

November 19, 1992

Wallagrass, Maine



December 12, 1937

Wilmington, Maine





IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Acadia National Park  
P.O. Box 177  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609



## MAINE ACADIAN CULTURE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Summary Report  
November 19, 1992

Present: Dr. Richard G. Dumont, Chairman  
Roger Paradis, Member  
Earle Shettleworth, Member  
C. Blackie Cyr, Member  
Dr. Victor A. Konrad, Member  
James R. Caron, Member  
John L. Martin, Member  
Geraldine P. Chasse, Member  
Bruce Jacobson, DFO/Resource Planner, ACAD/NAR, NPS  
Dick Hsu, Regional Archaeologist, NAR, NPS  
Pauline Blanchard, Program Assistant, ACAD, NPS  
Leslie Jones, Planning Clerk, ACAD, NPS  
Public and News Media

Dr. Dumont opened the meeting by recognizing those members present and declaring a quorum. Bruce Jacobson was acting as the Designated Federal Officer in the absence of Robert Reynolds.

Since the November meeting Judge Conrad Cyr resigned as a member of the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission (MACP) under obligations imposed in a new provision in the Code of Ethics, by which U.S. Justices are governed. It states that no Justice shall serve on any commission of this sort unless it's mandated by an act of legislature. The NPS will, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, initiate the process to replace Judge Cyr. The Secretary of the Interior is sending letters to local organizations in the State of Maine who have an interest in Acadian culture and inviting recommendations be made to the Secretary of the Interior for the appointment to replace Judge Cyr.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Summary Report for the September 24, 1992, meeting be accepted.

Research Topics Working Group: Earle Shettleworth submitted the report on research activities to the Commission. The working group identified three major focuses: (1) the collection survey that is referenced in the report, (2) documentation of the language of the St. John Valley, and (3) public programs that tell the story of Acadians. The subject of funding was raised, and Mr. Jacobson stated that approximately \$20,000 has been set aside to fund research this year.

Bruce Jacobson was asked to expand on the current research projects. One of the two research projects underway consists of two components in collections: one is a survey of institutional collections in Maine and New Brunswick, which is being conducted by Sheila McDonald and Ed Churchill; and the second component looks specifically at both private collections and public collections in the St. John Valley. The second part of the project is being conducted by Don Cyr and Guy Dubay. In the second research project underway, Sheila McDonald is surveying the interpretation programs.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the report of the Research Topics Working Group. Chairman Dumont discharged the working group on research topics, with the understanding that this working group may be reconvened at some future time, and expressed his appreciation for a job well done.

Public Involvement Working Group: Blackie Cyr reported on the trip that four members of the Commission made to the Village Historique Acadien in Caraquet, New Brunswick, in October. The Director of the Village devoted the entire day to the Commission members; the Commission members received "the royal treatment." The time was well spent, and Mr. Cyr suggested that the Commission express their appreciation to the members of the Village Acadien.

Mr. Cyr submitted a report on public involvement to the Commission. A rough listing of organizations and individuals believed essential to the public involvement process were identified. A list was prepared of individuals that the Commissioners serving in this working group will interview. Commissioners will be looking for input on exactly what the Commission should be doing to preserve the Acadian culture. The working group hopes to complete all the interviews by the end of 1992. It was suggested that SAD 10, other religious groups, the International Joint Commission, the National Archives and the National Library be added to this list. It was also recommended that the working group discuss with Commissioner Ives the kind of approach Commission members should adopt so they do not influence responses.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the report be accepted with the understanding that both the number of people to be interviewed as well as the lists of organizations, etc., can be added to as recommendations are received from Commission members and the public.

Mr. Cyr expressed his appreciation for Mr. Jacobson's assistance.

Chairman Dumont introduced David Taylor, who is with the American Folklife Center of the U.S. Library of Congress. Mr. Taylor was a key figure in conducting a survey of the Acadian culture in the St. John Valley in the summer of 1991. Mr. Taylor gave a slide presentation on the results of that survey.



Roger Paradis expressed a concern about the preservation of nonmaterial culture and asked if the Library of Congress might possibly assist in funding one individual to assist the Acadian Archives in accomplishing such a task. It was suggested that the Commission draft a letter to Alan Jabbour, Director of the American Folklife Center, regarding this request.

NPS Planning: The report that was prepared for Congress has been reviewed by the Commission and the National Park Service. Some changes were made to the report, and it is now being printed. It is hoped the report will be available at the next Commission meeting in January 1993.

Comments resulting from the open discussion with the Commission and the public at the last meeting in Van Buren on some of the planning issues were incorporated into the second newsletter which was distributed by the NPS. Both Chairman Dumont and Mr. Jacobson emphasized that this is an open process and that the information given at the Commission meetings is incorporated into the process.

As a result of a request at the last Commission meeting, copies of the full transcript of Commission meetings will be placed in the Van Buren, Madawaska and Fort Kent libraries, as well as in the Acadian archives at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Questions or planning issues have been identified for the planning process. The Park Service will present some alternatives, three or four different approaches, as to how the questions might be answered. A workshop on preservation of culture and another workshop on interpretation have been scheduled to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, during the month of December. Results of these workshops will be presented at either the January or March Commission meeting.

Public Comments: Roberta Savage asked if there might be an archaeological dig in the plans. Dr. Dumont responded that, in terms of the research agenda that the Commission has been looking at, none are planned by the Commission at this time. It was noted that Mrs. Rita Stadig has been involved in work of her own. Mrs. Stadig stated that she has been working on a potential dig in the Wallagrass area; however, it is at a standstill at this time.

