

STE-AGATHE *Historical Society*

NEWSLETTER
FALL 2007



The Lagassey Family - 1937

Front row, left to right : Vital Lagassey, Euphémie Hebert Lagassey,
Armand Lagassey holding Claudette Caron, Elvine Lagassey Caron,
Ozithée Michaud Lagassey holding daughter, Paula.

Back row, left to right: Rosaire Lagassey, Juliette Ouellette Lagassey
holding daughter, Bernice, Blandine Lagassey Gain and Eloi Lagassey

Rocks, Rosaries and Royalty

Reflections on My Pepère

By Lisa Martin Welch

Rocks

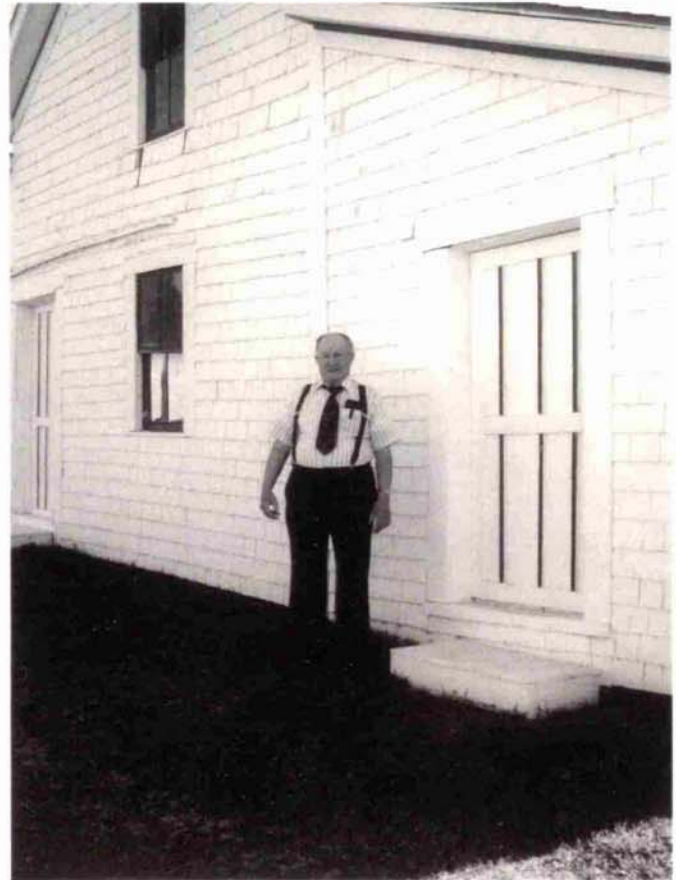
One of the stories my grandfather tells is that of when he was a young boy of five or so. One day, he found a smooth, round, flat-shaped little pebble on the ground near his home in the lakeside village of St. Agatha. The story goes that he convinced himself that the little rock looked so much like a coin that he would use it to buy a lollipop at the little general store next door. And he did. So proud of himself was he that he had fooled poor Mme. Modeste Guerrette, the owner of the store who had « sold » him the candy. Mme. Modeste, amused, later conveyed the story to young Rosaire's mother, who, in turn, paid her.

As he narrates and I listen, what amazes each of us is the clarity of the memory of a minor event that occurred so long ago -- more than ninety years ago! You see, Pepère Lagassey is almost ninety-eight! We chuckle.

The Farm

I am the oldest of his eighteen grandchildren. Many of my own earliest memories go back to St. Agatha, to the farm where Mr. Rosaire Lagassey and his wife, Juliette, raised their five children, Bernice, my mother; Robert, Lorraine, Paul, and Florence.

The farm. When they say that the one of your senses that triggers the strongest recall is smell, they're right... the barn, the animals, and the fields in the spring, summer, and fall. Pleasant or unpleasant, a trace of any one of these



Pepère in front of his shed

scents can instantly transport me to my childhood. Today, I deliberately route my daily walk to include a stroll by a working farm - complete with barnyard animals, bales of hay, fields of crops and wildflowers - to reawaken the remembrance of those days and the feelings associated with them.

A one-time event at the farm that I remember vividly is when I contaminated the well at Memère and Pepère's. As was customary, we were visiting on a Sunday afternoon, all dressed up but playing outside as the adults sat and talked inside. Sitting near the back steps was a container of mysterious-looking, foul-smelling liquid. It caught my attention, of course, and in my curiosity, the brown solution ended up all over the front of my pretty light blue dress and onto the grass below me. I went into the house to turn myself in. Instead of everyone being as worried about the ruined dress as I was, they all ran out to find the spilled contents seeping into the ground. This caused quite a commotion because the liquid was a potent disinfectant. The well was close by and not very deep, so the liquid did, indeed, get into it.

I, not sure about what happened afterwards, but I do remember that although I was dreadfully embarrassed and the adults were concerned about the damage I had caused, I don't think I was scolded harshly. The thought of that liquid still fascinates me, however. Particularly because Pepère sold seed potatoes, much caution had to be taken to keep potato blight at bay. Therefore, he and any other farmhands had to dip their boots into the solution between trips from one field to the next to keep the disease from spreading. At least, that's how I understand it. I've never heard anything about such a disinfectant since that incident.

Hot Dogs

A collective memory of the whole family is that of hot dog roasts au large. About once a year, especially when the Nova Scotia aunts, uncles, and cousins were visiting, we would head up the road behind Pepère's to a certain spot along the edge of the woods to make a little fire on which to roast red hot dogs. Memère would rush around the kitchen, as she did, gathering the buns, condiments, Brunswick pop, Budweiser in cans for the men, and hot dogs. We would jump into cars and ride the short distance to our spot where we roasted hot dogs on sticks. Those simple picnics often come up when we reminisce about the good old days.

Naturally, my grandmother cooked hundreds and thousands of delicious home-cooked meals over the years, but, again, some of the most memorable gatherings were those of Christmas evening dinners when we had steamed red hot dogs at the farm. As my family and those of my aunts and uncles grew and got older, all of us had our big noon meals at our own homes or, for some of my cousins, at the other grandparents' homes on Christmas Day. Christmas afternoon, we would gather in St.



*Memère and Pepère
with first great-grandchild,
Ryan Welch*

Agatha. It would get so hot in the house a result of the large crowd and the wood heat that the next thing you knew, the doors were wide open; even if the wind was howling over the lake and the snow was blowing drifts across the driveway, it did not get cold in the house.

Memère and my mother and the aunts would prepare hot dogs for the crowd. It made it easy for the women, who had already cooked that day, to feed the houseful of kids and adults quickly.

There were always fried onions. The first year I was married, my husband Eddie and I were there. I was in the early stages of pregnancy, and the smell of those onions was unbearable to me. It was a long time before I could stand the smell of fried onions again, and Memère and

I joked about it many time after that.

So, red hot dogs are a part of our family stories! As little kids, when we would leave Memère and Pepère's on those days, after we had gotten into the car, my parents would say to us, « What do you say? » and we would open the windows waving, screaming, and jumping up and down in our seats, '*Merci beaucoup! Merci beaucoup! Merci beaucoup!*' over and over again until we were well out of sight of the house.

Rosaries

Fitting for a man called Rosaire, the rosary has been a part of his daily prayer life since anyone can remember. The picture of my grandfather sitting in his chair and silently praying the rosary will forever be implanted in my mind.

When I was a little girl, a big treat was to go s'promener at Memère and Pepère's. It felt very special to be my loving grandparents' "only child" for a few days. They would pay attention to me and make sure that I had anything I wanted, especially anything I wanted to eat. Pepère would make his daily trips into town to go *su Fred, su Babin, or su Francis* to buy the groceries Memère and I requested.

In the afternoons, I entertained myself by reading or following Memère around. In the evenings, we would sit and watch TV, and it wasn't long before Pepère's rosary was off the side of the little metal bookcase beside his chair where it hung during the day, and into his hands. There is never a time when I see a black-beaded rosary that I don't think of him and of that peaceful and dutiful prayer of his.

