

# Ste-Agathe Historical Society Annual Newsletter 2009



## Opening Day Ceremonies - June 21, 2009

The Ste-Agathe Historical Society opened its doors for the summer of the 2009 season on Sunday, June 21st. It marked the official unveiling of the Maine Native Americans Exhibit - the special feature for this year. The goal of this exhibit was to acknowledge and honor the Native American's contributions to the way of life of the St. John Valley people. An extensive collection of baskets representing the Micmac, the Maliseet, the Passamaquoddy, and the Penobscot was on display, as well as numerous artifacts and memorabilia. On hand to perform the song, "New Beginnings," were some members of the Wesget Sipu: (left) Danielle Leblanc and (right) Debra Cyr with drummers (left to right) Joseph Davis, Brian J. Theriault, Donat Cyr and Tony Gagnon. The Wesget Sipu members are Maliseet and MicMac who lived along the banks of the Fish and St. John Rivers. Many members of the Wesget Sipu came along with Acadian settlers to the region to escape the Acadian Deportation of the mid 1750's.

## HOSPITALITY SPOKEN HERE

By Paul Marin

Why would you want to throw good hard-earned money into a brand new 18 room motel miles from US1? On a connector road [162], to boot; a stretch, however quaint and rustically beautiful, that brings you to no other place but Sinclair and/or St. Agatha. SINCLAIR! ST. AGATHA?

Not too many years ago hardly anyone other than relatives or distracted travelers drove this lonely stretch. And if you're in this '*neck of the woods*', you are all of four numbing hours north of Bangor. You are five and six hours from well-known coastal tourist draws like Bar Harbor, Boothbay, Wiscasset, Old Orchard, and the Kennebunks. You're still in the State of Maine but you are not quite in the main state of life. Portland is a day's ride south .... and never mind Boston.

There once was a gentleman from Gorham. *And this is not an untidy ditty. Nor is it anywhere near being a bit witty. It's closer to being just plain sad.* Yes, this gentleman was from Gorham. Gorham, Maine. He had lived his seventy some years in the State of Maine. And while playing a round of golf with him and having told him I was from Madawaska, a border town this side of Canada, he offered a lame and geographically limp '*oh, ya,*' by volunteering that his dentist son lived in northern Maine also. "And where is that." I asked. "Waterville," he replied.

HUMPH!

Is it any wonder that New Englanders and others from away were unaware of life, people, and places in 'this neck of the woods'? Time and events and people with vision and ambition have brought changes. And the little village of St. Agatha, now known simply as ST AGATH', [Anglos and people in a hurry have gotten to dropping the last 'a' for brevity's sake but the village isn't short on charm. No wonder the Chamber of Commerce proudly proclaims it the *Prettiest Little Town South of the Border*. And once you've seen it you just about have to agree.].

Whereas agriculture was the backbone of the local economy and Fraser's [paper mill in Madawaska] buttered peoples' bread, a new and promising economy has surfaced.

## TOURISM

The advent of motorized sledding and the creation and maintenance of hundreds of miles of beautifully groomed trails and the abundance of layer after layer of snow lasting past winter and well into spring has put northern Maine on the tourist trail and transformed this part of the state into what is becoming known as the CROWN of MAINE. White isn't just what you wear in summer. It is, more to the point, what you survive on in the winter. Northern Maine's harsh and labored winters have become a source and reason for the area's new beginning.

No single individual has been responsible for this industry. But people with dreams who knew how to 'role up their sleeves' and not 'sweat the small stuff' have made things happen.

Two of those people had a dream. One was Ken. The other was Arlene. They started making that dream happen on Memorial Weekend of 1993. They had a notion that if you built it, they would come. And what would they build? And who would come? They would build a motel. In St. Agath'. On route 162. And the tourists would come. And come they did.

There were countless naysayers.

"No way."

"Won't work."

"They're throwing their money away. Poor Ken and Arlene. What are they thinking? He should stick to what he knows. He's a darn good electrician. S'got a good business. Arlene's good with figures. The books. She's got enough to do as it is. It's sad. What a waste. A motel! Here in St.Agath'?"

A local successful businessman was heard to say, "Nobody is going to come this far north and pay good money to stay cooped up in a little motel room here in St.Agath'.

Yet, they built it. And they came. And they are still coming.



**Ribbon Cutting for Long Lake Motor Inn – May 1993**

**Left to right: Dave Potter, Dwayne Walton, Dave Daigle, Jack Michaud, Gerard Chamberland, Florine Michaud, Father Jim Plourde, Marie Mae Chamberland, Amy Lerman, Arlene and Ken Lerman, Doug Lerman, Marcella Michaud, Bernard and «Nune» Michaud, Tricia Cyr, Kelly Cyr, Judy Paradis and Brenda Pelletier.**

## **...the business will love you back...**

There are many things, many variables, lot's of and's and if's and but's that come into play in the building of any enterprise. The key that leads to success, other than a reasonable and affordable loan, a sufficient amount of business savvy, lots of luck, and plenty of hard work, is the need to love the business you're in. And if you love the business you're in, *you're in business*. The business will love you back.

While talking with Ken and Arlene it becomes clear that they love people. A great measure of that success stems from the fact that Ken and Arlene treat all their guests as family.

Jeff Trottier recently bought a lakeside cottage in Cyr Cove. A long time resident of Rhode Island, Jeff, over several years, trekked north to enjoy the great snowmobiling trails in the area and the warm hospitality at the LONG LAKE MOTOR INN.

"I'd leave home in Rhode Island and come to Ken and Arlene's LONG LAKE MOTOR INN here in St. Agath' and found a new home. They're family. The whole area is a great place to be. Its beautiful country and the people up here are darn right friendly. Real and genuine!" he added with a great big grin.

Ken and Arlene are in the catering business. You could easily say they are in the 'caring' business. They have a genuine love of people and that love has been returned to them by thousands of customers who have become their friends. They are good hosts and judging by the number of repeat customers that fill the rooms of the LONG LAKE MOTOR INN, they are a genuine success story.