Guy Dubay read a short paragraph from Naomi Griffiths' *THE ACADIANS, CREATION OF A PEOPLE*, which states that "The Acadians welcome any who come to them with a desire to know what the Acadians themselves feel." Mr. Dubay felt that with a change of a few words, the situation applies today and pointed out that Acadians are people with no border.

Jerry White, Superintendent of Schools in the St. Agatha and Frenchville area, asked that copies of the Commission transcripts be placed in school libraries in St. Agatha and Frenchville.



Mrs. Geraldine Chasse noted that the Acadians will be holding their Fourth Congres Mondial, the Fourth Universal Acadia Congress, in 1994 outside Moncton.

Dr. Konrad noted that many people have written about the Acadians, and he suggested that it might be useful to have a speaker series or have other people, whether they're academics or folklorists or others - people who have evaluated the Acadian experience in some way, address the Commission.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 1993, in Madawaska, Maine.

The Working Group on Public Involvement is asked to report on strategies at that meeting, and a representative from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Rhode Island and Massachusetts will address the Commission.

Other: Chairman Dumont expressed his appreciation to the Wallagrass Elementary School for hosting the meeting, and he thanked the members of the St. Joseph's Youth Ministry for providing the refreshments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.





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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Acadia National Park  
P.O. Box 177  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609



## Agenda MAINE ACADIAN CULTURE PRESERVATION COMMISSION November 19, 1992

The meeting will convene at 7:00 P.M. at the Wallagrass Elementary School on the Church Road (Route 11) in Soldier Pond, Aroostook County, Maine.

The eleven-member Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Act (PL 101-543). The purpose of the Commission is to advise the National Park Service with respect to:

- the development and implementation of an interpretive program of Acadian culture in the state of Maine; and
- the selection of sites for interpretation and preservation by means of cooperative agreements.

The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

- Review and approval of minutes from September 24, 1992 meeting
- Report of Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission working groups (Public Involvement Strategies, Research Topics)
- Presentation by the American Folklife Center
- Report of the National Park Service planning team
- Opportunity for public comment
- Proposed agenda, place and date of the next Commission meeting

The meeting is open to the public. Further information concerning Commission meetings may be obtained from the Superintendent, Acadia National Park. Interested persons may make oral/written presentations to the Commission or file written statements. Such requests should be made to the Superintendent.







## Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission

### Research Working Group Report

November 19, 1992

The Research working group members are: Earle Shettleworth, Jr., chair; Roger Paradis; Geraldine Chasse; Victor Konrad; and Sandy Ives. The group met once and has communicated via mail and phone.

To provide background information for the planned preservation and interpretation program, the National Park Service conducted a study of Maine Acadian Culture in cooperation with the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress. During June and July 1991, an interdisciplinary team of researchers investigated Acadian culture, concentrating on the Saint John Valley. The findings of the study are contained in the report, *Acadian Culture in Maine*.

The initial folklife survey has documented much of cultural importance—especially given that field work was limited to two months—but the report must not be regarded as a sufficient base for future programming and preservation efforts. Much has yet to be discovered and understood about Acadians in Maine. A systematic, extended, in-depth documentary survey of the culture is needed. The National Park Service will develop, gather, compile, store, analyze, and update information about natural and cultural resources and regional demographic, ethnographic, and socioeconomic data relevant to planning and implementation. Based on a clearly-stated research design, the methodologies employed will include literature reviews, participant observation, mini-surveys, life histories and other oral history, analysis of census data, archival research, and in-depth interviews. Research will include members of the Acadian community as research associates and others from the community as reviewers, providing feedback on the end products. All research will be interdisciplinary in nature. The Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission will advise the National Park Service regarding the study of Acadian Culture in Maine.

The working group examined eleven different potential research topics including archeology, architecture, cultural land use, ethnic ascription/group identity, folklife, historical documents, linguistics, material culture, natural resources, cultural demography, and religion and world view. Work in progress by NPS on collections, described below, is endorsed by the working group. In addition, we suggest that NPS focus on the study of language in 1993. If possible, linguistic study in the Upper St. John Valley and vicinity would include: (a) basic phonological analysis, documentation, and comparison with other New and Old World French forms; (b) applied socio- and psycho linguistic study to determine the character and depth of attitudes about language use; (c) ethno linguistic study to identify significant Acadian French lexical domains and to collect lexical items associated with farming, logging, carpentry, weaving, folk ritual, plants, animals, the weather, and other areas of traditional knowledge; (d) French place-name study. Also, the French spoken in the St. John Valley is primarily an oral tradition. One way to preserve the language is to create a dictionary of Valley French and such a dictionary should be encouraged. (A glossary of architectural terms was prepared as part of the 1991 research.)

While a full architectural survey is beyond the available scope of funds at this time, a preliminary survey of architecture in the St. John Valley would be helpful. The working group suggests that some research regarding architecture be initiated in 1993.

