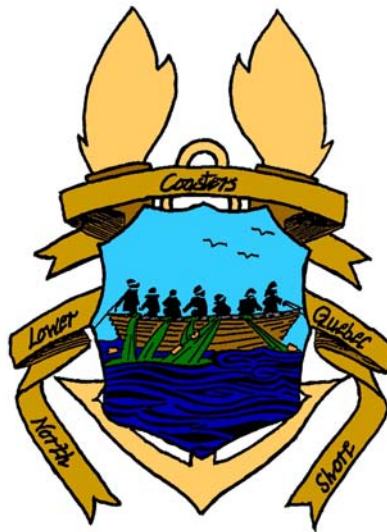


# Coasters Association Inc.



## REMEMBERING OUR HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Written and Researched by:  
Priscilla Fequet Griffin, Project Coordinator

December, 2003

# FOREWORD

The Heritage and Culture project has been sponsored by Canadian Heritage, under the Development Fund of the Support for Official Language Communities Program (Quebec Region). This pilot project was carried out in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, and it started on June 16th and ended on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003.

The Municipality of Bonne Esperance consists of three communities, Middle Bay, St. Paul's River and Old Fort Bay. Within this Municipality of eight hundred and fifty residents, there resides, ninety-nine seniors over the age of sixty five.

The primary goal was to collect information regarding the history of the senior citizens in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance through personal interviews. Each senior citizen was met on an individual basis, and his/her stories were recorded, through literature, CD-ROM and video.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Canadian Heritage must be *Thanked* foremost, for recognizing the importance of this initiative, and for providing the opportunity to the Coasters Association to gather this important data. This is a beginning in capturing the unique history of the Lower North Shore.

The senior citizens deserve a *Special Thank You* for the kind welcome into their homes, and for their openness and willingness to share their memories.

A *Very Heartwarming Thank You* to Michel Thomas for the use of his computers and his technical support. Without him, it would have been impossible to complete this project.

I cannot end without *Thanking* the Coasters Association for having faith in my abilities to complete this project. The opportunity to work with such a unique and sincere group of people, our seniors, was a memorable experience.

The Coasters Association would like to *extend their appreciation* to all those who supported the project in anyway.

Priscilla Fequet Griffin



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## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The project started on June 16, 2003, at which time a schedule of activities was produced (see annex 1). Following this, a list of all seniors (65 and up), within the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, was developed containing their ages and phone numbers (see annex 2). All seniors were contacted for their participation in this project, in which all ninety-nine were willing to take part.

A working guide was developed for the text version of the CD Rom (see annex 3). Also developed was an inventory of traditional skills and a list of possible questions to be asked (see annex 4 & 5).

Binders were created for the text version of the stories, and the researching and ordering of the necessary equipment took place.

Travel to the communities was essential, in order to meet with seniors to conduct individual interviews at which time material for the text version was collected, as well as material for the video.

A video documenting the seniors' stories and unique way of life is being produced. A CD Rom was created, (power point presentation) complete with pictures, personal information and stories of each senior in Middle Bay and St. Paul's River. Old Fort seniors did not get the opportunity to complete their stories, due to time constraints. A binder with a text version of the information gathered is available for historical, educational and research purposes.

A video presentation will be conducted at the schools in the area, all seniors and community members will be invited to attend, thus sensitizing the youth and community members about the importance of maintaining our heritage and culture through the lives experienced by the elders.

All documentation gathered will be available for future readers and users along the Lower North Shore and in the province of Quebec.





# CONCLUSION

Twenty-weeks were allocated to interview ninety-nine senior citizens, to compile all information, to produce a CD-ROM and a video; realistically it should have been a forty-week project. Time, or the lack of it, was one of the drawbacks of this project.

Nine weeks was earmarked to meet with all seniors in the Municipality of Bonne Esperance, which averaged around eleven interviews per week, which was sometimes impossible to accomplish (see annex 1).

Seniors citizens need time to feel comfortable with the interviewer and to gather their thoughts and feelings. It usually took a visit to help jog their memories, thus more than one meeting was required to fully gather all the information.

