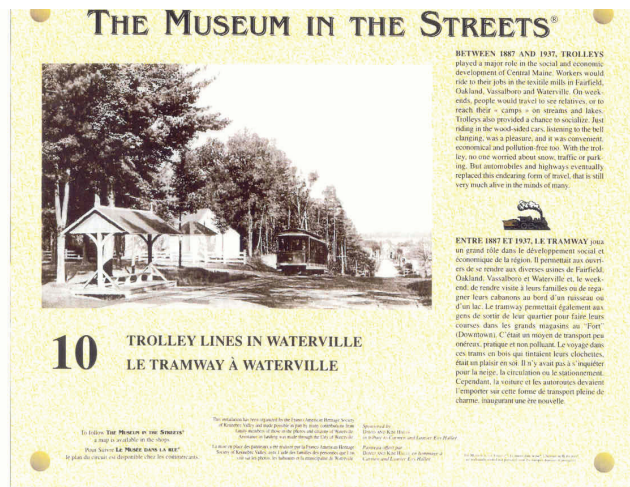




The Museum in the Streets

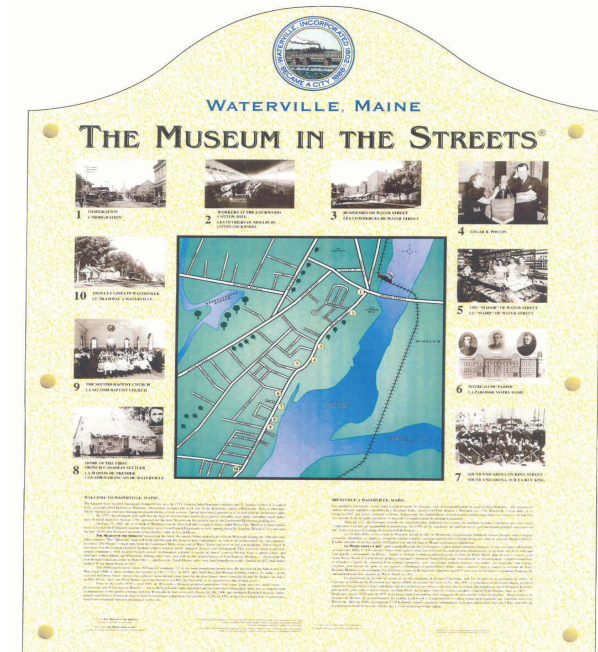
focuses on the French-Canadians, the largest ethnic minority to settle in Waterville during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The "Museum" tour will walk you through the heart of their community, an area in the south end of the City commonly called "The Plains," which runs from the Hathaway Center to the end of Water Street and west to, but not including, Silver Street. It was here that the earliest French-Canadians settlers worked, lived, shopped, played and worshipped. This was very much a self-contained community, with its own French dialect, its bilingual schools, a variety of stores, a movie theater, bars, a sports center and French churches, both Catholic and Protestant. Among other sites, you will see the original home of Jean Baptiste Mathieu presumably the first permanent French-Canadian settler in Waterville and his wife, Sarah Dostie, who came here from Beauceville, Quebec in 1827 and settled in their Water Street home in 1831. The 1830 census shows some 20 French-Canadians (1% of the town population) living here. By the time of the Civil War (early 1860's) their numbers had grown to 544 (12.5%). In 1851, they built their first Roman Catholic Church, St. John's at the east end of Grove Street, which was replaced some twenty years later by the new, larger, more centrally located St. Francis de Sales, on Elm Street. They saw Peter Bolduc open his business in 1862, the first store to be operated by one of their own. Prior to the early 1870's over 85% of Waterville's French-speaking population had come from just two small towns in Beauce County, Quebec, Beauceville and St Georges. With the expansion of the Lockwood Cotton Mills and new industries flourished, there was a veritable rush of immigrants from Quebec coming to Waterville to find work and a better life. By 1890 the combined French-Canadian (immigrants) and Franco-American (native born descendants) population had grown to 3,228 or 43% of the city's population, a percentage that has remained virtually unchanged to this day.

