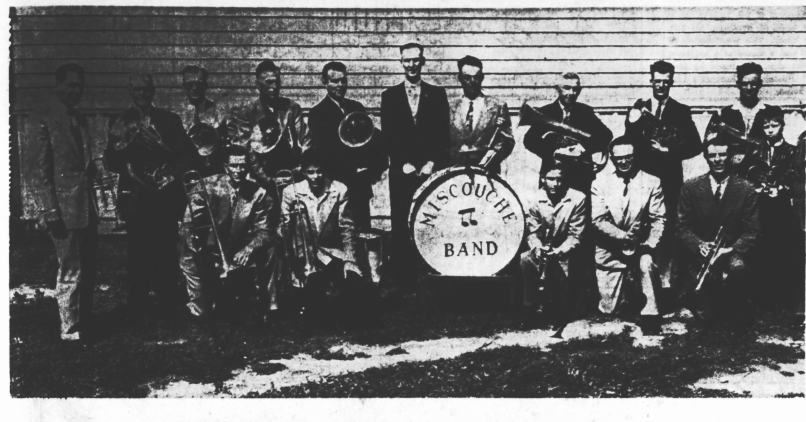


STORY OF FAMED MISCOUCHE BAND



MEMBERS OF FAMED MISCOUCHE BAND
The Miscouche band, above, is representative of several vociferous bands which include Agriculture, Fishing, Construction, Service, Sales, and Students, and the members are from left to right: kneeling, Tilman S. Poirier, Trumpet; Cyrille DesRoche, Trombone; Lionel DesRoche, Trombone; Armand DesRoche, Trombone; Leonard DesRoche, Trumpet; Ernie Gallant, Trumpet; Second Row: Jules DesRoche, Bass; Leo Gaudet, Tenor; Eric DesRoche, Baritone; Francis DesRoche, Baritone; Edmund DesRoche, Drummer; J. B. DesRoche, Bass; and Delore DesRoche, Trumpet.

Original Band Organized In 1889 By Fr. John MacDonald

The Miscouche Band, the only non-military band of its kind in Prince Edward Island, can also claim another musical distinction through its long history of almost 70 years.

Organized in 1889 by Rev. Fr. John MacDonald, a man gifted with considerable musical ability, thirteen band instruments were purchased with financial assistance from Dr. Heckman, a resident dentist in Miscouche.

For the following 15 years the band was under the musical direction of Rev. Fr. MacDonald until 1904 when it was transferred to the parish of Grand River, and succeeded by Rev. Martin Monaghan, now retired at Miscouche after a lifetime of clerical service.

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For some ten years during this period Mr. Poirier also provided instruction for smaller bands which he organized at Egmont Bay and Wellington.

Mr. Arsenault, Mr. Poirier, succeeded as director, by the assistant band master, Regie Gaudet, and Jules Poirier, a son of the former director, became the assistant director.

In the spring of 1955, on the bicentenary of the Acadian expulsion was observed, these two men arranged the band music for several well known French Acadian songs, such as 'Evangeline' and 'La Fleur du Souvenir', especially for this occasion.

Every French Acadian district in Prince Edward Island observed the bicentenary by staging special programs, religious, racial and festive events, including spectacular parades, each highlighted by the presence of the Miscouche Band which has, throughout the many years, provided musical entertainment for thousands of persons in many parts of Prince Edward Island, in New Brunswick, and even in the Magdalen Islands where a band was taken by aircraft this July 1957 for a band concert.

Justly proud of their local band and conscious of the expense of its maintenance, the residents of Miscouche and surrounding districts are quick to assist in any event in which the band participates or promotes.

Devoted to the responsibility attached to each bandman for continuation of the organization, attendance at weekly band practices is most dependable.

In summer the band meets every Monday night, and in winter they have rehearsals twice weekly.

The spirit of friendship, co-operation and musical enjoyment prevailing among the group does much to explain the self-sacrifices of time and personal pleasure that the band members make so willingly in order to regularly attend the band practices at

which the musical repertoire of the band is constantly being expanded through the inclusion of new numbers.