To this day, when I visit Pepère at his new home at Ridgewood in Madawaska, I often find him sitting in his chair, often having dozed off, with that same rosary in his hands. His faithfulness and trust in God comforts and inspires me. How many joys and how many sorrows has he brought to that rosary?

If Pepère is not reciting the rosary, you may find him thoroughly reading the Bangor Daily News, balancing his checkbook, or visiting a friend down the hall, conversing in either French or English. *Il parle les deux langues bien.* It is an inspiration to witness intellectual curiosity and reflection in one so old. Pepère reads for detail. He reads the news, he reads history and he reads prayers, and he remembers what it is he read more than most young people I know. A great joy to him is reading messages that come to him via a Presto machine. Twice daily, he has access to e-mails and pictures sent to him by his children and grandchildren. They are printed out on that wonderful piece of technology that amazes him as much as the plane rides he's taken to Arizona several times over the past few years - his first being at age 86! Also, his finances are still under his control, and you may find him balancing his checkbook or paying his bills on any given day of the week.

Royalty

A couple of years ago, Pepère was rewarded « The Golden Cane » for being the oldest citizen in St. Agatha. That year, he and Mrs. Catherine Morneault were crowned the oldest man and woman in town and were part of the parade honoring the Daughters of Wisdom's centennial celebration, the very order of sisters to which he is indebted for his education. He laughed and called himself the king of St. Agathe. Funny, but also appropriate for one whose heart and soul love St. Agathe and its people so very much.



*Blandine Lagassey Gain & Rosaire Lagassey
at the Acadian Festival
Lagassey Family Reunion · 2007*

In spite of the deep sadness over the death of his beloved Juliette over twenty years ago, and the profound sorrow of losing his

son Paul last year, in spite of the years of hard work in the woods in early years and in the potato fields after that, I know that he knows he has been given many blessings, mainly a devoted and loving family and his beautiful farm sur le lac.

In 2007, the Acadian Festival honored the Lagasse family, ancestors and descendants, as the family of the year. Being the oldest Lagasse registered, he was honored as such, at the festival banquet, and in Madawaska's Acadian Festival parade. His sister, Blandine Gain, at ninety, the only surviving sibling, came from Westbrook to celebrate with him. I was proud to have that young-looking ninety-seven year-old be my grandfather!



Lisa and Pepère • 1961



Juliette et Rosaire Lagassey

The Way It Was...

Note: If you had the chance to talk with Françoise Martin Plourde about "how things were", this is what you'd hear c.1998

*Françoise d/o Gilbert & Alice Baron Martin
Married to Reginald Plourde
Reginald s/o Pierre & Madeleine Ouellette Plourde
Parents of Carole, Paul, Jim and Tom Plourde.*

For as far back as I can remember, this is how a typical year of our time was spent in the forties, including holidays... Being from a large family was fun, but a lot of work, especially for the parents of those big families, like everyone had then.

Starting with the New Years holiday... Since Memère lived at our house, this was the place where every one of Dad's brothers and their wives came for the day. Mom would get up early to start the cooking. Everybody went to church and headed on to our house. Mom

always had a big dinner going. What us kids could not understand was why so many tears were shed every time a couple would arrive. As a couple came in, they would all kiss and hug each other and the tears would start to fall as they wished each other "A Good New Year". Why they did that we never knew. Maybe they thought, or were afraid, that one of them would be missing the following year. Dad always had some moonshine for a drink to toast the New Year in. After dinner and maybe a few more drinks, they would sit and reminisce, play cards, and just enjoy the rest of the day together.

For sure, we didn't have the luxury that kids of today have. Our only entertainment was listening to the radio. I remember when "Seraphin" was on at 7 o'clock. This was the soap opera that everyone listened to. As kids, if we didn't sit and listen, we were expected to be as quiet as mice.



Gilbert Martin

*Son of Belone and Angelique (Franck) Martin
Born May 16, 1893 - Died September 8, 1986*

At that time, we were going to the "little red schoolhouse". In the winter, when the weather was really bad, we had the pleasure of eating dinner in school. One of my brothers, either Oscar or Charles, would come in a sleigh and horses to bring our lunch. It was a real dinner (no sandwiches!), like roast, brown potatoes and even ployes. Snow days were unheard of.

Speaking of the little red schoolhouse, the classes went from "baby grade" through eighth grade. Our teacher would spend about 15 minutes with each grade, giving them work to do while she taught another grade. Some subjects we only had twice a week. It was different subjects for different days. Every now and then, the priest, (I remember especially, le Père Roberge), would drop by to check how we were doing in Religion. He would spend about 1 hour with us, asking questions, and boy, we were petrified when he came! We were so afraid that he would ask us something we didn't know. It was different then because we were scared to carry on a conversation with a priest, which was wrong. Now, priests and children are more open, which is wonderful.



Family of Gilbert & Alice Martin

Front: Gisele, Solange holding Lorraine, Maurice holding Francoise. Back: Oscar and Charles

Recess time was playing tag, tic 'n' toe, hopscotch, jump rope or shooting marbles. We also played baseball. This was a whole different thing than it is now, because you see, we didn't have mitts, a regular ball or bat. Any kind of ball was a baseball and the bat was a piece of board, trimmed on the lower end so we could handle it. In the winter, there was a lot of sliding, skating, bob sledding and making tunnels in the snow.

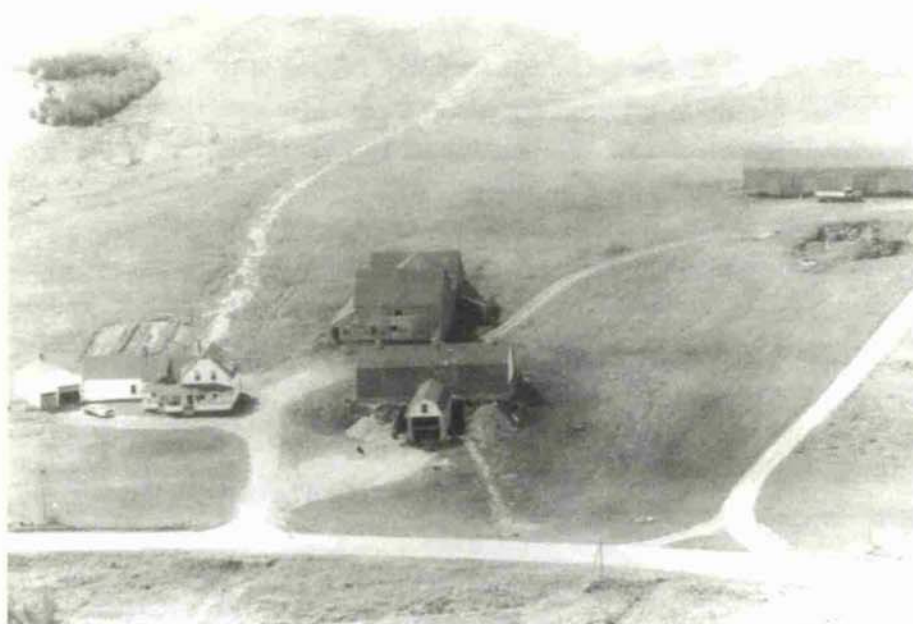
observed by everybody, big and small. The Mardi Gras was like the Halloween of today. Some kids would dress up in costumes. We'd get together on sleigh rides or the like, and it was always fun.

God forbid if we ate candy during Lent! We each had a can or a jar to collect any candy we got during Lent, waiting for the Big Day - Easter. Then, at Easter, our candy jars were pretty full. Lent was over by 12:00 noon on Holy Saturday. The big dinner was smoked ham and all the fixings. Mom was a very good cook so everything was delicious. On Easter morning, we were all dressed up, even if we had hand-me-downs, which was most of the time, but we were happy for what we had.