Ken spent many summer months at 'pepere and memere's'[Onezime and Phelime Michaud] and dreamt of not having to go back to Hartford. He made his wish come true back in 1958 when he was eleven years old. He loved his stays in St. Agath' and wanted to live here permanently. But it was time to go back to school and was already enrolled at St. Ann's on Park Street in Hartford. Ken had a ride to return to Connecticut and was determined to miss it.

The people who had agreed to pick up the young lad and bring him to his mother's place in Connecticut pulled into the Michaud driveway. But no one could find the little renegade. "Ken, where are you? You're ride is here. Ken. Ken. Hurry." He did not respond. He did not want to leave.

Ken had already made plans. He had seen this coming. Some while before his ride pulled up at the Michaud house he had run across the road and scurried to his friend's house.

"J-J-Jesse," he stammered while gasping for breath. "My ride is ready to go back to Connecticut. Everything's packed. They're looking for me. B-b-but, I don't want to go. I

never want to go back. I want to stay here in St. Agath'. Help me find a place to hide. Where can we go?"

It didn't take the two of them but a second to decide where to hide. Somewhere on cousin Warren's [Michaud] farm, he and Jesse [Michaud] remembered having discovered a beautiful large pine tree that stood as a sentinel on the edge of a wood lot and overlooked acre after acre of fields. It could offer refuge. Its branches were massive and full.

"Let's git," Jesse said as he good-naturedly gave Ken a slight slap across the back of this head. "Get those short little legs of yours in gear and follow my dust." Ken and Jesse Michaud ran up the hill and reached the safety of that magnificent tree. Those branches seemed to beckon them with open arms. They climbed the limbs to a sufficient height and reached a space that gave them ideal cover. They could survey their little world from this vantage point while feeling quite sure no one could see them. They sat and clung there all day long.

"Ken. Ken. Where are you?"

They could hear them. Warren, local firemen, relatives and friends, and all kinds of people had gathered and were combing the area looking for Ken. Even Sam [Michaud], Ken's uncle, was out going up and down dirt roads kicking up some serious dust and getting his super neat little pickup as dirty as anyone else's.

It wasn't until late in the afternoon, with dusk starting to settle in, tired and hungry and a little cold, that Ken and Jesse dropped to the foot of the massive pine that had given them sanctuary and started for home and a conditional surrender. Everyone was happy and angry at the same time. But, mostly, everyone was happy and Ken had missed his ride to Connecticut and he too was happy that he could stay here in St. Agath'. And except for a stint in Vietnam, Ken has stayed on in his beloved St. Agath'.

ARLENE also is a native of St. Agath'. Her folks [Gerard and Eva Chamberland] ran a store and a very successful construction business. It was not surprising that Arlene taught business courses at WISDOM HIGH for twenty-six years. And in her youth she had noticed Ken's mischievous little grin and he had taken notice of her charms. They have been an item ever since. When you talk to them you can hear Ken and Arlene taking turns starting and finishing each other's sentences.

## **“Are we having fun yet?”**

After attending Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute [Maine Community College] Ken started an electrical/plumbing business - **Ken L. Electric**. *His son, Doug, is now in the process of assuming control of the business.* Years after launching this enterprise, Ken harbored a desire... let's call it a dream. Men lend a voice to their dreams; women temper that voice *on the scale of reason*. Ken wanted to own and run a motel. How do you explain this kind of dream, so foreign from, let's say, running an electrical and plumbing business? Running around in a truck full of nuts and bolts, pipes and wires, fuse boxes and toilet seats. “It's a 24 – 7 kind of life, Ken,” Arlene had cautioned. “You're already swamped with work and how would you find the time? How would I find the time?” She continued. They had two children still in their teens, Doug and Amy, and classes to teach up at WISDOM. Arlene knew that women washed floors, made beds, and picked up after men. Yet, Arlene, too, sensed the allure and romance of being hosts to hosts of guests. And daughter Amy most certainly has to be taken into account. From the outset, Amy was invaluable as a desk receptionist and doubled as a bar maid and found time and energy to do laundry and lend all around charm and unconditional moral support.

Ken had been told that his great-grandfather had owned a small inn in Poland. One day a young, attractive girl who had escaped Russia found her way to his little inn as well as into his heart and was determined to never go back to Russia. They were married just three weeks later. (*Enter the allure and romance.*)

This may explain why a successful electrician/plumber had this need, this desire, this compulsion to actually build a motel on route 162, miles from everywhere, here in St. Agath' within sight of beautiful Long Lake.

Mr & Mrs Chamberland were intrigued. Eva loved the idea. She gave Ken the kind of motherly encouragement that says it all. “You can do it. We're behind you. Go for it.” (Mrs. Chamberland passed away before it was built but she had already contributed much toward the success of the project.)

Mr. Gerard on the other hand, retired by then, was quick to roll up his sleeves. He was all smiles, and in his strong silent way, provided unwavering help and support. He was usually the first to get to work on those cold winter mornings back in '93. He wasn't doing it for pay. He was simply too happy to be involved. And with his knowledge and experience, Mr. Gerard was without a doubt the linchpin of the project. He would build a good fire every morning in a temporary stove in what had initially been a warehouse. Ken had built a strong, two-story warehouse, with large beams meant to support his dream. He had always envisioned his warehouse as a two story motel, sort of a caterpillar before taking flight as a butterfly.

From the standpoint of workloads, the electric/plumbing business, the teaching career, the two teen-agers, the new construction and the new venture, Arlene frequently asked this rhetorical question, “Are we having fun yet?”

In truth, they were.

The building was completed in the spring of '93. It had been a family affair. Just as it continues to be today. The staff and the guests are family. That, to a great extent, explains why the LONG LAKE MOTOR INN continues to be a success story.

