

**2009  
Annual  
Report**

**Presque Isle Historical Society**

# PRESQUE ISLE

*historical society*

*Estey House and Fire Station*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the President of the Board	3
Mission and Vision Statements	4
Brief History of the Historical Society	5
Programs and Services	6
2009 Grantors	9
2009 Cash Donors	10
2009 In-Kind Donors	11
Volunteer Appreciation	12
2009 Financial Data	13
Board of Directors	15
Presque Isle's Sesquicentennial 2009	16
Membership Meetings	17
How to contact us	17



Presque Isle Historical Society was represented at the 2009 Non-Profit Day at the State House in Augusta by youth member Elizabeth Wright (left) and Treasurer Kim Smith (right). State Representative Mike Willette, District 5—Presque Isle—stopped by for a visit and photo op. The event was held in the Hall of Flags.

## Message from the President

As we look back on 2009 it was a year of growth and accomplishments. Growth in service hours and new members has been responsible for driving our success. During 2009, the Presque Isle Historical Society has continued to advance our mission and increase awareness of local history through many successful programs: Outreach to the school system has provided local middle school students with a wealth of knowledge and in conjunction with the school's staff a chance to visit our Estey Museum. Citizens and visitors of our city have increasingly taken advantage of our guided walking tours. Many local clubs, business and organizations have utilized our speakers' bureau and PowerPoint presentations on a wide variety of historical persons and events. Our antique auto loan program has added special memories to class reunions, anniversaries, birthdays, parades and seniors at the high school prom. Our ever increasing presence on the web continues to give access to our collections for pleasure and research. Volunteers working on oral histories have secured many personal stories that otherwise would be lost forever. Many hundreds of hours of music recordings and local films have been transferred to a digital format for preservation. These programs have proven themselves to be a valuable asset to our community.

As important as the external services of the society are, we have had equally successful internal outcomes. New policies and procedures for governance were adopted, which has increased our ability to professionally conduct operations. Continued work on the Historic Fire Station has secured the physical plant until funding will allow a completion of the renovations. We undertook a large restoration of the Estey Museum cosmetically and structurally by renovating the entire roof and surrounding trim to better match the original building and increase energy efficiency.

Looking forward to 2010, the Presque Isle Historical Society is positioned again to make strides. We have this ability because of our incredible volunteers, who have made all of our success possible. It is with their continued support and that of our donors that we will accomplish our goals.

Yours in History,  
Craig Green

---

The 2009 Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of long-time Historical Society member, Angelika "Angie" Graves, 1945—2010

Angelika "Angie" Graves was born in Muensing, Germany in 1945, received a BS in foreign language with a minor in English and Biology from Ricker College in Houlton in 1967, and married Richard Graves III in 1969. Dick and Angie returned to Presque Isle in 1972 where she raised three sons and made numerous contributions to the Presque Isle Community. Angie had over 30 years of hands-on experience dealing in antiques, and owned The Country Store antique shop on North Main Street. Angie served as President of the Quoggy Jo Ski Club, on the women's auxiliary of the AR Gould Memorial Hospital and on the Retail Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she served as President of the Board of the Presque Isle Historical Society and as curator for many years.

In the words of British Poet, David Harkins,

"You can shed tears that she is gone,  
or you can smile because she has lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back,  
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left."

Angie - we are definitely smiling with our eyes open!  
You will be missed.



## Mission

The mission of the Presque Isle Historical Society is to study, preserve, and promote the history, heritage, culture, and physical artifacts of Presque Isle for future generations.

This is done through various program offerings and hands-on historical educational opportunities such as our guest lecture series; operation of the Vera Estey House Museum; guided walking tours of historic downtown Presque Isle; maintaining and displaying our collections of books, documents, photographs, and artifacts; and more.

## Vision

The vision of the Presque Isle Historical Society is to provide, with the completion of the restoration of our historic fire station and operation of the Vera Estey House Museum, a local cultural center and museum for promoting Aroostook County, providing educational and volunteer opportunities for the entire community by which it can connect with its historical past; to be recognized as a leader in the historical and cultural heritage of our area; and thus to play an active role in the revitalization of our historic downtown.



TO LEFT: Volunteers Tammy Wheeler and Sharon Roix "man" the Presque Isle Sesquicentennial booth at the 2009 Kiwanis Home Garden and Recreation Show at the Forum.