As we got older and dated, the nightly Rosary was always said. Should a boyfriend come in while the Rosary was being said, he would get on his knees too, and finish the

Then we started getting ready for Lent, which was

Rosary with us. Then off we'd go, 6 in a car, to either the movies or a dance. Cars had to be shared because there was only one car to a family.



Gilbert Martin Farm · 1966

Come Spring, the farmers were busy, just like today, but with so much less machinery and accommodations. Instead of having a few big farmers like today, everyone had farms, except for the townspeople. They really labored, not only with the crops, but most everyone raised animals, such as cows,

pigs, horses and chickens. Of course,

they didn't go for groceries every week like we do. Plus, there was always a big garden, which Mom and us kids would work in and keep up. While the men worked up on the farm, we would go with Mom to pick strawberries, raspberries and blueberries. Mom would pack a lunch of bread and butter and "echolottes". Most berries were canned or jellied for the winter months.

July 4th was a day we looked forward to. Families would get together and go on picnics for the day. Either Dad or another farmer would get a truck with a flat body ready. It was boarded on the sides and benches were made so everyone could sit safely, and off we'd go to Sinclair for a picnic. We'd play competition games like tossing bean bags and burlap bag races. Our lunches were sandwiches and sometimes soft drinks. It was enjoyable and clean fun for all.

The men really worked hard in the summer. Bringing in the hay, for instance, was far from what it is today. After the hay was cut and dried, came time to gather it, which consisted of a driver on the truck, a couple of men on the field to gather the hay by pitchfork and loading the truck, while another man on the truck would place the hay so as much could be put in the load as possible. So much work had to be done and so much less machinery compared to today.

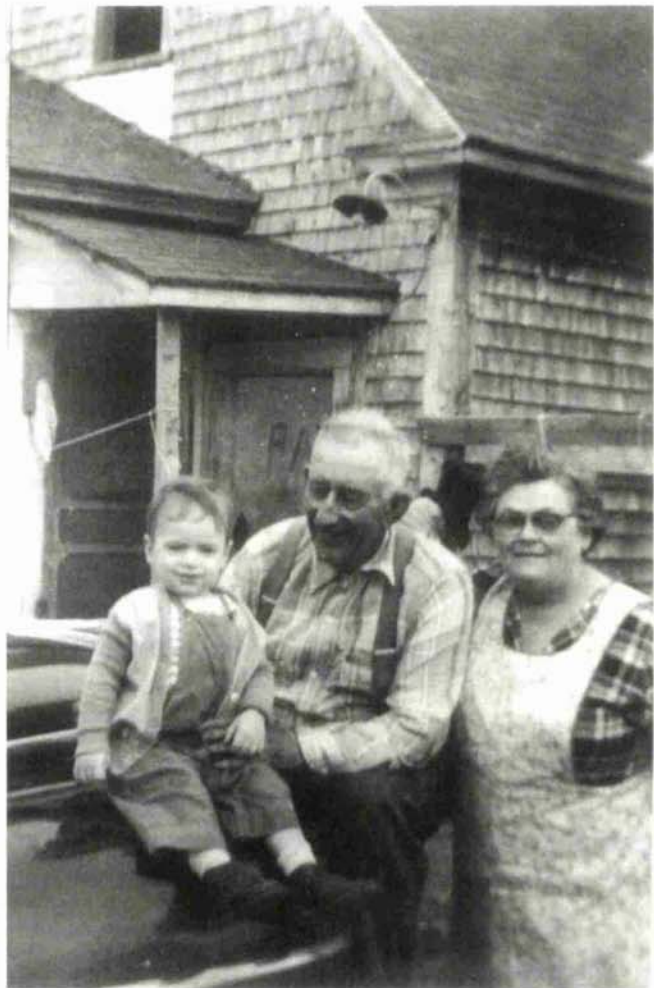
Another thing that had to be done in the summertime was pick mustard seeds in the potato fields. We didn't like to do it, but we had to. Hot weather or not, when the time came and Dad said it was time to pick, we had to go. We dreaded that so much!

Come September, it was time for potato picking to begin. It was with one tractor on a 2 row digger, and maybe about 20 pickers. There may be a few farmers that still do it that way, but they are few and far between. It took a lot longer then than now. I remember once going to help my Uncle Albert pick potatoes. It was the 1st of November, which was a Holy Day, and he had to have permission from the priest to work on a Holy Day. It was snowing and the ground was partly frozen, but the job got done with a lot of hard work.

The necessary school days for a year were always completed because we didn't have as many days off during the year as it is now. We never heard of winter and spring vacations. After graduation from school, most of the kids would head for the big city. Not too many boys graduated from high school then. It didn't seem that important, because then, you didn't need a diploma to get a job. In fact, in my class, there were only 2 boys, and some classes didn't even have any.

Before getting to Thanksgiving, it was time to get ready for the winter with meats and canning. There was no freezer, so everything had to be canned. Usually a cow and a pig were slaughtered and all the meat was canned. Mom would also make creton and boudin. The vegetables from the garden all had to be canned too. Thanksgiving was just a big family dinner with all the fixings.

But I suppose the best holiday of all was Christmas. Dad and the boys would go cut the tree on our farm. A few days before Christmas, Mom and Dad went shopping. We would receive maybe 2 gifts apiece. We were very lucky and we



*Rear entrance of Gilbert Martin farmhouse
"Franky" Tardif,
son of Louise and Clayton Tardif
with his grandparents, Gilbert and Alice
(1957)*

were very happy with what we had. We were 4 girls in a row and we shared each others gifts and enjoyed every minute of it. We were very naïve for our age, but never sorry now for the way we were brought up.

As soon as we got married, one by one, we would leave for Connecticut (the place where **everyone** went). But every year, we would come to visit. A visit that was so much looked forward to. It was always so nice to come back to St. Agatha. Even our children loved to come here...they felt so free. We left St. Agatha in 1950 and to us the biggest change between then and now is the language. When we were in school, we spoke French and the teachers were trying to make us speak more English. Nowadays, the children all speak English and the teachers are trying to make them speak French.

Then, in 1996, we came back home. Now it is our children that come visit with us, just like we used to do. And their children love it here too. We have made many friends since moving back here. We get together a lot and play cards. We have always been a close family, so even now, we get together and enjoy making dinner and playing cards.

Everything is beautiful in St. Agatha and the people are so proud, keeping up their properties. All in all, it is a beautiful place to come home to.



*Front row, left to right:
Louise, Philip "Bee" and Francoise Martin
Back row, left to right:
Gisele, Lorraine and Florine Martin*



*Gilbert and Alice (Baron) Martin
with (left to right): Francoise, Gisele, Lorraine,
Louise, Florine. Philip "Bee" is in mother's arms.
Family pet, Rex, in background.*

Thirty Years in Business

by Paul Marin

When you care to give the best car care service around, you don't have to be on Route 1, or on Route 162, or even right smack dab in the middle of town. Situated a bit off the beaten track on Brook Road, people recognize good service and quality work and so, driving in to GERARD & SONS CAR CARE is a no-brainer.

Gerard Chasse trained as a mechanic when he was a young man, and besides putting in eighty hours a week at a local repair shop, he also worked many hours repairing farm equipment for Ron Guerrette.

In 1972, Gerard married Judy Gagnon. Together, they raised three sons; twins Gary and Larry, and Scott. Gerard says that with Judy by his side, they make a great team.

In 1977, Gerard opened a small auto and truck repair business. He also ran a car wash service with the helping hands of his young twin boys who loved to splash, lather, and wipe cars until they sparkled. They too were eager to put wrench and screw driver to whatever vehicle needed attention. Obviously, the boys probably got more in the way in the way they did things around the shop, but Gerard made sure that every repair job that was completed was done extremely well.

