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# Le Trésor des Kirouac

Bulletin of the descendants of Urbain-François Le Bihan, sieur de Kerboach



2008 Volunteering Prize Ceremony at the opening of the FFSQ Annual Convention on 25 April 2008, in Sainte-Foy, Quebec. Standing, left to right: back row : Marie Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Jacques Kirouac, Alberte Garon, Lucie Jasmin; front row: Gisèle Bergeron, François Kirouac and Bruno Kirouac.

Kirouac ❖ Kéroack ❖ Kirouac ❖ Kprouac ❖ Kérrouack ❖ Kirouack

# Le Trésor des Kirouac

*Le Trésor des Kirouac*, bulletin of the descendants of Urbain-François Le Bihan, sieur de Kivoach, is published four times a year in two editions: French and English; it is distributed to all AFK/KFA members. Permission to reproduce an article must be obtained from the KFA beforehand.

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# A Word from the President

## Volunteering Prize

Every year the FFSQ grants prizes to underline the excellent work done by volunteers and their magnificent contribution to their family association and their members. This Spring the KFA Board members entered my name for the *Fédération des familles souches du Québec* (FFSQ) Volunteering Prize.

On the opening night of the Convention, on 25 April 2008, I was awarded the First Prize, called *Volunteer Emeritus*. The second prize, *Grand Volunteer* was given to Mr. Bernard Robitaille of the *Robitaille Family Association* and the third prize, *Exemplary Volunteer*, was given to Mr. Michel Provost of the *Prévost-Provost Association*.

I take this opportunity to publicly thank Céline Kirouac who prepared the file for my candidacy. She put a lot of time and energy into it and I also want to thank all the Board Members who helped her in her work. You have done me a great honour and I wish to thank you from the bottom of my heart and tell you how deeply touched I am.

As the prize was awarded publicly, this is also an honour for our Family Association because it gave us added visibility at the Convention. During the evening, comments heard about our Association were most flattering. Since its foundation, the KFA has been known for the quality of its work and productions, and the dynamism of its administrators and collaborators. Therefore it gives me great pleasure in sharing these comments with you since it is thanks to all of you who keep

encouraging us since 1978 that the KFA has been able to build such a great reputation.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for putting your trust in me for so long since I have been a KFA administrator for so many years.

This Volunteering Prize is an honour I wish to share with you all. To one and all: Thank you very much!

## Television Programme:

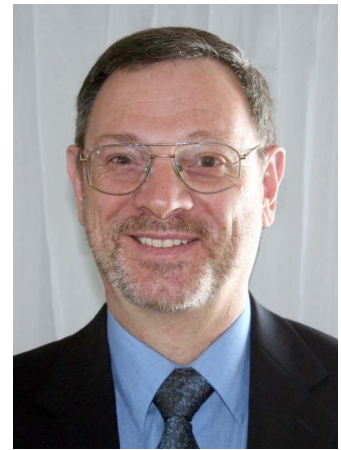
### *La Quête on TFO*

Another important event giving the KFA, and the Kirouacs in general, a great deal of visibility is the airing on *Télévision Franco-Ontarienne* between May 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, of the new programme about Brother Marie-Victorin presented as part of the French series *La Quête* (The Quest).

Last year in the Summer *Trésor*, number 88, we told you a TV programme about Conrad Kirouac would be filmed by *INSTINCT FILMS* around mid-June 2007 in the Montreal area.

*"The two children who go on the road looking for the works of Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin, are Charles-Éric, great-grandson of Léona Kirouac-Bornais (GFK 0331) and Michael, great-grandson of Rose Kirouac-Auger (GFK 0316), two of the daughters of Télesphore Kirouac (GFK 0315) and Marie Blais, first Kirouacs to settle in the Trois-Rivières area."*

Though this was a first experience for the two boys, they played their parts like pros and were



François Kirouac

extraordinarily natural. We were all very proud of their achievement. Many thanks to Lucie Jasmin who was responsible for the project to the KFA Board and to her colleagues, Marie Lussier Timperley and J. A. Michel Bornais.

Finally, *Instinct Film* has authorized the KFA to present the series to its members. They gave us a DVD of the programme and it will be shown to those present at our upcoming Annual Family Gathering on 2-3 August 2008.

To conclude, one last word of welcome to everyone who wishes to be present to celebrate with us in Quebec City during the first weekend in August. The Organizing Committee members are expecting many of you at Maison Jésus-Ouvrier and many, we know, will be there already on Friday evening, August first.

See you soon!



# BRIEFLY SPEAKING

## *Canadian Swing Championship*

**Geneviève Kirouac  
and Benjamin Ricard  
win top honours**

**by Karine Bouchard,  
Québec Hebdo, 26 May 2008**

Geneviève Kerouac, Coach at the Quebec City Circus School, and her partner, Benjamin Ricard, won top honours at the recent Canadian Swing Championship. They danced away with the coveted title of **2008 Canadian Grand Champion** thanks to their victorious performance in the Canadian Showcase Category.

From May 16 to 19 at Carling Lake, Quebec, the two Quebec City dancers from **Port-O-Swing Dance Studio** really shone during the competition. They also managed to snatch the top prize from two Montreal dancers, Zach Richards and Maryse Lebeau, who held the title of champion for the past three years.

There were four-hundred dancers from Canada, France, United States, Argentina and Australia competing for top honours in about twenty categories. Besides the two Canadian Champions, many other dancers from the Port-O-Swing Dance Studio also won the heart of the jury members in many categories as well.

### **Dancing with passion**

Geneviève K  rouac and Benjamin Ricard have been dancing together since 2004. Though they have been partners for only a few years, both

have been passionate ‘swingers’ for many years. “I started dancing and the swing in 2000 when I was a circus artist then”, adds Ms. Kerouac.

Both dancers have a most impressive list of career achievements; this recent title comes on top of many others including: World Champions of Lindy Hop 2005-2006, World Champions of Swing (all categories) and winners of the National Jitterbug Championships.

The two dancers do not plan on resting this Summer either. Their agenda is already full. To conclude our interview Ms. Kerouac adds: “We will give many shows this Summer and take part in the World Championship in California. We are always on the move!”

### **MARIE-VICTORIN OBSERVATORY**

The following is the synopsis of programme number 43 of the French series *La Qu  te* (The Quest), produced by *Instinct Films* from Montr  al and presented in May 2008 by TFO = Ontario Francophone Television. To find out when the programme will be shown again, please look up the TFO Schedule / *La Qu  te* on the Internet.

However, this excellent series has yet to be bought by Quebec Television stations, as a consequence very few of our members have been able to see the programme and appreciate the quality of the work done by *Instinct Films* who deserve our heartfelt congratulations. We also owe a great many thanks to TFO for its



J.A. Michel Bornais

Photo: Fran  ois Kirouac

contribution towards making Brother Marie-Victorin known as Conrad Kirouac.

### *TFO – LA QU  TE EPISODE 43, BROTHER MARIE- VICTORIN*

*Founder of the Montreal Botanical  
Garden*

In the world of Canadian botany, Brother Marie-Victorin is a true superstar. He was the very first to record Quebec’s flora and who, through his work, moved Canada to the forefront of botanical science. In this episode, two descendants of the same Breton ancestor were responsible to retrace the great steps in the life of the founder of the Montreal Botanical Garden.

### *Amateur Botanists*

Charles-  ric is eleven years old and studies at Coll  ge Stanislas, in Quebec City. He is very intelligent and bright, loves hockey - which he plays as much on the street in the Summer as he does on the neighbourhood ice-skating rink in the Winter. He also loves to play Badminton and computer games, especially when there is lots of action. His favourite books are *The Adventures of G  ronimo Stilton*, a series of novels that he has read



many times. In school his favourite subject is geography.

He likes to learn about other countries and loves Celtic music. At school, he also takes acting classes and likes to sing too when he feels inspired. His class is part of a choir and he loves to take part in it. Of his famous distant cousin, Conrad Kirouac, he only knew him as the founder of the Montreal Botanical Garden, a place he always loves to visit.

His 12-year old cousin, Michael, is his accomplice. An excellent choice knowing that those two young guys, when together, get on like a house on fire and always come up with far-fetched tricks. Now let's see if they can combine their efforts in order to, literally, dig up their roots.

#### *When Our Roots Have Roots...*

Our two friends begin their quest at the Francon Quarry in the greater Montreal area to learn about the science of soil, minerals, and limestone, vegetation's basic nutrients. "Good soil produces good vegetation and beautiful flowers:" therefore Charles-Éric and Michael are now headed to a flower shop to find some stunning flowers to make a bouquet, one equal to the reputation of Brother Marie-Victorin.

As the famous French Canadian botanist's mission was to find the name of every flower he discovered, our two adventurers will have to search outdoor not only to discover but also make an inventory of various plants, particularly the Brother's favourite one, a carnivorous plant called: Sarracenia Purpurea (also known as Purple pitcher plant or Side-saddle flower).