Back in '93, the building supplies came from GERARD CHAMBERLAND & SONS, owned and operated by James and Rita Chamberland. The furniture, carrying the MOOSEHEAD label manufactured in Guilford, Maine and SERTA mattresses, were supplied by MICHAUD FURNITURE, owned by Ken's uncle, Carl, and his wife, Theresa (PiToute) Michaud. Ken's mother, Marcella Michaud, addressed the issue of interior design. She had a flair for placing the right furniture in the correct spot, choosing the appropriate wall hangings, selecting the colors and fabrics to best enhance the look of any room. One day she had been working so feverishly hard at doing every little thing just right that, after getting everything done, she found herself scurrying up and down the hallway looking for the stairs leading to the lobby. She couldn't figure which way was the way to go. When Ken and Arlene caught sight of her reflection, shaking with utter fatigue, in the great mirror at the foot of the grand staircase, they both realized how exhausted Marcella was. "Mom," Ken scolded as he reached to grab her elbow and assist her down the last steps, "That's enough for today. There's always tomorrow." And as Marcella sank into one of the comfortable wingbacks in the lobby she was heard to mumble, "I can't wait for tomorrow. I'm having so much fun." KEN L ELECTRIC got the electric and plumbing contract. (Ha, ha). And the STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY provided photographs of local scenes which were enlarged, framed under glass and hung as focal points in every room of the establishment. *(Around the turn of the century, not the present one but the last, a Mr. Joe Bourgoin had tacked numbers to the several bedroom doors in his large house and took in guests. The house still stands today facing Long Lake on Main Street and though it is now a private residence the doors are still numbered.)*

Being true to the family theme that had underscored the entire project, Ken and Arlene proudly named the lounge at the LONG LAKE MOTOR INN the 'DOUGAMY' room.

Opening night came on the Memorial Day weekend of 1993. The LONG LAKE MOTOR INN recorded its first of many full occupancy nights. All the rooms had guests. All the guests were guests in the truest sense of the word. No one paid. The till was empty. The place was full.

Everyone had a grand time. This was a festive occasion. It was family and friends' night at St. Agath's liveliest home away from home.

In the spirit of motel living some good natured calls were directed at the switchboard that opening night. There were several callers with 'manufactured' complaints.

"Hello, front desk? I can't sleep. The bathroom faucet keeps dripping. Do you have a plumber in the house?"

“Ya! Front desk? Can you do something about the noise coming out of room 102. It’s awful.”

“Ma’am. You are in room 102.”

“Oh, I see. No wonder we are having such a good time.”

“Is this the front desk? The light switch by the door won’t turn on and the light switch in the bathroom won’t turn off. Could you send somebody from KEN L ELECTRIC to switch them around? Oh, never mind. We’re going downstairs to the Dougamy Lounge. If I get any calls before we get down there could you redirect them to the lounge? Or, never mind. You decide. You’ll know what to do when you see us coming down the grand staircase. Thanks.”

The ‘honeymoon suite’ was reserved for Bernard and ‘Nune’ Michaud. It was ‘Nune’s’ birthday. Carl and ‘PiToute’ Michaud were there to attest to the quality of their mattresses, their furniture, and their carpeting. Louise (a frequent and valuable employee and sister of Arlene) and her husband, Conrad Cyr, had a room. So did Jeanne Chamberland, Arlene’s sister. Ricky and Mary Ann Chamberlain were guests, too. (Note the spelling is different but they are still related.) Ken and Arlene had a room. One or the other must have called ahead for a reservation. Also enjoying the night away from home were Roland and Rose Gendreau, Babe and Yvette Michaud, Gary and Claire Thibeault, James and Carol Morneault, Gerard and Diane Castonguay, Phil and Rena Thibeault, Marie Mae and Joel Chamberland, Judy and Rodney Chamberland, Bob and Vi Chamberland, Bob and Colette Bouchard, Bob and Joan Ouellette, Colin and Gina Jandreau, and Ronald Chamberland, and Joan Dube. (It might be noted that motel registrants in St. Agath’ show a preponderance of Chamberlands/Chamberlains over Smiths.)

Several years after the motel had thrived and repeat customers had been coming back season after season, Ken and Arlene added another facility to the complex. They breathed new life into the small house across the street – *la maison a ma’tante Manda*. With care and taste they turned that little home into two efficiency units complete with patios overlooking the lake. The units are great for small families looking for a home away from home.

## **THE GUEST BOOK**

No one runs an inn without remembering and being impressed with notables who have been guests. Not that good hosts don’t treat and appreciate all comers alike. The trademark of good hospitality is not only good manners but equal service and care provided to all people staying under their roof. Ken and Arlene and their staff have been



consistent in their care and service to everyone handed a key to their rooms. Yet, the inn's registry does recall a former governor of the state, Angus King, having what must be assumed as a comfortable stay by the lake. And there have been numerous Connecticuters, New Yorkers, Californians, Pennsylvanians, Floridians, and even Iowans and Minnesotans as well, and British Columbians, Quebeckers, Ontarians, New Brunswickers, and Nova Scotians and even people from across 'the pond'. They have come from the east, the south, the north, and the west. And from the southern corner of the state, precisely Kennebunk, the Long Lake Motor Inn has been something like a weekend home away from home for a gentleman and a gentle heart by the name of Herb.