His first repair shop didn't have a "lift", and so Gerard spent countless hours climbing in and out of "the pit". Initially, the work site was a tiny 25' by 40' shelter with rolled up canvas for doors. Winter temperatures and howling winds braced his resolve and Gerard worked harder. Today, his work space is 45' by 60' with a couple of lifts, power-driven doors, space for tools and parts, and a comfortable waiting room and restroom for customers. Gerard offers a variety of services ranging from oil changes, tire care, brake jobs, and motor overhauls, as well as a "do it yourself" wash bay.

Over the years, Gerard has nurtured and guided several eager and adept hands in the business of car repair. Besides his sons, he has helped several local youngsters become quality mechanics. Gerard has 'job shadowed' some students attending the ST. JOHN VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER. Among those were Justin Guerrette, Brian Ayotte, Travis Corriveau, Mike San Antonio, and Andrew Cyr.

Thirty Years in Business

by Paul Marin



"The Crew" - 1987

(L-R) Scott Chasse, John Haskins, Larry Chasse, Gary Chasse and Gerard Chasse

Today, a new generation has taken to hanging around in Peper's shop. Gerard's two grandsons, Zachary and Trevor, as well as his granddaughters, Olivia and Caitlyn, love being around the garage. And Caitlyn, a pre-schooler, has already been trained to 'fix' her own bike...that is; pump air into the tires, grease the wheels, and wash her bike.

No small community like St. Agatha, should be without the quality service that GERARD & SONS CAR CARE provides.

Some of the Activities During the 2007 Summer



Basket Weaving - Jackie Olmstead, Tina Manello, Victoria Plourde, Artisan Lise Sirois, Vic Bosse, Julie Cyr, Fernande Plourde, Jason Allard, Marie Mae Chamberland, Randy Allard, and Gloria Gervais.



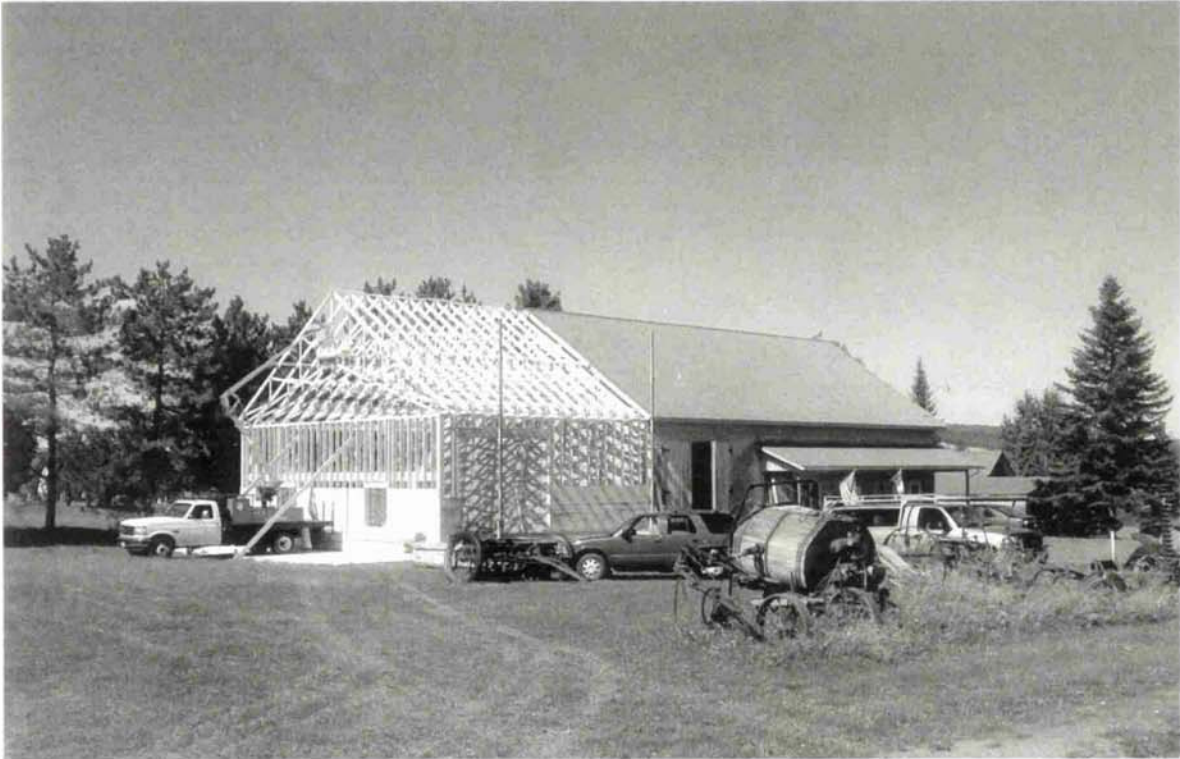
Spinning Wool - Patty Hill, Lise Sirois, and Brenda Caron.

Class of 1957
St. Agatha High School
St. Agatha, Maine



The Class of 1957 met at the Preservation Center on August 4, 2007. They visited with each other and enjoyed viewing the many artifacts related to their time at St. Agatha High School. A special highlight was the scale model of the Notre Dame de la Sagesse Convent build by Ste-Agathe Historical Society Board Director Gerald Dubois. They later gathered at the Lakeview Restaurant in St. Agatha. In photo (l-r front): Nancy Bouchard Black, Patricia Michaud Dow, Joan Thibodeau Tidd, Robertine Morneault Hewitt, George Dugal, Claudette Ouellette Pelletier, Lauria Bourgoin Pelletier, and Rachel Ethier Rosenbaum. Standing: Georgette Cyr Pelletier, Therese Paradis St. Pierre, Marilyn Dionne Blanchette, Gilberte Paradis Galko, Barbara Bossie Moirs, Patricia Gervais Flynn, and Barbara Saucier Monroe.

Extension on the Preservation Center



Extension will be used to house the 1926 McCormack Threshing Machine and other farm related artifacts.



Long Lake Regional Fitness Center



The center, owned by the Town of St. Agatha, is located at the Knights of Columbus Hall complex at 413 Main Street. The center open its doors to the public March 8, 2007. Installing the letters on the building - Dale Sirois.



Walking on the treadmills - Roger Bosse, Hermance Michaud, and Vic Bosse. Rhonda Rossignol, fitness director, claims that 40 to 60 local residents use the gym on a daily basis.

Long Lake Public Library
P.O. Box 33 St. Agatha, ME 04772
By Jacqueline Ayotte

In January of 2006, a group of interested individuals met to study the feasibility of setting up a public library in our community. The Long Lake Public Library is now duly organized and recognized as a non-profit corporation under Maine Statutes and led by a nine member Board of Directors. Its primary mission is to provide quality materials and services which fulfill the educational, informational, cultural, and/or recreational needs of the community in a welcoming, respectful and nondiscriminatory atmosphere. The library serves the Long Lake area, including St. David, Sinclair, Cross Lake, Frenchville and St. Agatha.

We are grateful to Ryan Pelletier and Paul Bernier as well as our consultant librarians, Gerry Morin and Tracie Boucher, for their endorsement of our project. We experienced dedication, energy and much enthusiasm from our volunteers. We greatly appreciate the financial donations we received from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, USDA Rural Development Grant, Davis Family Foundation, Leo N. Albert, daughters of Wisdom and many other generous contributors. Actually, many of you have helped us bring this library to a reality.



In June the Long lake Public Library received a \$26,500.00 grant from the USDA Rural Development. In photo l-r: Denyse Michaud, Philip Morin, Joyce Crosby, Phil Bosse, Florine Michaud, Dick Smith, Library President Jackie Ayotte receiving the grant monies from State Director Michael W. Aube, Sharon Campbell, Barbara Hayslett, Terry Ouellette and Maynard Martin.

We have been the recipients of a 3000-book donation from retired journalist George Neavoll of Portland. Our collection continues to grow through the generosity of people, near and far, who wish to give their books so others can enjoy them as well. At this writing, we have received and entered over 6500 books in the system.



