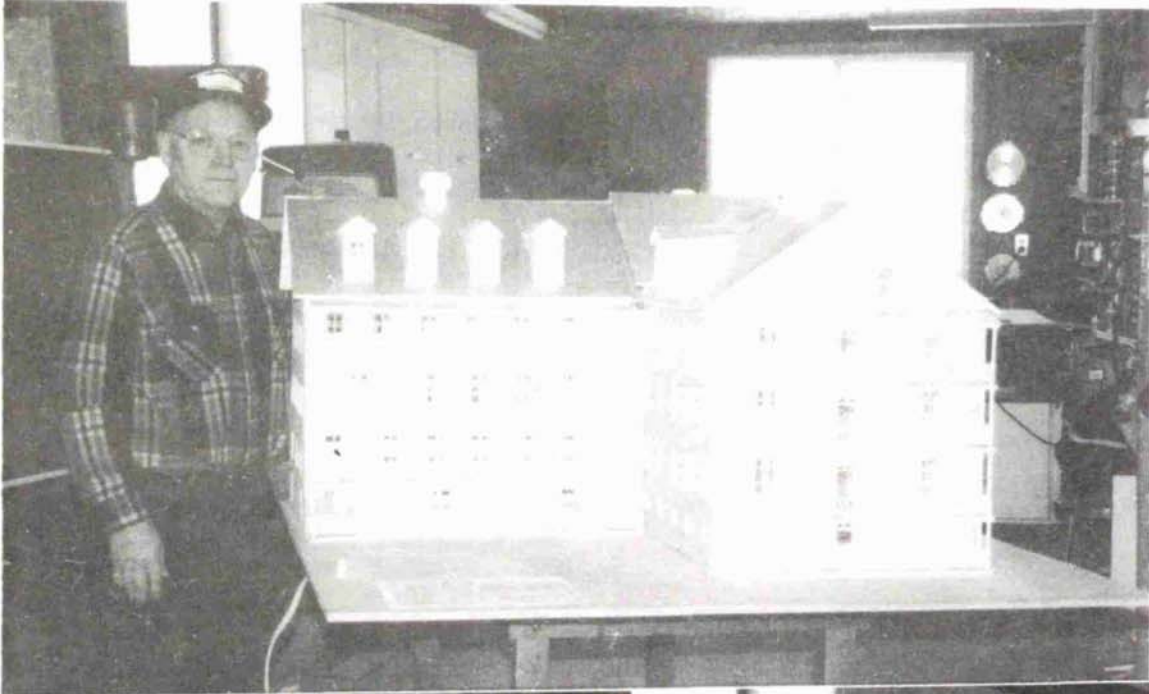


Memere Juliette Sirois  
with Emily, Sandra and  
Sarah Lavertu.



## DAUGHTERS OF WISDOM CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

*August 1, 2004*



Pictured above is Gerald Dubois of St. Agatha. He has been spending many hours building a replica of the Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent for the upcoming centennial celebration in 2004. The Sisters will commemorate this event in conjunction with the town's Summerfest 2004 celebration being planned for next year for the weekend of July 30, 31, and August 1. Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, will be dedicated to the Daughters of Wisdom, with a Mass and banquet.

## DONATED ITEMS

The following items were donated to the Ste. Agathe Historical Society during 2003:

Gerald & Rose Nadeau.....1 hay fork, 3 baques (wagon attachments for horses)

Philip Morin.....2 beam planers, 1 water yoke, 1 small wood auger,  
1 large wood auger, 1 tree stump puller, 1 log hook,  
1 school bag, 1 potato basket

Stan Albert.....1 blackboard easel, horseshoes, tools

Maynard & Claudette Martin.....1 Martin Family genealogy

James & Rita (Morin) Chamberland.....1 display case, 1 world atlas

Family of Johnny & Orilla Belanger.....1 Grotto statue, 1 Eastern Europe map c. 1944,  
1 WWII German flag, 1 yarn tournette, infant  
clothing, Baptismal outfit, various personal  
items belonging to both Johnny & Orilla