It is important to complete each individual interview before starting another, thus if the interviewer is required to go back for another visit, the information previously discussed is still fresh for both parties.

The text versions and the CD-Rom should be completed before doing the video, thus allowing the interviewer time to become familiar with the life story of the senior and what is required from them for the video. Therefore, the interviewee must visit the elders at two different intervals, the text version and the video. This is time consuming when working with senior citizens.

The Coasters association did not have the necessary equipment to complete the project and had to obtain a volunteer who was willing and prepared fully to assist with the loaning of his equipment and his time. This delayed the project at times.

A good knowledge of community and the seniors targeted is essential, due to the fact that each community on the Lower North Shore is unique, thus research on the communities should be the foundation for future projects.

It is essential that all communities have the opportunity to participate in this program. Each senior has their own unique story to tell and each community has its own traditions and culture.

Three binders (300 hundred pages), of information (senior's stories, pictures, personal data), was compiled, and is available at the Coasters office. A power-point presentation on CD-ROM of the text version, along with a Video will be available in the New Year. This will be shared with the schools and the communities of the Lower North Shore.

The Coasters Association has injected a lot of volunteer time, and money into this project. Also two individual volunteers have worked for many weeks and still are working to completing the project.

The project finished on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003, but all the work will not completed until the New Year. Nonetheless, it was a worthwhile project and the results will be rewarding.

All seniors will be given a text version of his/her story.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

- More time allotted to carry out the activities of the project.
- More time is needed for the seniors to gather their thoughts and feelings and how to express themselves, thus in most cases a second visit is required.
- Interview a maximum of two senior citizens per week. Each individual interview should be completed before interviewing another senior citizen.
- The text versions and the CD Rom should be completed before doing the video, thus allowing the interviewee time to become familiar with the person being interviewed.
- Having a good knowledge of the community and the seniors being targeted is very important, because, each community is different and unique.
- More time is required to carry out more in-depth research and to complete all the interviews, therefore a coordinator and a field worker is recommended to ensure that all the seniors Citizens in the targeted Municipality are given the same opportunity.



# Annexes



## Schedule of Activities

(Co-coordinator)

Month	Activities
<b>June, 2003</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍ Office set-up</li> <li>✍ Meet with office Staff to obtain information on project &amp; inter- office responsibilities</li> <li>✍ Familiarize with project's objectives and activities</li> <li>✍ Contact partners to inform them of project start date, and request information</li> <li>✍ Meet with President to review, discuss and sign the Rules &amp; Regulations &amp; Confidentiality agreement</li> <li>✍ Research traditional skills of the area</li> <li>✍ Research and update list of seniors in area</li> <li>✍ Research traditional skills</li> <li>✍ Contact Board resource person, David Roberts</li> <li>✍ Contact Max Cooke for information on preparing and placing material on a CD ROM</li> <li>✍ Develop a working guide for gathering and compiling information</li> <li>✍ Develop a questionnaire tool guide, and a list of question to ask the seniors</li> <li>✍ Begin contacting Seniors for their participation in the project</li> <li>✍ Produce permission form for seniors to sign</li> <li>✍ Finalize the ordering of the necessary equipment (ie: camera, ) in order to complete the project</li> </ul>
<b>July, 2003</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍ Complete contacting Seniors for their participation in the project</li> <li>✍ Meet with Seniors to gather stories, pictures &amp; traditional skills in St. Paul's River</li> <li>✍ Start compiling information gathered (if time allots)</li> <li>✍ Produce a progress report</li> </ul>
<b>August, 2003</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍ Meet with Seniors to gather stories, pictures &amp; traditional skills in Middle Bay and Old Fort</li> <li>✍ Compile information gathered (if time allots)</li> <li>✍ Produce a progress report</li> </ul>
<b>September, 2003</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍ Complete the compilation of text gathered</li> <li>✍ Complete the compilation of information gathered for the CD Rom</li> <li>✍ Produce a progress report</li> </ul>



**October, 2003**

- ✍ Produce a final report & complete the CD Rom
- ✍ Prepare presentations for schools
- ✍ Organize a community day in schools -Old Fort & St. Paul's, with seniors and community representatives
- ✍ Wrap-up project

## Annex 2

### Seniors Citizens of the Municipality of Bonne Esperance

The following listings of Senior Citizens are over the age of 65.