The critical interest in the band has been continued through its 70 year history to include the present pastor, Rev. J. Kenney, who was responsible for the recent construction of a bandstand beside the church, and band concerts are presented on Sunday mornings following church service.

Mr. Regie Gaudet, the present director, like his predecessor A. J. Poirier, also provided the additional parish function of choir director at the Miscouche Roman Catholic Church.

The success of the band as well as its continuity through the years is directly due to the unusual interest of its former director Mr. A. J. Poirier whose interest in the band was highlighted by the group through its activities and changes taking place from year to year in communities such as Miscouche, a parish of about 600 persons. A Commercial Traveller through much of his active life Mr. Poirier, frequently at great inconvenience to himself, always arrived home in time for band practices, and his first concern in winter weather was usually the lighting of a fire in the parish hall so that the building would be comfortably heated when the men arrived for band practice.

Outside of his family, Mr. Poirier's greatest interest was in the band, and recalls a time while he was in the military service that he met a number of the band members, were four of his sons, Alvaro, Regard and Jules.

The present director, Regie Gaudet has been a member of the Miscouche Band for 55 years, and has also been a member of the band in Prince Edward Island including the 82 Regimental Band in the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 1st Canadian Trench Brigade, and the late Ben Sharp, and the Wellington Band led by A. J. Poirier.

Another member with long service in the band is Cyrille DesRoche, who has been playing Bass with the Miscouche Band for the past 35 years. It is interesting to note that his father, Jesse DesRoche, was a member of the Original Miscouche Band when it was first organized in 1889, and was also a member of the band in the family being continually associated with the Band since its formation.

The Band has in past years, through the efforts of such non-resident musicians as Joseph "BUN" Gaudet, Ralph Nevada and Claude B. L. Gaudet, and Charles Arsenault, and Howard Wellington.

More recently the Band has been successful in securing the appreciation of the Co-operation and participation of Bandmaster, Sgt. William Conkey, R.C.A.F. station, Summerside and Lac MacPherson.

At the present time two of the original 13 Band Instruments a Bass drum and a tenor upright, are still in use, and the Band with a present complement of 19 men now 40 years as band director.

Perhaps it can be said that the Band so gifted with musical talent and aggregation is a tribute to the time and training, imported to the parish, and the fact that the long-time director A. J. Poirier, and in each individual member of the Band must give the appreciation of the general public for their artistic excellence and the entertainment which has been a musical delight to many thousands of persons who have thronged to the music of the Miscouche Band.

MISCOUCHE BAND COMMENDED

By Rev. Martin Monaghan

The music of the Miscouche Band has been an uplift to the heart for almost 70 years, since its origin in 1888 at a time when Rev. John A. McDonald came to this parish from St. Dunstan's University, and joined with Dr. Heckman in forming the first Miscouche Band.

It is difficult to keep a voluntary band active all the time because the members come and go in the ordinary course of making their various livings. However there is now plenty of men in Miscouche to supply members for a band; and the parishoners are always willing to help.

I came to Miscouche in 1905, a year after Arsenault Poirier, then a young man of Miscouche, a teacher by profession, and a natural leader of young people, re-organized the Band. It was his efforts for the next 30 years that kept the band in existence.

Under his leadership the members were given every opportunity to visit various places and had it not been for his work in this respect there would probably be no band in Miscouche.

The leadership of this organization he has now given into the capable hands of Regie Gaudet, and to Mr. Gaudet the citizens of Miscouche now commend the continuation of this splendid band.

MISCOUCHE BAND ON 1955 FLOAT



A familiar sight in many parades, The Miscouche Band is seen above on a tractor-drawn float in one of its appearances at the Acadian Bi-Centennial Programs in 1955.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MISCOUCHE BAND

By Rev. J. D. Kelly

No matter what our age, the music of a brass band means a great deal to us. We might say that of all music it does most to pick our imagination and stir our spirits in any state or sentiment. To the old man, the brass band recalls tears of war, and it may even provoke tears of melancholy as it unfolds the memories of youth and young manhood. To the young, band music means circus, romance, recreation, and the challenge of the soldiers' march to meet an awe-inspiring enemy. To the ladies, the trumpets and horns speak of chivalry, knights, castles, gallantry and romance. To the boys, the less of their appreciation of music, the magic of the brass band speaks of the greatest values of our civilization. It is well to recall a fact, Music, like all things created, is meant to lead us to God. Like any beautiful thing, its harmony, proportion and richness, speak the more adventurously and less common things of life.