TO RIGHT: Gail Hagelstein (center) presents Presque Isle Historical Society with a check from the students of the Presque Isle Middle School History Club to help in the repairs of one of the antique fire trucks at the Culmination Celebration of the year-long Maine Community Heritage Project (MCHP) Grant event held on June 6, 2009 at the Presque Isle Library. Kim Sebold, Associate Professor of History at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, (right) looks on. UMPI, the Library, the Middle School, the High School, and the Historical Society were partners as one of the first recipients of the MCHP grant.



## Brief History of the Presque Isle Historical Society

The Presque Isle Historical Society was founded in 1963. In 1992, Vera Estey bequeathed her home at 16 Third Street to the Historical Society to be operated as a “house museum”. Vera’s will also established a trust account with which the Historical Society is able to maintain the building and grounds. The home was built around 1875 on land originally owned by Dennis Fairbanks, considered the founder of Presque Isle.



Above, as the house appeared in early 1900s.  
To the right, as it appears today.



The historic fire station was built in 1912 and served over the years simultaneously as the fire station, the police station, the municipal offices and the district court. In the early 1960s with the completion of the new A.R. Gould Hospital on Academy Street, the hospital building located at 12 Second Street became City Hall and the municipal court building. In 2001, the fire and police stations built a new facility on North Street leaving the building on Church Street vacant. In 2003, the City of Presque Isle turned over ownership of the historic fire station located at 11 Church Street to the Historical Society for the sum of \$1.00. Cost of the renovations, which included a new sprinkler system, an elevator, new electrical wiring, new roof, exterior masonry repair, and more, is estimated at \$2 million. In order to remain on firm financial ground, the Society also made the decision not to complete any work until the funding for that part of the renovations had been raised.



Fire Station—1925



Fire Station—2001



Fire Station—today

## Programs and Services

- Annual Historic Calendar Project

The Historical Society has continued its annual calendar project for yet another exciting year. In the past, the calendar has featured antique photographs of sites in and around Presque Isle. In honor of the Presque Isle's Sesquicentennial in 2009, a very special commemorative edition was published featuring water colors and oil paintings by well-known local artists of sites in and around Presque Isle. A very special thank you goes out to all contributing artists as well as Northeast Publishing for their efforts in making this special calendar a reality! Our calendars are unique collectibles and make great gifts. Copies of the Sesquicentennial issue as well as previous years are still available for purchase.



2009 Calendar Committee: (L to R): Janet Snow, Richard Rand (Chairman), Lisa from Northeast Publishers, Judy Hilton, Audrey Thibodeau, Kim Smith, Ed Hews, and Carol Bell.

- Presentations available for schools and groups
  - 1959 National Christmas Tree
  - A Pictorial History of Presque Isle
  - John R Braden
  - Presque Isle's Centennial 1959
  - Arthur R. Gould
  - History of Entertainment in PI
  - Hot Air Balloon History in N. Maine
  - History of Presque Isle's Hospitals
  - Vera Estey & the Estey House
  - Thomas and James Phair
  - A Victorian Christmas
  - Presque Isle & the Civil War
  - The Aroostook Valley Railroad
  - History of the Maysville Grange
  - Northern Maine Fair History
  - Northern Maine Sanatorium History
  - Presque Isle Curling Club History
  - History of the Library
  - History of the Fire Department
  - Presque Isle's Town Poor Farm
  - History of Recreation in PI
  - Victorian Etiquette
  - Sidney Cook
  - Dr. Storer Boone
- Exhibits
 

During the year, the Historical Society takes advantage of various opportunities to display small samples of our exhibits. One such exhibit was our annual entry in the Historic Pavilion during the Northern Maine Fair. For 2009, our booth was awarded "Best Overall Display" for our exhibit on the "History of the Presque Isle Curling Club".
- Fundraisers and other civic participation
 

In 2009, the Historical Society unfortunately had to cancel its annual Stew Supper due to the devastating fire at the Snowmobile Club. The BBQ at the Crown of Maine Balloon Fest was, however, quite popular with larger than usual crowds attending the event. In addition, we participated in the Chamber's Holiday Light Parade.



Members Chris and Kim Smith don Victorian regalia and ride on an authentic sleigh covered by an antique buffalo robe. The sleigh was pulled by Society President Craig Green driving one of his many antique vehicles, also decked out for the parade with festive lights. Photo on left courtesy of Paul Cyr.