<b>Middle Bay</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Buckle Marcel	75	461-2400
Buckle (Joncas) Marie	69	461- 2400
Buckle (Hawco) Rita	69	461-2817
Buckle (Joncas) Philomene	68	461-2103
Burke Adelor	72	461-2640
Burke (Lavallee) Dorothy	78	461-2640
Driscoll Ernest	78	461-2088
Hobbs (Buckle) Hilda	71	461-2062
Lavallee Leo	75	461-2158
Lavallee (Buckle) Madeline	72	461- 2158
Lavallee (Buckle) Margaret	77	461-2235
Lavallee (Griffin) May	85	461-2144
Lavallee (Buckle) Theresa	83	461-2144
<b>Seniors: 13</b>		

<b>St. Paul's River</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Chevalier (Fequet) Daisy	72	379- 2336
Chevalier Dave	66	379-2940
Chevalier John	69	379-2336
Chevalier Harold	72	379-2249
Felix Conway	67	379-2067
Griffin (Buckle) Christine	75	379-2952
Goddard John	79	379-2192
Goddard (Keats) Julia	76	379-2209
Goddard (Roberts) Rita	79	379-2192
Keats (Nadeau) Anita	70	379-2091
Keats George	79	379-2163
Keats (Spingle) Kathleen	78	379-2180
Keats (Buckle) Laura	75	379-2163
Keats (Spingle) Maria	82	379-2287
Keats Percival	73	379-2091
Keats Sydney	82	379-2180
Keats (Roberts) Theresa	82	379-2142
Keats (Buckle) Maggie	82	379-2191
Keats Frank	81	461-2973
Keats (Nadeau) Hazel	73	379-2973
Maurice Alexander	69	379-????
Nadeau (Roberts) Dorothy	72	379-2276
Nadeau (Thomas) Hazel	77	379-2937
Nadeau John	75	379-2232

Nadeau (Roberts) Mary	70	379-2232
Nadeau (Thomas) Gloria	65	379-2256
Nadeau Murdock	69	379-2256
Nother George	78	379-2271
Roberts (Lavallee) Helen	82	379-2212
Roberts Howard	88	379-2251
Roberts (Keats) Ida	84	379-2251
Roberts Jack	83	379-2261
Roberts (Griffin) Leatrice	74	379-2223
Roberts Leslie	73	379-2175
Roberts (Goddard) Ruby	76	379-2170
Roberts Scott	80	379-2223
Roberts (Etheridge)Victoria	81	379-2261
Roberts (Thomas) Madeline	76	379-2117
Roberts Murdock	70	379-2003
Vera Roberts	65	379-2003
Spingle (Thomas) Kathleen	81	379-2229
Spingle George	84	379-2229
Spingle (Wellman) Georgina	78	379-2178
Thomas (Fequet) Evelyn	76	379-2961
Thomas (Woodland) Gladys	70	379-2235
Thomas Jack	77	379-2961
Thomas Leonard	74	379-2235
<b>Seniors: 47</b>		