We who, now, in a small way, wish to congratulate and encourage the men of the Miscouche Band, go even further in speaking of virtuous things. We signal their patience and tenacity in doing a difficult thing over so great a number of years.

As their pastor, it is my joy to profit by this occasion to thank and encourage the men of the Miscouche Band to greater perfection and accomplishment. As the one placed by God in the midst as the spiritual leader of the parish, I consider it a privilege to encourage these men who do it one life and the next.

In this day when some trends of music tend to accentuate the less noble in man and are an indication of a progressive degeneration of the greatest values of our civilization, it is well to recall a fact, Music, like all things created, is meant to lead us to God. Like any beautiful thing, its harmony, proportion and richness, speak the more adventurously and less common things of life.

This is a digression but one which I am sure you will pardon. Again I congratulate the men of the Miscouche Band and wish them success in the future.

Sincerely,
REV. J. D. KELLY, P.P.
Misouche, P.E.I.

Congratulations to the Misouche Band, may they continue with their fine entertainment.

FRANCIS SERVICE STATION

Misouche Prince Edward Island

GAUDET'S GROCERIES

Misouche Prince Edward Island

F. A. DesROCHES

General Merchant Misouche, P.E.I.

MISCOUCHE NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gallant and family, of Revere, Mass., recently visited Mrs. Gallant's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Felix DesRoche.

Mr. Jules Poirier, representing Bentley's Ltd., of Truro, N.S., has returned from the Magdalen Island where he spent two weeks on his usual fall business trip.

Clarence Gaudet has recently arrived from Winnipeg where he was employed. He is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gaudet.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Poirier where they spent several days with their daughter, Mrs. Dos Richard, in Moncton.

Mrs. Peter DesRoche was recently in Prince County Hospital for treatment.

Mrs. Francis Felix DesRoche was a recent patient in Prince County Hospital.

Miss Rosalie DesRoche, training in Charlottesville, visited her parents Mr. and Mrs. Tilmon E. DesRoche last week.

All the men working at the Malpeque oysters are presently at home, their work finished a few days ago. This season was very successful and the shippers are favoured with a very good price for oysters this fall.

It is reported that the three Misouche Village Councilors are presently working on a plan to electrify the village streets. This should certainly make a welcome improvement in the newly incorporated village.

Another civic project, now nearing completion, is the new Misouche fire hall.

Miss Ethel DesRoche, employed in Moncton, recently spent a few days visiting her

mother Mrs. Eddie DesRoche and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Arsenault of Summerside are presently visiting Mrs. Arsenault's mother, Mrs. Eddie DesRoche.

Mr. and Mrs. Ephrem Gallant were visiting relatives and friends in E.S.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvère Gaudet and Mrs. Arsenault were recent visitors to Egmont Bay.

Mr. and Mrs. Blaquiere, of Bastien, and Mr. and Mrs. Gauthier of Simon Park, were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Martin last Sunday.

Hilroy Felix DesRoche is confined to his home through illness. Leo DesRoche of Charlottetown visited his brother Eric DesRoche last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Abdon Gaudet spent several weeks visiting their daughter Mrs. Vastour in Moncton.

Justin McNeil, St. Dunstan's College, visited his parents Mr. and Mrs. Leonard McNeil last weekend.

Peter Steel, St. Dunstan's College, visited his parents Mr. and Mrs. Perry Steeie last weekend.

Miss Marguerite LeClair has accepted a position with Fleet Street Studio, Summerside.

Gerard Poirier and Harold Perry recently spent a few days hunting in Nova Scotia.

The Misouche Credit Union held their usual fall social evening on Wednesday. Each and every one had a wonderful evening.

ACI Wilfred Gallant is presently spending 30 days leave with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Gallant. C.I. Gallant was returned in Camp Borden. On his station he will be going to Gold Lake.