**Collections Survey.** A survey of collections that relate to Maine Acadian culture was begun in September 1992. The project is a telephone/questionnaire survey to provide basic knowledge about collections held by institutions in Maine and New Brunswick. Information about documentary — letters, manuscripts, books, photographs, drawings, newspapers, notes, audio and video tapes, films, files, etc. — and material cultural — artifacts, furniture, architectural details, small household and farm objects, costumes, local industrial objects, tools, folk-arts materials, religious objects, political paraphernalia, geographical sites, crafts, etc. — resources will be collected. The final product will be a report identifying the collections identified and a brief description of their



nature. The project is being conducted by Shelia McDonald and Ed Churchill and will be completed by January 30, 1993.

In conjunction with the survey of Maine and New Brunswick collections, a special effort is underway in St. John Valley. First, local institutions will be assisted in completing the survey forms developed as part of the broader survey. Second, a survey of private collections will be conducted in the St. John Valley. The final product will be a report identifying the private collections discovered and a brief description of their nature. The report, to be completed by January 30, 1993, will also include a summary of contacts made with local institutions and the assistance they were provided. Two researchers are assisting with the project: Don Cyr is dealing with material culture and Guy Dubay is dealing with documentary resources.

Acadia National Park's collections contain resources that may be important in developing an interpretation and preservation program. The founder of the Islesford Historical Museum, William Otis Sawtelle, had a consuming interest in the history of the region that led him to collect tools, town records, books, and maps from the colonial period through the early 20th century. Although it is largely uncatalogued, park staff are aware that the Islesford collection contains books and maps pertaining to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Maine (Massachusetts) history. In addition, the collection contains information concerning the St. Sauveur and St. Croix 17th-century settlements. The park's collections will be surveyed to identify materials that relate to Acadian culture in Maine. Anticipated products include a bibliographic listing of pertinent books and a listing of map materials. The survey will be conducted by NPS staff under the supervision of Deb Wade, Chief of Interpretation. It will be completed by November 20, 1992.



# Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission

## Public Involvement Working Group Report

November 19, 1992

The Public Involvement working group is comprised of Commission members, C. "Blackie" Cyr, (chair), James Caron, and Judy Paradis. The working group has met three times with Bruce Jacobson, Resource Planner, National Park Service. This report contains the groups recommendations to the Maine Acadian Culture Preservation Commission which will advise the National Park Service on the design and implementation of a public consultation strategy.

Throughout the process of planning for the preservation and interpretation of Acadian culture in Maine, opportunities will be provided for the public at national, regional, and local levels to voice their concerns about planning and implementation of the Maine Acadian culture project proposals. Although certain consultations with specific parties and agencies are required by law, regulation, and National Park Service policies, positive actions need to be taken to identify and involve the public as individuals, and through public interest groups and organizations, at the earliest possible stages in the planning process and before planning decision have been made.

To this end, the Public Involvement working group has identified several groups of people, including church groups, historical societies, service clubs, etc., from which a response will be sought during the planning process (see attached list of identified publics). Thirty-three "key respondents" have been identified who know the viewpoints and concerns of the constituent groups. Key respondents will be individually interviewed by working group members and NPS planning team staff. The purpose of these consultations are :

- to define the issues and alternatives that will be examined in detail, while simultaneously devoting less attention and time to issues which cause no concern
- to help ensure that proposals adequately address relevant issues, reducing the possibility that new comments will cause a proposal to be rewritten or supplemented
- to generate interest and participation in the interpretive and preservation programs conducted as part of the project

A variety of media will be employed to provide opportunities for broader public participation including workshops and meetings, informal work sessions on particular issues, public review and comment on draft documents, and video formats. Some activities may be conducted in French.

The Committee will continue to work with NPS to make certain that communication with the public remains open, via the media, newsletters, and face-to-face meetings. If the park service and the Commission are to be successful, it is critical we communicate with the public so that they are motivated to be actively involved.

## Identified Publics

Many groups and individuals will be involved in the consultation process. A partial list follows, to be supplemented as the process continues.

### Acadian cultural groups/museums in Maine:

- Acadian Heritage Society (Rumford-Mexico)
- Madawaska Acadian Festival Committee
- family association groups

### Acadian cultural groups in United States:

- Worldwide Acadian Congress
- Louisiana groups
- New England groups

### Acadian cultural groups/museums in Canada:

- Le Pays de la Sagouine (Bouctouche, N.B. )
- Village Historique Acadien(Cararquet, N.B. )

### federal agencies:

- Canadian Parks Service
  - Atlantic Region
- Acadian Consultative Committee
- The Survival of the Acadians National Historic Site/Le lieu historique natinal de la survivance du peuple Acadien(Memramcook Valley, N.B.)
- Library of Congress, American Folklife Center
- National Park Service
  - Acadia National Park
  - Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
  - St. Croix Island International Historic Site
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### state agencies:

- Governor's Office
- Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Transportation
- Maine Arts Commission
- Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the state historic preservation officer
- Department of Education, Division of Curriculum, Title VII Bilingual Program
- Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism
- Maine State Museum
- State Planning Office

### local governments in St. John Valley:

- County Commissioners
- Town Managers

### local religious groups in St. John Valley:

- Daughters of Wisdom (address?)
- Knights of Columbus/Columbiettes
- Ladies of St. Ann
- parish priests

### local/regional historical societies/museums:

- Acadian Village, Notre Vivant/Our Living Heritage (Van Buren)
- Allagash Historical Society