Michael and Charles-Éric then go to *L'Institut de recherche en biologie végétale* (The Research Institute in Plant Biology) to bring the samples they gathered and put them into the

archives in the same plant herbarium constituted by Brother Marie-Victorin. After that, our two friends go to the Montreal Botanical Garden to admire some of the 250,000 plants growing there, particularly the orchids that the Religious Scientist and founder of the Garden brought himself.

#### *Superstar Botanist*

Born in 1885 in Kingsley Falls, Quebec, Conrad Kirouac was the son of a prosperous Quebec City merchant. As a teenager, to please his father, he studied at the *Académie commerciale de Québec*. After brilliantly completing his studies, and to his father's great consternation, he decided to enter into the teaching order of the Brothers of the Christian Schools where he took the religious name of Brother Marie-Victorin.

Though he was a natural and gifted teacher, he was sent to the countryside for enforced rest because of his precarious health. There his passion for nature blossomed and he spent every free moment studying the local flora which he talked about in his very first writings. He established scientific contacts with other countries and, when the Department of Science was created at *University of Montreal* in 1920, he was invited to teach botany there.

He began cataloguing the Quebec flora in 1912 and, by 1935, this colossal enterprise produced his master work *La Flore laurentienne*. It has been publicly acknowledged by numerous institutions abroad and in Canada as a botany bible. In 1929, he campaigned for the creation of a botanical garden in Montreal and, in 1936, his project became a reality.

On 15 July 1944, just a few months before his 60th birthday, he died in a car accident. He was on his way

back from a field trip where he had found a new variety of fern. He was buried in the Côte-des-Neiges Cemetery in Montreal. In 1954, a larger than life monument was unveiled in the Montreal Botanical Garden to commemorate this important man who played such a vital part in our history.

Editor's note: French text copyright © La Quête; translated by Marie Lussier Timperley

#### **MARIE-VICTORIN OBSERVATORY**

*The Montreal Botanical Garden  
Designated a National Historic Site  
of Canada*

*by Névé Éditions 30 May 2008*

Everyone is smiling at the Montreal Botanical Garden, the oldest of Montreal's Nature Museums, for it has just been designated a National Historic Site of Canada by the Honourable John Baird, Federal Minister of the Environment. Brother Marie-Victorin (1), the Botanical Garden's founder, was in fact named a National Historic Person in 1987 by the Federal Government.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada cited three main reasons for recommending that the Garden be designated a National Historic Site of Canada:

- 1 **The extent of its collections and facilities**, making it one of the world's leading botanical gardens, with 22,000 plant species and cultivars(2), some thirty thematic gardens - including the Rose Garden, ten large exhibition greenhouses, the Chinese Garden, the Japanese Garden and the First Nations Garden, not to mention its immense arboretum;
- 2 The evolution of the Botanical Garden and the way it **has remained faithful to its founders' vision**, as "an ideal botanical garden" with superb



aesthetic qualities, a scientific vocation and education and social functions. Its multifaceted growth has been in line with the vision of Brother Marie-Victorin, the driving force behind this ambitious project, and Henry Teuscher, the landscape architect, who drew up its plans;

- 3 The wealth and diversity of its collections, used for **research, conservation, display and education** - the cornerstone on which any botanical garden's scientific and educational mission is built.

**Source :** *Montreal Botanical Garden English Web Site*

(1) (Editor's note) Born Conrad Kirouac and member of the Religious Congregation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.

(2) (Editor's note) A *cultivar* is a cultivated plant that has been selected and given a unique name because of its decorative or useful characteristics . . . text on the Internet.

## MARIE-VICTORIN OBSERVATORY

*Le Congrès de l'Association francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS)\* Convention for French-Speaking Knowledge Association/ INRS 2008*

### *Meeting of Knowledge with 400 Years of History*

From 5-9 May 2008 the 76th ACFAS\* Convention, organized in collaboration with the *Institut national de recherche scientifique* (INRS) (1) took place at the Quebec City Convention Centre.

Over 4,500 people, including some 400 speakers from 35 countries, travelled to the Quebec City, to take part in this large multidisciplinary scientific gathering, the most important within the French-speaking world!

The theme, *Meeting of Knowledge with 400 Years of History* covered all facets of knowledge. One Hundred and fifty lectures and special activities were offered under six subjects: Life and health Sciences (100 participants); Natural sciences, mathematic and engineering (200 p.); literature, liberal arts and sciences (300 p.); social sciences (400 p.); education (500 p.) and multidisciplinary lectures (6 p.).

According to Mrs. Mireille Mathieu, ACFAS President, "the extraordinary thing about the ACFAS Convention is that it gives researchers from all backgrounds to meet and share the results of their research and discuss what is at stake at this point in time."

In addition, the President of the 76th ACFAS Convention, Mr. Jean-Pierre Villeneuve, professor-researcher at the INRS (1) *Centre Eau, Terre & Environnement* (Environment, Water & Earth Centre), said how pleased he was that the INRS (1) was hosting this important scientific event in Quebec City during its 400th Anniversary.

*Editor's Note: Marie-Victorin (Conrad Kirouac) was one of the masterminds of ACFAS, founded on 15 June 1923 (2). Today the original acronym has been retained but originally it stood for: Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences (French-Canadian Association for the Advancement of Sciences). Marie-Victorin was elected ACFAS' Secretary that year and is reputed to be Canada's first French-speaking scientist.*

## MARIE-VICTORIN OBSERVATORY

LUCIE JASMIN  
GIVES A LÉCTURE  
IN RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP

On Thursday evening, 22 May 2008, at the *Musée du Bas-Saint-Laurent* (Lower St. Laurence Museum) in Rivière-du-Loup, the Historical and Genealogical Society of Rivière-de-Loup welcomed Mrs. Lucie Jasmin.

The respectful silence of all present to hear to Mrs. Jasmin was proof enough of their interest and the outreach of her subject. Being responsible for the lectures and programme of the season, I felt it right to introduce Mrs. Jasmin as a passionate woman whose career path took many directions and is here in Rivière-du-Loup to talk about Brother Marie-Victorin. She eagerly studied his works especially in the past four years and even before that, which explains her involvement in the Kirouac Family Association.

For over an hour, those present listened most carefully to our guest. It was a powerful moment when our speaker got up and sang the *Litanies of the Laurentian Flora*, floral psalms, subtle mixture of evocative plant names, musical rhythm and vocal aerial modulations. Many mentioned that they greatly appreciated how elegantly and pleasantly she presented her subject. Therefore, dear friends and readers of *Le Trésor*, let me add how I thanked Mrs. Jasmin.

"I find it particularly significant that

(1) English web site: <http://www.emt.inrs.ca/Anglais/index.jsp?page=Home>.

(2) According to the critical analysis of the sources done by Yves Gingras in the book he co-authored: *Pour l'avancement des sciences - Histoire de l'ACFAS 1923-1993*, Éditions du Boréal, 1993, (For the advancement of sciences - History of the ACFAS 1923-1993) 15 May 1923 has been wrongly known as the date the ACFAS was founded.



you are in the Lower-St. Lawrence Region on this 22 May, the very day in 1922, when Marie-Victorin defended his doctoral thesis about the Quebec ferns (or Filicines) at the Department of Sciences of Université de Montreal and was awarded his Doctorate *with great distinction*.”

“Pierre Dansereau\*, the prominent ecologist\*, said about him that “his inner passion came out through his eyes and words.” I think I can rightly say, and our listeners tonight will agree with me, that you made us feel and understand this invisible flame, dear Lucie, you who bear the name of a flower for ever attached to Marie-Victorin’s name. Many thanks for coming here and sharing with us your knowledge of this great Quebec man and your enthusiasm for him. It is now my pleasure to give you a membership card to the Historical and Genealogical Society of Rivière-de-Loup as well as our crest.”

Fifty people attended the lecture and were charmed by our guest, her lively presentation and her enthusiasm for her subject. It was a most interesting evening that attracted not only our regular members, but many people involved in the cultural life of our town who only attend selected events as they are engaged in many activities.

*Élisabeth Dionne,  
responsible for lectures and  
publicity for the Historical and  
Genealogical Society of Rivière-de-  
Loup*

\*Pierre Dansereau, born in Montreal, on October 5, 1911, Canadian ecologist known as one of the “fathers of ecology”. Still regularly seen on television. One of the last surviving colleagues of Marie-Victorin.

## MARIE-VICTORIN OBSERVATORY

by Lucie Jasmin

On 7 & 8 June 2008, in his weekly column on essays, in *Le Devoir* (Montreal intellectual daily), Louis Cornellier wrote about Alexandre Chouinard’s recently published\* book entitled: *Un pied-à-terre en mer aux îles de la Madeleine* (A foot in the sea on the Magdalen Islands - translator’s rendition of the title) (\*by Éditions Morue Verte).

