

The Magdalen Islands

by Fernand Belanger

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The municipal county of Magdalen Islands consists of an archipelago situated nearly in the centre of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, just south of Anticosti Island. The Amerindians seem to have been the first people to visit the islands; after them the Bretons, the Basques and the Normans came around the beginning of the 16th Century during their hunting and fishing expeditions.

The name "Magdeleine" appeared for the first time in 1629, when Champlain used it to designate the Havre-Aubert Island, but it was François Doublet, an apothecary, who actually gave that name to the islands. He was their second owner, and on January 19, 1663 he named them "Iles-de-la-Madeleine" in honour of his wife, Madeleine Fontaine.

It is interesting to note that from 1653 to 1903 more than fifteen people succeeded Doublet as owners of the islands, but it seems that none of them ever associated his name to a post office or to a

locality there.

Over the years, thirty post offices were opened on the Magdalen Islands, of which twelve still remain; only the post office named Magdalen Islands was opened before Confederation. Presented below in alphabetical order is a list of these post offices, showing their opening dates, and where applicable, the closing dates. Also given are the MOON (Money Order Office Number) and the POCON (Post Office Computer Organization Number) of those offices which were assigned them, the former being assigned in 1937 and the latter in 1973. From time to time the names of some offices were changed; where this occurred, the former name or the later name is given in the appropriate column. In these cases respectively, the "closing" date or the "opening" date signifies the date of the name change.

References

National Postal Museum research files
(post office record cards)
Pierre Rastoul and Gilles Rousseau,
"Les îles-de-la-Madeleine", 1979.

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NAME	FORMER NAME	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	LATER NAME	MOON	POCON
Amherst Island	Magdalen Islands	1899 10 01	1907 09 01	Havre-Aubert		
Arsenault		1912 11 01	1923 02 29		70115	
		1937 11 15	1969 01 20			
Aurigny	Solomon	1896 12 15	1968 10 28		0036	
Bassin		1969 11 03	open		1830	188123
Boisville		1927 10 01	1932 09 30		70475	
		1937 02 01	1968 10 19			

Bryon		1894 10 01	1898 07 01	Fauriel		
Bryon Island		1898 07 01	1931 11 24	Summer office only, 1922-1931		
Cap-aux-Meules	Grindstone Island	1964 01 11	open		0395	181706
Chemin-des-Buttes		1927 09 05	1969 07 19		70910	
Dune-du-Sud	South Beach	1963 09 21	1969 07 19		76978	
Entry Island		1896 06 16	open		71432	
Etang-des-Caps		1907 09 01	1966 02 17		71450	
		1966 03 07	1968 06 03			
Etang-du-Nord		1870 07 01	open		0318	181374
Fatima	Lapeyrere	1949 08 23	open		0325	181382
Fauriel	Bryon	1898 07 01	1903 05 01	Lemieux		
Grand Entry		1873 08 01	1955 07 16	Grande-Entrée		
Grand-Ruisseau		1926 12 01	1947 12 09		15082	
		1959 08 01	1968 10 18			
Grande-Entrée	Grand Entry	1955 07 16	open		0379	181633
Grindstone Island		1875 11 01	1964 01 11	Cap-aux-Meules	0395	
Gros-Cap		1929 09 03	1968 10 21		15079	
Havre-Aubert	Amherst Island	1907 09 01	open		0410	181781
Havre-aux-Maisons	House Harbour	1964 01 11	open		0428	181897
House Harbour		1870 07 01	1964 01 11	Havre-aux Maisons	0428	
La Cyr		1921 06 01	1968 10 24		72638	
L'Anse-à-la-Cabane		1886 07 01	1932 06 30			
Lapeyrere		1906 10 01	1949 08 23	Fatima	71483	
La Vernière		1899 09 01	open		0610	182788
Le Martinet		1959 02 16	1968 10 23		0551	
Lemieux	Fauriel	1903 05 01	1906 06 01	Leslie		
Le Pré		1923 11 20	1969 07 19		73016	
Les Caps		1914 10 01	1968 10 19		0616	
Leslie	Lemieux	1906 06 01	open		0607	182745
Magdalen Islands		1854 09 01	1899 10 01	Amherst Island		
Millerand		1928 07 10	open		0398	181722
Old Harry		1904 11 01	1970 07 20		15062	
Pointe-au-Loup		1922 11 10	open		1022	183695
Pointe-Basse		1896 12 15	1969 07 19		1015	
Portage-du-Cap		1918 10 01	1968 10 23		1459	
Solomon		1913 06 01	1969 11 03	Bassin	1830	
South Beach		1894 10 01	1963 09 21	Dune-du-Sud	1804	
Vigneau		1926 08 16	1968 10 23		15081	