Aroostook Count Historical and Art Museum (Caribou)  
 Association d'écriture Trois Frontières, Inc. (Edmundston)  
 Caribou Historical Society  
 Caswell Historical Society  
 Centre d'accueil Malobiannh (Grand-Sault)  
 Centre de recherches généalogiques (Saint-Léonard-Parent)  
 Cercle culturel et historique Hilarion Cyr (St. Leonard)  
 Connors Historical Society  
 Edmundston Historical Society  
 Fort Kent Historical Society  
 Frenchville Historical Society  
 L'Association culturelle et historique (Saint-Basile)  
 L'association culturelle et historique du Mont-Carmel (Lille)  
 Madawaska Historical Society  
 Maine's Swedish Colony, Inc.  
 New Canada Historical Society  
 New Sweden Historical Society  
 Olaf Nylande Museum (Caribou)  
 Presque Isle Historical Society  
 St. Agatha Historical Society  
 La Société Culturelle et historique (Rivière-Verte)  
 La Société Historique de Clair  
 La Société du Madawaska, Inc. (Edmundston)  
 St. Francis Historical Society  
 Sinclair Historical Society  
 Soldier Pond Historical Society  
 Stockholm Historical Society  
 Van Buren Historical Society (?)

local business and tourism groups in St. John Valley:

Business and Professional Women of Aroostook County  
 Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce  
 Greater Madawaska Chamber of Commerce  
 St. John Valley Visitors Bureau  
 Madawaska Community Development Office

local recreational groups in St. John Valley:

hunting and fishing clubs  
 snowmobile clubs

local agricultural groups in St. John Valley:

Aroostook Family Farm Core  
 Maine Potato Growers Board

educational community:

Centre universitaire Saint-Louis-Maillet, Université de Moncton (Edmundston)  
 Centre de documentation de d'études madawaskayennes  
 Madawaska school district  
 MSAD 24 (Van Buren)  
 MSAD 27 (Fort Kent)  
 MSAD 33 (Frenchville)  
 University of Maine at Fort Kent  
 Acadian Archives/Archives acadienne  
 University of Maine at Presque Isle  
 Aroostook County Historical Center  
 University of Maine (Orono)

Canadian American Center  
Franco-American Centre  
University of Maine System, Chancellor's Office  
University of Maine Cooperative Extension (Presque Isle)  
College Maillet Universitaire Nouveau Brunswick (Moncton)  
Abel J. Morneault Memorial Library (Van Buren)  
Fort Kent Public Library  
Madawaska Public Library

local youth groups in St. John Valley:  
boy scouts

local service organizations in St. John Valley:  
Optimists

local senior groups in St. John Valley:  
Area Agency on Aging

performance groups:  
Chantes l'Acadia  
St. John dance group

artisan and crafts groups:

local environmental groups in St. John Valley:  
Upper St. John Land Trust

regional planning groups:  
Association of Aroostook Chambers of Commerce  
Northern Maine Regional Planning Commission (Caribou)

Native Americans:  
Aroostook Band of Micmacs

other interested parties:  
American Anthropological Association  
Maine Association of Museums  
Maine Community Alliance  
Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History  
The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter  
Quebec Labrador Foundation, Atlantic Center for the Environment



Transcript of Proceedings

Meeting of the  
MAINE ACADIAN CULTURE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wallagrass School  
Soldier Pond, Maine

19 November 1992  
7:00 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Dr. Richard G. Dumont, Chairman  
Mr. Roger Paradis  
Mr. Earle Shettleworth  
Mr. C. Blackie Cyr  
Dr. Victor A. Konrad  
Mr. James R. Caron  
Mr. John L. Martin  
Mrs. Geraldine P. Chasse

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Janice E. Halteman, RPR

BROWN KEENE & HALTEMAN  
Post Office Box 1538  
Bangor, Maine 04401

1           CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Good evening, ladies and  
2 gentlemen, and welcome. My pleasure to welcome you  
3 to this, the third meeting of the Maine Acadian  
4 Culture Preservation Commission. I would like to,  
5 for the record, recognize the attendance this  
6 evening of the following Commission members:  
7 Beginning at my far left, Geraldine Chasse, Speaker  
8 John Martin, James Caron, Victor Konrad, Blackie  
9 Cyr, Earle Shettleworth, and Roger Paradis.

10           In accordance with the bylaws, I declare there  
11 is a quorum at this meeting. We need six, and we  
12 certainly have that.

13           Since our last meeting, we have received  
14 notification from Commissioner Judge Conrad Cyr of  
15 his necessary resignation from this Commission. The  
16 Judge received notice of a new provision in -- I  
17 believe it's Code 5(G) of the Code of Ethics by  
18 which U.S. Justices are -- by which they are  
19 governed, and that Code says that no Justice shall  
20 serve on any Commission of this sort unless it's  
21 mandated by an act of legislature. So he felt an  
22 obligation. As he described it, this was a  
23 nondiscretionary resignation. The National Park  
24 Service will, in consultation with the Secretary of  
25 the Department of the Interior, initiate a process



1           for a replacement.

2           At this time I would like to ask Bruce if he  
3           would comment on that, please.

4           MR. JACOBSON: Judge Cyr was in a category of  
5           appointments to the Commission that are from state  
6           and local groups, recommendations made to the  
7           Secretary of the Interior by state and local groups.  
8           And so at this time the Secretary of the Interior is  
9           sending letters to local organizations in the St.  
10          John Valley, as well as organizations in the state  
11          of Maine who have an interest in Acadian culture,  
12          and inviting recommendations be made to the  
13          Secretary of the Interior on future Commission -- on  
14          a Commission member to replace Judge Cyr because of  
15          his unfortunate resignation. So if you are in a  
16          local organization, and within the next two weeks or  
17          a month you don't receive a letter requesting  
18          recommendations, please give me a call, and make  
19          sure that we do receive recommendations from you.  
20          Any state or local organization that is interested  
21          in making recommendations to the Secretary of the  
22          Interior for the appointment to replace Judge Cyr  
23          will be heard. So if you have an interest, please  
24          make sure that your interest is known to us.

