

Next MAHC Board of Directors Meeting
May 19, 2012 at 2:00 P.M.
Followed by the MAHC Annual Dinner at 4:00 P.M.
Lakeview Restaurant, St. Agatha, ME

## Preparing for the 2014 World Acadian Congress

St. John Valley people are preparing for the international celebration of the 2014 World Acadian Congress/Congrès mondial acadien, a time when thousands of Acadians and French descendants from around the world will reunite in the Acadia of the Lands and Forests (Maine's St. John Valley, Northeast New Brunswick, and Témiscouata, Québec) to celebrate their vibrant culture, music, arts and language, and remember their common history. Visit www.cma2014.com to learn more.

The Maine Acadian Heritage Council (MAHC) and its member historical societies are also preparing for the anticipated increase in visitors to the many historical museums and sites located throughout the St. John Valley, an essential part of being an excellent host.

## MAHC SEEKS YOUTH APPLICANTS FOR GUIDE POSITIONS

In addition to \$24k in grant funds which the MAHC will award its member historical societies next month for their seasonal museum guides, a National Park Service youth grant is making it possible to employ and train four additional guides. These additional positions will enhance the visitor experience at the historical sites throughout the St. John Valley in preparation for 2014.

To fulfill the requirements of the youth grant, the MAHC is seeking applications for four full-time youth guides, ages 16 to 25, for a ten week period from June through August. Youth guides will work at approximately ten historical society museums and sites located throughout the St. John Valley, with a focus of being prepared to host the large number of visitors anticipated during the 2014 CMA. Pending available funding and youth performance, hired guides will be invited to reapply for each successive year.

Each youth guide will be assigned to several designated museums/ sites where they will learn the unique history of each site and be trained in a variety of skills, with the ultimate goal of giving well informed, professional guided tours.

The youth guides will participate in training and orientation hosted by the National Park Service. Training will include a brief visit to Saint Croix Island International Historic Site and Acadia National Park where they will learn about programs offered in the context of the Maine Acadian Culture Project (www.nps.gov/maac). Training will also occur in the Valley where all seasonal guides are invited to attend.

Applicants for the youth guide positions should:

- be between the ages of 16 and 25
- have intermediate to advanced proficiency in the French language
- have an interest in Acadian history and tourism
- have their own transportation
- be available to potentially work the summers of 2013 and 2014

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to the Maine Acadian Heritage Council by email at maineacadian@hotmail.com, or by mail to MAHC Youth Guide Program, P.O. Box 88 Madawaska, ME 04756. Deadline for applying is May 18, 2012. For more information call 728-6826.

BY LOUISE M. MARTIN, OFFICE MANAGER
PAID FOR BY THE MAINE ACADIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL 4/12