Walter Fournier.....17 various photographs

Sr. Gabrielle Michaud.....2 Daughters of Wisdom Tercentennial calendars

St. Agatha Post Office.....Record of Post Office boxes

Therese Albert.....3 antique dolls

Roger & Antoinette Lizotte.....Various personal items belonging to Victorie &  
Zeline Lizotte, 2 Long Lake Starch Factory ledgers  
c. 1942 - 1945

Northern Door Inn.....2 arm chairs

Leona Rossignol.....1 book written by Rev. Alphie Marquis

Linda Davenport Picard.....1 rocking chair

Michaud Reunion Committee.....1 Michaud Family Picture Book

Martin Reunion Committee.....1 3-volume set of the Martin Genealogy books

Albertine (Chasse) Beaulieu.....1 World War I medal

Patty Lou (Ouellette) Michaud.....Collection of 6 photos

Francis & Claudia (Plourde) Morin.....1 shoemaker's form

Henry Chamberland.....1 potato barrel

Irene (Collin) Albert.....1 rosary

Gerard & Diane (Belanger) Castonguay.....1 handmade rug



## **DONATED ITEMS**

Valere & Françoise (Albert) Sirois..... 1 typewriter and stand belonging to  
M. Blanche (Albert) Savoy, 1 picture of  
M. Blanche (Albert) Savoy

June & Gloria (Plourde) Gervais.....Refrigerator for the Cultural  
Preservation Center

Therese Ayotte..... 1 wringer washing machine

Valere & Jeanne (Gagnon) Chamberland.....Collection of prayer books, personal  
items belonging to Marthe Gagnon,  
various newspapers, 1 dining room  
chair belonging to Jos Chamberland,  
1 set of lamps, 1 silver candy dish.  
1 cake plate cover

Bobby & Rachel (Ouellette) Michaud..... 1 rocking chair

Philip & Hermance (Gervais) Michaud..... 1 bear trap, 1 book

Dr. Levesque School..... 1 library card file

Anna (Sirois) Gervais..... 1 wooden ironing board

Frank Bycenski.....Snowshoes made by Philip Bosse

Paul & Rachel Raymond..... 1 school desk

Leola (Daigle) Dumont.....2 photographs (St. Agatha  
Church fire & Holy Rosary Convent)

Doris (Cote) Matthews..... 1 accordion with case

*Un Gros Merci!!*

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## **STE. AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS**

*September 2002 - September 2003*

Clifford "Dede" and Nancy Bourgoin  
Raymond and Kate (Daigle) Hebert  
Therese Chasse Albert  
Karen Fournier  
Melvin and Gladys (Chamberland) Cloukey  
Gerald P. and Rose Marie (Parent) Dubois  
Maurice Plourde  
Roger and Claudette (Belanger) Sirois  
Norman and Wanda Michaud  
Doris (Cote) Matthews

## **ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP**

Jean Albert

THE STE. AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMORIAL FUND

SEPTEMBER 2002 — SEPTEMBER 2003 DONATIONS

*In memory of Mr. Rosaire Michaud: Florine Michaud*

*In memory of Mrs. Alma Michaud: Florine Michaud, Gerald Rancourt, Zake & June Theriault.*

*In memory of Mrs Therese (Collin) Sirois: Joanne (Sirois) Filpi*

*In memory of Mrs. Orilla Belanger: Philip Morin, Stan Albert, Florine Michaud.*

*In memory of Mr. William J. Bell, Sr: Lucien & Constance Desrosier.*

*In memory of Mrs. Eva Corriveau: Stan Albert, Philip Morin*

*In memory of Mrs. Mamie Lapointe: Patricia Morin, Lucien & Constance Desrosier*

*In memory of Mr. Hector Dumond: Lucien & Constance Desrosier*

*In memory of Mrs. Edna Ouellette: Lucien & Constance Desrosier*

*In memory of Mr. Elbridge Bouchard: Terry Ouellette, Nancy Bourgoin*

*In memory of Mrs. Marcella Michaud: Florine Michaud*

*In memory of Mrs. Irene Ayotte: Florine Michaud, Terry Ouellette*

*In memory of Mrs. Amanda Hebert: Terry M. Ouellette*

*In memory of Mrs. Agnes Pelletier: Terry M. Ouellette*

*In memory of Mrs. Cecile Morin: Terry M. Ouellette*

*In memory of Ms. Charlene Landry: Terry M. Ouellette*

*In memory of Mrs. Priscilla (Hebert) Chasse: Terry M. Ouellette; Ste-Agathe Historical Society Directors.*