As an opener the journalist mentions Marie-Victorin’s *Croquis laurentiens*: “The classic text about the Magdalen Islands is in the *Croquis laurentiens* (Laurentian Sketches), by Brother Marie-Victorin. Simply entitled *Madelinots*, this dithyrambic text raises the islanders to the level of good evangelized savages.” “Of all the various French (-speaking) groups living in various parts of North America, gloats the scientist, I think that none is as distinctly distinguished, and as interesting, as sympathetic and unknown as the *Madelinots* (...).” The usual stereotypes follow: “Their language is peculiar but pure, their vocabulary is richer than that of our inhabitants”, their way of life is not subjected to the “dreadful placid and merciless clock face”, etc. As a climax the Brother adds: “And possibly nowhere else is the Gospel so thoroughly lived. The divine book of course was essentially written by fishermen, therefore fits their life like a glove. Here the old virtues have not weakened.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1919 Marie-Victorin and Brother Rolland-Germain, went to these Islands, then effectively totally ignored by tourists, to study its flora. *Les Croquis laurentiens* were published the following year and, in chapter eighth devoted to this particular region, Marie-Victorin pre-

sented no less than seven texts. Marie-Victorin knew that his *Sketches* would incite criticism as they were published at the height of the quarrel between the *exotistes* (i.e. exotic) and the regionalist writers. This quarrel opposed writers defending a literature extolling the distinctive values of city life in opposition to country life. In a letter to his sister, Adelcie, Mother Marie des Anges, Marie-Victorin wrote: “I am most likely to be fodder to the quarrel and I will most likely come out of it bruised. If I am banished from the literary world, so be it, I will drop everything and take refuge in botany which I should never have left anyway.”<sup>2</sup>

And, of course the *Croquis laurentiens* are part of the regional thinking trend defending the Catholic faith, attachment to the French language and peasantry. But, as André Gaulin very rightly underlined in his presentation of a new edition published in 1982 by FIDES:

“Nowhere else, as in this long sketch-essay on the Magdalen Islands, can we see very clearly the microcosmic world of Marie-Victorin, the symbolism of life and death, struggle and resignation, making the author more than a Sunday writer. (...) The remarks are even amazing when considering how modern they are when he tackles the linguistic intolerance, about the beautiful and colourful Acadian (French) words like *beausir*, *tor-tasserie*, *berri*, *coquemar*, *tourteau*, etc.), when he demands that the

(1) CORNELLIER, Louis, *Essais québécois - Ah, les îles de la Madeleine, se dit-on!* (Oh! The Magdalen Islands?) *Le Devoir*, Saturday, 7 June, and Sunday, 8 June 2008, Cultural Section, (Entire French text on Internet at <http://www.ledevoir.com/2008/06/07/193034.html>)

(2) RUMILLY, Robert, *Le frère Marie-Victorin et son temps*, Montréal, *Les frères des Écoles chrétiennes*, 1949, p. 80. (a biography of Brother Marie-Victorin)



Acadian “should not be subjected to a killing language all the time”, when he exposes this “century fiercely intent on levelling all differences”, he disapproves the lack of quotas in the killing of seals . . . “(...) In spite of a few honeyed passages, with their sometimes religious orientation, Marie-Victorin comes out as a man who cares for his fellow men and their daily life, for their simple way of life.”<sup>3</sup>

It must be said in Louis Cornellier’s favour that he acknowledges that the botanist is a talented writer:

“Of course, today all this brings out a few smiles, but the poetic style, the lyrical flight, has retained an old fashioned charm that still touches the readers.”

And Mr. Cornellier concludes his article with:

“Less passionate than Brother Marie-Victorin’s sketches, Dr. Chouinard’s richly illustrated sketches of the Magdalen Islands are just as captivating.”

Notwithstanding, his first simplistic comment did not go unnoticed by a regular reader of *Le Devoir*, Brother Gilles Beaudet, a professor of literature and Marie-Victorin specialist. With his customary eloquence, Brother Gilles retorted using his quick and sharp pen. We are privileged to present to you his text herein.

Let us hope that his comments will prompt you to read or re-read the *Croquis laurentiens* appreciating their old-fashioned charm!

*“As an introduction to a recently published book by Mr. Chouinard*

(3) *Frère Marie-Victorin, Croquis laurentiens*, 1982 Edition prepared and presented by André Gaulin, with Aurélien Boivin, Montréal, FIDES, Collection du Némuphar, p. 16

(4) *Grand Pré: village in Acadia, i.e. Nova Scotia, wherefrom the Acadians were deported.*

*about the Magdalen Islands, Louis Cornellier anchors his comments on the 138 dense and brilliant pages chiselled by Brother Marie-Victorin and published in 1920 in his Croquis laurentiens. The botanist poet uses his pen like a filmmaker uses a camera: first he puts us in contact with the Islands’ people in a section of his book entitled Les Madelinots, however, it seems that Cornellier takes only this section into account. There are another hundred pages written by Brother Marie-Victorin presenting us the Madelinots’ life, tragic history, ancestral values that enabled them to save and keep their human dignity, and he also depicts, paints really, the geographical splendours of the territory with such magnificent expressions that have yet to be equalled.*

*“Not once in his work, did Brother Marie-Victorin refer to the scornful or naively patronizing expression good savages, which Cornellier mentions with such unwarranted and blatant unfairness. What Marie-Victorin found in the Madelinots are that the great-grandchildren of those deported from Grand Pré<sup>4</sup>, are the living proof of one of the three or four great historical crimes (Croquis, p.148). This is not the way Cornellier looks at it. Alas. To look “in” and follow today’s trend, Cornellier reduces the text into a single ironic line; according to him, Marie-Victorin would have promoted the Madelinots to the level of “good evangelized savages.” But it is not a fault, nor a crime to be evangelized, particularly if the faith is deep and solid. One can gloat over it while pretending to show a cheap and out-of-place sense of humour but, the winner may not be whom we think.*

*“I agree with the fact that Dr. Alexandre Chouinard offers me a new and actual image of the Magdalen*

*Islands, a possibly more contemporary analysis but, if I judge by Cornellier’s few excerpts, in the scholarly doctor (Chouinard), I do not find the magical captivating metaphors in his phrases nor the sensitive observations of the poet botanist. Marie-Victorin, using his own creative vocabulary to sculpt the islands’ beauty, does not give it to us “ready-to-eat” through the intervention of a scanner. This helps to better appreciate the work’s merit when considering the challenges faced then and now. Let us hope that the Magdalen Islanders described by Dr. Chouinard will remain as precious as those introduced to us by Brother Marie-Victorin four generations ago!*

F. Gilles Beaudet, 7 June 2008.

## SEARCH NOTICE



Do you know this couple? This photo belongs to Gérard Kirouac; there was an article about him in last Winter, *Le Trésor*, number 90, page 13. Please contact us if you can identify any of these people.



## First Prize: Volunteer Emeritus

*This is a shortened version of the text prepared by Mrs. Céline Kirouac, KFA Board Member, and used for the presentation of the Volunteering Prize given by the Fédération des familles souches du Québec (FFSQ = Quebec Federation of Founding Families) during its 2008 Convention last April.*

**F**ounding member of the Kirouac Family Association in 1978, Mr. François Kirouac's career stretches over a thirty-year period. His steady commitment, ceaseless devotion and major accomplishments are characteristic of these three decades. As a matter of fact, he has always been a Board Member, including twelve years as Secretary, and President since 2005.

In the very beginning, he was responsible for the Eastern Townships and the Mauricie Region when the first large Kirouac gathering was being organized in 1980, attended by over 700 descendants of the Ancestor.

He also collaborated on *L'Album*, the important 141-page Kirouac family record published in 1980 by Mrs. Raymonde Kérouac-Harvey.

With Alain Kirouac, François started the genealogical research; then carried it alone to eventually publish a 607-page **GÉNÉALOGIE** in 1991, compiling some 2800 facts, also including an historical section of nearly one hundred pages.

Sixteen years after the first printing, he still carries on the research, preparing a second edition. It is worth underlining here that this genealogical data book was used as the reference for the editors of *Mon miroir*, the 814-page personal diaries of Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac.

François is also the editor of the family bulletin *Le Trésor*. To complete the four annual 40-page issues requires a great deal of his time. With the editorial team, he chooses the theme, looks for writers to prepare articles, and then does the set up. He also writes many articles

himself, each one requiring lengthy research into archives.

He published a special 120-page issue of *Le Trésor* entitled **Bretagne 2000**, relating the voyage to the land of birth of the ancestor, Urbain-François Le Bihan, Sieur de Kervoach.

It is important to note that he was a co-discoverer of the true identity of the Ancestor we just mentioned.

François also took on preserving the archives since the beginning in 1978 until 2005; he labelled, indexed, and filed them all.

