

La société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest

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Request for funding

April 13, 2021

Municipality of the District of Argyle
Tusket, NS BOW 2M0

Mr. Warden and Municipal Councilors,

Bonjour,

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you, the Municipality of the District of Argyle, what is the ***Société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest***:

- its **programs**: the Research Center: Les Archives Père Clarence d'Entremont and the Musée des Acadiens des Pubnico;
- its **facilities**: Museum, Research Center, exhibit building, gift shop and a traditional Acadian garden depicting an 17th and 18th century vegetable garden,

La Société historique acadienne de Pubnico-Ouest, officially started in 1973 and was registered as a not for profit society in 1984, will soon celebrate 48 years of existence. It purchased a house in West Pubnico in 1977 to serve as a museum with the objective of preserving the community and its surrounding communities Acadian heritage and culture.

The Society's mission and mandate are to preserve and exhibit the wealth of historical and cultural information in our facility for the benefit of all community members, researchers and friends.

The Pubnico community, settled in 1651 and officially recognizes with its land grant of *La Baronnie de Pombomcoup* in 1653 is the oldest and only Acadian Community still inhabited by the descendants of its founding families. Upon their return to the Pubnicos in 1767, the families settled in the communities today

known as West Pubnico, East Pubnico, Pointe à Rocco, Sainte-Anne-du-Ruisseau, Sluice Point/Pointe du Sault, Buttes Amirault, Tousquet and Wedgeport and all of these communities are now part of our Municipality of the District of Argyle.

Services provided:

- Les **Archives** Père Clarence d'Entremont, with **emphasis on Acadian genealogy and history**, definitely complements the history of the Acadians of the original «*Baronnie de Pobomcoup*» of which some of the information/content is also part of the Argyle Township Court House Archives. These two excellent facilities in the Municipality of Argyle can provide residents of South West Nova and Acadians and francophones from throughout Canada and the United States, etc. to research their history, genealogy and culture.

The research centre "*Les Archives Père Clarence d'Entremont*", housed in the museum annex, has an extensive collection of Acadian historical and genealogical originals with information dating to the 17th century.

These archival holdings include over 6,000 books, maps, photographs, in original state and as microfiche documents, as well as the founding content of the region's historic French language newspaper, *Le Petit Courrier*, all of which we diligently strive to preserve for future generations. Our archival section includes a vault and climate controlled storage, allowing us to house our archival documents and artifacts in our own buildings.

Not only do the museum and archives contain past events and happenings from the community, the museum also, on a daily basis, continues to collect and record our present community events and happenings.

The historical value of our collections is without compare. In particular, the collections of the historians Father Clarence d'Entremont (1909-1998) and H. Leander d'Entremont (1862-1944) stand out for their breadth and detail, as well as other valued collections from the community. The d'Entremont's collections are said to be the biggest private collections on Acadian History.

July 17, marks the founding of the *Baronnie de Pobomcoup* in 1653 - 368 years ago, and our research centre has been in existence since 1998. We will soon be celebrating our 25th anniversary – July 2023. And in the same context, we are in the planning stages for the up-coming Congrès mondial 2024.

Genealogy: With the help of volunteers, we created and manage a genealogy data base which includes, as of March 18, 2021, over 110,000 family names linked. We also print individual family genealogy booklets priced per number of pages. We have and continue to do research on the Métis status of individuals

upon request. We are recognized as an official provider of the individual certified status document, and much more.

○ *In the database as of 31 March 2021:*

- People: 110,000
- Marriages: 40,009
- Generations: 21
- Surnames: 7,182
- Average lifespan: 62.2
- Earliest birth date: Philbert de Motin c.1460
- Most recent birth date: February 2021
- Facts: 418,187
- Places: 8,397
- Sources: 390
- Citations: 35,724
- Media: (photos) 1,257
- File size: 160,232 KB

● **Books:**

- Five generations of descendants of Jacques II Mius-d'Entremont c.1679-1759) and Marguerite Amirault (1704-1796), 571 pages and available in print
- Five generations of descendants of Abel Duon, dit Tibel (1722-1807) and Anne Mius-d'Entremont (1732 - bef. 1824), 615 pages (not yet available in print)
- Five generations of descendants of François Amirault – in progress
- **Note:** Through these three (3) books, the genealogical information of a strong majority of our Acadian families in our Municipality of Argyle can be found and printed upon request (d'Entremont, Duon, Amirault, Belliveau, Blanchard, Surette, Landry, Pottier, Pothier, Muise, deViller, Melanson, Thibeau(It), LeBlanc, Boudreau, Belliveau, Saulnier, Cottreau, Comeau, ...)

● **Virtual genealogy sessions via Zoom**

- Over the past few months, interested parties meet every two weeks from USA, Canada and the local region, to undertake genealogical research together. This exercise has proven so popular, that they have requested a continuance of the program.

