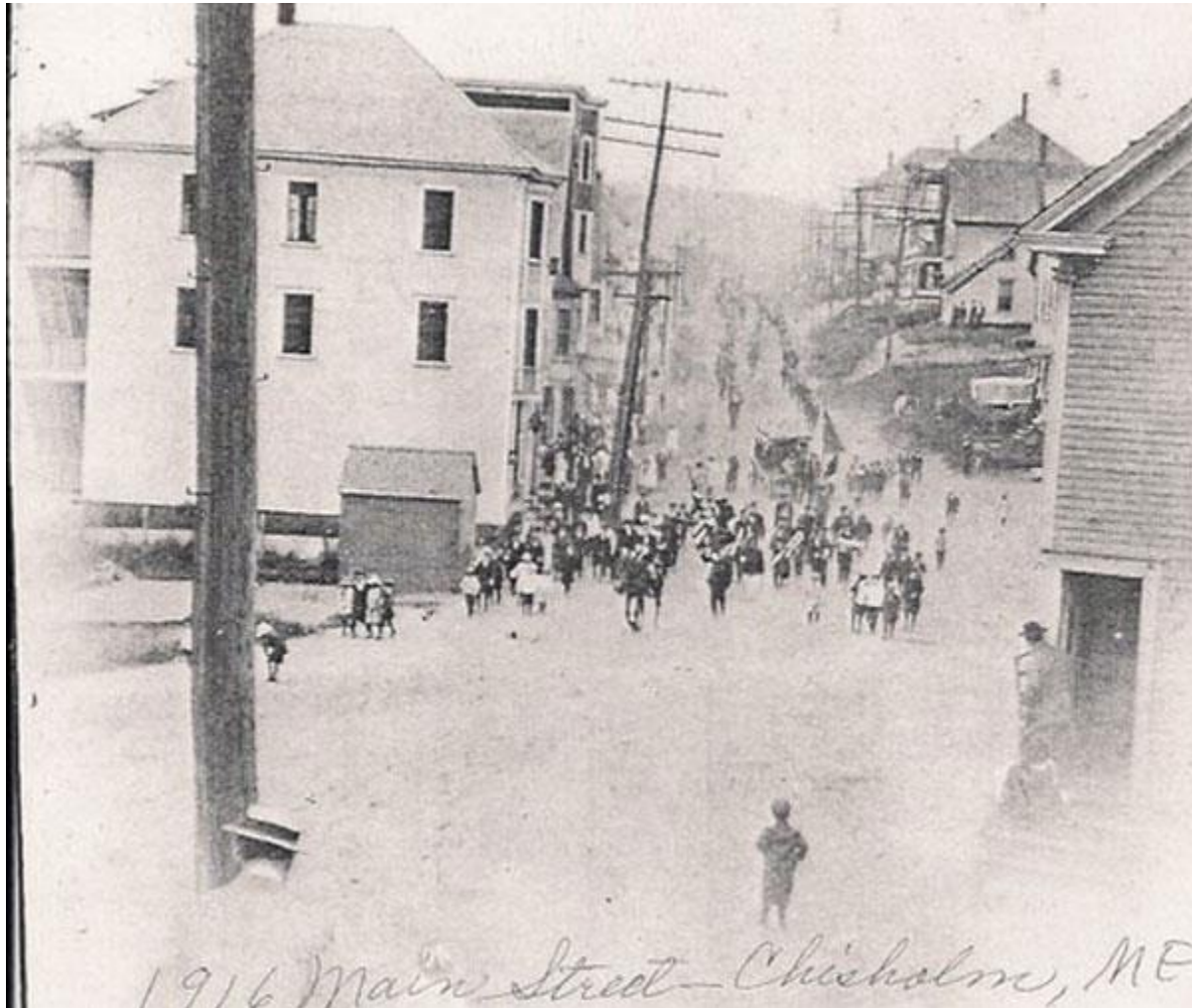


Local Documentary Focuses on French- Canadian Immigrants to Franklin County

Free and Open to the community. The Gold LEAF institute (senior college at UMF) will be showing the film *Down by The River's Edge* as part of the 150th Anniversary celebration events at UMF this fall. The film will be shown at 3:45 p.m. on October 10 in Thomas Auditorium, UMF. Thomas Auditorium is located on High Street in Farmington, on the UMF Campus. Entry can be made from the Preble or Ricker doorways. Donations will be accepted.



1916 Maine Street, Chisolm: The Otis Mill drew thousands of immigrants from Canada, Italy, Eastern Europe and Ireland. (Photo Courtesy of Susan Gagnon)

Local Documentary Upcoming Presentation A local documentary, *Down by The River's Edge* written and filmed by local Farmington resident, Susan Gagnon will be presented at University of Maine at Farmington. Set against the backdrop of the history of the local paper industry beginning in the 1890's, the film documents the riveting stories of paper makers who worked at the landmark Otis Mill in Chisholm, Maine and includes the devastation closing of the historic Otis Mill. Oftentimes leaving family

behind for years, men traveled over land and sea, from Quebec, the Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and across the Atlantic from as far away as Italy, Czechoslovakia and Ireland seeking and finding employment in the foothills of western Maine. Through first hand accounts, retired paper makers weave generational tales of their struggles and triumphs as immigrant settling together with loved ones into the trinity of a community: the Otis Mill, the Androscoggin River and the St. Rose of Lima Church, where all these new immigrants practiced their Roman Catholic faith. Susan Gagnon, a former resident of Jay and Livermore Falls collaborated with Mt. Blue Community Access TV in Farmington producing the local documentary. After contacting JP Fortier, MBTV Station Director, novice filmmaker Gagnon was trained on how to use the station's camera equipment and began filming the outside of the Otis Mill while it was still producing paper in May 2009. The Otis Mill shut down permanently in June 2009. Gagnon, who wrote the screenplay, formerly a community health advocate and medical receptionist, enjoys writing, researching local history of immigrant populations, scrapbooking and spending time with her children and grandchildren

For info: Contact Gold LEAF office, 778-7063