Since the first K/ gathering, he took part in the planning of many great family reunions including, to mention only a few:

July 2000, he helped planning the trip to Brittany where the Breton press gave a great visibility to the Kirouac's Return to the Source.

In August 2006, in Kamouraska in memory of the Ancestor, at the historical site of the Kamouraska Cradle.

Annual participation in the *Salon des*

*familles souches* - Quebec City Founding-Families Fair and many other events.

Finally, he just launched two Observatories, one for Brother Marie-Victorin and the other one for Jack Kerouac.

His collaboration on the filming of the TFO television series aiming at ten/ twelve year olds to help them discover their ancestors, has to be mentioned.

He has taken on safeguarding the photographic heritage of the Kirouac families through digitalizing.

He is presently working on producing a DVD - souvenir of the KFA's first thirty years.

François, unflappable and considerate, does all this work showing strong leadership and respect for others.

For his thirty years of uninterrupted volunteering and considering his many exceptional achievements, the *Federation* is very happy to award him the **first prize: Volunteer Emeritus**.



Photograph: Marie Kirouac

25 April 2008, the recipient of the prize and title: VOLUNTEER EMERITUS, François Kirouac, with Monsignor Maurice Couture, thirteenth Archbishop of Quebec.



# FÉDÉRATION DES FAMILLES SOUCHES DU QUÉBEC INC.

(FFSQ = Quebec Federation of Founding Families)

## 2008 VOLUNTEERING PRIZE

### Description of the sculpture

**T**he sculpture given to the recipient of the 2008 Volunteering Prize by the *Fédération des Familles Souches du Québec* was created especially to highlight the excellence and high quality of the work accomplished by volunteers who deeply care for their association and their members.

This unique piece shows through its personages looking at each other with outstretched arms, the team work, commitment, personal investment and dedication that the volunteers show in their work within their family association.

Mounted on a wooden base, a reminder of the roots of the ancestors or the volunteer's involvement in their community, the piece is tall like a tree, and very much represents the strength of a family association as well as its growing evolution always towards greatest heights.

The concept was purposely simplified to leave room for the imagination when looking at the sculpture.

The clean lines as well as the rich aspect of the work intend to highlight the personality of its recipients: ordinary people with a rich heart and mind doing extraordinary things.

This art work is due to the collaboration between the *Fédération des Familles Souches du Québec* and Martin Pontbriand of Gravure Pontbriand (engraving firm).



The winners of the FFSQ 2008 Volunteering Prizes: from left to right: Mr. Bernard Robitaille, Mr. François Kirouac and Mr. Michel Provost.

Photograph: Marie Kirouac

# Taking root...

## Yesterday, today & tomorrow

by *Most Reverend Maurice Couture, S.V.*  
*Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Quebec*

Hôtel des Gouverneurs  
 25 April 2008

Congress of the Federation  
 of Quebec Founding Families

### Introduction

As I was preparing this talk, I often wondered why I had spontaneously accepted to speak to you as I am neither a genealogist nor an historian by training. At most I can boast to love history. I know about family associations as I have taken part in various family gatherings for different reasons: I attended the Trudelle family reunion because of a colleague, the Lefebvre dit Boulanger, because of a sister-in-law, the Huard, for an ancestor, the Bégin, for another ancestor. I remember presiding over a Mass at the Cathedral during the Huard family gathering. At the beginning of the service I mentioned that the tenth son of Guillaume Couture, my paternal ancestor, had married a Huard and added that I had more Huard in my veins than in my pockets! (1) This play on words brought a wave of amused grins and giggles. But, as they say, "there are always some slow minds in need of more time to take off!" After Mass, a man asked me what I had said about the Huard that was funny! My interest for the Bégin is more direct: my maternal ancestor, Louis Bégin, was one of the first Church wardens when the Parish of Saint-Joseph-de-Lauzon was founded, as was Guillaume Couture, my paternal ancestor back in 1694, if my memory is correct.

In spite of my contacts with some founding families, this does not confer on me any special skill to guide their destiny, as the theme of this convention suggests: *Taking Root . . . Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*.

Given my age, I feel quite comfortable with *yesterday*; however, you are more familiar than I with *today's* situation of the founding families, and I must be very cautious with regard to their *future*. This gives you an idea of the themes I will cover and how long I shall take on each one.

### Taking root

According to the dictionary, the French word "*souche*" [root](2) has two opposite meanings: one refers to death, the other to life.

A *stump* is what is left in the earth after a tree has been felled. So, in this sense, a 'stump' would refer to an ancestor without descendants. A stump is a life cut at the root. It is dead. By looking at a stump and counting the rings, one can determine the age of a tree, one ring per year, but the stump is still condemned to disintegrate. To create life, the stump must be taken out, and new trees or vegetation planted. On the other hand, again according to the dictionary, *to take root*, means to give life to a new generation, and generations of descendants. Of course, when saying: *taking root*, this is the positive meaning that your convention is interested in when you are inviting peo-



Mgr. Maurice Couture

ple to root for new life into your federation and in your family associations.

### Taking root ... yesterday

How does one take root? By transplanting, of course, somewhere else. From my bedroom window, I look proudly onto the rows of Virginia Maples bordering the entrance to my residence. I planted them in 1947. A study of the religious heritage of Sillery-Sainte-Foy mentions that the architecture of my residence is ordinary, the chapel is interesting particularly because of the stained glass windows which are the works of Ninchieri but, the grounds must be preserved at all cost! In other words, great care must be taken to prevent my Virginia Maples and other deciduous trees and evergreens adorning the grounds from ever becoming 'stumps'. Being a bachelor, I am a 'stump' as I will never reproduce. But, basically a human being's mission is to give life. As it says in the Bible, "Go forth, increase and multiply, and fill the earth". This was





the command given to humanity's ancestors, according to Genesis 1:28, the first book of the Bible.

This divine directive could be summed up in *Take root*. It is by filling the earth through immigration and by producing children that one 'take root'. It is certainly true of our Quebec founding families. They came to New France and God knows how many children they produced! As a people, the family has always taken first place and been of the greatest importance: for example the Holy Family appears on Bishop de Laval's coat of arms, the "Filles du Roy", e.g. the King's Wards were sent to New France to enable the first settlers and soldiers to *take root*. Amongst us here tonight, many must owe their existence to them - hence to Marguerite Bourgeoys who, for a while distanced herself from the teaching vocation of the religious order she founded, to take care of the young women who were getting ready to *take root*. When Pope Leo XIII created the *Holy Family Day*, he gave credit to the Canadian population's already established devotion to the Holy Family. Indeed, let us face it, "for better or for worse", as some would say, the large family was an obsession in our nation. At every historical stage, our people's conditions warranted it and matrimonial morality supported it.

After 1760, the French Canadian *revenge of the cradle* made it possible to overcome the military defeat and the sociological pressure of the English invader. This miraculously high birthrate, unsurpassed anywhere else, brought the Quebec population from 60,000 in 1760, to one million in less than a hundred years and up to five million in 200 years. At the same time, Irish and Scottish founding families also

joined the population. Let us look at Quebec City for example where the population is now 97% French-speaking but, at the beginning of the 20th century, the majority spoke English. Let us also look at the Eastern Townships where municipalities with English names have become largely, if not exclusively, francophone. My native parish of Saint-Pierre-de-Broughton is a perfect example. When I grew up there, the parish priest would preach to the Catholics in both languages. The Protestants attended their own meeting houses, i.e. churches (3) which are nearly all recycled today, i.e. having found new vocations.

Today, the Foys and Doyles are just as francophone as the Coutures; and the Beattys speak French with no accent and most of the Noonans have uprooted and moved elsewhere. These families can all be considered as founding families, particularly the Irish, who were welcomed starting in the 1830s when they were massively migrating to North America from Ireland. The result has been a generally cordial cohabitation of the two ethnic groups speaking either French or English. A visit to Grosse-Ile teaches us a great deal on the subject and is a most worthwhile visit for any family association.

In the list of founding families belonging to your Federation, I have not been able to find a single family of English origin; would it not be valuable to include a few of them? Just like having articles in English for their American members in the publications of family associations? As it is a distinctive characteristic of Quebec founding families to count many relatives in the USA, as a result of the massive immigration a century ago when demography was exploding in Quebec and there were not enough

jobs to go around. Now there are three million Franco-American citizens in New England. As a result is there any one of us without great-aunts and great-uncles who migrated to the States to work in the New-Hampshire, Maine, or Connecticut cotton factories? American prosperity was a powerful magnet and it thwarted the growth of the Quebec population. Otherwise, the Quebec population would be the same as Ontario's. Names in so many New England phonebooks attest to this fact: there are full pages of French names, and let us not forget all the anglicised and translated names like: Greenwood, Baker, etc. Anyway, whether they bear a French name or not, the present descendants of the Quebec founding families generally do not speak French anymore, the young hockey or baseball players are an example of this situation. But, for some of them, their roots can be of real interest. Could reaching them be a goal for the FFSQ?