25          CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Incidentally, for the record,

1 just speaking was Bruce Jacobson, who this evening  
2 is representing Bob Reynolds, who is the Federal  
3 Officer designated to staff this Commission. Thank  
4 you, Bruce.

5 In accordance with the bylaws, as Chair I  
6 certify that I have received and I have read the  
7 transcript of the September 24, 1992, meeting of  
8 this Commission that was held in Van Buren, and that  
9 I would like to also remind those present that a  
10 copy of this transcript is available to the public  
11 at the Acadian Archives of the University as well as  
12 the libraries in Madawaska and Van Buren.

13 Along with your agendas for this particular  
14 meeting, fellow Commissioners, you received a  
15 summary report of the September 24th, 1992, meeting  
16 of the Commission, and at this time I would  
17 entertain a motion to approve the summary report.

18 MR. CARON: So moved.

19 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Moved by Commissioner Caron.

20 MR. MARTIN: Seconded.

21 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Seconded by Commissioner  
22 Martin. Any discussion? Hearing none, I sense  
23 you're ready for a vote. All those in favor please  
24 indicate by raising a hand? Those opposed? It's  
25 unanimous, thank you.



1           At this time I would like to call on Earle  
2           Shettlesworth, who chairs our committee -- working  
3           group, rather, on research topics, and also working  
4           with Earle on that committee is Geraldine Chasse,  
5           Sandy Ives, Victor Konrad, and Roger Paradis.  
6           Earle?

7           MR. SHETTLEWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
8           would like to submit to the Commission a report  
9           dated November 19th, which will bring you up to date  
10          on our research activities. I would like to just  
11          distribute this to the Commission members, and then  
12          there will also be copies for the public as well.

13          CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Thank you.

14          MR. SHETTLEWORTH: I think just by way of  
15          summary I would say that in our deliberations as a  
16          committee, I think we have come up with two major  
17          focuses. One is -- and it's already underway -- the  
18          collection survey that's referenced in the report.  
19          And secondly, we also found there were many research  
20          topics that we considered; that we felt that the  
21          documentation of the language of the St. John Valley  
22          was the primary one that we wanted to focus on, and  
23          we're working with Bruce Jacobson of the National  
24          Park Service staff to see how that can be  
25          implemented.

1           And I would also bring to the Chairman's  
2           attention that we feel that as a committee we have  
3           served our initial charge, and that at this time it  
4           would be appropriate for you to consider our task  
5           completed, and that we no longer function as a  
6           committee until you feel that it's necessary once  
7           again for us to look into the research topics.

8           CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Thank you. Do any members of  
9           the Commission have any comment or question of Earle  
10          regarding this report?

11          MR. MARTIN: Chairman.

12          CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Yes.

13          MR. MARTIN: Part of it will involve a cost.  
14          How much of that -- the architectural study, who --  
15          where are we going to get the money, or is the Park  
16          Service going to provide that?

17          MR. SHETTLEWORTH: Bruce?

18          MR. JACOBSON: We do have some funds that we  
19          have set aside for research this year, and those  
20          funds are in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

21          MR. SHETTLEWORTH: And Bruce, maybe you could  
22          just explain in a little more detail about how those  
23          funds have been broken down to date, in terms of the  
24          collection survey, and then what we would be doing  
25          beyond that.



1           MR. JACOBSON: Okay. We have really three --  
2           two research projects underway now. One is to look  
3           at collections that are held in the St. John Valley,  
4           and throughout the state of Maine and New Brunswick,  
5           that would have materials that would be of relevance  
6           to Acadians and understanding Acadians in the state  
7           of Maine. That work is being conducted in two  
8           components. One is a state-wide survey of Maine and  
9           New Brunswick which is being conducted by Sheila  
10          McDonald and Ed Churchill.

11                 The second component is looking specifically at  
12          the St. John Valley, both private collections and  
13          public collections held by institutions. And that  
14          part of the project is being conducted by Don Cyr  
15          and Guy Dubay. So that's kind of the collections  
16          component.

17                 The second project that's underway now is a  
18          survey of public programs that tell the story of  
19          Acadians, any public program that might exist in  
20          Maine or New Brunswick and also some parts of  
21          Quebec. And we're trying to -- at the Park Service  
22          we call these kinds of public programs interpretive  
23          programs, interpretation. So we're asking Sheila  
24          McDonald again to take that project forward. And so  
25          she's doing a survey of any museum or school or

1 historical society or any other kind of institution  
2 that tries to tell the story, the Acadian story.

3 Those two projects are underway now, although  
4 the funding for those two projects was in the last  
5 fiscal year's budget, so that's already paid for.  
6 So the \$20,000 or the approximately \$20,000 we have  
7 available would be for the research we would conduct  
8 in 1993.

9 Does that answer your question?

10 MR. SHETTLEWORTH: Yes. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Any other questions or  
12 comments in this report? If not, I would entertain  
13 a motion to accept the report on behalf the  
14 Commission.