Summer visitors, Frank and Clifford Chasse, sons of Romeo Chasse, were impressed when they stopped in the library in early July.



On hand for the July 22th Open House were over 150 people. The guests were entertained by the Chanteurs Acadiens with their rendition of Joyce Comeau-Crosby's song of *Ste-Agathe sur le bor du lac* and Don Levesque's song about *Ramasser des patates*. In photo: l-r: Carole Plourde, Fran Chasse, Avril Marin, Lorraine Redwine and Philip Morin.

Scenes from the 29th Annual Breakfast



Sr. Jackie Ayotte, President of the Long Lake Public Library, and Florence Martin who made and donated the "Rosette Throw." The winner #641 was Richard Martin.



Another fundraiser "Rosette Throw" made and donated by Florence Martin was won by Carole Plourde. In photo: Jackie Michaud who sold the tickets, Carole who won the "Throw" and Martin Morneault who picked the lucky number.



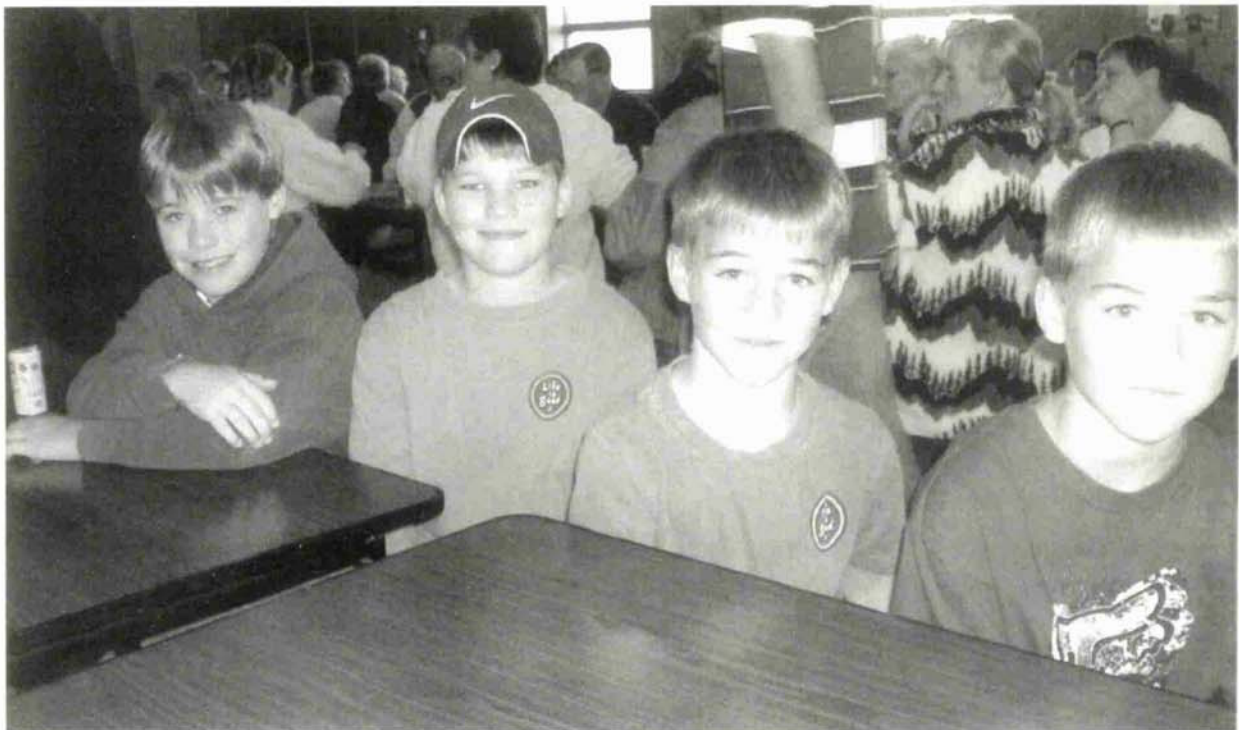
Serving Line at the 29th Annual Breakfast
L-R: Carole Plourde, Kate Hebert, Brenda Caron, Karen Morneault
and Donna Boucher.



Wisdom High School students helping out at the Annual Breakfast:
L-R: Michael SanAntonio, Alex Zetterman, Elsie Berce, Sadi Dubois, and
Chelsea Paradis. Not in photo: Alex Michaud and Jeremy Cyr.



**Jack Michaud, son of Bobby & Rachel Michaud,
celebrates his 4th birthday the 29th Annual Breakfast.**



**Future Board Members of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society
Sons of Dale & Ellen Chamberland: Robbie, Kevin, Matt and Josh.**

Josephel and Marie Albert Ayotte Gathering July 2, 2006



Marie Albert Josephel Ayotte

Marie Albert & Josephel Ayotte



l to r. (top row) 1992 Children of Josephel and Marie Albert Ayotte
Claire Nadeau, Cecile Ouellette, Lawrence Ayotte, Leonide Ayotte, Cora Albert
Hilda Bosse, Yvette Plourde, Aurore Pelletier, Alcide Ayotte, Annette Nadeau

Family of Josephel & Marie Albert Ayotte

l-r: (Back) Claire Nadeau, Cecile Ouellette,
Lawrence Ayotte, Leonide Ayotte, Cora Albert.
Front: Hilda Bosse, Yvette Plourde, Aurore
Pelletier, Alcide Ayotte, and Annette Nadeau.

The Ayotte Gathering scheduled for July 2, 2006 finally came and so did our families. How proud our Grandparents, Josephel and Marie Albert Ayotte must have been from their heavenly home to see their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren spend time meeting and enjoying each other. We were four generations strong throughout our celebrations. What a remarkable gift we gave ourselves by going out of our way to attend. Cousins came from California, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Ontario, Canada; mindful as we converged on St. Agatha that this place is where it all began for us. We confirmed 142 names registered. The oldest in attendance was Uncle Leonide who was 94 on June 19, 2006 and the youngest was Chase Plourde who was born June 14, 2006. Chase is the son of Mark and Lisa Plourde, grandson of Joseph and Fernande Albert Plourde, great-grandson of Cora Ayotte and Romeo Albert. Our family consists of 261 persons on this date.

The qualities we see in our relatives are intelligence, inner and outer beauty, gentleness, loving and peaceful natures, altruism, tenacity, perseverance. They are achievers, creative, resourceful, energetic and amazing people, one and all.

It is with grateful hearts that we, the local families, say 'thank you' to all of you who came to share your lives with us. We hope that we all will make an effort to continue the communication that has begun.

Jackie Ayotte D. W.
daughter of Lawrence and Irene Albert Ayotte

Les Alberts et les Marquis Se Rencontrent

Par Judy Ayotte Paradis

When I was growing up in the St. John Valley in the 40's,50's, and 60's it was disheartening to see so many people leave the area to enhance their economic futures. Many of these individuals included many of our uncles, aunts and cousins. They and we kept in touch as much as possible; however, as our lives got busier, the contact was more sporadic, and we never had much of an opportunity to maintain contact with our cousins' children and grandchildren, much to our chagrin.

In 2006 we were privileged to have a very successful reunion of the descendants of our grandparents Josephel and Marie Albert Ayotte in the community where it all started, Ste-Agathe. It was a lot of work to organize because one had to put together a genealogy of our family. In Astorville, Ontario, Lorraine, the fourth daughter of Lawrence and Irene, did a great job publishing the genealogy, while in Ste-Agathe, Joan and Jackie, the second and third daughters, furnished the stories and planned the venue for the event.



Romeo
Albert



Antoine
Albert



Family of Donat & Beatrice Marquis Albert – Romeo and Antoine Albert. L-R: Lucille Clavette, Marie Plourde, Mellesse Lozier, Mathilda Beaulieu, Cecile Gervais, Rose Chasse, and Irene Ayotte.

