



# THE GREATER GRAND ISLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE RÉGIONALE DE GRAND ISLE



363 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 124, GRAND ISLE, ME 04746

EMAIL: gi.historical@yahoo.com - WEB: www.GIMEHistorical.org

## JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

### DIRECTORS – Current Directors

	Term Expires		Term Expires
Brian Bouley	2018	Bert LeClair	2017
Richard Lyness	2018	Claudette Morin	2017
Romeo Parent	2018	Gerald Soucy	2017
Claude Lavertue	2018	Gordon Soucy	2017
George Dionne	2017	Jeannot Damboise	2017
Guy Roy	2017	Diane Parent	2017
		Keith Brown	2016
		Carlene "Cai" Bouley	2016

The election of new directors was held during the Annual Meeting, November 1, 2015. Thank you to our two new Directors, Romeo Parent and Claude Lavertue; and thank you also to our two Directors, Brian Bouley and Richard Lyness, who agreed to remain as Director. Any member in good standing is eligible for election.

Thanks to all who attended our Annual Meeting. Looks like this might have been the largest annual meeting crowd. Thank you for your support.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Our membership is now up to 157. Our annual dues remain the same: \$20 per person & \$10 for spouse = \$30 per couple; \$250 for a single lifetime & \$125 for the spouse = \$375 per couple. Lifetime memberships can be paid in five consecutive annual installments of \$50 per member and \$25 per spouse = \$75 annually per couple for 5 years.

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP** – The number of Lifetime Members has grown to 44. A percentage of each Lifetime Membership fee is deposited into a special account which will provide funds to help pay expenses if we were to experience financial problems in the future. Our lifetime members are Bernette Albert, John Beaulieu, Helen Beaupre, John D. Belanger, Brian J. Bouley, Carlene "Cai" Bouley, Herb Brown, Robertine Ouellette Brown, Roger D. Cormier, Harold Cote, Albert Cyr, Jeannine Carrier Daigle, Linda Devost Daigle, Francine Dionne, George Dionne, Gerard Doucette, Ronald Doucette, Linda Cote Dube, Patricia Sanfacon Gagnon, Joseph Grinnell, Nancy Cyr Halpin, Roger Lavertu, Martha Chasse Lavertu, Mona Beaulieu Levesque, James Lizotte, Gene Martin, Gerald Martin, Benoit Michaud, John Carroll Michaud, Gerard Ouellette, Benita Ouellette, Joan Levasseur Ouellette, Romeo "Pit" Parent, Rejeanne Carrier Ross, Gerald Soucy, Angela Lizotte Soucy, Chris Soucy, Dawn

Wilcox Soucy, Gordon Soucy, Therese Desrosier Soucy, Steven J. Soucy, Joseph Valere St Amand, Lorraine Cote Talbot, Jackie Guerrette Wilson.

**IN MEMORIAM** – In 2015, three members passed away: Emilien “Moddessa” Cote on March 2; Christopher “June” Cyr on September 30; Richard Corbin on December 12. Each had a strong influence on their surroundings.

**May they rest in peace.**

**THANK YOU** – Thank you all for your continued support and encouragement during 2015. We really appreciate your being there. If you might have suggestions and /or recommendations, please feel free to share. Our meetings are always open to everyone. We meet monthly, normally on the third Thursday. We try to accommodate the majority of our Directors for time and date. If you want to be notified about our meetings or if you would like a copy of the minutes, we will gladly communicate by email. Snail mail becomes expensive but we can do that if you prefer. If you have photos or stories or any input for our website, please send – our contact info is on our letterhead on the front page.

If you are local and have time on your hands, we could use your help on our website. Most of us who are retired really don't have much of a clue (probably just enough to be dangerous) and those who are not retired don't always have the time necessary to sustain timely action.

**FINANCES** – This is our financial picture as of October 1, 2015.

Checking Account    \$4,454.33; Savings Account    \$39.96; Super Shares    \$16,788.75;  
Life Members    \$8,670.97; Total money available    \$29,954.01

Grants - We received three grants in 2015 from the Maine Acadian Heritage Council (MAHC)

1. Speakers and Performers Grant - \$1,000.00; Spent \$1,081.75 \*
2. Trail Guide Grant - \$2,500.00; Spent \$2,527.20 \*\*
3. Preservation Grant - \$2,500.00; Spent \$0.00 \*\*\*

Grant Notes: \* With this grant, we built our bread oven. \*\* Trail Guides are people we hire to help us in the Museum from end of June to Labor Day. Their primary function is to serve as guides for our visitors by showing them around, and answering questions. They also do email correspondence and help keep the building clean and the display rooms in order. This past summer, we had one adult and three high school students.