15 MR. MARTIN: (Gesturing)

16 MRS. CHASSE: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Speaker Martin, and  
18 Commissioner Chasse second? All those in favor?  
19 Thank you. Unanimous.

20 In accord with your suggestion, Commissioner  
21 Shettlesworth, I will at this point discharge the  
22 working group on research topics, and thank you very  
23 much for a job well done, with the understanding  
24 that we may reconvene that group at some future  
25 time.



1           At this time I would like to request Blackie  
2           Cyr, who chairs the working group on public  
3           involvement strategies, and who has been assisted in  
4           that effort by Commissioner Caron, Representative  
5           Judy Paradis, if he would please report on behalf of  
6           that group.

7           MR. CYR: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would like  
8           to start the report by reporting to the Commission  
9           on the trip that a few of the members made to the  
10          Village Historique Acadien in Caraquet, New  
11          Brunswick on October -- Tuesday, October 20, I  
12          believe is what it was.

13          The group had organized because of interest  
14          that they had in seeing what existed at Caraquet.  
15          Unfortunately, only four of the Commissioners were  
16          able to participate in the trip to Caraquet. But  
17          let me assure the rest of the group that the royal  
18          treatment that we got in Caraquet, the time they  
19          spent with us, I believe that the Commission should  
20          sometime express our gratitude to this -- to the  
21          Caraquet organization, because, you know, they  
22          opened every door, they had -- they spent all the  
23          time that was needed. The director of the Village  
24          was at our disposal all day, gave us everything that  
25          he had that we wanted to look at, every building

1 they had, showed us around. I'm telling you, we  
2 received the royal treatment. The only  
3 disappointment I had was that the Park Service made  
4 the arrangements at Caraquet, and they came back to  
5 me and said you're to meet with Antonio Landry and  
6 Genevieve Thereault. When we got there, Genevieve  
7 turned out to be Jean Yves. It's funny how you can  
8 suffer in the translation. But other than that,  
9 they made us also -- they furnished us with free  
10 booklets. They're not free when you're visiting  
11 there, because they sell these books. But this one  
12 is extremely well done. It's all in colored  
13 photography, and it explains the Village. Every  
14 house on that complex is explained, and it's called  
15 "Hier l'Acadie". And then this one, the defrischeur  
16 d'eaux, which is -- I'm not sure if I can tell you  
17 what that would be in English, but it's people that  
18 work with water, anyway. And it's because of -- les  
19 abboiteau. Did you have a word for it?

20 DR. KONRAD: Relates to the marshes.

21 MR. CYR: The way they treated the marshes in  
22 that area. Other than that, they provided each of  
23 us with a bag of gros farine, which is a flour they  
24 prepare in one of their own mills there, and they  
25 gave us jam that they also prepare. And we took Mr.



1 Landry to a local restaurant and had lunch with him  
2 and enjoyed his company tremendously. And I want to  
3 reassure the Commission that we got royal treatment,  
4 and I hope that we do express our thanks as a  
5 Commission to the Village Acadien.

6 Did you want me to continue with the rest of  
7 the report on the public involvement?

8 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: If you would, please.

9 MR. CYR: I would also like to submit to the  
10 Commission the written report that we have here, and  
11 to also make the Commission aware that we've met  
12 probably since the last time this morning, and with  
13 Mr. Jacobson's help we have put together a rough  
14 agenda of the things that we believe would be  
15 essential in continuing the public involvement. We  
16 have a list here of -- yes, I guess you have it all  
17 on there also. It's a prepared list of the  
18 organizations and the individuals that we believe  
19 should be made aware. We should have their input,  
20 and it includes all the Acadian cultural groups in  
21 Maine, Acadian culture groups in Canada, all the  
22 federal agencies, state agencies, the local  
23 governments in the St. John Valley, the religious  
24 groups in the Valley, historical groups in the  
25 Valley, long list there; local businesses and

1 tourism groups, recreational groups in the St. John  
2 Valley, agricultural groups in the St. John Valley,  
3 the educational committee, the local youth groups,  
4 the service organizations of the St. John Valley,  
5 senior citizen groups in the Valley, performance  
6 groups, artist and craft groups, local environment  
7 groups, regional planning groups, Native Americans,  
8 and other interested parties.

9 Also, we have prepared a list of individuals  
10 that the Commissioners serving on this committee  
11 have agreed to interview. There will be  
12 approximately ten interviews per Commissioner, and  
13 we will be looking for input on their thoughts and  
14 their ideas on what exactly this Commission should  
15 be doing to preserve the Acadian culture. And I  
16 believe we're in hopes of having those interviews  
17 done before the end of the current year.

18 I believe that about concludes the activities  
19 that we've had, Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Thank you, Commissioner Cyr.  
21 Anyone have any questions or comments?

22 MRS. CHASSE: Yes, I would like to ask Blackie,  
23 your list here that you submitted of the  
24 organizations, have they been -- have you been  
25 contacted, Blackie, or -- a key person to contact,



1 or are they just the list of these organizations?

2 MR. CYR: This is a list of the organizations  
3 that we believe should be contacted.

4 MRS. CHASSE: Okay.

5 MR. CYR: And most of these are now on the  
6 mailing list of the newsletter, so that they're  
7 getting some input at this time. And I believe --  
8 I'm pretty sure we have the names -- although it  
9 doesn't appear on that list, we do have the names of  
10 several of the head people in the group. I don't  
11 believe we have a hundred percent, but we certainly  
12 have quite a few of them.