It was such a success that we wanted to replicate this event this year with the Donat and Beatrice Marquis Albert family. It's hard to believe that our diminutive Marquis grandmother and her tall curly haired husband have produced 315 descendants so far. More are coming from what we saw at the reunion – beautiful male and female babies.

With the 50th wedding anniversary celebration planned for Joseph Jr. and Gloria Plourde Gervais, it was felt that this would be a great event that could anchor the reunion. With permission from the Gervais daughters, we planned the Albert to coincide with the Gervais anniversary so that relatives could hit both at the same and save precious travel time. It also provided more bang for the buck.

It was sheer joy! No matter where we gathered, groups would form to catch up on news and chat, peruse photo albums, and take and exchange tons of pictures. We have one aunt left, Lucille Clavette of Lewiston. The whole of Ste-Agathe was our backdrop, with a Mass in honor of our grandparents to thank them for their tremendous sacrifice. We visited the cemetery to pay respect to those who have gone ahead of us. The Ste-Agathe Historical Society's Preservation Center was especially a must as it contains our people, our history, and our stories. We are blessed by those men and women who had the vision and foresight to start those collections.



Happy 50th Anniversary - Joseph "June" & Gloria Plourde Gervais
L-R: Mya Cyr, Paul & Susan Gervais Cyr, "June" & Gloria, Merita Gervais Farquhar,
Bill Farquhar, and Jeremy Cyr.
* 50th Anniversary Celebration was also Mya Cyr's Prom Night at Wisdom High School.

Mother of the Year
Alfreda Hebert Chamberland

This year's Mother of the Year, Alfred Chamberland, was totally surprised by this honor. On that Saturday she had spoken to her daughter, Judith Voisine, who lives in Anchorage, Alaska, as she does every Saturday morning. However Judith was calling her mother from Harold's home on Brook Rd. in St. Agatha.

Alfreda, from the St. David Parish, moved to St. Agatha when she married Reid Chamberland on November 22, 1951. They moved to the family homestead in 1963. They are the parents of Camille married to Ursula Morin, Harold married to Joanne Madore, Judith married to David Voisine, Daniel married to Mona Gervais, David, Lori married to Robert Allard, and Rachel. Reid passed away in 2000.

Alfreda has kept busy with the Dames de Ste. Anne ministry of preparing meals after funerals. She enjoys working in her garden and having her family and friends visit. She presently has 14 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



Congratulations Mde. 'Freda!

In Memoriam



Lucien Armand Desrosier

Lucien Desrosier, born in St. Agatha July 30, 1926, son of Walter & Modeste Guerrette Desrosier, and son of Philip & Annette Ouellette Guerrette, was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather with a strong work ethic and dedication to family and family values. He worked at Fraser Paper, Inc., for 32 years without missing one day of work. Always a farmer at heart, Lucien used his vacation time to work in the potato fields. He served 27 years as an officer at the St. Agatha Federal Credit Union and more than 20 years as a director on the board of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society.

Lucien and his wife, Constance "Connie" Morin Desrosier, raised six sons, Philip, Robert, Edward, Dennis, Walter, and William, and three daughters, Jeanne, Francine, and Mary. One son, Maurice, died in 1969. They have 22 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Deceased Ste-Agatha Historical Society Board Members

Clarence Michaud	1988	Sr. Lily Martin, D.W.	1993
Jack Michaud	1995	Reid Chamberland	1998
Rosaire Michaud	2002	Louis Labrie	2004
Blanche Collin	2005	Fernand Sirois	2005
Lucien Desrosier 2007			

STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

OCTOBER 2006 TO OCTOBER 13, 2007

*In memory of **Mr. Joseph Lapointe**, Stan Albert, Philip Morin, Rodney & Judy Chamberland, Lucien & Connie Desrosier, Bill & Merita Farquhar, Florine Michaud, Jim & Theresa Foster Family, Terry Ouellette, Roger & Bernice Martin, Ken & Arlene Lerman, Don & Rachel Daigle, Bob & Pat Bourgoin, Donna Boucher Family & Peter Lapointe Family, Elaine Michaud.*

*In memory of **Mr. Joe Morneault**, Terry Ouellette*

*In memory of **Mrs. Ernestine Cyr Calcagno**, Peter & Rachel Cyr Lapointe*

*In memory of **Mr. Russ Staples**, Terry Ouellette*

*In memory of **Mr. Emile Chasse**, Terry Ouellette, Ken & Arlene Lerman, St. Agatha Federal Credit Union, Mrs. Joan Bouchard Albert, Roger & Bernice Martin, Dr. Thomas & Jackie Chasse.*

*In memory of **Mr. Erny & Lillian Chasse Ouellette**, Tina Mannello*

*In memory of **Mr. Louis L. Lerman**, Sam & Bernadette Michaud, Carl & Theresa Michaud, James & Rita Chamberland & Family, Conrad & Louise & Kelly Cyr -Eric-Trisha- Eliza Doyon, Doris Staples, Marie Mae Chamberland, Jeanne Chamberland, Bernard & Gerry Michaud, Gary & Donna Boucher, John & Karen & Family, Danny & Roberta Labrie, Francis & Jacqueline Chamberland Blesso, Gary & Claire Thibeault.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Marie Mae Theriault**, Carole Plourde*

*In memory of **Mrs. Mariette F. Rodrigue**, Bob & Pat Bourgoin*

*In memory of **Mrs. Rita Bosse**, Bob & Pat Bourgoin*

*In memory of **Mr. Lucien Desrosier**, Stan Albert, Philip Morin, Terry Ouellette, Kate Hebert, Rosaire & Judy Paradis, Joseph & Gloria Gervais, Carole Plourde, Florine Michaud, Gary & Donna Boucher, Camille Morin, Rita & James Chamberland & family, Cindy & James Daigle, Juliette M. Cyr, Patricia Morin, James & Patricia Morin, Francis & Claudia Morin, Ned & Cheryl Dubois, Bertha Morin, Conrad & Joyce Plourde, Lise Sirois, Bob & Vi Chamberland, Phil & Glenna Guerrette, Danny & Roberta Labrie, Donna Levesque, Jean Paul & Cleo Ouellette, Venette King, Ste-Agathe Historical Society Directors, Shawn Hickey & Nancy Daigle & family, Reginald & Joan Hebert.*

*In memory of **Miss Michelle Plourde**, Francis & Claudia Morin*

Ste-Agathe Historical Society Memorial Program

P.O. Box 237

St. Agatha, Maine 04772

DONATED ITEMS

Philip Morin	3 block pulleys, 1 plumb measure line, 5 LP records, 1 butter dish
Terry Ouellette	2 books
Stan Albert	1 Last Rites set, 1 candlabra with crucifix and Holy Water font, 1 U.S. Army uniform, 3 rocking chairs, 1 bean pot, 1 ceramic jug
Leonette St. Onge	2 books and a collection of military medals
Bob & Louise Roy	1 wooden chest, 1 wagon wheel, 1 snow scrape, 1 toboggan, 1 snow sled, 1 kerosine stove, 1 pot belly stove, 1 cast iron stove, 2 wagons, 10 chairs, 3 sets of Roy Family albums and various tools and household items
Alma Chasse	1 pocket sheet for a straw mattress
Jean Paul Michaud	Collection of Ste-Agathe Historical Society newsletters and a Giguere Family ancestral chart
Conrad & Jeanne Cyr	1 religious book
Jeanne Gagnon Chamberland	Collection of Ste-Agathe Historical Society newsletters
Joel & Claudine Voisine	3 glass showcases, collection of negatives, collection of office machines and supplies, 3 greeting card racks, 3 small welders, 1 camera, 1 overview projector and a supply of posters, mounting boards and cardboards
Ernestine Gagnon Dube	3 books, 1 set of playing cards
Lucien & Constance Desrosier	1 photo and 1 crocheted handkerchief
Maude Marin	1 U.S. flag
Ross & Judy Ayotte Paradis	1 pen, 1 key ring and 1 hand painted pitcher
Bobby & Rachel Ouellette Michaud	1 rake and 1 towel holder
Gerald & Rose Marie Parent Dubois	5 books, 1 U.S. Army uniform, collection of household items, 1 camera, 1 slide projector, 2 woolen blankets, 1 clothes wringer with stand, 1 table, 1 lace pillow, 3 tablecloths, 1 dress form, 1 rosary, 1 hand held propane torch and 2 brass pole lamps 1 encyclopedia set c. 1878
Bill & Helen Melvin	Collection of books, 1 set alphabet cards and 1 clock board
Clifford Gervais	1 wooden rack and 1 scale
Florine Michaud	1 1954 St. Agatha High School class ring, 1 chair and 1 wall wood carving
Therese Chasse Albert	1 U. S. Army medal, collection of cuff links and tie bars, 1 First Communion prayer book, 1 Army issued sewing kit and 1 GE stove
Robert Michaud	2 paintings, 2 photo albums, 2 St. Agatha High School diplomas and 2 Maine State Normal School diplomas