- **Guided costumed tour of historic downtown Presque Isle**  
Our guided tours, instituted in 2007, continue to be very popular and are available by special request, or at a minimum of once a month during summer months. The tours cover a two-mile radius and take approximately two hours. These tours are free and open to the public, and available for special groups.
- **Historic Geo-Caching Tour**  
This program is almost ready to launch thanks to a grants received from the Maine Community Foundation, Kiwanis, and Presque Isle Rotary. This tour combines the use of modern technology (GPS) with history while providing a wholesome outdoor activity that the whole family can enjoy. Participants will be able to hike, bike, or drive (with rentals of bikes and GPS units) to approximately 20 sites of historic significance around the Presque Isle area. Geo-caching is a very popular activity today being enjoyed in over 220 countries world-wide.
- **Historic Music available through a server at the public library**  
The Historical Society is actively digitizing its collection of albums which are available to enjoy on the server at the Mark & Emily Turner Library.
- **Maine Memory Network**  
The Historical Society has several historic photographs of the people and buildings of Presque Isle available for purchase on the Maine Memory Network web site, a part of the Maine Historical Society.
- **Oral History Interviews**  
The Historical Society is actively conducting interviews of people with memories that are significant for us to retain as an integral part of our local history.
- **Quarterly newsletter**
- **Scholarship Program**  
The Historical Society awarded its first scholarship in 2008 funded by recycling used cell phones. The initial offering of the scholarship was in the amount of \$100 and was awarded to Amber Shaw, a junior member of the Historical Society, who attended the University of Maine at Presque Isle. There were no applicants for 2009.
- **Self-Guided tour of historic downtown Presque Isle**  
If you don't want to wait for a guided tour, or prefer to stroll at your own pace, the "Self-Guided Tour" brochure is available on-line at [www.pihistory.org](http://www.pihistory.org).



- **Souvenirs of Presque Isle**  
The Historical Society has expanded its line of Presque Isle souvenirs offered as the Sesquicentennial nears. In addition to our collectible calendars, PIHS now offers mugs, paperweights, ornaments, wooden nickels, 15 oz. Tumblers, and Sesquicentennial plates. The proceeds from the sale of these souvenirs go towards the historic fire station restoration fund.

## 2009 Grantor

In June of 2008, the Presque Isle Historical Society partnered with the Mark & Emily Turner Memorial Library, the Presque Isle Middle School, the Presque Isle High School, and the University of Maine at Presque Isle to win one of eight Maine Community Heritage Project Grants in the amount of \$10,000. The overall goals of this grant were to strengthen partnerships, identify historical resources for Presque Isle, involve more youth in local history, and provide easy access to the history of Presque Isle to its residents.

This was the first year of this grant, which was offered to eight communities around the state—each in a different County. For 2010, eight different communities were chosen.

Over the course of this one-year grant, many exciting activities took place. A History Club was formed at the Presque Isle Middle School which incorporated the “Lunch Box Lecture Series”. During this series, Historical Society member Richard Rand provided a very popular presentation on potato harvesting in Presque Isle. Richard displayed his 1946 potato truck, picking potatoes using barrels, and hoisting the barrels into the truck. Society member Kim Smith provided a presentation on pioneer life in Presque Isle with artifacts such as a chamber pot, wash board, and lye soap.

University of Maine at Presque Isle history students also mentored the students at the Middle School. This partnership resulted in some wonderful student projects.

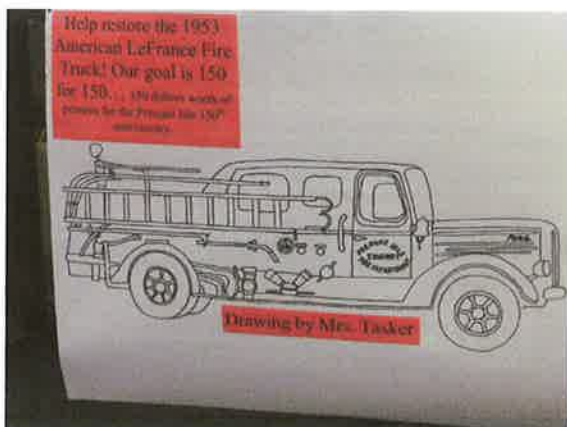
The year-long project culminated in a presentation to the community on June 6, 2009 held at the Library including catered refreshments. At this event, the Middle School students presented the Historical Society with money they had collected to be used towards repairs on one of the antique fire engines.