For Group Tours Call:

873-0358



*A self guided heritage tour of the
Franco-American Community in the
South-End of the
City of Waterville, Maine*



**Location: Castonguay Square
Main Street Downtown
Waterville, Maine**

From here proceed to panel #1. Walk
south on Main street to Bridge
and Water Street

Corner of Water & Grove Street

Early colonial history of Waterville, Maine

The English were the first Europeans to inhabit this area. In 1754 General John Winslow and his soldiers built Fort Halifax and 11 families settled at Taconnet Falls in Winslow, which at that time included the west side of the Kennebec River, today's Waterville. Prior to that time, Native American Indians migrated through the region during certain seasons. One of their burial grounds was located near the Hathaway Creative Center.

By 1777, development was such that the first of several dams was built to power sawmills, grist mills, and other small industries. A small shipyard built in 1794 operated for the next 56 years on the present site of the Hathaway Center parking lot. On June 23, 1802 the west bank of Winslow was incorporated into a separate town called Waterville. Most of its first settlers were of Scotch-Irish-English descent, but there were a few French Huguenots as well, among them Dr. Stephen Thayer. It was not until the late 1820s that French-Canadians from Quebec came to live in Maine.

Immigration



1 IMMIGRATION L'IMMIGRATION

THE FRANCO-AMERICANS who settled in the Central Maine area in the 19th and early 20th centuries came from the most part from Quebec, southern Brittany, Maine, such as Bédard and Tremblay. Eventually, other immigrants from France, Ireland and Italy. Some French, some Breton and other more remote countries in Quebec, such as those of the Gaspé Peninsula, came to live in the area. Although their religious and ethnic origins varied, many of them found work, which was available in the local sawmills and in the mines, as principal work.

Most of those who came to Waterville lived in the neighborhoods called "the Plate" ("la Plaque") and "the Plate" ("la Plaque"), settling along the river close to their work place. Entire families or individuals came here on foot and in horse-drawn wagons. After the Civil War, the came in more numbers.

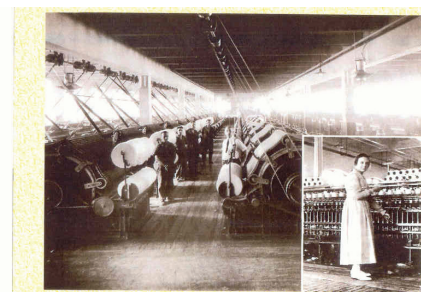
LA PLATE PART DES FRANCO-AMERICAINS qui ont immigré dans le centre du Maine au cours des XIXe et XXe siècles étaient originaires du Québec, de la Bretagne, de la France, de l'Irlande, de l'Italie, du Portugal, de l'Espagne, de la Nouvelle-Écosse, du Nouveau-Brunswick et d'autres régions plus éloignées du Québec. Bien qu'ils aient des origines ethniques et religieuses différentes, beaucoup d'entre eux ont trouvé du travail dans les scieries et les mines, qui étaient les principales sources de revenus de la région.

La plupart de ceux qui sont venus à Waterville vivaient dans les quartiers appelés "la Plaque" et "la Plaque", le long de la rivière, près de leur lieu de travail. Des familles entières ou des individus venaient ici à pied ou à cheval dans des chariots tirés par des chevaux. Après la guerre de Sécession, certains d'entre eux sont venus en plus grand nombre.

TO COLLECT THE HISTORY OF THE STREET
This is available in the book
Pour savoir LE PRÉSENT DANS LA RUE
le plus de détails et de détails, voir les descriptions.

Right side of the Street

Workers at Lockwood Cotton Mill



2 WORKERS AT THE LOCKWOOD COTTON MILL LES OUVRIERS DU MOULIN DE COTON LOCKWOOD

TWO MILLS WERE BUILT in Waterville, Maine, in 1873, the second in 1880. They had a total of 100,000 spindles. In 1902, 100 people came to work in 5 years and worked in the mill for 10 years. In 1911, 100 people came to work in 5 years and worked in the mill for 10 years. The mill was built by John Lockwood, who was a successful businessman in Waterville. He was born in 1840 and died in 1911. He was a member of the Waterville Cotton Mill Company and was the president of the company. He was also a member of the Waterville Cotton Mill Company and was the president of the company. He was also a member of the Waterville Cotton Mill Company and was the president of the company.