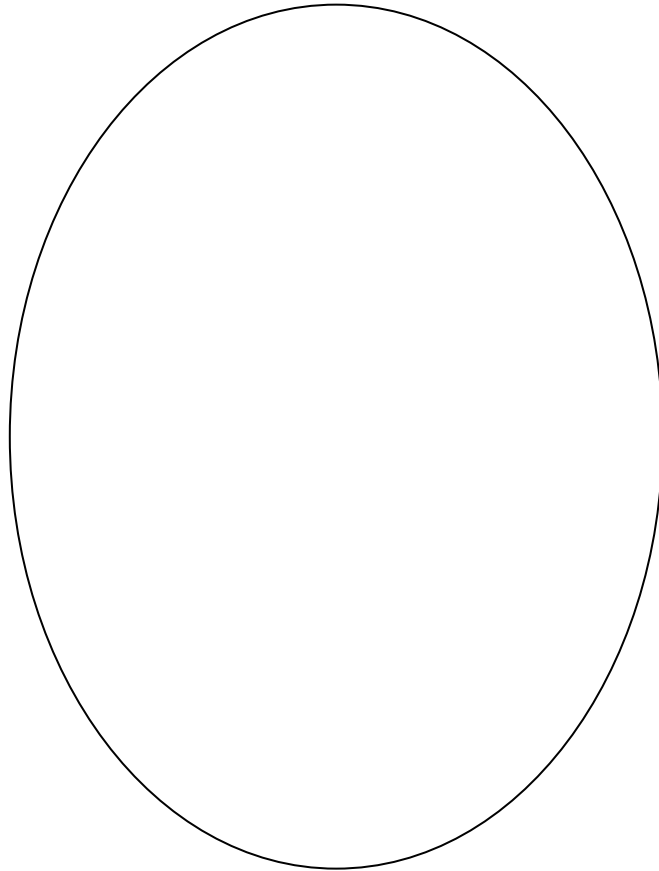
<b>Old Fort Bay</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Bilodeau Thomas	76	379-2119
Bilodeau (Wellman) Olive	71	379-2119
Buckle (Bilodeau) Annie	74	379-2216
Buckle Fred	66	379-2196
Buckle Leonard	77	379-2165
Buckle (Gallichon) May	85	379-2104
Buckle Terrance (Ted)	82	379-2216
Drudge Herman	77	379-2270
Drudge John	74	379-2939
Drudge (Lavallee) Margaret	71	379-2939
Drudge ( McDonald) Ruby	76	379-2270
Drudge Dave	68	379-2219
Drudge (Woodland) Genevieve	68	379-2219
Fequet Basil	74	379-2246
Fequet (Wellman) Pauline	68	379-2168
Fequet Clayton	73	379-2030
Fequet Daniel	71	379-2168
Fequet (Buckle) Dorothy	80	461-2144
Fequet Henry	79	379-2281
Hollis Fequet	67	379-2262
Fequet Ira	69	379-2347
Fequet (Wellman) Margaret	65	379-2246
Fequet (Fequet) Mable	79	379-2281
Fequet (Drudge) Minnie	65	379-2299

Fequet Norman	65	379-2210
Lessard Irene	72	379-2335
McDoanld (Fequet) Eva	82	379-2127
McDonald Kenneth	79	379-2127
Nadeau (Thomas) Edna	70	379-2226
Nadeau Percival	77	379-2226
Poland (Drudge)Viola	79	379-2215
Woodland Robin Leonard	70	379-2984
Wellman Albert	75	379-2034
Wellman (Woodland) Alfreda	79	379-2112
Wellman (Fequet) Bryde	67	379-2040
Wellman Lambert	73	379-2040
Woodland (Buckle) Baylis	91	379-2071
Woodland Frank	93	379-2245
Woodland (Woodland) Mary	68	379-2984
<b>Seniors: 39</b>		



**Coaster's Association**  
**Remembering our Heritage & Culture**

**Oral History**



**Full Name**



Remembering our Heritage and Culture has been sponsored by Canadian Heritage. The object of the project is to remember, appreciate and document our heritage, culture and unique way of life experienced by our elders.

This document cannot be reproduced without written authorization by the Coaster's Association.

Data collected by: Priscilla Fequet Griffin

**Coaster's Association**  
Remembering our Heritage & Culture

**Authorization Form**

I give permission to the Coaster's Association to use my story (ie: video, audio or text) for historical, educational and publication purposes.