\*\*\* This grant was to be used to build a Pole Barn to store & display our bigger pieces, i.e., our bob-sled replica, our one-horse open sleigh, and our ferry “The Acadian Queen”. We needed a 30' x 30' cover and we thought we could build behind the museum. But when we measured, we discovered that a building that size would take up all free space and create a snow collection problem. There is an alternative and that was one reason we did not spend the money; another was the fact that telephone/power poles are not easy to get anymore.

Maine Community Foundation Grant – In November of 2016, Leah Cook has obtained a \$2000.00 Grant to design and publish a coloring book which will hi-lite not only our bread oven but other Acadian artifacts. This coloring book will be distributed to all local schools in the Valley to grades K-5 as tool to help expose the kids to their Acadian culture and history. This will complement our Speakers & Performers Grant from the MAHC.



**Pole Barn Project** – Poles are no longer available from Emera Maine. Five months ago, another company placed us on a waiting list but no word. A third company has not even returned my call. In the spring, I'm told we will get some from the Town of Van Buren. In the meantime, we have permission from the MAHC to spend the Grant money on this project before the end of June 2016 and we will not be required to return it for failure to comply. Meanwhile we will begin buying building materials making sure we keep some money to pay for pole transport to Grand Isle and also for digging the holes. We are still on task; just a year behind schedule.

**Proposed Building Site** – Just behind our property is a 100' x 300' piece of land which belongs to the Diocese of Portland. The two properties are divided by a drainage ditch which runs the length of their property. The property was donated to the Diocese by Louis Philip Dionne Jr. in December 8, 1984. We are asking the Bishop for the entire parcel on which we plan to build our Pole Barn and in the near future a working active forge. We propose going-forward to incorporate an interactive mini-village.

**BREAD OVEN** – We were granted a \$1,000 Speakers and Performers Grant from the MAHC to help with our bread oven. Our oven is fashioned in the style of bread ovens of Quebec. Construction began during the last week of July and we baked and ate our first bread on October 8. This was an interesting challenging project involving upwards of 50 people at various stages. The oven became the object of curiosity and discussion throughout the valley and beyond from the beginning. From a simple formula combining field rocks, mortar & cement, bricks, alder branches, burlap, river clay, straw, water, a lot of elbow grease, a little miracle dust and dogged Acadian stubborn determination came delicious homemade bread. Effort very worthwhile!

**MAY BREAKFASTS** – One of our very popular fund raisers is our Weekly Sunday Breakfast in May. Every Sunday morning during the month of May, in our Museum, from 8 to 11, we serve a delicious complete cooked-to-order breakfast. Due to space limitation, we require advance reservations. This also enables us to provide you service unparalleled in the region. During the later days of April, we will be accepting reservations for May 1 (Mothers' Day), May 8, May 15, May 22, and May 29. Five Sundays in May this year. Prepare to be pampered. We look forward to seeing you. Thanks for letting us cater to you in past years. Every dollar goes into paying the bills. We aim for the highest quality at a most reasonable price. Call us at 895-6949 or 227-1177.

**HOMEMADE BREAD** - Coming up this summer, we hope to begin baking fresh bread served with bean-hole beans, butter and fresh creton. We plan on providing you with an Acadian specialty; a meal fit for a King right there in front of our Museum.