AMON LOCKWOOD FIT CONSTRUIRE deux moulins à Waterville, Maine, en 1873, le second en 1880. Ils ont eu un total de 100 000 spindles. En 1902, 100 personnes sont venues travailler dans le moulin pendant 5 ans et ont travaillé dans le moulin pendant 10 ans. En 1911, 100 personnes sont venues travailler dans le moulin pendant 5 ans et ont travaillé dans le moulin pendant 10 ans. Le moulin a été construit par John Lockwood, qui était un homme d'affaires prospère à Waterville. Il est né en 1840 et est décédé en 1911. Il était membre du Waterville Cotton Mill Company et était président de la compagnie. Il était également membre du Waterville Cotton Mill Company et était président de la compagnie.

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Left side of the Street

Businesses of Water Street



3 BUSINESSES ON WATER STREET LES COMMERCES DE WATER STREET

WATER STREET was a bustling main city street prior to urban renewal in the 1960s. It was alive with many shops and stores. French-Americans could do all their shopping in French. If you so desired, without ever leaving the South End. Grocery stores, pharmacies, butcher and meat markets, variety stores, hair and wig salons, clothing stores, a bakery with its own bread, "Buddy Bread", were there and even a cold drink, boiling plant are examples of the businesses that were in their neighborhood. The success of many of the big businesses allowed them to move into higher education and professional careers.

AVANT D'ÊTRE VICTIME de rénovations urbaines des années 1960, Water Street fut une rue très commerçante et dynamique, bordée de magasins de toutes sortes. Les Franco-Américains avaient la possibilité d'y faire toutes leurs courses en français, sans jamais sortir de leur quartier. On y trouvait épiceries, pharmacies, salons de coiffure et d'orthopédie, drogueries, bûches, restaurants, couturiers, une boulangerie fabriquant sa propre marque de "Buddy Bread", un cabinet et même une usine d'emballage de légumes. La réussite de bon nombre de ces commerces a permis à leurs enfants de poursuivre des études supérieures et de faire des carrières professionnelles.

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Right side of the Street

Edgar R. Poulin



4 EDGAR R. POULIN

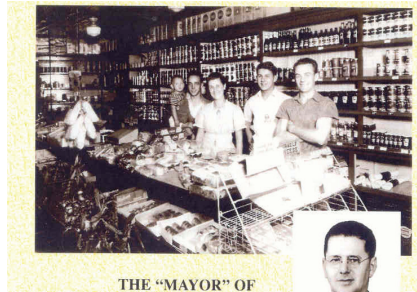
EDGAR POULIN was born in 1908 in Waterville, Maine, of parents who emigrated from St. George's de Beauce, Quebec. During his lifetime he was and would become a very active member of the French community. During the day he had a full time job at the Lockwood Mill and in the evening would give the news on radio. He was the first to bring the news to the South End of Waterville. He was also the first to bring the news to the South End of Waterville. He was also the first to bring the news to the South End of Waterville. He was also the first to bring the news to the South End of Waterville.

NE A WINSLOW EN 1908, de parents qui sont arrivés de St. Georges-de-Beauce, Québec. Pendant sa vie, Edgar Poulin fut un membre très actif de la communauté française. Pendant la journée, il avait un travail à temps plein à la scierie Lockwood et le soir, il donnait les nouvelles à la radio. Il fut le premier à apporter les nouvelles à l'extrémité sud de Waterville. Il fut également le premier à apporter les nouvelles à l'extrémité sud de Waterville. Il fut également le premier à apporter les nouvelles à l'extrémité sud de Waterville. Il fut également le premier à apporter les nouvelles à l'extrémité sud de Waterville.