We can well ask ourselves why Canada was so attractive to Europeans in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Aborigines did not particularly appreciate being invaded -which is easily understandable - the climate, the living conditions and the wars between the great powers of the time were many thorny obstacles. On the other hand, it is easy to see why Jacques Cartier's expeditions did not succeed at first. Even the settlement in Quebec was nearly short-lived when Champlain had to surrender Quebec to the Kirke brothers in 1629, until France recovered its colony thanks to a treaty with England. The Jesuit Fathers' publications, *Les Relations*, aroused great interest in France; it would eventually result in the arrival of the Ursuline Sisters and the Augustine Sisters in Quebec City, the Sulpicien Fathers in Montreal, where they



supported the development of the Hospitalers of Saint-Joseph with Jeanne Mance, and Jeanne Leber, the Sisters of the Congregation Notre-Dame with Marguerite Bourgeoys, and later, Marguerite d'Youville and her Grey Nuns. These missionaries provided human and spiritual support to the settlers whereas the commercial societies, like the Compagnie des Cent-Associés (Hundred-Associates Company), or the *Seigneurs*, individuals and groups, like Bishop de Laval in Quebec City, and the Sulpicien Fathers who were the *Seigneurs* of Montreal, would insure their establishment and material wellbeing. The soldiers protected the citizens, especially the *Carignan* and other regiments.

Through his reign, Louis XIV, personally took care of the development of New France by appointing governors and talented *Intendants* (executive administrators, second in command in the colony), like Frontenac and Jean Talon. Under the reign of Louis XV, this support diminished, which does explain the English conquest. In fact, the French thinker/mastermind of the time, Voltaire, could not care less about New France which he referred to as "a few acres of snow".

Through these 150 years of history, French Canada was populated by people either sent to or attracted by the new world; some wanting to defend the new colony against the Iroquois and the English, others attracted by the flourishing fur trade, others by adventure and fascinated by the vastness of the continent when still unknown new worlds were being discovered.

My paternal ancestor, Guillaume Couture, was the perfect example of a settler at that time. When he arrived here, in 1638, he was a lay missionary employed by the Jesuit

Fathers. He worked at the construction of *Huronie*, north of Toronto, where the Sanctuary to the Canadian Martyrs has since been erected. He was tortured by the Iroquois at the same time as Father Jogues. I did, half seriously, suggest that today he might be one of the Canadian Martyrs had he not unfortunately decided to get married! Well, for one I forgive him this mistake! He got away with the admiration of the aboriginals whose languages and way of life he learned; that made him a precious resource during the lengthy and more or less fruitful peace negotiations with the French.

Faced with an unsuccessful Mission, many Jesuits went back to France or Quebec. But Guillaume Couture explored the northern regions of the colony and, among many places, went to Lake Mistassini. He got married at the age of 32 and was the first one to settle in Lauzon on the South-Shore (near Lévis). He served as a notary, was one of the first group of Church Wardens in the parish of Saint-Joseph founded in 1694, was Chief of Staff (Army Reserve) on the South-Shore. This regiment was particularly instrumental in harassing the Phipps flotilla in 1690 and forcing him to withdraw. My ancestor had ten children, and I would not be here today to speak to you if this pioneering couple had decided to stop at nine!

My maternal ancestor, Louis Bégin, had a quieter career. But interestingly enough he, too, was one of the first group of Church Wardens in the parish of Saint-Joseph, as already mentioned. He is also the ancestor of Cardinal Louis-Nazaire Bégin, my distant cousin and, like me, a successor to Bishop de Laval

of the See of Quebec. Both my ancestors were contemporaries and fellow-citizens of the Marquis de Lévis. There is a statue of Guillaume Couture near Saint-Joseph Church and recently, a monument to Louis Bégin was erected nearby.

These are some of my personal discoveries which I like to mention not for personal glory but rather to illustrate how enriching it is to know one's roots and the pride we can derive from the knowledge of our roots here in French Canada.

### Taking root ... today

We can justly marvel at all the work needed to create the founding family associations, to organize them and eventually to have them supported by the FFSQ.

We owe this - and here again I am referring to the past - we owe this to Bishop de Laval and his successors for whom it was extremely important to keep parish records. It is not just by chance that your Federation maintains privileged links with the Notre-Dame Parish in Quebec City. The very first records of marriages and births are there. Because Bishop de Laval made it mandatory to keep parish records in Quebec and everywhere in French Canada, until 1994 baptismal certificates in Quebec were equivalent to civil birth certificates everywhere else. As a consequence, genealogists, following in the footsteps of Tanquay (4), were able to produce compendiums making it extremely easy for each one of us to trace our ancestors and discover their descendants. Even the French from France marvel at this, because most of their parish records were often burnt to erase the estate titles of the nobility. Oddly enough, even Bishop de Laval was a victim of this as for the decade starting in 1620 the parish



records of Montigny-sur-Avre were purposely destroyed during the French Revolution.

You are undoubtedly aware that the Quebec Bishops concluded an agreement with the Mormons to authorize the microfilming of all baptismal records. Of course some people were scandalized at this because of the religious impact. The Mormons believe that, if the memory of a deceased is preserved, his eternal happiness is secured. That's why they offered us their free service. Obviously our collaboration was not linked to our belief in a common faith. You are all well aware of course that consulting parish records is of the greatest interest to historians and genealogists. However, sometimes parish priests hesitate to put their records, these precious witnesses of the past, at the disposal of the researchers, and rightly so I think, as they are very fragile and unfortunately not always preserved according to archival standards. Thus the interest in the Mormons' initiative and all the more so for the history and genealogy societies; I will name but two that are of personal interest: the index of births, marriages and burials in the parish of Saint-Pierre-de-Broughton published by the Thetford-Mines Historical Society, and the index of the Couture marriages for the Province of Quebec, the work of Allyre Couture from Sherbrooke. In my view, these two works are part of my family treasure. I will soon pass them on to one of my nieces because I know she is willing to ensure their safekeeping.

You are certainly aware, as I am, of family chronicles, oral and written memories, and souvenir-albums of parish jubilees which are constantly improving in size and quality. At the risk of sounding chauvinistic, I

would like to bring to your attention four publications I consider perfect examples of this:

- 1-The journal of a sister-in-law, of interest strictly to her family, but very precious for her thirteen, out of sixteen, children still living.
- 2-The history of a couple on my mother's side, Antoine Roy and Béatrice Bégin: a mine of information about the genealogy of the spouses, the ways and customs of last century, farm life and social life at that time in rural Quebec.
- 3-The Souvenir Album of the 150th Anniversary of Saint-Pierre-de-Broughton, the first parish in the large area of Thetford-Mines: a very well documented and illustrated 600-page book.
- 4-A streamlined history of the founding families of Saint-Pierre-de-Broughton, by Mr. Joseph-Alfred Lapointe, a *pro manuscripto* work which is fascinating reading and extremely interesting for the descendants of the pioneering families. I owe to this gentleman the special gift I received when I was ordained to the priesthood, my first genealogy, years before the creation of your Federation! It is also a perspective on my forebears who established roots in my native parish.
- 5-Songs my mother recorded in 1966 for a cousin preparing an ethnological study for his university course. They were later transferred onto a CD and are a wonderful and much appreciated souvenir for the descendants of this grandmother who passed away in 1975.
- 6-A chronicle of the couple, Gérard

Couture and Yvonne Paré, who won title of *Farming Family of 2001: Famille terrienne de l'année*. Story on the web.

7-A *grandmother's memories* written by Mrs. Denise Dion-Ouellet, a distant cousin, whose excellent book should be more widely distributed.

I would like to humbly mention that I recorded thirteen 90-minute cassettes at the request of my eldest niece. Being the only surviving uncle who was old enough to remember life from 1931 to 1955, I was able to amply recall memories and souvenirs which the rest of the family did not have. Given the constant and rapid changes in recording methods and listening devices, how are my great-grandnephews and my great-grandnieces going to listen to these cassettes and the CD of my mother's songs? Although everything goes out of date so quickly, this technical problem can certainly be solved.

I am listing these modest family productions to illustrate that the different generations show a constant interest for their family heritage and the multiple ways to preserve their memories. With collective evolution accelerating so rapidly and longevity increasing, young people are fascinated with the way their forebears lived and because the way we live changes so quickly they cannot have any idea of how it was in the past. On the other hand, however, the increasing phenomenon of free unions, and reconstituted families, the decreasing number of family descendants and their geographical dispersal means that, nowadays, belonging to an enlarged family is less and less likely.