Also, at this event, the Presque Isle website on MaineMemory.net was unveiled. This site contains a 3000 word history of Presque Isle and numerous exhibits on topics of Presque Isle history as well as several photographs.

[www.presqueisle.mainememory.net](http://www.presqueisle.mainememory.net)

PIMS Fire Engine Repair Fundraiser

Rick Asam introduces the website



## 2009 Cash Donors

### **\$0—\$49**

Ann Cushman	Unrestricted
Carol Bell	Unrestricted
Donald Savage	Unrestricted
Kenneth Dean	Unrestricted
Laurence Park	Unrestricted
Leo and Julie Freeman	Unrestricted
Mary MacBride	Unrestricted
Tammy Walton	Restricted—Fire Station
The Pizza House	Unrestricted
William Hummer	Unrestricted

### **\$50—\$99**

Brian Sipe	Unrestricted
Calvin Hall	Unrestricted
James Quinn	Unrestricted
Lawrence & Elizabeth Shaw	Restricted—Annual Fund i/m/o Perley Dean

### **\$100—\$249**

David Phelan	Unrestricted
Eastern Star Ch 126	Unrestricted
Harold Haney	Unrestricted
Presque Isle Fish & Game Club	Restricted—Fire Station
University of Maine—SAGE	Unrestricted

### **\$250—\$499**

Anonymous (Cash)	Unrestricted
------------------	--------------

### **\$500—\$749**

Northern Auto Body	Unrestricted
--------------------	--------------

## **2009 In-Kind Donors**

### **\$0—\$49**

Christopher Smith  
Dennis Drew  
J. Rodney Lamoreau  
Lawrence Smith  
Mary Smith  
Rick Guerrette  
Robert Lento  
Steve Sutter

### **\$50—\$99**

Galen Cole  
Philip Barnes  
Sharon Gade  
Sherry Beaulieu  
Sue Black

### **\$100—\$249**

Barbara Rumsey  
City of Presque Isle  
Dan & Sylvia Bridgham  
Dana Lippitt  
Elizabeth Kretschmer  
Stephen Naas  
University of Maine at Presque Isle

### **\$250—\$499**

Dan Fongemie  
Dennis Harris  
Randy Martin

### **\$500—\$999**

Marilyn Wheeler

### **\$1000—\$4999**

Dr. George Higgins  
Kimberly Smith

### **\$15,000 and more**

Channel X Radio

Volunteer labor donated as reported by 12/31/09 was valued at \$34,642.50.

Omissions or errors on the donor lists are unintentional. We apologize for any errors.

## Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization as we rely solely on their labor at this point in time. The Presque Isle Historical Society appreciates every single moment that these individuals generously give. National Volunteer Week is in April and since 2007, we have honored all of our volunteers during that time frame each year.

For 2009, forty-eight volunteers donated two thousand three hundred nine and one-half hours to the Historical Society. These hours are valued at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, which translated is \$34,642.50 worth of in-kind donations. These donated hours are so much more than an individual performing a task. The translated value can be used to leverage additional funding through grants thus having a much larger impact than perhaps our volunteers initially realize.

Thank you to each and every one of the following:

Albert Akeley	Cody Kennedy
Rick Asam	Jessica Lawrence
Blanche Beckwith	Donna Lisnik
Carol Bell	Effie McPherson
Billie Brodsky	John Michalowski
Phil Brown	Donna Michaud
Alan Cleaves	Marilyn Nadeau
Ann Cushman	Rick Nadeau
Frances Cushman	Harold Quass
Joanne Esse	Richard Rand **
Jan Farley	Thelma Rand
Jaylee Farley	Greg Roderick
Jeremy Farley *	Sharon Roix
Nikki Farley	Donna Rowe
Theresa Fowler	Donald Savage
Meghan Frank	Christopher Smith
Dave Garey	Kimberly Smith ***
Angie Graves	Janet Snow
Craig Green *	Melissa Vance
Fred Haines	Steve Vance **
Barb Hews	Jarrod Walton
Ed Hews	Tammy Wheeler
Judy Hilton	Ann Wight
Peter Hilton	Elizabeth Wright

Five volunteers gave 100 or more of their time during 2009 to the Historical Society. These five were recognized by the President's Council on Service and Participation.