13 MRS. CHASSE: Thank you.

14 MR. MARTIN: Just a quick comment on  
15 educational community. SAD 10 should be added to  
16 that list, Allagash. And that I wonder, Blackie,  
17 going to the religious groups, you listed only the  
18 Daughters of Wisdom, but I assume that the others  
19 should be included.

20 MR. CYR: It was probably for a lack of knowing  
21 exactly who these groups are at this point. I was  
22 -- at one time knew what we had. But it does appear  
23 that I'm not familiar with all of them, and it  
24 certainly is a possibility we should do more  
25 research on that.

1           MR. MARTIN: Maybe we should, because you have  
2 four. Franciscans, the Good Shepherds in Van Buren,  
3 you've obviously got the Daughters of Wisdom. Let's  
4 see. Which other groups were here? Who were the  
5 Gray Nuns in -- were they in Frenchville? They  
6 left. But for example, take the Franciscans. The  
7 historical material that they have on particular  
8 Fort Kent and Eagle Lake and Wallagrass is  
9 unbelievable. In fact, there was a book that I have  
10 a copy of that's done in French that talks literally  
11 of the development of those parishes. I don't know  
12 if any of you or anyone else has seen them.

13           MR. CYR: Are they still somewhere to be  
14 found?

15           MR. MARTIN: They're in Fort Kent.

16           MR. CYR: They're still -- because I remember  
17 talking to someone at one time, and they weren't  
18 sure.

19           MR. MARTIN: The Mercies have replaced them in  
20 Eagle Lake, but they really don't have the history.  
21 And the Mercies were a religious or diocesan order  
22 that was not in the Valley.

23           MR. CYR: Okay, Bruce.

24           MRS. CHASSE: Your Daughters of Wisdom,  
25 Blackie --

1 MR. CYR: I remember we discussed that at one  
2 time.

3 MRS. CHASSE: The Daughters of  
4 Wisdom --

5 GUY DUBAY: They're the Rosary Nuns.

6 MR. MARTIN: They're the Rosary Nuns, still in  
7 Frenchville? The Rosary Nuns are still in  
8 Frenchville, I'm told, Blackie.

9 MR. CYR: We'll be researching the nuns.

10 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Any other comments or  
11 questions about this report?

12 MR. MARTIN: One other comment, federal agency,  
13 to Bruce? How about the Border Commission?

14 MR. JACOBSON: Good idea.

15 MR. MARTIN: What's it called?

16 MR. JACOBSON: We'll get a name.

17 DR. KONRAD: International Joint Commission.

18 MR. MARTIN: International Joint Commission.

19 Okay.

20 DR. KONRAD: And I would also suggest here for  
21 the Canadian side of it, the National Archives and  
22 the National Library. It has a tremendous  
23 collection. It has a very good photograph  
24 collection which could be worth something.

25 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: National Archives?



1           MR. CYR: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if this is  
2 the correct forum, but we've amassed, I'm going to  
3 say, about -- would you say about 30 names of  
4 individuals, 33? And I'm sure that if there are  
5 members on this Commission or people in the audience  
6 that have people they think should be interviewed  
7 regarding their thoughts, that they make them known  
8 to us, and we certainly would make every effort to  
9 have a contact made.

10           CHAIRMAN DUMONT: I think that's very  
11 appropriate. Any other comments?

12           MRS. CHASSE: Yes. The -- now, we received  
13 this a little bit this morning. Now, the purpose of  
14 this interview, what is it for now? Is it for  
15 setting policies?

16           MR. CYR: No, it's for an input.

17           MRS. CHASSE: For an input. Okay.

18           MR. CYR: On what people's different versions  
19 of what this Commission should be performing, what  
20 it should be doing. And I guess probably the  
21 biggest question that we have, at least in our own  
22 mind, is how are we going to put their answers  
23 together, because that -- you know, even  
24 interviewing 30 people can get to be quite a task in  
25 just putting this in some sort of format so that it

1 would mean something. So -- but I'm sure we're  
2 going to arrive at something that makes sense to  
3 this Commission.

4 DR. KONRAD: Are you -- are you going to have  
5 an instrument, some kind of a survey form?

6 MR. CYR: Yes, we are going to have a survey  
7 form. But also, on other hand, discussed thoroughly  
8 again this morning is that we want to probe, but we  
9 do not really think we should have a structured  
10 thing when we talk to these people. In other words,  
11 you know, at least my personal feeling is that this  
12 culture has come from the people. If I structure  
13 the questions, I may be structuring the answer also,  
14 to some degree. So we want to have some guidelines  
15 as to what we'll be talking about, but we want the  
16 input to come from the people.

17 CHAIRMAN DUMONT: You might want to use a kind  
18 of a semi-structured approach, but you list the  
19 topics so that you don't forget a topic, and that  
20 each person would be asked to comment on a  
21 particular topic without asking them in a leading  
22 way so as to generate a bias. Put some key things  
23 together that I think would probably bring out at  
24 least some of the things that we want, and I'm sure  
25 it's going to bring up some of the things we haven't

1           thought of at all.

2           DR. KONRAD: I would suggest that perhaps a  
3           discussion with Commissioner Ives would be  
4           appropriate at that point, because he's made a  
5           career of it.