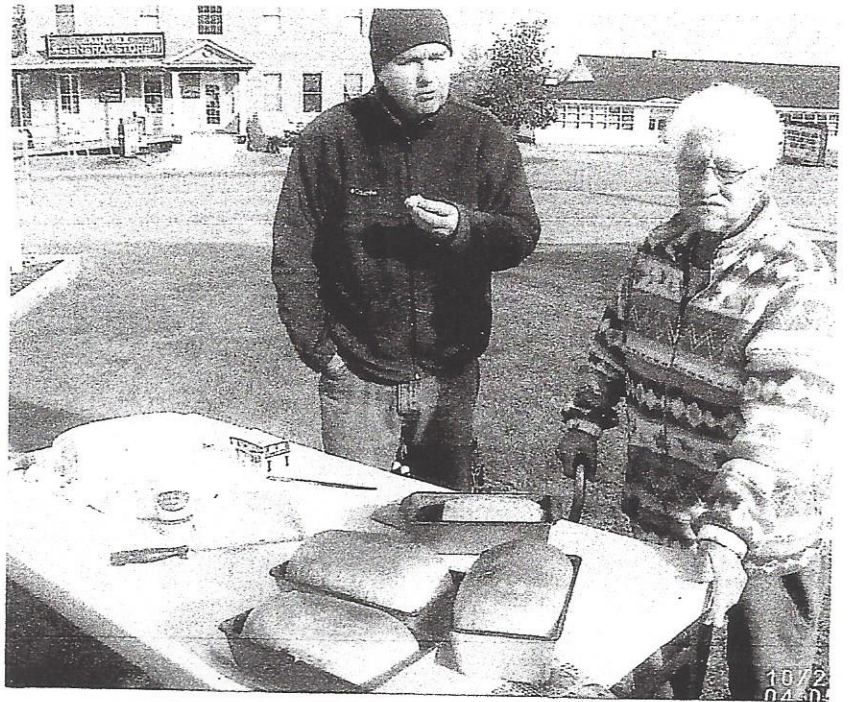
**A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES** - We also plan to sponsor a weekly family movie night with popcorn. We have a whole bunch of movies, tapes, CDs which deal with past local activities and events. We have a complete series of interviews of local people discussing their life experiences growing up in the Valley. We will have local historians who will speak to you about local Acadian history and Grand Isle history. We feel we can provide you with local entertainment at a very reasonable cost – FREE! Keep us in mind. Your museum is here for YOU!



Bread Oven Pictures



First Breads Cooked Oct 8, 15  
by Dave Wylie & Gerald Soucy



Richard Lyness & Jeannett Bouchard  
Enjoying Bread Prepared & Cooked  
by the GGIHS Bread Company

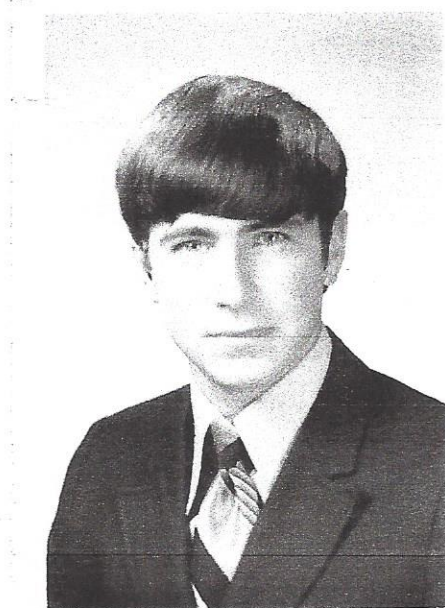
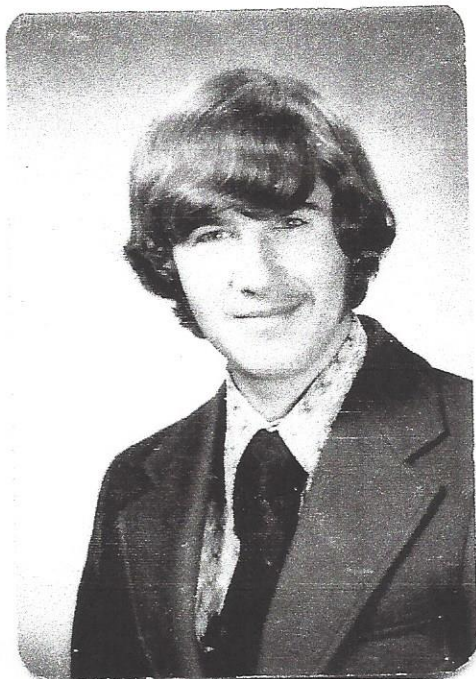


Bread Oven with  
its Winter Protective Cover



Alder Branches Shaped to Form the  
Inner Shell of the Oven





## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home/ Cell Telephone \_\_\_\_\_; Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please select your preferred membership category. Annual membership is January through December.

☐ I would like to be an *active* member. Please notify me of all meetings and all events.

☐ I prefer being a *supporting* member. Notify me only about special activities.

☐ \$20 annual fee for individual; ☐ \$10 annual fee for spouse; ☐ \$30 annual fee for couple

☐ \$250 lifetime fee; ☐ \$125 lifetime fee for spouse; ☐ \$375 lifetime fee per couple

Member – payable in \$50 consecutive annual installments = \$250 total;

Spouse – payable in \$25 consecutive annual installments = \$125 total; and

Couple — five consecutive annual payments of \$75 = \$375.

☐ \$1,000 to \$1,000-plus = Benefactor

*Make checks payable to "Greater Grand Isle Historical Society" and mail to:  
GGIHS, P.O. Box 124, Grand Isle, ME 04746*

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