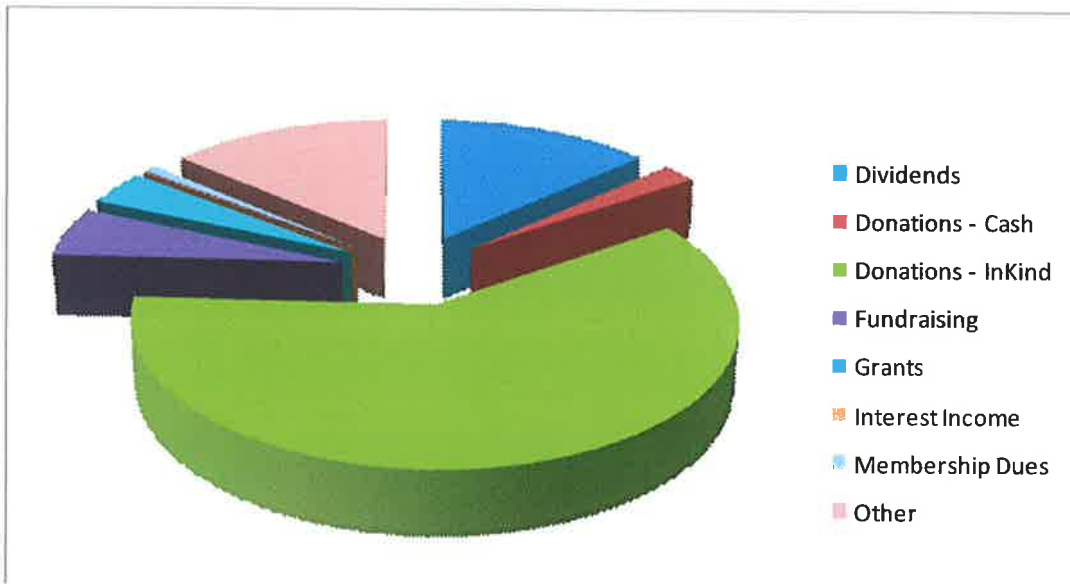
\* Donation of 100—249 hours earned a Bronze Level Award.

\*\* Donation of 250—499 hours earned a Silver Level Award.

\*\*\* Donation of 500 or more hours earned a Gold Level Award.

The awards consisted of a letter from President Obama, a beautiful Certificate of Appreciation, and a lapel pin.

## 2009 Financial Data



### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2009

	ASSETS	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash		<u>32,679</u>	<u>86,109</u>
Property and Equipment		681,195	634,057
Less accumulated depreciation		<u>90,794</u>	<u>85,858</u>
		<u>590,401</u>	<u>548,199</u>
Investments—cost basis		213,645	209,232
Unrealized gains on investments		<u>13,523</u>	<u>5,024</u>
Investments—market value		<u>227,168</u>	<u>214,256</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>850,248</u>	<u>848,564</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>None</u>	<u>None</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted		518,346	578,210
Temporarily Restricted		13,523	5,024
Permanently Restricted		<u>310,879</u>	<u>265,330</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>842,748</u>	<u>848,564</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		<u>850,248</u>	<u>848,564</u>