DONATED ITEMS

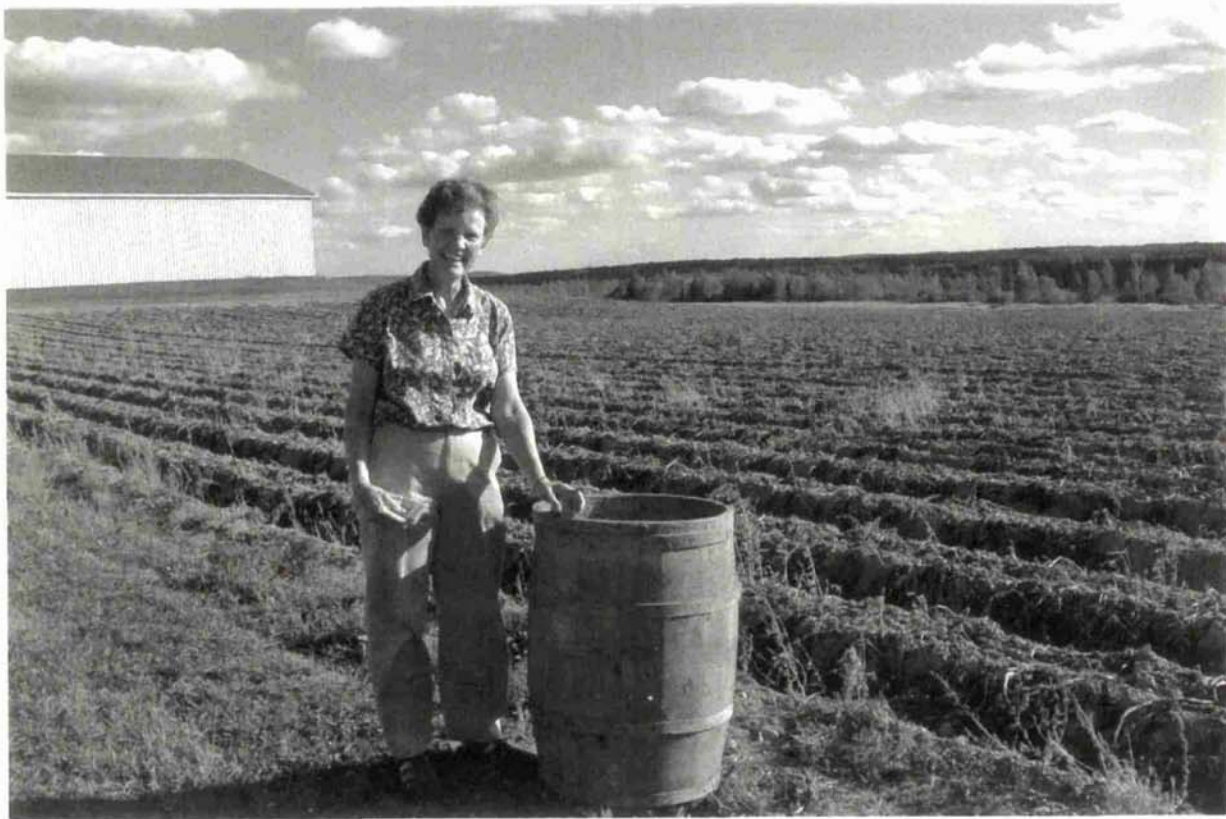
Louise Bosse	1 digital photo printer
Betty LaFlamme Ouellette	Collection of U.S. Military medals, 1 U.S. flag, 2 U.S. Army uniforms, 1 U.S. Air Force uniform, collection of U.S. Military certificates, 1 U.S. Army blanket and a collection of photographs
Normande Plourde & Jackie Plourde St. Jarre	1 framed photograph
Ronald & Janelle Franck Albert	18 potato barrels
Florence Lavoie Michaud	1 U.S. Army uniform and 1 framed photograph
Carlene Cyr Dumond	1 Chalice
Lisa Bosse	1 clock, collection of farm implements, 1 propane torch, 2 carding paddles, 1 small jack, 1 clothes wringer, 2 saws, 3 cattle yokes
Linwood & Joyce Comeau Crosby	3 music CDs
Beurmond Banville	Collection of newspapers and 3 radios
Lorraine Martin Dufour	1 oil painting and 2 handmade woolen blankets
Gloria Rouleau	1 pitcher and basin, 1 bed pan, 1 drape stretcher, 1 sheer panel and 1 washboard
Long Lake Public Library	2 books, 1 booklet and a collection of magazines
Linda Fongemie	1 Fongemie Family genealogy with a collection of photographs
Robert Chasse	1 1933 St. Agatha High School diploma
Philip Dumais	3 potato burlap bags, 4 fertilizer bags, 2 potato barrels, 1 potato rack, 1 motoized potato cutter, 1 potato barrel hoist with pulley and grip, 1 leather bag, 1 needle and thread used to repair potato sacks and 1 tool to move rail cars



*Motorized potato cutter
donated by Philip Dumais*

DONATED ITEMS

Linda Cote Dube	1 set Cote Family genealogy and 1 set Dube Family genealogy
Sylvia Ouellette Mellon	1 1919 Baptismal, Communion and Confirmation certificate
Lagasse Family Reunion Committee	2 volumes Lagasse Family reunion and genealogy
Clarence & Helen Collin Ayotte	2 music books
Brenda Gagnon Caron	1 book and a collection of genealogy notes of the Thibeault Family
Jenny Thibeault Bouchard	3 photographs
Rena Corriveau Chamberland	1 Daughters of Wisdom souvenir pin
Joseph & Elaine Muldowney	Collection of storm windows and doors
Lucille Chasse Michaud	Rosary and Crucifix
Wayne Brandes	2 St. Agatha postcards
Marcel Chartier	1 pitcher
Leon Guimond	1 sled, collection of saws, knives and various tools
Scott, Carol and Alex Hildebrandt	1 military wall hanging
Eva Sirois Levesque	Rosary and Crucifix
Lorne & Leola Dmont	1 thresher belt
Henrietta Coulombe Montagna	potato picker tickets



Henrietta Coulombe Montagna is the 500th person to donate an artifact to the Ste-Agathe Historical Society

DONATED ITEMS

Bernadette Doucette Meunier

Gerard Morin

Therese Albert Cyr

Srs. Jackie and Joan Ayotte

Florence Rose Martin

Lewis & Rinette Michaud

Julie Plourde Cyr

Claude & Agnes Daigle Sirois

Thomas & Jackie Chasse

Collection of Notre Dame de la Sagesse "Pensionnat"