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

Village: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Person's Name

Personal Information

Birthdate:

Place of birth:

Permanent residence:

Parents:

Date of Marriage:

Spouse:

Children:

Grandchildren:

Great-Grandchildren:

## Video Guide

➤ **Opening (5 Minutes)**

➤ **Family Life (15 Minutes)**

Homes, heating & lighting  
Bath days, wash days, meals, etc...  
Woodcutting/woodpiles  
Fishing & Trapping  
Moving to islands  
Health remedies, (ie: fur gum sab, spruce tea, etc...)  
School Life  
Childhood pranks/ teenage years  
Chores as a child

➤ **Social Life (10 Minutes)**

Playing cards  
Mummers/Jannies  
Movies  
Kitchen Parties / Dances / Sales  
Playing musical instruments

➤ **Traditional skills (20 Minutes)**

Snowshoe making  
Making seal skin boots  
Sewing/ Knitting  
Boat Building

➤ **Transportation (5 Minutes)**

Boats, Dog teams / Ski-doos

➤ **Communication (5 Minutes)**

Telegraph office, Radio, Mail

- **Changes in life time (5 Minutes)**
- **Advise to younger generation (10 Minutes)**
- ✎ **Thanks and credits (5 Minutes)**

**Total Minutes** 80 = 1 hour and twenty minutes

### Traditional Skills

Boat Building  
Making Snowshoes  
Building Sleds (komidik)  
Fishing, ie: building traps, knitting nets, mending nets, drying fish techniques  
Trapping for fur and food  
Using dog teams  
Carpentry  
Wood gathering (rafts)  
Sewing (clothes - cossacks, household necessities)  
Making seal skin boots. slippers, mittens, etc..  
Knitting  
Quilt making  
Embroidering  
Mat hooking  
Soap making  
Berry picking - jam making  
Cooking, bread, old fashion buns, dog cakes, etc...  
Washing clothes  
Homemade remedies for illnesses, ie; fir-gum sab, spruce tea, etc...  
Story telling  
Square dancing  
Operating telegraph office  
Playing musical instruments



## Oral History Questions

Middle name?

How old are you?

When and where were you born?

What do you know about your parents?

Names, where they were from?

What were they like?

Did you have brothers & Sisters? How many?

Where did you grow up as a child?

What are your earliest memories as a child?

Did you have any chores? What were they?

As a child what did you do for fun?

Can you describe school life?

Do you remember your teachers?

Can you describe your life as a teenager?

What did you do for fun?

How and where did you meet your spouse?

When and where did you marry?

What was your wedding like? How many children did you have?

What was your first home like as an adult? Who built it?

Where did you get the material?



How did you provide for your family, (ie: hunting, fishing, food, clothing, etc...)?

Did you make or use any local remedies for ailments?

What was transportation like in your day?

What was mail service like and how was it delivered?

What did you do for entertainment as an adult, (ie: mummers, dances, etc...)?

How do you feel about new technology, (ie: telephone, hydro, bathrooms, television, ski-doo, cars, etc...) and how did it change your life?

Do you remember any old stories, and/or tragedies told to you by your parents, grandparents, etc..?

Do you recall any old stories or tragedies?

Do you remember any old sayings?

What traditional skills was passed on to you by your parents?  
(Knitting Sewing, fishing, racket making, boat building, etc)

Do you still practice these skills today?

Do you feel that it is important to pass these skills on to our youth?

Looking back at your life, would you change anything?

In your life, what are you most proud of?

What words of advice would you offer to your children, grandchildren and/or great grandchildren about life?

Coaster's Association  
Remembering our Heritage & Culture  
Oral History 2003



Marcel Joseph Buckle



# Marcel Joseph Buckle

## Personal Information

Birthdate: January 15, 1928

Place of birth: Belles-Amours, Quebec

Permanent residence: Middle Bay, Quebec

Parents: John Buckle & Josephine Boland

Date of Marriage: November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1951

Spouse: Marie Alice Joncas

Children: Russell, Betty, Jeanette, Ruby, Claudette, Kevin, Ivan, Roger, Ardella, Elaine, Perry, Corey