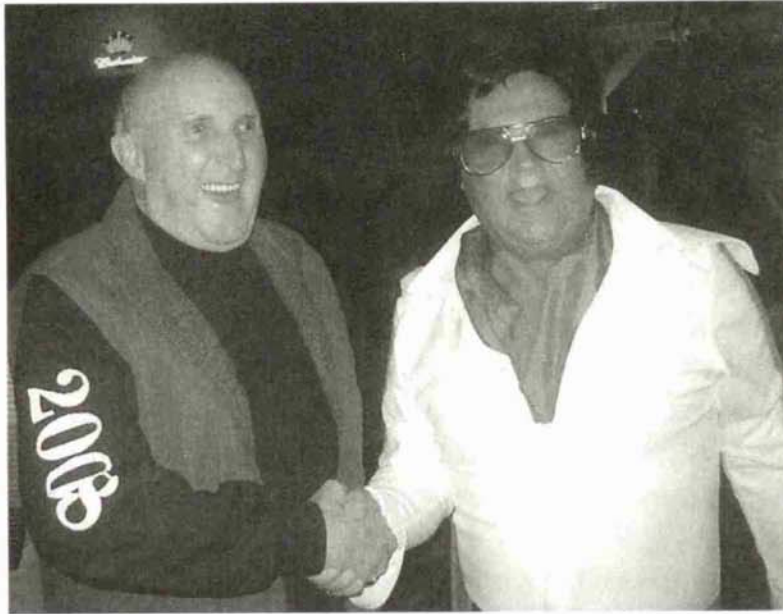
Herb [Meyer] discovered northern Maine and the inn by the lake several years ago. He, and his wife, Elaine, run a seafood business in Kennebunk and almost every weekend, Herb treks to the area to indulge in a favorite activity – snowmobiling. Being a people person, Herb annually throws a gigantic fish fry at the Long Lake Motor Inn and everyone is invited. Everyone seems to have as great a time as Herb always has.

No one runs an inn successfully without key people who are not necessarily *at the front desk*, so to speak. These behind the scenes people most often know the inner workings and the basic needs of an enterprise. And when these people become indispensable assets they have to be recognized. Among such are women like Marie Mae Chamberland, Pat Ouellette, and Judy Chamberland. Judy has been at the Inn since its inception. She works morning along side a small crew making certain rooms are neat, picked up, and pillows fluffed and ready for the most discriminating guests later in the day. Marie Mae no longer works the books at the Long Lake Motor Inn but one of the reasons the Inn is in is due to a good measure to the dedication of this valued former worker. And today, Pat, true professional that she is, runs the office with aplomb and is not above being able to pick up the right tool and doing her bit as an in-house plumber. "She's always calm, efficient, and we appreciate having her around," boasts Arlene.

David Daigle was town manager back then and his help and counsel was invaluable. "His enthusiasm and energy gave us the kind of drive and vision that we needed," Arlene remembered.

Running a 24/7 enterprise calls for a mix of good staff with great attitudes and solid work ethics. Ken and Arlene provide the initiative and leadership. The guests take their cue from them and a stay at the LONG LAKE MOTOR INN becomes for just about everyone an enjoyable and memorable experience. And this is just this side of Waterville.

Jean Chamberlain is not an employee of the inn but frequently takes her favorite seat in the Dougamy Lounge across from the lobby and is well aware of the satisfaction level that guests experience. And she is one who has been within earshot of Arlene Lerman, asking rhetorically, "Are we having fun yet?" And judging from her smiling face you know they are.



Bob Michaud watches his son Dave, *or is it Elvis*, perform at a gala event. Dave's performances have become legendary in this rural community. He's given credence to the myth that Elvis lives. Bob, upon retirement, pitched in, early on, setting up the inn's continental breakfasts.



The appetizing looking spread is typical of Herb Meyer's spirit and generosity. Here he looks on with Gayle Pelletier, a staff member at the Inn. Gayle has, over time, overcome and triumphed over serious medical issues while spreading good cheer and a friendly disposition to the Inn's many guests. The Lermans realize how their business has been laced with success because of such guests and employees.

Continue from 2008....

## **Commercial Entry in A & S Dufour, Merchant Traders 1846**

By Alexandre "Menon" Ouellette

From the lack of records due to the conflicting political situation at the international level, it is difficult to follow precisely the Ouellette family story through the next ten years. Ironically, to find out about Menon's move to the lake in Maine which bore his name, one would have to go search the land records in the registries at Woodstock and Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Michaud-Ouellette home, however, was not quick in over-filling. Pascal and Adelaide Michaud too were faced with their tragic and sad moments. Their first child born July 8, 1832 was stillborn, dead before they could even give it a name, Marie or Joseph. They were to wait another two years before having a second one, giving Adelaide time to recover her strength.

The boundary issues got hotter and pretty soon there were military moves up and down the river. Maine sent troops to build a Fort – a blockhouse at the mouth of the Fish River. The soldiers stopped some residents in driving their logs down river. Captain Stover Rines said they'd have to pay a duty before those logs were allowed to float down river.

Finally in the hot summer of 1842, politicians down in Washington got their act together and decided to set the International Boundary on the St. John and St. Francis Rivers. This made the French-Canadian born "Menon" Ouellette and his brother-in-law, Pascal, Americans.

James Madigan, another Irish Catholic who worked for the State was sent north to teach the French how to go about being Americans. The question that came into the young farmers' minds dealt with matters of property. Having labored and improved these lands for so many years, would the Americans give them proper title and deeds to their holdings, or would they all be scooted away as the Acadians had been in their grandfathers' day?

The evidence was slow in coming. Land commissioners representing both states of Maine and Massachusetts scoured the valley and tried to assure the anxious new citizens that everything would be okay. Life went on. Theotiste gave birth to her tenth child in between the time that the Boundary Treaty was signed in Washington and the Land Commission issued her husband a land grant for the land that her father had given them. The boy, Thaddie, was to live but six years. Adelaide too gave birth to a son, Israel, but they were lucky. He was healthy and grew to see such things as electric light bulbs, automobiles and telephones – all gadgets that the young wives then hadn't even imagined.

Finally, on July 12, 1845, Levi Bradley and George Coffin in the name of the State of Maine and Massachusetts granted to the two brothers-in-law river lot 81 in township 18 range 5 (Frenchville) described as containing 87.87 acres. Also granted jointly to the two of them was a rear lot number 5 described as containing 51.53 acres and being "in the second range of lots from the river." Menon's grant of lot 82 to him alone sat next to that

given him jointly with his brother-in-law is given as containing 91.20 acres. At the same time the two were granted 2.61 acres on island number 11 facing river lots 78 to 84.