Extensive collection of books, 1 religious statue

1 Auxiliary American Legion Gold Star Mother uniform

1 photo album and 3 WW II maps, 3 Mass cards

Collection of booklets and catalogs

Collection of booklets, magazines and periodicals, 1 ladies

Acadian outfit, 8 Acadian flags and various rakes and saws

1 Sirois Dairy milk box, 1 handmade hook and 1 wood wedge

8 Sirois Dairy milk bottle caps

2 plaques, 1 framed poem "The Potato Picker"



Dr. Thomas U Chasse with donated plaques

St. Agatha Town Office

Abel Caron

Reginald & Francoise Martin Plourde

Michael Plourde

Sr. Gabrielle Michaud

Donald McEdward

Ronald & Colette Ruest Marin

5 Potato and Starch Factory ledgers

1 rosary, 1 LAPD Certificate of Retirement, 2 magazines and a Caron Family genealogy

1 French Bible

Collection of U.S. Military medals

1 bookcase, 1 table, 7 photo albums and 1 religious statue

1 1872 map of Maine

1 rocking chair

KEEPSAKES

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

Voici the Valley Cultureway - CD & Booklet*	\$15.00
Evangeline - A Tale of Acadie Commemorative Edition by Francoise Paradis, Ed.D.	\$29.95
Longfellow Reads Longfellow - CD & Book	\$18.95
Les Filles de la Sagesse Ste-Agathe, Maine 1904 - 2004	\$30.00
Les Belles Histoire du couvent de Ste-Agathe	\$25.00
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
Ste-Agathe Cemetery Records Part II 1990 - 2006*	\$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 G. L. Findlen	\$19.95
As Luck Would Have It by Henry Albert	\$15.95
Les Chanteurs Acadiens de la Vallee Saint-Jean Music CD	\$20.00
Heritage Sites of the St. John Valley by Louise M. Martin*	\$5.00
Year 2008 Calendars	\$10.00

*New Items

To place an order by mail, circle each item that you would like to receive, specifying how many. Please include \$4.05 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item to cover mailing costs, and mail to:

The Ste-Agathe Historical Society
PO Box 237
St. Agatha, Maine 04772

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Summer Activities

The Ste-Agathe Historical Society hosted various events during the summer of 2007. These included a 2nd performance by Les Chanteurs Acadiens, a weaving session with Lise Sirois, and spinning wool with Patty Hill and Brenda Caron. The "Wars & Heroes" Exhibit, honoring this community's men and woman who have served in the military, proved to be a popular attraction. Class reunions from St. Agatha High School and Wisdom High School were also special visitors at the Center.

With the acquisition of more artifacts, the Board of Directors decided to hold a 2nd fundraiser to expand the Preservation Center by 30 feet. The Maine Acadian Heritage Council awarded the Ste-Agathe Historical Society \$2900.00 grant for this project. Danny Hebert Construction laid the cement floor earlier this summer. The continued support of Lifetime Members and local people have made it possible to have Mark Guerrette and Dale Sirois build the extension. You can check the progress of this 2nd Fundraiser at www.stagatha.com and click on the historical society fundraiser.

It has become necessary for the Society to adopt a formal photographic reproduction policy. The Society owns a treasured wealth of local family photographic imagery. The demand for reproduction of these invaluable photographs is increasingly being sought out by today's relatives. In order for the Ste-Agathe Historical Society to maintain the trust and integrity of these donated images, the Society will not permit the reproduction, scanning or duplication of photographic images from the Historical Society collection, unless approved under the conditions of use stated in the adopted policy.

Board of Directors

President.....Terry Ouellette
Vice President.....Gloria Gervais
Treasurer..... Philip Morin
Secretary.....Carole Plourde
Harold Chamberland.....Jackie Michaud
Judy Chamberland.....Roger Morneault
Gerald Dubois.....Connie Desrosier
Kate Hebert.....Dana Michaud

New Lifetime Members

Michael & Patrice Collin Jalbert
Paul & Susan Gervais Cyr
Bill & Merita Gervais Farquhar
Bobby & Rachel Ouellette Michaud
Rodney & Judy Chamberland Chamberland
Sylvio H. Albert
Gary Morin
Gerald Ayotte
Joe & Elaine Marino Muldowney
Marilyn Foster



Heritage Trail Guides & Volunteers

Lewis Michaud, Florine Michaud, Julie Cyr,
Trail Guide Donna Boucher, Jackie
Michaud, Tina Mannello, Marie Mae
Chamberland, Trail Guide Gloria Gervais
and Joseph Gervais. *Merci Beaucoup!*

*We're still working with the collection
of endangered recipes!*



St. Agatha Federal Credit Union

ON LINE BANKING
24 HOUR ATM

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

Mary Ann Chamberlain, Manager

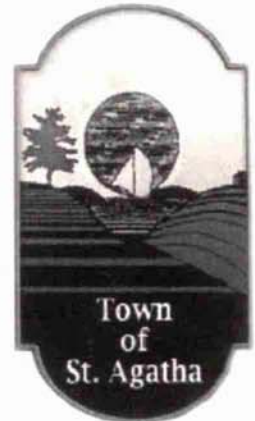


*Welcome to St. Agatha, Maine
«Prettiest Town South of the Border»*



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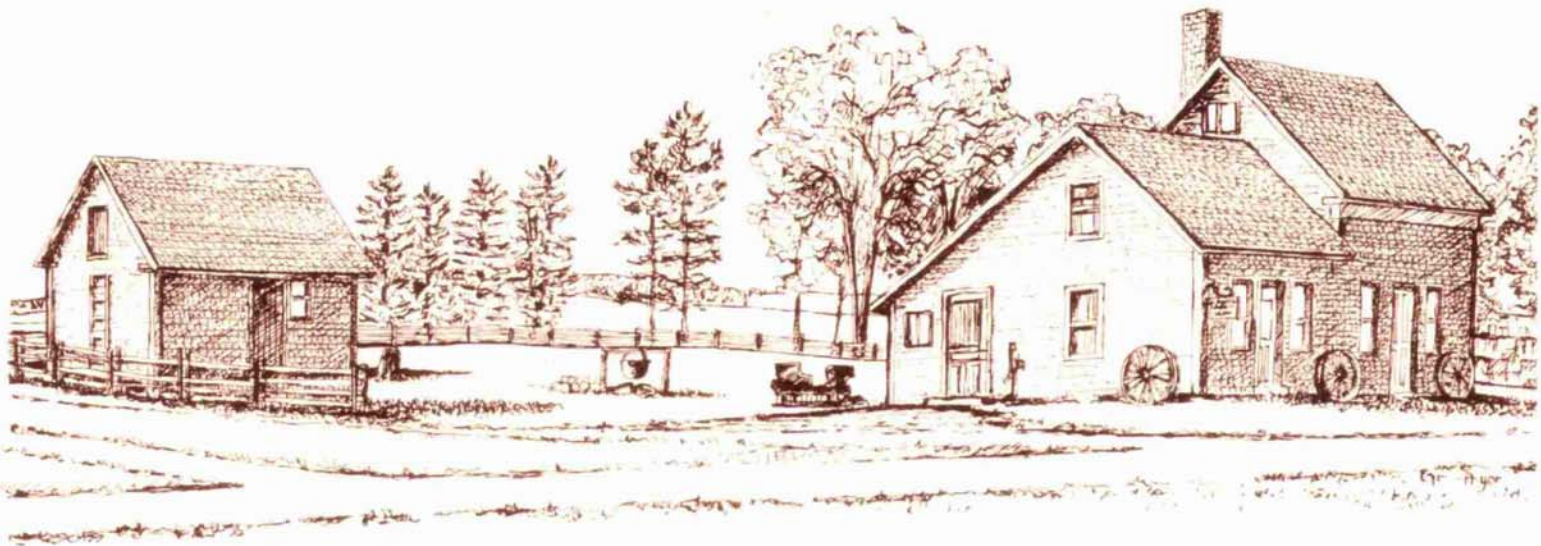
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Ste-Agathe Historical Society

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