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Left side of the Street

The "Mayor" of Water Street



5 THE "MAYOR" OF WATER STREET LE "MAIRE" DE WATER STREET

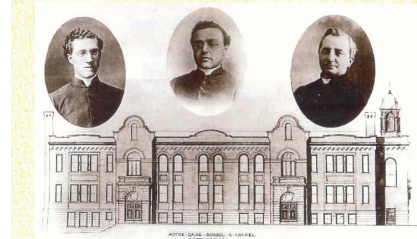
EUGENE BOLDUC (mort) immigré dans le Maine, Beauceville, Québec, à 18 ans en 1902, et a travaillé dans le commerce. Il a été le premier à apporter les nouvelles à l'extrémité sud de Waterville. Il a été le premier à apporter les nouvelles à l'extrémité sud de Waterville. Il a été le premier à apporter les nouvelles à l'extrémité sud de Waterville. Il a été le premier à apporter les nouvelles à l'extrémité sud de Waterville.

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Right side of the Street

Notre Dame Parish



6 NOTRE-DAME PARISH LA PAROISSE NOTRE-DAME

COMPLETED IN 1911, the church and its adjacent elementary school were built to serve the needs of the growing Franco-American population in the South End of Waterville. The church was built by the Holy Family Parish and was the first of its kind in the area. It was built by the Holy Family Parish and was the first of its kind in the area. It was built by the Holy Family Parish and was the first of its kind in the area. It was built by the Holy Family Parish and was the first of its kind in the area.

EN 1911, ON FIT CONSTRUIRE Notre-Dame, la première église et école paroissiale pour servir les besoins de la communauté croissante de Franco-Américains installée dans le quartier sud de Waterville. L'église fut construite par la paroisse Sainte-Famille et fut la première de ce genre dans la région. Elle fut construite par la paroisse Sainte-Famille et fut la première de ce genre dans la région. Elle fut construite par la paroisse Sainte-Famille et fut la première de ce genre dans la région. Elle fut construite par la paroisse Sainte-Famille et fut la première de ce genre dans la région.

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Right side of the Street

South End Arena King Street



7 SOUTH END ARENA ON KING STREET SOUTH END ARENA, SUR LA RUE KING

THE SOUTH END ARENA was a place for the young people of the South End of Waterville. It was a place where they could go to dance and have fun. It was a place where they could go to dance and have fun. It was a place where they could go to dance and have fun. It was a place where they could go to dance and have fun.

C'EST À L'EXTRÉMITÉ SUD DE WATERVILLE que se trouvait l'aréna pour les jeunes de l'extrémité sud de Waterville. C'était un endroit où ils pouvaient aller danser et s'amuser. C'était un endroit où ils pouvaient aller danser et s'amuser. C'était un endroit où ils pouvaient aller danser et s'amuser. C'était un endroit où ils pouvaient aller danser et s'amuser.

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Right side of the Street

Home of first French Canadian Settler



8 HOME OF THE FIRST FRENCH-CANADIAN SETTLER LA MAISON DU PREMIER CANADIEN-FRANÇAIS DE WATERVILLE

STILL STANDING AT 14 WATER STREET is the home of the first French Canadian settler in Waterville. It was built by the first French Canadian settler in Waterville. It was built by the first French Canadian settler in Waterville. It was built by the first French Canadian settler in Waterville. It was built by the first French Canadian settler in Waterville.

LA MAISON DU PREMIER CANADIEN-FRANÇAIS de Waterville se trouve toujours à 14 rue Water Street. Elle a été construite par le premier Français-Canadien à s'installer à Waterville. Elle a été construite par le premier Français-Canadien à s'installer à Waterville. Elle a été construite par le premier Français-Canadien à s'installer à Waterville. Elle a été construite par le premier Français-Canadien à s'installer à Waterville.

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Left side of the Street

The Second Baptist Church



9 THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH LA SECONDE ÉGLISE MÉTHODISTE

BEFORE THE 1880s, many Franco-Americans in the South End of Waterville were without religious leadership. Some of them were members of the Second Baptist Church. Some of them were members of the Second Baptist Church. Some of them were members of the Second Baptist Church. Some of them were members of the Second Baptist Church.

AVANT LES ANNÉES 1880, les Franco-Américains de l'extrémité sud de Waterville n'avaient pas de leadership religieux. Certains d'entre eux étaient membres de l'Eglise Baptiste. Certains d'entre eux étaient membres de l'Eglise Baptiste. Certains d'entre eux étaient membres de l'Eglise Baptiste. Certains d'entre eux étaient membres de l'Eglise Baptiste.

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Left side of the Street