In 1846 we come across one brief entry in the business record of A & S Dufour, Merchant Traders. This note tells us that Menon showed up in St. Basile one cold winter day of January 5, 1846. For twelve shillings six pence ( a value equal to five days' labor) he bought eight sheets of tin and a sheepskin, paying immediately. So the "debrouillard" Ouellette was not one to lock himself in the house all winter waiting for the snows to melt to come back to life. Neither did he carry long debts like many others did in this business record. He paid cash on the line.

In 1849 we find Alexandre and Theotiste Ouellette deeded their river front lot to Joseph Michaud, meaning that by this time they were probably moved to the lake area. By local tradition that lake bore his name, "Lac a Menon."

With a growing family and sons now to help with the farm chores, Menon is not idle. On April 20, thinking about the harvest ahead, Alexandre Ouellette bought rear lot number 8 in Frenchville from Christophe Marquis. This lot set between Raphael Roi and Olivier Chasse's lots and is described as containing 91.60 acres with a log barn and stable on it. Most pioneer timber work was done with axes. Saw work was very rare. Some logs were sawn by hand in a pit with one man below drawing the saw down and another on top pulling it up. This was tedious back-breaking work and was done only when planks were necessary. Usually they preferred to square logs with an axe, called hewing logs, and so set them squarely one on top of the other. Planks came in common use when sawmills became fairly common. Thus many barns and stables then were quickly built "piece sur piece," this is of logs. The following year Menon and Theotiste Ouellette at a profit of twenty dollars returned the lot to Christophe Marquis. Marquis was later in 1855 to sell half of the lot to Jules a Beloni Ouellette.

A note appears in the record showing that on March 12, 1855 Menon traveled down to Petit Sault where he met Cyrille Dufour and borrowed thirty-seven pounds in currency. This shows that despite the boundary having been drawn more than a dozen years earlier, Valley residents continued doing much business in British pounds, shillings and pence long after they had become Americans familiar with dollars and cents.

That fall Menon put up his farm out on mortgage for \$600 borrowed from Prudent Gagnon of St. Hilaire. This deed, witnessed by his teenage son, Isidore, describes Menon's holding as lot 14 in Frenchville containing 122.79 acres and identified as "being the lot I now live." Thus as can be seen, sometimes in the interval, with families growing and aging, the brothers-in-law went their independent ways.

The reason for mortgaging his farm was that Alexandre wanted to give his son a start and on the same day, on November 1, 1855 Menon deeded over to his son, Romain, the lot described as "on the western shore of the east end of Long Lake in T. 18 R. 4 between the lots of Joanam Corneau and Vital Ayotte. From this deed we gain evidence to give credence to the old family tradition which states that Menon Ouellette was the first owner of land on the shores of Long Lake.

With time as his sons matured, Menon continued to assist in their establishments as farmers. On June 30, 1862 Alexandre Ouellette deeded "lot in T. 18 R.5 near Long Lake on road from St. John River to Long Lake" described as "taken up and for long as now occupied by me, except stumpage on the north side of lot of two acres by two rods wide formerly bargained to Prudent Gagnon." Such shows how farmers in those days paid off debts by selling wood from their lots. On this date the lot held by Isidore is described in a companion deed as being north of the lot of Romain Ouellette showing by that date the sons taking over their father's tasks.

In 1863 we find Romain and Alexandre jointly deeded the Southwest part of lot 15 to Prudent Gagnon of St. Hilaire, then called Madawaska Parish, N.B. The other half of this property Romain deeded to his wife Hermine Landry Ouellette. Were these protective moves in the war years to assure continued family ownership of property held by sons who might have to respond to a draft call in the Civil War? We can't know for sure. More than a century down the road we can't really pick their brains from the evidence on hand. Suffice it to say that they had their reasons for these exchanges.

That same year we come across a deed granted by Isidore Ouellet of Dion Plantation (as Frenchville-Ste-Agathe were called) to his father, Alexandre. Both father and son are given as "yeomen," that is farmer. This deed for Lot 14 in T.18R5 is listed as a rear lot "with buildings." In 1864 we come across another deed between Alexandre and Christostome Ouellette to Isidore Ouellette which speaks of "Menon's Point" so called situated on the western shore of Long Lake in T.18R.4 and an island in the lake called L'isle a Menon. Thus we see the nickname came to play an actual part in legal records of the day.

Shortly after the Civil War, at an age when a man like Alexandre Ouellette began thinking of retirement we run across a deed dated August 18, 1866 in which he conveys Lot 14 T. 18 R.5, containing 122.79 acres to Damien Bourgoïn. This farm is described as "being our homestead farm."

In 1867 a land record speaks of "part of an island in Cleveland Lake" under the name of Menon's Island. This deed to rear lot 14 is mortgaged by Francois Sirois (who got it from Prudent Gagnon) and Isidore Ouellette to Jean Bouchard of St. Pascal, Kamouraska, Lower Canada. This in the year of the Confederation of Canada uses the old terms Lower and Upper Canada recalling the 1841 union of Quebec and Ontario.

From this time on, Alexandre Ouellette passes out of the record and we note no further entries in the land registry bearing his name. The family, immigrant to the St. John Valley left behind, however, the tradition of his nickname still used by the descendants today such as that found in the name of Menon Trailer Park in Ste. Agathe.

*Article courtesy of Joan Ouellette submitted to the Ste-Agathe Historical Society by Rosaire Lagassey*

*- Fall 2007 -*

**Leonide Ayotte  
Golden Citizen Award  
March 8, 2009**



Front: Ashley Ayotte, Danna Ayotte Dubois, Judy Ayotte Paradis

Sitting: Francis and Fernande Ayotte Desjardins, Leonide Ayotte,  
Lucien Ayotte, Sr. Joan Ayotte, D.W.