Long gone is the time when the city cousin came to Uncle Arthur's farm

to spend her holidays, thus creating a second family. Family gatherings are still possible, as long as young people find something interesting in them. The extra-large family reunions at the occasion of parish jubilees show that people still need to gather because of their past closeness. But today the parish is no longer the major drawing card for the growing generations. It will take imagination to maintain cohesion within the founding families; which brings me to the last part of my talk.

### **Taking root ... tomorrow**

Every time a founding family association goes into dormancy or vanishes momentarily, those in charge at the FFSQ are most likely tempted to feel sorry. As a regular participant in the Fêtes de la Nouvelle-France (in August) I have noticed that the number of kiosks manned by various families diminishes every year. I was tempted to conclude that the founding families associations were going through a downward phase. I was also told that their visibility had decreased but that the 400<sup>th</sup> could bring renewed vitality.

And after? Is your Federation threatened in 2008 with a technological bug similar to that of the year 2000 that got the whole world trembling? After all, Quebec is the heart of French-speaking Canada and the first cradle of the founding families?

The FFSQ's repertory shows 175 family associations. In it I do not find - should I admit it - the Couture family as it is dormant, so I am told, nor the Tremblay, Côté, Bouchard with the largest number of descendants, nor the Simard, Carrier, Guay, Turcotte, Marois, Charest, Dumont, Bourassa, Parizeau, Lesage, Boisclair, Johnson, Duplessis, Lemay, Garneau; and I

could add to my list to show the gains made, e.g. the existing family associations and those yet to be created and, let us not forget, that they include the Lévesque, Ouellet, Fournier, Blais, Bourgault, Charron, Couillard, Drapeau, Marcoux, Pelletier, Tanguay, Théberge, and so many others!

A recruiting method should probably be developed to interest known personalities, stars, and leaders who belong to founding families who do not have an association or are not members of the FFSQ.

But before that, it might be worthwhile for the FFSQ first to prepare a shorter version of its mission statement to be shared with present or virtual associations. A short text that would set out the scope, underline common points and stimulate cohesion.

As the FFSQ is a member of the *Conseil québécois du loisir et du Regroupement loisir Québec* (5) that should put it at the same level as the FADOQ (6) for example? I think the FFSQ would gain by giving itself a more cultural appeal to stimulate research into the founding families' history and genealogy as well as appeal to the emerging generations' creativity.

Reading the last issue of *La Souche*, the FFSQ winter 2008 news bulletin, gave me the following idea. When it says that *the periodical is made possible thanks to the Collaboration of the Department of Education, Leisure and Sports, and also of Quebec Bibliothèque & Archives nationales* (QC National Library & Archives), this is proof that you have a foot in the door of the cultural world. And the content of Periodical number 83 proves it. Besides the information about the

FFSQ activities, the articles are about:

- 1- Life in the lumberjack camps from the 1890 to the 1960;
- 2- The village blacksmith;
- 3- A sample question sheet to obtain information from members of one's family about their personal history;
- 4- A series of biographical notes about people who developed the Gaspé Peninsula.

This seems to me the actual and possible contribution of the founding families to Quebec historical heritage. To prove my point, I will mention again the various productions I just talked to you about concerning the Couture family. Last Summer when I presented my treasures to my close relatives - essentially nephews and nieces and their offspring - virtually no one knew anything about them. If the Couture Association had a periodical as important and as well presented as that of the Association of the Normand Families of North America, all the Coutures could have been informed about these publications and the descendants of the 'good Guillaume' would be proud to discover their first ancestor, a known, unsung hero, and other prestigious members (7) of their founding family, for example, Jacques Couture, a Jesuit, Member of Parliament, and Government Minister who had been a missionary in Madagascar; the unique Miville Couture who gave his name to a memorable morning Radio show and to the Radio-Canada lunch room; the (modern) composer (Jean) Papineau-Couture who wrote some major musical works; and probably many more that a yet-to-be-created periodical would let me know about. Another



example, more modest but no less convincing: my eldest niece, with the help of her husband, has been working in Morocco for two years implementing a new education system inspired by the Quebec one. The Boulanger families of America were informed about this through their periodical but not the Couture who do not yet have a 'family newsletter' that I know of...

I admit having talked far too much, but I am concluding by passing on to you various thoughts, not necessarily new, in addition to those already presented during the first part of my talk, that may guide your choice of action in the future.

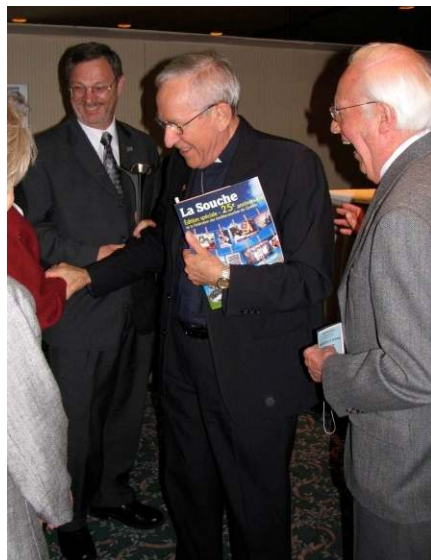
1- The future and outreach of your associations essentially depend on your members' financial contribution, even more so on your volunteering members. This is a great challenge for all organizations whose functioning depends on retired people. There is such a cultural gap between the elders, whose longevity increases, and the baby-boomers who are retiring early! I often hear, like you no doubt, these questions dropped with a sigh: "What will happen when we are gone? And too often, reality confirms that our fears were justified. Hence the necessity to find replacements and it will not come automatically. We have to beg and implore, and sometimes accept new ways to look at and do things, even leave our place to someone else. In my community, one Superior loved to say: "When you start thinking that you are indispensable, that is when you start being a nuisance!"

2- The mission statement that I suggested to you earlier would be

the occasion to think and consult about the goals of an association or federation. It could result in rejuvenating the gatherings, publications, and priorities. During the activities organized by the founding families, we are turned towards the past but we are living in the present. There is no future if we cannot bridge the intergenerational gap.

3- To get young people interested in family gatherings, you have to let them express themselves through what they are best at: singing, music, theatre, and sharing their experiences. As they make friends easily, it is possible, without saying a word, to prepare the new generation of volunteers.

4- The founding families' anecdotes and genealogies still arouse interest, of course, but the contribution both can make to history, in the large sense of the term, may bring a most important contribution that has been overlooked by experienced historians. Here is a typical example: the Canadian flag was chosen from dozens of



Archbishop Maurice Couture during the FFSQ Convention, 25 April 2008 held in Sainte-Foy, Quebec.

samples. The model nearest to the definitive one was produced by a colleague in my religious order. He never occupied any high function in our community nor anywhere else. But I think he deserves the title of "Father of the Canadian Flag"; our archives would prove this fact but that story was never given much publicity.

Now, I stop here. It is really the end and I hope that your Convention will be more inventive and selective than I have been.

#### **Translator's Notes:**

(1) *huard* = loon in English, this duck in on the Canadian \$1 coin, so it is known as a Loony, hence the joke: 'more loony in my veins than in my pockets'!

(2) The French word *souche* has a double meaning: *une souche* is a stump, where as *faire souche* means taking root, hence the double meaning of life and death.

(3) Protestant churches were known as 'Meeting House'; pronounced with a French accent they became known as 'mitaines', the word used in the French talk; there is no link between 'mitaines' = mittens in English, but still it was commonly used in Quebec to refer to any Protestant church.

(4) Bishop Cyprien Tanguay, 1819-1902, author of *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes*, in 7 volumes. Published in 1871, it is the oldest dictionary about New-France.

(5) *Conseil québécois du loisir et du Regroupement loisir Québec* = private non-profit umbrella organization to clubs and groups involved in sports and leisure, reaching about half the population of the Province of Quebec.

(6) *FADOQ* = *Fédération de l'Âge d'Or du Québec*, Federation of Quebec Golden Aged Clubs, created 16 June 1970.

(7) These *Coutures* are on Wikipedia.

Photograph: Marie Kirouac



# Joseph-Arthur Kirouac 1853-1935, my grandfather

by Céline Kirouac

## Before and at the Time of Quebec City's 3<sup>rd</sup> Centennial

**T**hough I never met my grandfather, as he died before I was born, I have heard so much about him through the many stories my parents told me, the countless photos, and the endless pages written in family albums as well as in newspapers of the time, that I feel I know this remarkable man and his outstanding personality. There was nothing ordinary about his life, whether it was his family, social, or professional life; it was a nonstop chain of events, endless activities and surprising achievements for the time.

### True Blue Quebecker

Born in Quebec City in 1853, Joseph-Arthur, son of Chevalier François Kirouac and Marie-Julie Hamel, was the third child in a family of fifteen including ten boys. In 1880 he married Amanda Lemieux in the Parish Church of Saint-Roch in Quebec City. Of their twenty children, ten lived to a ripe old age. My father, Marcel, born in 1901, was their twentieth and last child.