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
NET ASSETS, JANUARY 1, 2008	<u>578,210</u>	<u>5,024</u>	<u>265,330</u>	<u>848,564</u>
<b>REVENUES AND SUPPORT</b>				
Donor contributions	1,962		4,638	6,600
Membership dues	765			765
Miscellaneous	<u>223</u>			<u>223</u>
Investment Income				
Interest and Dividends	6,320			6,320
Realized gains/(losses)	<u>11,139</u>			<u>11,139</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>17,459</u>			<u>17,459</u>
Fundraising Revenues				
Calendar Sales	4,556			4,556
Other	<u>715</u>			<u>715</u>
Total Fundraising Revenues	<u>5,271</u>			<u>5,271</u>
Grants	<u>1,432</u>			<u>1,432</u>
Release of assets from restrictions	<u>1,589</u>		<u>(1,589)</u>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT</b>	<u>28,701</u>		<u>3,049</u>	31,750
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Alarm monitoring	231			231
Building maintenance	5,494			5,494
Depreciation	4,936			4,936
Dues and subscriptions	609			609
Bank fees	160			160
Insurance	6,651			6,651
Advertising	658			658
Miscellaneous	2,496			2,496
Office supplies	368			368
Postage	466			466
Printing	3,137			3,137
Program expenses	422			422
Professional fees	4,814			4,814
PILOT	2,015			2,015
Telephone	523			523
Travel	157			157
Utilities-Estey House	3,267			3,267
Utilities-Fire Station	<u>9,661</u>			<u>9,661</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>46,065</u>			<u>46,065</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES UNDER EXPENDITURES</b>				
	(17,364)		3,049	(14,315)
<b>TRANSFER COST OF ESTEY HOUSE RENOVATION</b>				
	(42,500)		42,500	
<b>UNREALIZED GAINS ON INVESTMENTS</b>		<u>8,499</u>		<u>8,499</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>				
	(59,864)	8,499	45,549	(5,816)
<b>NET ASSETS, DECEMBER 31, 2008</b>	<u>518,346</u>	<u>13,523</u>	<u>310,879</u>	<u>842,748</u>

## **Board of Directors (elected May 2009, serving June 2009—May 2010):**

### **President, Craig Green**

Mr. Green holds a BS Degree in Business Management from the University of Maine. Craig has been an NASD Registered Representative for New York Life Insurance Company for 14 years. He is serving or has served the local community in a number of capacities including Past President of the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club and Past Lieutenant Governor of the New England District, currently on the Board of Directors of the Aroostook Medical Center, one of the original eight founders of Caring Area Neighbors for Cancer Education and Recovery C.A.N.C.E.R., Secretary of the Presque Isle Sewer District, Vice President of the Northern Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Aroostook County, Chairperson of the Aroostook Republican Committee, Member of the Maine Republican Party Board of Directors, and Chairperson for the Second Congressional District County Chairpersons Board.

### **Vice President, Greg Roderick**

Mr. Roderick was born and raised in Aroostook County as the son of entrepreneurs. For over 20 years, Greg has successfully run an automotive restoration and collision business. He has personally restored a national first prize AACA 1937 Chevrolet, and has worked on countless other antique vehicles. Mr. Roderick has a personal collection of 1930's and 40's vintage automobiles and enjoys working with other local historical groups. In addition to his current position he is a board member of the PI Air Museum. He resides in Presque Isle with his wife and two children.

### **Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, Kimberly R. Smith, MSB**

Ms. Smith holds a Master's of Science Degree in Business from Husson College, a BA Degree in International Affairs from the University of Maine, and a Non-Profit Organizational Management Diploma from Shenandoah University. Kim has served as the CEO of three non-profit organizations, which have won national awards under her stewardship. She has been a member of the Virginia Festivals and Events Association; has presented seminars on Grant Writing and the ABC's of Event Planning; has served on the Board of Directors for the South Florida Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, First Night Virginia, and the Association of Fundraising Raising Executives. She is listed in several "Who's Who" directories and is a member of MENSA.

### **Recording Secretary, Steve Vance**

Mr. Vance holds a BS degree in Entomology from the University of Maine and taught science at Presque Isle High School. He retired as the Technology Coordinator of MSAD #1.

### **Curator, Judy Hilton**

Mrs. Hilton holds Associate Degrees in Applied Science in Computer Programming and in Business Administration from Northern Maine Vocational Technical College (now Northern Maine Community College). She retired from NMCC as Senior Computer Programmer after 26 years. In addition, Judy volunteers for the Aroostook Agency on Aging where she does medical transport, volunteers for Aroostook RSVP, and prepares meals one day a week for the Martha and Mary's Food Kitchen Ministry. She is also very active in her church and recently traveled to Swaziland in Africa to present a bible school and help build a building to be used by the local orphanage. Judy continues to take classes through SAGE (Seniors Achieving Greater Education) and works part time for Northeast Publishing Company.

### **Docent, Janet Snow**

Ms. Snow holds a BA in Behavioral Sciences and an MS in Adult Education. Janet is a licensed Social Worker and is retired from the State of Maine Adult Protective Services. She is a member of the Community Advisory Board for Maine Public Broadcasting, Steering Committee Member and Field Trip Coordinator for the University of Maine at Presque Isle Senior College (SAGE), an active member of the University of Maine Aroostook County Homemakers Spragueville Extension, and a member of Maine Association of Retirees and MSEA-SEIU. She is also currently attending the Presque Isle Police Department's Citizen Police Academy.