Standing: Clifford Ouellette, Sr. Jackie Ayotte, D.W.,  
Linda Dufour Ayotte and Roland Ayotte, Leo James Ayotte, Maurice Ayotte,  
Joyce Dumais Ayotte and Francine Nault

**Golden Cane Award – July 15, 2009  
Ridgewood Estates  
Madawaska, Maine**



Mrs. Catherine Morneault with people from St. Agatha

Table: Marcel Chartier, Mrs. Catherine Morneault, Therese Popolizio

Kneeling: Eugene Michaud

Left to right: Adrien Morneault, Carl Sirois, Jean Paul Bechard, Yvette Sirois,  
Mona Michaud, Vincent Morneault, Don Michaud, Rinette Plourde and Jackie Michaud.



## **Sr. Gabrielle Michaud**

Daughter of Wisdom Sister Gabrielle Michaud, 87, died peacefully July 16, 2009 at the St. Joseph Nursing Home in Frenchville. She was born December 8, 1921 in St. Agatha, Maine, the daughter of the late Donat E Michaud and Amanda Chasse. She graduated from Notre Dame de la Sagesse High School in 1935, entered the Daughters of Wisdom in 1938, professed her vows in 1940, and took the religious name Sister Adrienne de l'Immaculee.

Sister Gabrielle spent many years in the health care profession, ministering as a night supervisor at Maryview Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia (1945-1947) and as a physical therapist there (1947-1958). She served as administrator of Holy Family, Brooklyn, N.Y. (1959-1960) and as a nurse and physical therapist at St. Charles Hospital, Port Jefferson, New York (1960-1963). She studied at St. John's University, Jamaica, N.Y. (1964-1965) and Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts (1966-1967). In 1967, she returned to St. Agatha, Maine, to serve as a nurse (1968-1969). She then organized the physical therapy department at Northern Maine Medical Center, Fort Kent, Maine (1970-1974). She later joined the faculty of l'Ecole de Formation Infirmiere d'Edmundston, New Brunswick at le College St. Louis, where she taught medical, surgical, and psychiatric nursing (1974-1988).

Upon her retirement, Sister Gabrielle became a member of the Worship and Spirituality committee and the Social Justice and Peace Commission of Ste-Agathe Parish. For twenty years, she assisted with the training of extraordinary ministers and altar servers and in visitation of the sick. She also assisted with the medical transport, distribution of food baskets, and the staffing of a thrift shop. She was on board when the newly organized Ste-Agathe Historical Society purchased the Marquis House in 1977. She continued to serve as a valued Board of Director Member for more than 20 years.

Sister Gabrielle is survived by three brothers: Don and his wife, Mona, Robert; Jean and his wife, Cecile, all of St. Agatha. Four sisters: Angela Raymond and her husband, Omer, of Sarasota, Florida; Rose Dufour and her husband, Gerald, of Madawaska; Patricia Landry of Edmundston, N.B.; and Jean Vrabtree of Berlin, N.H.; a sister-in-law, Florine Michaud of St. Agatha, and many cousins and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, by her brothers, Richard and his wife, Aline; Raymond and his wife, Bertha; Jack; a sister, Anne Marie Malvey, and her husband, Eddie; and a sister-in-law, Maxine.



**Appreciation Brunch  
September 20, 2009**

**Thank you to our volunteers and trail guide,  
Donna Boucher**



Front: Julie Cyr, Florine Michaud and Lise Sirois

Back: Carole Plourde, Jackie Michaud, Doreen Daigle  
Donna Boucher and Lewis Michaud

## DONATED ITEMS

Tribal Chief Brenda Commander	Potato Basket
Long Lake Public Library	Selection of Books, Basket
Alcide & Gisele Ayotte	US Army World War II Uniform
Stan Albert	Green Lantern, Yearbooks, Tools, Barber's Tools, Religious Items, Chamber Pot, Spittoon, Military Items, Plastic Horses, Floral Arrangements, Fort Kent Book, Wooden Rack, Smelter Pot, Set For Last Rites
John Robichaud	Houlton Maliseet Map
Clayton & Hilda Myers	1880's Spectacles, Wooden Keystone Cop
Therese Chasse Albert	Chair Covers, Tablecloth, Rug, Bowl & Pitcher Holder
UMFK Archives	Selection of Books
Arlene Voisine	Metal Suitcase for Mailing Laundry, New Beginnings CD
Estate of Rosaire Lagassey	Books, Photographs, Mortuary Cards
Anne Chamberland	Acadian Genealogy Exchange and other Books
Lise Pelletier, UMFK Archives	Expulsion – Story of Acadia Three Panels on Deportation of Acadians
Philip Morin	Laundry Basket, Philco Radio, Kitchen Utensils, Velour Hat, Metal Lunch Box, Picnic Basket, Water Dispenser, Wooden Clothes Rack, Granite Stoneware, Hook Rug
Leonie Lagasse	Mink Stole

Pauline Ouellette	Collection of "Ball IDEAL" Canning Jars
Mary Sanipass – Micmac Band	Draw Horse
Maurice & Eunice Tardif	Royal and Underwood Typewriters, Trunk
Aline Marquis	Cauldron
Maurice Sirois	World War II Memorabilia
Gerald & Rose Marie Dubois	Framed Photo, Frying Pan, "Une Hache Pour Écarrir," Canning Jars, Farm Tools, Rack, Gasoline Burner, Sears, Roebuck Catalogs
Roger & Vic Bosse	Electric Sewing Machine
Roger & Juanita Belanger	Hall Tree
Carroll & Sybil Deschaines	Dishes, Cloth, Blanket
Louis & Pat Pelletier	School Desk
Cliff & Theresa Guerrette	Red Telephone, Iron Kettle
Bob & Rita Babin	Barber Shop Mirror, Paymaster Ribbon Writer
Gary & Linda Pelletier	Boom Pin, Collection of Posters
James & Pat Morin	Items from Naborhood Store
Candide Sedlik & Joanne Parent	Framed Photo
Carl Lavertu	Native American Clothing & Book
Dr. Tom & Jackie Chasse	Emile Chasse Family Albums
Jeanne Albert Richey	Barber Shop Capes
Marie Mae Chamberland	Polaroid Land Camera & Case
Geraldine Morin Souliere	Photos
Armand & Gloria Gagnon	1988 "Rae Ann" Doll
Ernestine Gagnon Dubey	USA Fleece Blanket
Terry Ouellette	Fire Department Plaque