Every Sunday at lunch time this very large family was welcomed by my grandparents in their home in the St-Roch Parish where they lived. All their children came with their spouses and offspring. My older brothers told me how much fun they had then, though sometimes it was rather loud with twenty cousins roaming in that huge house perfectly designed for games. Poor Aunt Graziella, she was at her wit's end, quite powerless and unable to discipline these rowdy young men. It was total anarchy!

I knew every part of that beautiful large house on des Prairies Street where my grandmother lived until she died in 1940. I can still picture the rectangular

table-grand-piano and the harmonium that grandfather used to play as a soloist or to accompany his musical children. During many years he was organist at St. Roch Parish Church. The impressive family home was eventually sold to the Fathers of St. Vincent-de-Paul who transformed it in «Le Patro» <sup>(1)</sup> to house young newspaper vendors <sup>(2)</sup>. It was eventually demolished when part of the neighbourhood was torn down to make way for the Dufferin-Montmorency Overpass during the 1970s.

### Businessman

During his lifetime, Chevalier François, who was the first Kirouac to take up residence in Quebec City, became a successful businessman. Therefore it is perfectly natural to find many of his descendants heading flourishing business ventures.

Joseph-Arthur was one of them. In 1888, with Odilon Pruneau, he founded *Pruneau & Kirouac*, a retail business on Saint-Jean Street in Quebec City, between the famous Saint-Jean Gate and Côte-du-Palais, a well-known very steep street. They sold books, parlour games, office supplies, stationery, gifts and gadgets. In 1904, a terrible fire destroyed the store. Joseph-Arthur remained as the sole owner of the business and built it up again under the name: J.A.Kirouac, at 34-36 Côte-de-la-Fabrique, in front of the City Hall <sup>(3)</sup>. In 1936, bad luck hit again when another major fire destroyed the bookshop. But thanks to the combined efforts of Joseph-Arthur's sons, for the third time, the business rose from its ashes, but at the corner of Collin and Saint-Jean Streets. Emphasis was put on imported toys, particularly the beautiful German, French and Italian dolls, with curly hair



Joseph-Arthur Kirouac, Québec 1908

and paperweight moving eyes, and the famous English building construction sets *Meccano*. Electrical trains were also imported to the great pleasure of small and grown-up boys, particularly because, thanks to a secret device, simply by placing one's hand on the windowpane, it was possible to make the trains in the shop window move. Interestingly enough, this ingenious

<sup>1</sup> *Patro*: inspired by Don Bosco, an Italian Catholic priest (1815-1888), to look after street kids. *Patro*, existed in most parishes and still exists today, text inspired from *Patro National Federation's brochure*.

<sup>2</sup> *Charity* founded in Quebec City in 1917 by Father Georges Philippon (1889-1945). Eventually it became the *Refuge Don-Bosco*. *Quebec City, Toponymy Web Site 2008*.

<sup>3</sup> *Building* presently housing a *Couche-Tard* convenience store.



idea greatly contributed to establish the excellent reputation of the Kirouac store. There must be many former students from the Quebec Seminary who can still remember stopping at the foot of the Côte-de-la-Fabrique in front of that magic shop window to watch the trains.

### Traveller

In 1900, my grandparents accompanied by Joseph-Arthur's brother, Cyrille and his wife, Philomène, went on holiday overseas. At the port of Quebec, they boarded *Le Tunisien* of the Allan Line, Montreal Ocean Steamship Company. In Joseph-Arthur's handwritten holiday diary, opened in front of me, I read about the highlights of the crossing and the memorable visits they enjoyed on the European continent.

In his journal, he describes the departure under a clear sunny sky and calm sea and the beautiful countryside along the St. Lawrence River. On Sunday morning, the few Catholic passengers gathered in the second class parlour to hear Mass said by two English-speaking priests. Mr. Pelletier, the organist in residence at the cathedral in Montreal <sup>(4)</sup> accompanied Mr. Casavant, (one of the owners) of the (famous) Organ Factory in St. Hyacinthe <sup>(5)</sup> and the Honorable Mr. Boucher de la Bruère (Public Schools Superintendent) <sup>(6)</sup> who were the cantors to enhance the Sunday celebration . . . under the musical direction of my grandfather, choir master for the occasion. They were warmly congratulated for their improvised devout contribution.

The crossing proved to be very pleasant; the travelers enjoying reading, walking on the ship's decks, playing parlour games and observing several spouting whales. Then icebergs appeared on the horizon, shining bright in the sun like mountains of gleaming diamonds, announcing land . . . Ireland. It was a long unforgettable crossing. Landing in Liverpool was the starting point of a tour of England, France, Swit-

zerland, Germany and Italy. How long did this European tour last? Weeks? Months? It is impossible to know as the diary makes no mention of time. Grandfather describes famous places and monuments in the thirty-four cities they visited then, and that are still popular destinations today.

Besides these detailed descriptions in his diary, I note some interesting passages. For example, from Liverpool to London on board the rapid train, riding at fifty miles per hour, they admired stunning lush countryside and, at each stop, so many lovely gardens, as if "it was a contest for the most beautiful of them all". After going through many tunnels, they finally arrived in London, then the largest city in the world with its five million inhabitants; very impressive! <sup>(7)</sup>

In Paris, besides taking in famous museums and churches, the Château in Versailles, etc. the World Exhibition is what most attracted the visitors. One anecdote tells a lot about Joseph-Arthur's sense of humour; at the World Exhibition in the *Swiss village*, there was a fashion pavilion that he described as "women's paradise and men's hell".

In 1900, in Marseille there was an elevator to accede to Notre-Dame de la Garde, the Church overlooking the port and the city from the top of the mountain. Then they visited the Côte d'Azur, where numerous tunnels carved through the rock attracted their interest as far as Monaco where gamblers from around the world were attracted to the Casino located on the famous Rock. In Rome, the heart of Christianity, Joseph-Arthur wrote: "we go from church to church admiring the architecture, mosaics, statues and paintings in these richly decorated temples". In Florence and Naples, he noted that these cities' belvederes offer extraordinary vistas but, compared with the (Dufferin terrace) he underlined that Quebec City's was *the most beautiful city in the world!*

### A Gentleman at the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Before talking about grandfather at the 300th, let us look at Quebec City in 1908. To celebrate the Jubilee, the Archeological and Historical Committee, under the chairmanship of Thomas Chapais <sup>(8)</sup>, was given the responsibility of preparing the historical programme. The Committee proposed to rebuild the *Don de Dieu* the ship on which Champlain sailed to Quebec in 1608. The vessel was built at the Gravel Shipyard in Saint-Romuald (near Levis). The Committee also recommended a commemorative medal be made. Designed by Eugène Taché, an artist and Under-Minister of Land and Forests, it showed Champlain setting foot on the rock in Quebec. The Committee also asked for a special stamp and Ottawa issued a series of eight new stamps in July 1908 for the Tercentennial <sup>(9)</sup>.

But of all the events organized by the Historical and Archeological Committee

4 Jean Romain-Octave Pelletier (1843-1926) inaugurated many instruments built by Casavant in Canada and the USA. In 1900 he went to Europe with the Casavant brothers. POTVIN, Gilles, *Encyclopédie de la musique au Canada*.

5 It was one of the two Casavant brothers: Either Joseph-Claver (1855-1933) or Samuel-Marie (1859-1929), founders of Casavant Brothers in St. Hyacinthe, in 1879. From 1885 to 1891, they built the great organ of Notre-Dame Basilica in Old Montreal. This organ includes four keyboards and 82 stops. BOUCHARD, Antoine, *Encyclopédie de la musique au Canada*.

6 Pierre Boucher de la Bruère (1837-1917) Became head of the Public School Board Commission and held the post until 1917, National Assembly Web Site.

7 For comparisons' purposes: according to statistics, in 1901 there were 70,000 inhabitants in Quebec City; 280,000 in Montreal and 1,700,000 in the Province of Quebec.

8 Sir Thomas Chapais, 1858-1946, Canadian politician and historian

9 On Canada Post web site, see the various stamps issued for the Tercentenary. Information on the 300th from *Les Fêtes du Troisième Centenaire de Québec 1608-1908*, by *Le Comité du Livre Souvenir des Fêtes jubilaires*, written by Abbé Camille Roy, Laflamme & Proulx, 1911.