● **Special Requests**

- We serve an ever increasing number of unique genealogical requests for information through the internet or telephone, both from the general public and specialty groups such as Kespu'kwitk Métis Council and funeral service providers. We also have repeat customers to do additional research and/or complement previous information/content.
- **Le Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos**

In 1977 the *Société* purchased a dwelling/house in the village which they promptly transformed into a museum. Through local help and donations, as well as through grants from the Federal and Provincial governments, the task of renovating the place went along very well and the museum now compares favorably with other museums of the same size. Artifacts have been coming from different sources and visitors seem to be pleased with what has been acquired and displayed. All of these artefacts depict how life would have been for our ancestors at an earlier time.

The annex also houses an *aboiteau* of old Acadie and it also serves as an exhibit and community hall used mainly for conferences, presentations, events the development of arts and crafts related to the history of our ancestors.

In summary, our mandate and purpose are:

- Creativity, Innovation and Economic Growth:
 - Gift and Quilt shop to promote sales of locally fabricated quilts and arts and crafts made by women (and some men).
- Cultural Diversity:
 - Promotion of Acadian and Mi'kmaq history over the past 350 years.
- Cultural Stewardship:
 - Our museum is the site for the placement of the «Monument de l'Odyssey Acadien» on the occasion of the 250th (2017) of the return of Acadians in our community then known as La Baronnie de Pobomcoup.

Accomplishments of the past two years with the funding received:

As a result of the funding/grant received over the past two (2) years from the Municipality of Argyle, a part-time archivist was hired at two (2) days per week and the following Fonds were thoroughly process as per the RAD archival guidelines. These Fonds are a compilation, amongst others, of diaries, history, music, short stories, newspaper articles, genealogy, paintings, photos, description of community events, organizations and businesses, books, etc., etc. These fonds have been described and secured as collections and as per the RAD archival guidelines (*Rules for Archival Description*).

1. The Roseline LeBlanc Fond
2. The Father Melvin Surette Fond
3. The Isabelle (Austin) d'Entremont Fond
4. The Lucie and Captain Wallace d'Entremont Fond
5. The Claire (Réginald) d'Entremont Fond
6. The Frances Amirault Fond – East Pubnico History and Community Events
7. The LeBlanc Family of East Pubnico Fond

All of these fonds are now available to the public at our Research Center and Archives and on our museum website and on the provincial “Memory Nova Scotia” web site.

The archivist also catalogued and entered into the database newspapers, photos, artefacts, etc. as they are acquired in the Research Center and Archives. This also includes the genealogical data. She was also available to give a helping hand with individuals seeking research assistance and genealogy data as well as being a tour guide when needed.

Fonds and other tasks to be accomplished:

The following are some of the acquired **Fonds to be processed** as per the RAD archival guidelines:

1. Le 350 e anniversaire de la Baronnie de Pombomcoup Fonds
2. Le Fonds de l'Association des d'Entremont et d'Eon 2004
3. Le Fonds Pauline et Viateur d'Entremont (Personal and ESSO Business)
4. The Fond of various Veterans from the Pubnicos that have acquired from families of these veterans

Other tasks to be accomplished:

1. Catalogue ongoing acquisitions such as:
 - a. Artefacts
 - b. Written documents/short stories, diaries,
 - c. Photos – approximately 5000 to be entered into the photo data base
 - d. Books – approximately 400 to be classified as per the Dewey Decimal System
 - e. Le Courrier de la Nouvelle-Écosse – ongoing cataloguing
 - f. Revues historiques/historical bulletins/magazines, etc – ongoing cataloguing
 - g. Ongoing updating of the Museum and Archives Web Site
 - h. Funding applications through various provincial and federal funding programs for Museums and Archives
 - i. Etc.
2. All of these fonds are to be made available to the public at our Research Center and Archives and on our Museum website and on the provincial “Memory Nova Scotia” web site.
3. Ongoing updating of genealogy data.

4. Provide assistance to clients in person, online, etc.

Our request:

- This proposal/request for an annual financial contribution from the Municipality of the District of Argyle for the following:
 - Part time archivist 60% - 3 days /week;
 - Salary pending qualifications (Certified or on the job training):
 - \$15/hr x 3 days/week x 52 weeks + merc. = \$18,252.00
 - Supplies for the research center: specifically, acid free folders, archival boxes, acid-free paper, etc. : \$800.00
 - Please note that we greatly appreciate the yearly municipal contributions to facilities such as ours.

The Société would maintain responsibility of ownership and operation of our facilities.

In conclusion, we would like to invite you, Warden and Councilors, to visit our facilities. We would be available to show who we are, to answer questions you may have, to see how we are, the Argyle Township Court House and Archives and les Archives Père Clarence d'Entremont are complementary to each other, and to the discuss and explore further enhanced partnerships.

Our 2020 Annual financial report is attached to this proposal.

Thank you for listening to us, and trusting that you will seriously consider this request and proposal. Should you have any questions or clarifications and precision, we gladly provide and we are available to further meeting you if need be.

Sincerely,



Paul d'Entremont
President

Encl.