Gedeon & Madeline Thibeault Dionne	Family Tree of David & Solomé Fongemie Dionne
Gerry Morin	Red Jug, Books, Storage Cabinet, Display Case
Roberta Guerrette	Five Inch Cast Iron Damper
Armand & Gemma Gagnon Parent	Horse Drawn Cultivator, Horse Drawn Hay Mower, Horse Drawn Plow
Linda & Nicole Chamberland	Wool Pants
Conrad Pelletier	Collection of Wooden Oars
Michael & Andie Labbe	Three Micmac Baskets, Roofing Tiles
Sandra Babin & Sylvia Beaulieu	Marquis Family Plaque
Generous Treasure Shoppe	Wedding Dress, Books, Clothing, Tools, Rack, Assorted Knives, " <i>Un Backu</i> " Whiffletree
Therese Popolizio	Singer Sewing Machine Parts & Manual
Florine Michaud	Collection of Church Books, Purse
Charlene Coulombe	Basket
Sisters of the Holy Rosary	Religious Items, Books, Rotary Telephone, Gold Cloth, Sanctuary Lamp
Andrew Michaud	Building Blocks
Dean Morin	Grain Screening Machine
Warren Michaud	Photo of 12 year old Juliette Martin
Bernard & Judy Michaud	Rocking Chair, Meat Grinder, Pulleys and File, Plaque for Hay Rake
Henriette Montagna & Claudette Levesque	Lorina Albert's Album Collection/Newspapers
Madison Bechard	Drill Press
Maude Marin	Fleece Blanket
Jeanne Cyr Lavertu	Storage Cabinet

Alan M. Michaud

US Navy Uniform

Jack & Pauline Hunter

Hermes Adding Machine & Iron Handle

Robert "Bob" Michaud

Desk

Paul Cyr

Wooden Mallet

Candide "Candy" Desrosier

Newspaper Clippings & Albums

Donald Pelletier

One Row Potato Digger

Camille Albert

Bureau



**One Row Potato Digger**

Donated by Donald Pelletier of Madawaska, Maine

Son of Arthie & Blanche Pelletier

**STE-AGATHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

**OCTOBER 20, 2008 TO November 30, 2009**

*In memory of Mrs. Roberta O'Dea, by Sister Aurelie Michaud.*

*In memory of Mr. Ronald "Bee" Guerrette, by Terry Marin Ouellette,  
Gary & Donna Boucher, James & Patricia Morin, Patricia Morin,  
Dr. Tom & Jackie Chasse.*

*In memory of Mrs. Winnie Chasse Sirois, by Philip Morin,  
Terry M. Ouellette, Dr. Tom & Jackie Chasse.*

*In memory of Mrs. Bertha Morin Theriault, by Philip Morin,  
Constance Desrosier.*

*In memory of Mrs. Maxine Michaud, by Marielle Losier, Lise Sirois,  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Chasse, Terry Marin Ouellette, Florine Michaud.*

*In memory of Mr. Joseph Plourde, by Terry Marin Ouellette,  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Chamberland, James & Patricia Morin.*

*In memory of Mr. Rene Lizotte, by Phil & Hermance Michaud,  
Marc & Pris Chassé.*

*In memory of Mr. Maurice Guerrette, by Harold & Joanne Chamberland.*

*In memory of Mrs. Irene Albert, by Patricia Morin.*

*In memory of Mrs. Evelyn Beckley, by Al & Sandra San Antonio.*

*In memory of Mr. Sam Michaud, by Florine Michaud, Terry Marin Ouellette.*

*In memory of **Mr. Clifford Gervais**, by Florine Michaud,  
Gary & Donna Boucher,  
Terry Ouellette, Roger & Bernice Martin, Ned & Cheryl Dubois,  
Francis & Claudia Morin,  
Gerald & Rose-Marie Dubois.*

*In memory of **Mr. Francis Dubey**, by Armand & Gloria Gagnon.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Marie Chasse Voisine Livingstone**, by Stan Albert,  
Philip Morin, Florine Michaud, Mrs. Therese C. Albert.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Anna Marie Buckley Melvin**,  
by Mrs. Constance Desrosier.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Leona Nadeau Rossignol**, by Stan Albert, Philip Morin.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Aline Couturier**, by Harold & Joanne Chamberland.*

*In memory of **Mr. Leonide Ayotte**, by James & Patricia Morin.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Pauline Jacques Derosier**, by Terry Marin Ouellette,  
Clifford & Theresa Guerrette, Lise Sirois*

*In memory of **Sister Gabrielle Michaud D.W.**, by Gary & Donna Boucher,  
Philip Morin, Terry Ouellette, Armand Chasse, Florine Michaud,  
Elaine M. Michaud, David Michaud,  
Daniel Michaud, Carl & Theresa Michaud, Doris Staples, Stan Albert,  
James & Patricia Morin, Ste-Agathe Historical Society Board of Directors,  
Patricia Morin. Gerald & Rose Marie Dubois, Jay & Becky Crabtree.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Jeannette Levesque**, by Clifford & Theresa Guerrette.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Juliette Martin Michaud**,  
by William & Cynthia Michaud Remington.*

*In memory of **Mr. Sylvio & Mrs. Irene Michaud; Richard Michaud  
& David Marquis,***

*by Bob & Rachel Michaud Marquis.*

*In Memory of **Mr. Sylvio & Mrs. Irene Marin Michaud,  
and Richard "Mitch" Michaud,***