### **Members at Large**

Audrey Thibodeau holds a BS Degree in Science and Home Economics. Audrey taught classes in Houlton, Presque Isle, and Washburn. She was instrumental in obtaining teachers and establishing programs to train teachers in Aroostook County to work with dyslexic children. Audrey has served on the local Welcome Wagon, on the Board of the University of Maine at Presque Isle, as a member of the Community Recreation Department, was a founder of the AR Gould Hospital Auxiliary, and was a member of Tri-Delta sorority. In addition, she is a past president of this Board. Audrey owned and operated a large retail business in the area for 17 years. She also set up a successful pony club program in Aroostook County.

Richard Rand holds a BS in Education from Aroostook State Teachers College (now the University of Maine at Presque Isle) and an MS in Education from the University of Maine. He has taught elementary and middle school as well as mathematics at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, from which he is now retired. Richard belongs to the Presque Isle Fish and Game Club, is a member of Maine Educators Association and the National Education Association, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Aroostook Retired Teachers Association.

### **Past President, Carol S. Bell**

Ms. Bell holds an Associates Degree in Environmental Control Technology and a BS Degree in Industrial Technology. She is certified in OSHA safety standards, has 18 years experience in manufacturing with 8 years as a mill manager. In addition, Carol is a former member of the Northern Maine Technical College Advisory Committee, a member of the Northern Maine Development Commission loan review committee, a member of the Hot Air Balloon Festival, and past President of the Board of the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce. She currently serves as the Project Manager for Partnership for a Healthy Community with the Aroostook County Action Program.

## Presque Isle's Sesquicentennial



Having been officially formed as a town on April 4, 1859, Presque Isle celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 2009. The year-long celebration began with a raising of a six-foot lighted star, fabricated by the metal fabrication students of Northern Maine Community College, over the Star City on New Year's Eve 2008. In January, the City saw a Victorian Tea held by the ladies of Eastern Star as well as the beginning of the monthly "Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series", monthly presentations at the Presque Isle Library on topics of historical interest to Presque Isle.

On April 4, Northern Maine Community College hosted the gala Birthday Bash as part of National Community College Month. The day was filled with wondrous events including a three-foot high star-shaped cake, performances by the Maine Event Barbershoppers and the Wednesday Evening Fiddlers, a presentation of a sesquicentennial quilt to the Historical Society by the Crown of Maine Quilters Guild, and much more. The quilt toured the City being displayed in a new venue every month of the year. Costumed guided walking tours of historic downtown Presque Isle commenced for the summer season. In addition, the event was marked by a special commemorative postage cancellation stamp obtained through the U.S. Postal Service. In May, the Historical Society hosted an Open House at the Estey House in celebration of Vera Estey's birthday and the Sesquicentennial; and the Caribou Chorale Society provided a heavenly historical concert. In August, the James School provided us with a look at school days of yesteryear with an Open House and Family Fun Day. The Historical Society hosted the Sesquicentennial 5K Fun Run and Walk beginning on Main Street and finishing at the historic Fire Station. The year went out with a bang with a Victorian Christmas celebration presented by the Historical Society and hosted by Northern Maine College and the First Night celebration held downtown.



## **Meetings**

Monthly membership meetings of the Presque Isle Historical Society are held on the first Wednesday of every month (weather permitting) beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Grant Memorial United Methodist Church at 79 Fleetwood Street in Presque Isle. These meetings typically run until 7:00 p.m.

For 2010, monthly meeting dates will be:

January 6

February 3

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 2

July 7

August 11 (moved back one week due to Historic Pavilion dates)

September 1

October 6

November 3

December 1

Occasionally, these meetings are postponed in case of conflict with fundraising events or due to inclement weather. Please call us to be notified of any changes.

Executive Board meetings are held on a quarterly basis typically in the months of March, July, September, and December.

## **How to contact us**

The Presque Isle Historical Society may be reached as follows:

Mail: PO Box 285, Presque Isle, Maine 04769

Telephone: (207) 762-1151

E-mail: [pihistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:pihistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.pihistory.org](http://www.pihistory.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!