6           MR. MARTIN: I was commenting earlier to you,  
7           Dr. Dumont, you might want to take a look at what  
8           the eighth grade students in Eagle Lake did, which  
9           was turned out to be an hour and a half VCR tape  
10          which was shown. I saw parts of it last week. And  
11          that was -- it was a semi-structured program. I  
12          mean, we went in and basically -- and they took each  
13          one of us individually. They took, I want to say  
14          about 20 people in the community; went in, and we  
15          would sit in the classroom with Dr. Dumont's spouse  
16          as the teacher, but the teacher was not involved,  
17          the students did it all. And they would basically  
18          all sit around, and they were taping us as they did  
19          each one. And the questions would just come. They  
20          had questions which they knew they wanted to touch  
21          on. And if I didn't touch on them, they would say,  
22          well, how about this or how about that?

23          And then they also were involved in doing the  
24          selection of what part of the interviews would end  
25          up in the program. It really is an amazing --



1           amazing hour-and-a-half presentation that they put  
2           together.

3           MRS. CHASSE:   What age group, John?

4           MR. MARTIN:   Eighth grade.

5           MR. CYR:   Mr. Chairman, one of the topics that  
6           was discussed and brought out in one of our meetings  
7           is that, you know, at least my thoughts and versions  
8           of it was that it could very well be that too much  
9           structure in our interviews may tend to exclude more  
10          than what it will include.  In other words, you  
11          know, if we structure the interviews to a point that  
12          expressed thoughts that this Commission has, it may  
13          not leave the person being interviewed free to  
14          express exactly what it is.  So -- and I think your  
15          suggestion of having just key items that we would  
16          like to, you know, hit, and let them bring out their  
17          thoughts, I think is going to be as a --

18          MR. MARTIN:   For example, what the students did  
19          was, "how about the schools?" "Would you tell us  
20          about the early schools in town, what you  
21          remember?" "How about" -- "how did people travel"  
22          -- those are the types of questions.

23          CHAIRMAN DUMONT:  They were very open.

24          MR. MARTIN:   Very open.  You could talk --

25          CHAIRMAN DUMONT:  Go any way you want.

1           MR. CYR: I suppose that this may take -- I  
2           suppose we could put volumes and volumes of this  
3           together and it would all be very interesting, but  
4           it would appear that for the purpose of this  
5           Commission we're going to have to at least pick what  
6           we think is the things that have to come out. But  
7           I'm sure it's going to be very interesting.

8           CHAIRMAN DUMONT: I agree. If there's no  
9           further discussion on this item, the Chair would  
10          entertain a motion to accept this report with the  
11          understanding that both the number of people to be  
12          interviewed as well as the lists of organizations  
13          and so forth can be added to as we receive  
14          recommendations from Commission members and from  
15          public as well.

16          DR. KONRAD: So moved.

17          CHAIRMAN DUMONT: So moved?

18          MR. CYR: I'll second it.

19          CHAIRMAN DUMONT: Blackie Cyr seconded. Any  
20          further discussion? All those in favor please raise  
21          your hand? Unanimous. Thank you.

22          We are very pleased to have a special guest  
23          with us here this evening, Mr. David Taylor, who is  
24          with the American Folklife Center of the U.S.  
25          Library of Congress. Mr. Taylor was a key figure in

1 the -- in conducting, in the summer of 1990, I  
2 believe, a survey in the St. John Valley, Acadian  
3 culture survey. This was done in cooperation with  
4 the National Park Service. And we're delighted to  
5 have you here this evening, Mr. Taylor.

6 And Mr. Taylor has a slide presentation for us  
7 on the results of that survey.

8 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the  
9 invitation to appear before the Commission and this  
10 audience this evening. As a native of this state,  
11 it's always a pleasure to return, and I appreciate  
12 the opportunity to do so. It's a distinct pleasure  
13 to return to the Valley. Now, I've traveled in the  
14 course of my work all over the country and to other  
15 countries; and I have to tell you, as you probably  
16 know, this is one of the most hospitable places of  
17 all, I believe, and it's -- in that connection, it's  
18 great to see many familiar faces here on the  
19 Commission and in the audience.

20 What I propose to do this evening is to present  
21 about a 30-minute presentation on the work  
22 undertaken in the summer of 1991 here in the Valley  
23 by a team of researchers under my direction. This  
24 is the project, the Chairman indicated, that was  
25 undertaken cooperatively with the National Park



1 Service.

2 So if you'll permit me, I will repair to the  
3 back of the room, and we'll dim the lights, and the  
4 Commissioners may wish to move to the audience.

5 We're going to go high tech. I have a  
6 flashlight to read my script here.

7 (A slide presentation was shown.)

8 Now, as you probably know, the American  
9 Folklife Center's involvement in the project is a  
10 direct result of the passage of the Maine Acadian  
11 Culture Preservation Act. And we see a copy of that  
12 Act here, specifically a section of the Act that  
13 calls for a study of Acadian culture in Maine. And  
14 to make a long story short, the National Park  
15 Service asked the Center to take on the job of  
16 conducting the study and producing a draft report.

17 I want to tell you about this work, but before  
18 I begin I think it's appropriate to say a few words  
19 about my agency, the American Folklife Center, and  
20 the field of folklore and folklife in general.

21 The Center, founded in 1976 by act of Congress,  
22 is based in Washington at the Library of Congress.  
23 And this is the great, wonderful main reading room  
24 at the library, which as you know is the largest  
25 library in the world.