Miss Eva Bernard, employed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jules Poirier, spent last week

Jules Poirier has left again on a business trip. This time he is in New Brunswick.

Mr. Gus McKinnon has returned home from Prince County Hospital where he underwent surgery.

Carmela Martin is back home after spending a few days undergoing treatment in Prince County Hospital.

Mr. Frank Arsenault is back home after spending several weeks visiting her parents in Bedouque.

Messrs. Alcid and Al DesRoche are visiting their brother, Mr. Gerald DesRoche.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony E. DesRoche, on the birth of a baby girl.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Elie DesRoche on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Cyr Poirier on their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvère Poirier were recently in Egmont Bay visiting their daughter Mrs. Emmanuel Arsenault.

We are pleased to see Mr. Maurice Gaudet back home and enjoying his usual good health. Mr. Gaudet underwent a serious operation in Halifax.

The Misouche C.W. League held their monthly meeting at the home of Mr. Regie Gaudet on Wednesday evening.

We are pleased to see appearing in today's Guardian the story of our band. We are all proud of Misouche Band and hope it will continue for many more years to come.

Most Reverend Cardinal James MacGuigan, Toronto, recently visited his uncle Rev. Maurice Monaghan.

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. McNeil are presently visiting in U.S.A.

ST. ANN'S C.W.L.

On Sunday, November 24th, the regular monthly meeting of St. Ann's C.W.L. sub-committee of the C.W.L. was held with an attendance of 16 members.

The president, Mrs. Vincent MacGuigan, presided over the meeting and read and signed by the president. The treasurer then gave a report.

The members organized a schedule by which a continuous rosary, on the first Saturday of each month, would be said for world peace, and the same schedule would stand for each first Saturday.

The Press convener, Mrs. Patrick Clark reported 5 subscriptions ordered of the League Magazine, to be distributed among the members. Congratulations were made from knick-knacks about the home.

Miss Theresa MacLeod, gave an excellent outline of the altar for Christmas and also that the C.W.L. pay the balance of the bill on correct procedure.

It was decided to begin the card parties by holding the first one in the hall in connection with the Christmas Eve service on November 28th.

After arrangements were made for Christmas gifts for the poor, a collection of money to be offered for a lately deceased member of the parish, the meeting was brought to a close with prayer to the Blessed Mother.

BOOST SUGAR

TAIPEI FORMOSA AP - The industrial development commission has approved an \$800,000 program to modernize and expand facilities of the state-owned sugar corporation, Sugar Inc. The main source of foreign exchange for Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek's national government is expected to rise this year to \$80,000,000.

HUNTER RIVER

Two mock meetings, one illustrating a poorly conducted meeting and the other a well-conducted meeting were featured at the leadership course held in Hunter River on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 27.

Mrs. Philip Matheson, on providing the program for the meeting and explained its purpose. Mrs. Clarence McGuigan, Hunter River, was appointed the preside and welcomed the members to the course. All then repeated the Mary Stewart Prayer in unison.

Fredericton ladies, Mrs. A. Cutcliffe, Mrs. Frank Cutcliffe, Mrs. Juson Rackham, Mrs. Harry Weeks and Mrs. Hyatt Haslam staged first a poorly conducted meeting which, though humorous in reality, accomplishes little.

In contrast, the same group later conducted a Christmas W. I. meeting using a well-planned programme so arranged to begin on time with a time limit for meeting.

Interest in the model meeting were 1. Correct Procedure. 2. Exchange of Christmas gifts. 3. Inexpensive Christmas decorations made from knick-knacks about the home.

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Our sincere appreciation to the Misouche Band for the fine entertainment they provide.

ELEANOR DesROCHES

Groceries Misouche, P.E.I.

MISCOUCHE CREDIT UNION

We are proud of our Band, may it succeed for years to come.

THANKS

The members of the Misouche Band wish to take this opportunity to thank BENTLEY'S LIMITED, Wholesale Dry Goods Truro, N. S. for helping pay part of expenses on trip to Magdalen Islands this past Summer.