

L'Ordre du Bon Temps

L'Ordre du Bon Temps (The Order of the Good Times) was the first social club in North America originally established in 1606 at Port-Royal, Acadie, present day, Nova Scotia, Canada, by Samuel de Champlain.

The purpose of the club was to provide entertainment and satisfy hearty appetites during the long, harsh Acadian winter. There were 15 gentlemen in the company and each took a turn being host for the day by designing his menu on the day's hunt.

Generally, the men enjoyed huge moose or caribou roasts as well as smaller game such as beaver, porcupine and rabbits. In fact, moose and beaver's tail were highly regarded for their tenderness and delicate flavors. Waterfowl, ruffed grouse, partridge and other birds were plentiful. Trout, cod and lobsters were speared through the ice for the dinner fare as well.

The men competed to provide the most sumptuous meal for their comrades. If the day's hunt was not as successful as hoped, the host traded with local tribesmen for sufficient fare. Usually, these Micmac Indians joined in the elaborate banquet.

That evening, the host wore the Insignia of the Order and Paraded in grandeur to the dinning hall with each comrade carrying a delectable platter of food. Once the meal was enjoyed, the men told stories and sang. A toast with wine events completed the evening's and the Insignia of the Order was passed to the successor.