*by Allan & Patricia Michaud Dow.*

*In memory of **Mrs. Nellie Chamberlain,** by Terry M. Ouellette,*

*Jeanne Gagnon Chamberland, Anne & Jean Chamberland,*

*Carl & Eileen Chamberland.*

*In memory of **Mr. George & Mrs. Isabelle Plourde Albert,** by Stan Albert*

*In Memory of **Mr. Stanislaus & Mrs. Alphonsine Deschaine Chasse,***

*by Stan Albert*

*In memory of **Mr. Joseph "June" Gervais,** by Stan Albert, Philip Morin,  
Terry M. Ouellette, Donna & Gary Boucher, Rodney & Judy Chamberland,  
Juliette M. Cyr, Dr. & Mrs. Marc Chasse, Harold & Jo-Ann Chamberland,  
Ken & Arlene Lerman, Carl & Theresa Michaud, Bernie & Jerry Michaud,*

*James & Patricia Morin, Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Plourde,*

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*Roger & Bernice Martin, Patricia J. Morin, Ned & Cherly Dubois,*

*Eddie & Rolande Gervais Bilodeau, Eloise Griffin,*

*Stephen Crotty Construction Management.*

*In memory of **Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Ida Pelletier Morin,** by Philip Morin.*

*In memory of **Mr. Denis & Mrs. Dorumene Ouellette Morin,***

*by Philip Morin.*

*In memory of **Mr. Michel & Mrs. Madeleine Michaud Pelletier,***

*by Philip Morin.*



*In memory of Mr. Joel Plourde, by Bob & Pat Bourgoin,  
Loretta & Rene Hebert, Terry M. Ouellette, Lise Sirois.*

*In memory of Mr. Robert "Bob" J. Ouellette, by Florine Michaud,  
Terry Ouellette, Leonie Lagasse & Maude Marin,  
Joan & Jackie Ayotte, D.W., Jack Michaud, Roland Grivois  
Stan Albert & Phil Morin, Don & Rachel Daigle, Ross & Judy Paradis,  
Julie Cyr, James & Patricia Morin, Mrs. Jeanne Chamberland,  
Roberta Guerrette, Patricia Morin, Gerard Morin,  
Reginald & Pauline Guerrette, Ken & Arlene Lerman,  
Donna M. Levesque, Paul-Avril-Mary-& Peter Marin, Gloria Gervais,  
Lise Sirois, Lorraine Zimmerman, Bob & Pat Bourgoin,  
Odette Levesque, Clifford & Theresa Guerrette.*

*In memory of Mrs. Cecile Caron, by Terry M. Ouellette,*

*Harold Chamberland, Lise Sirois*



**NEW LIFE TIME MEMBERS**

**Doris Staples**

**Rene & Loretta Hebert**

**Douglas & Tammie Pelletier Lerman**

**Bobby & Amy Lerman Strong**

**ANNUAL MEMBERS**

**Susan Gerard**

**Marilyn Ann Foster**

# KEEPSAKES

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

Voici the Valley Cultureway - CD & Booklet.....	\$15.00
Pulp, Potatoes, and Ployes by Jules M. Seletz.....	\$20.00
Land In Between by Beatrice Craig*.....	\$30.00
Destination Madawaska by J.R.T. Theriault*.....	\$19.95
The Fusion of the Acadian and Canadian Races In Madawaska-English Translation by J. Blesso*.....	\$5.00
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
Les Chanteurs Acadiens en Chansons (CD #1).....	\$20.00
Les Chanteurs Acadiens Originals et Traditionals (CD #2).....	\$20.00
Heritage Sites of the St. John Valley by Louise M. Martin.....	\$ 5.00
Year 2010 Calendars.....	\$10.00

\*New Items

To place an order by mail, circle each item that you would like, specifying how many. Please include \$4.95 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friends of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society,

The summer of 2009 featured the Native American Exhibit, and it proved to be a learning experience for board members as well as the many guests who visited at the Preservation Center. The extensive basket collection on display had many people in awe of the talent and expertise it takes to create these various type containers. "Textile Thursdays" also gained popularity and attendance as the summer wore on. Artisans Lise Sirois and Patty Hill were on hand to operate the spinning wheels and the loom. If attendants favored basket weaving, then basket weaving was the feature of the week. It became the meeting place for folks with a common interest - "textiles."

Trail Guides and volunteers welcomed many visitors from all over the United States. They had some school groups in the early spring and early fall, participants from the Senior College of UMFK and one Elderhostel Group also from UMFK. The extensive photo album collection and growing number of local artifacts continues to be a special draw for the visitors.

Two Daughters of Wisdom who served at Montfort School principals passed away during 2009. You may remember Sr. Mary Frances and Sr. Lucille. Sr. Mary Frances served in Lille from 1940 -1944, then Madawaska from 1944-1948, and was the first principal at Montfort School from 1948 until 1957. She passed away on June 7, 2009. Sr. Lucille Campbell, who passed away on October 10, 2009, served in St. Agatha from 1939-1944 and in Lille from 1952 to 1956. Sister Yvonne Germaine Dumont, 89, died November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Maria Regina Residence in Brentwood, NY. She was the daughter of Antime & Yvonne Leclerc Dumont of St. Agatha. She is predeceased by her parents and brothers, Hector and Raymond Dumont. Surviving members of her family include Louise Ouellette, Germaine Morin, Aldeo Dumont and Richard Dumont.

Sr, Veronica Byrne, who taught at St. Agatha High School from 1957 to 1966, was honored on September 20, 2009 in Islip N.Y. A special tribute in her honor "for her service to a world that hungers for meaning, justice, and compassion," was featured at a fundraising brunch sponsored by the Daughters of Wisdom.

The Town Of St. Agatha is planning a Summerfest for the summer of 2010. The planning committee has met and given a date to the celebration week-end – July 30, 31, August 1. Various organizations of the town are involved in planning a memorable week-end, honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> high school graduation from Notre Dame de la Sagesse, as well as the graduating classes of St. Agatha High School and Wisdom High School over the last 100 years. We hope you will be able to join us for the festivities.

We wish to thank our friends and supporters of the Ste-Agathe Historical Society and we look forward to seeing you at the Preservation Center.

Sincerely,

*Terry Ouellette*



*Joyeux Noël  
Bonne et Heureuse Année*

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

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