Grandchildren: Celina, Brendon, Dean, Melanie, Matheau, Casey, Travis, Samantha, Marsha, Veronica, Charmaine, Keith, Candice, Tyrone, Pamela, Cassie, Malcom, Clive, John, Dylan, Jordan, Gene-Ray, Tysha, Marcus, Maddison

Great-Grandchildren: Nathan, Kayla, Mason



## **Marcel Joseph Buckle**

Marcel was born in Belles - Amours, which is situated outside of Middle Bay, Quebec. He was born on January 15th, 1928. His parents were John Buckle and Josephine Boland. He had five sisters and two brothers. He didn't remember much about his mother because she died when Marcel was just six years old. His father raised the family, with the help of his younger sisters. He remembers that his father was quiet and very religious, and worked hard all his life.

For the first few years of his life he lived in Belles-Amours Arms, as they called it, during the winter months and on Belles-Amours point in the summer. His family moved from Belles-Amours to Middle Bay when he started school.

As a child, Marcel loved to play on the beach with his boats and was a real tease. He recalls throwing rocks at his Uncle's house, sticking wood down stove pipes and smoking up a house, or stringing a rope across a path to trip someone down. As a teenager, he enjoyed chasing the girls, roaming around town and pulling pranks.

He started school in 1935, and went as far as grade three, and would only go to school when he felt like it. He recalls his first teacher being Miss. O'Keaf. He enjoyed school when it wasn't too cold. He had a pencil and a workbook, but usually used chalk and slates. Marcel got the strap a few times for not listening in class, or not having his homework done. He dropped out completely around the age of fourteen.

When Marcel was young, he would go to the cod trap with his farther, and he started fishing full time at the age of twelve years old with his Uncle Joe Buckle. He fished with him until he got married and then he began fishing on his own. He fished all his life and decided to take it easy when he reached the age of seventy. Marcel is a "Jack of all trades", he hunted in the spring and fall, and for five years in the early sixties he worked on the road, it was being installed from Winter House Gloush to Salmon Bay. After the fishing season was over in 1968-69, he went to work on construction at the hospital in Lourdes du Blanc Sablon.

Marcel built boats; he started by watching his father, who was also a boat builder. He built his first boat in 1956, it was a lap seam motor boat. He also built them for other people, and would get around one hundred dollars per boat. If someone wanted a boat built they would cut the logs and he would help to saw them and then build the boat. He said it was hard work, because the plank had to be sawed with a pit saw and planed with a hand plane. He also built other boats such as dories, flats, and outboard boats. He said that building the outboard boat was very easy compared to building the motor boat, which consisted of a lot more work. He built his last boat in 1993, an outboard boat.

In the winter months he was very busy and worked from daylight to dark. Keeping the wood and water going were full time jobs. He had a dog team until he bought his first ski-doo in 1968, it was a ten horse power and made hauling wood a lot easier. He picked a lot of bakeapples in his time, barrels and barrels of them. He got \$. 25 cents a pound for them. He also picked red berries, blue berries and back berries for his family.

His father taught him how to make seal skin boots, and he made them for his family. Marie's father, Alfred Joncas, taught him how to make rackets, but he only made a few pairs. He also played the fiddle and the mouth organ, which he learnt on his own, with the help of his Uncle Alfred Buckle.

Marcel grew up in the same village as his wife; they even attended school together for a while. He married Marie Joncas on November 7th, 1951, he was twenty three years of age and Marie was seventeen. They have twelve children, twenty-four grandchildren and so far three great grandchildren.

Marcel started building his home in 1953 and moved in it in 1954. Some of the material for his house came from a shipwreck in the Blanc Sablon area, the rest he cut and sawed himself. For the first few years of their marriage, they lived with Marie's parents during the winter and moved to Belles-Amours during the summer.

His fishing and carpentry skills were passed on to his sons, but only one of his sons tried boat building. Most important now is his family, and fiddling with his garden and flowers. He said that he would change nothing about his life; it was his life experiences that made him who he is today.

He would advise the young people to continue with their education, because it looks like there is nothing in the fishery.