## **KEEPSAKES**

The following items can be ordered from the Ste. Agathe Historical Society:

Le Centenaire de St. Agatha Maine.....	\$25.00
History of Ste. Agathe Parish 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
Ste. Agathe Cemetery Records 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
Marriages of Ste. Agathe 1889 - 1989.....	\$10.00
St. John Valley Souvenir Postcard Book.....	\$12.00
Genealogist's Handbook for Upper St. John Valley Research by George L. Findlen.	\$19.95
"As Luck Would Have It" by Henry Albert.....	\$15.95
"Le Parler de Chez Nous" by Don Levesque.....	\$ 5.00
Year 2004 Calendars.....	\$ 7.00
Wood Carved Plaque of the Ste. Agathe Historical House Museum.....	\$38.00
Wood Carved Plaque of the Centennial Park Gazebo.....	\$35.00
Wood Carved Plaque of the St. Agatha Church.....	\$35.00

To place an order by mail, circle each item that would you like to receive, specifying how many. Please include \$3.00 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item to cover mailing costs, and mail to:

**The Ste. Agathe Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 237**  
**St. Agatha, ME 04772**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *Upcoming Projects*

### 4th Quarter 2003

The 25th Annual Ste. Agathe Historical Society Breakfast will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2003 at the Wisdom High School cafeteria. This year's theme is The Daughters of Wisdom Centennial Celebration. A replica of the Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent, which was handcrafted by Gerald Dubois, will be on display. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. The public is invited and tickets may be purchased beforehand from any one of our directors.

### Year 2004

The Ste. Agathe Historical Society has recently become a partner in the "Maine Memory Network". This organization is a statewide digital museum that makes historical source material from collections throughout Maine available to educators, students, and the general public via the internet. By becoming a participating member, we are able to expand our audience by providing access to our collection by sharing scans of our photographs, documents, and artifacts. Some of our photographs have already been uploaded to the website, with the help of Richard Asam, a staff member of the Maine Memory Network. He is also providing free training and ongoing support to learn to scan our own materials.

For a look at what we've already uploaded to the internet, please access [www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net).

## *Ste. Agathe Historical Society Board of Directors*

### Officers

President.....Terry Ouellette  
Vice President.....Gloria Gervais  
Treasurer.....Phil Morin  
Secretary.....Constance Desrosier

### Directors

Harold Chamberland	Jackie Michaud
Judy Chamberland	Roger Morneault
Gerald Dubois	Carole Plourde
Kate Hebert*	Fernand Sirois

\*Newly elected

We wish to thank outgoing Board member, Maggi Blais for her help and dedication during her term on our Board. In addition, we'd like to welcome our newest Board member, Kate Hebert. We look forward to working with her.

We would also like to acknowledge a special group of friends for their precious donation of time and hard work this summer at the Cultural Preservation Center. Without them, the Center and Open House would not have been such a great success. They are:

Stan Albert  
Alan Albert  
Donna Boucher  
Ray & Kate Hebert  
Florine Michaud  
Lewis Michaud  
Patricia Morin  
Françoise Plourde  
Rose Poulin

***Un beau gros merci!!!***





*St. Agatha Federal Credit Union*

P.O. Box 130  
St. Agatha, Maine 04772  
(207) 543-7383  
Mary Ann Chamberlain, Manager



149 Main Street  
P.O. Box 188  
St. Agatha, ME 04772

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Dale 207-543-6448  
Robert 207-543-7595  
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