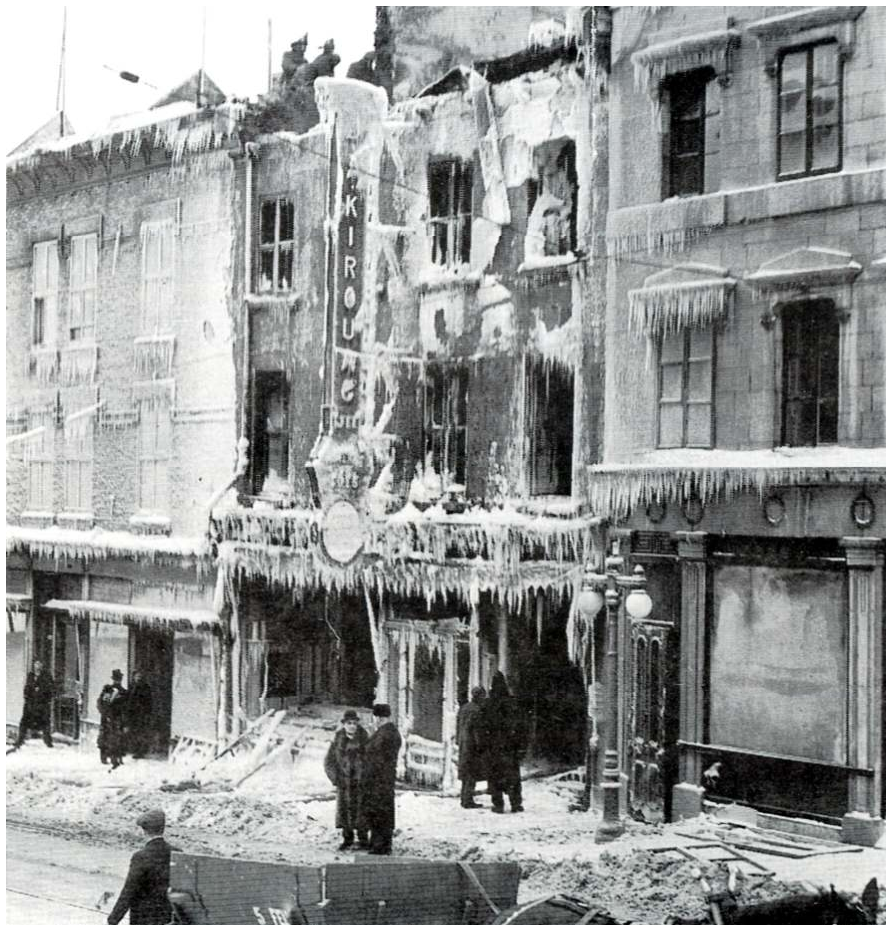
the most complex and expensive were the Pageants <sup>(10)</sup> to illustrate some of Quebec City's history. Mr. Frank Lascelles from Great Britain, a renowned artist and pageant specialist was invited to stage some of the important moments of three centuries of history according to scenarios drafted by the Organizing Committee. In July 1908, eight great pageants were presented in this extraordinary natural setting of the Plains of Abraham. They told the following stories:

- Jacques Cartier landing in Stadacona, IROQUOIS village located at the present site of Quebec City;
- Champlain's travels between 1604 and 1620;
- The Ursulines Nuns' and the first Hospitalers' arrival;
- Dollard des Ormeaux' victory at the Fort du Long-Sault;
- Bishop de Laval, first Bishop of Quebec receiving the King's representative, the Marquis de Tracy;
- Daumont de Saint-Lusson taking possession of land in western Canada;
- Frontenac answering Phipps at the siege of Quebec in 1690;
- The armies of Montcalm, Wolfe, Carleton and Salaberry on parade.

The historical re-enactments showed what life was like in Quebec at the time each event took place and the various historical persons living then. Five thousand volunteers and weeks of preparation were needed to stage the various pageants and upwards of 15,000 spectators attended.

In the Seventh Pageant where Frontenac receives Phipps' representative in 1690, Joseph-Arthur Kirouac stepped on the stage as one of the Esquires attending to Frontenac. Joseph-Arthur wore a period costume and wig for this silent part; my grandfather obviously loved theater and was delighted to take part in the historical artistic staging of this particular episode. The newspapers were unanimous in praising the eight historical re-enactments presented on the Plains of Abraham and wrote at length about their colossal success. <sup>(11)</sup>

About the Pageants held in 1908, here



Arthur Kirouac's book shop, Winter 1936. Photo and caption printed in the newspaper the day after the fire: "This is the state of de la Fabrique Street after the fire that destroyed the J.-A. Kirouac store and also damaged adjoining buildings. On the right the ruins of the Kirouac store, L'Événement building can also be seen and, to the left, the building of Mr. J.A. Chicoine's tailoring shop and the Bouquin book shop. Because sparks were blown by the wind, many houses west of the Kirouac store were slightly damaged."

is what the author Abbé Camille Roy wrote: "The public was given to admire a series of historic events dramatically reenacted. It would be difficult to imagine better, more eloquent, demonstrative ways to recreate the past, to bring back to life the most beautiful pages of the history of Quebec and New France. This was education at its best. The celebrations of the Tercentenary lived up to their high edifying purpose and meaning."

This year marking the 400th of Quebec City, historical events are commemorated in vastly different ways from what my grandfather could ever have imagined. Indeed in 2008, festivities are planned in today's fashion but also showing what we were, lived through,

and what we are, as the citizens of the most beautiful city in the world as my grandfather, Joseph-Arthur, used to say.

<sup>10</sup> Pageants: English word often used in Quebec referring to an exceptionally large dramatic outdoor historical and theatrical production.

<sup>11</sup> op. cit. page 370



# Quebec 1908

by Jacques Kirouac

The complete story of the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Quebec will eventually be written and will likely include all the ups and downs surrounding the various projects as well as extolling their colossal scale. But what happened in 1908 for the 300<sup>th</sup>?

Camille Roy, a priest, wrote that story. His book was printed in 1911 and reprinted in 2002. Therefore using exclusively his volume <sup>(1)</sup>, here is a short account of the 300<sup>th</sup> celebrations which obviously took place in a vastly different context and, shall we say, it is a very different world today for the 400<sup>th</sup>.

## Planning

Mr. J. B. Chouinard, an historian and Quebec City Court clerk, is credited as the instigator of Quebec's 300<sup>th</sup> commemoration and impressive celebrations due to writing a lengthy article in the *Quebec*



Sir Albert Henry George Grey, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl Grey, 1851-1917; Governor General of Canada, 1904-1911 (Source : *Les fêtes du 3e centenaire de Québec*)

*Daily Telegraph* on 24 December 1904.

But it was only on 1 March 1906 that Quebec City's *Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society* recognized the need to celebrate the 1908 anniversary in style.

Considering that such festivity could not be limited only to Quebec City but should include the whole of the Canadian nation, the *Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society* thought it right to put the project's planning and production into the hands of the Quebec City administrators.

The latter accepted and, on 14 May 1906, the Quebec City Mayor, Sir Georges Garneau <sup>(2)</sup>, gathered a hundred people who, there and then, decided to form a "Permanent General Committee" presided by the Mayor. Also, that same day, a number of projects were put on the table but financial support had first to be secured.

The various proposals amounted to about \$630,000 of which \$500,000 would have to come from the Federal Government. Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier <sup>(3)</sup>, accepted to contribute to the 300<sup>th</sup>, and guaranteed a minimum of \$300,000 towards one project already under consideration, i.e., the creation of the *Plains of Abraham National Park*.

On 17 January 1907, Quebec City accepted Ottawa's proposal to create the National Park, consequently abandoning the Museum of History and Archaeology project deemed too costly.

The subsidies to organize the festivities could not be voted before



Ad promoting the celebrations of Quebec City's Tercentenary of Foundation by Champlain, (circa 1908 screenprint). Quebec City Archives; printer: The Mortimer Co. Ltd.

the 1907 Autumn session and, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier was due to go to London, there was no time for a special act to be approved and the subsidies to be granted in time. Therefore he recommended to the Executive Committee to postpone the 300<sup>th</sup> festivities until 1909 to coincide with the inauguration of the Quebec Bridge! The Committee felt it right to reschedule the celebrations and worked accordingly.

However, on 29 August 1907, disaster struck; the Quebec Bridge had fallen down. All of Canada as much as Quebec was shocked upon hearing the dreadful news.

Lord Grey, then Canadian Governor General, wanting to reassure every-

1) *Les Fêtes du Troisième Centenaire de Québec 1608-1908*, published by Jubilee Souvenir-Book Committee, Québec 1911. Second edition published by Quebec 400th Anniversary Society, 3rd trimester 2002; 630 pages.

(2) Sir Jean-Georges Garneau: 1864-1944, Quebec City mayor, 1 March 1906 to 1 March 1910.

(3) Sir Wilfrid Laurier: 1841-1919; Canadian Prime Minister, 1896-1911. On the Web.



body, took upon himself the *Plains of Abraham National Park* idea. He also suggested bringing back the 300<sup>th</sup> festivities to 1908 and, on 13 January 1908, the Executive Committee voted to accept his proposal, leaving barely six months to prepare the events scheduled for July.

However, in the meantime the French Canadians' idea of the commemoration had evolved: the original enthusiasm had gone as the idea of celebrating on the Plains of Abraham might bring back sour memories of 1759 instead of the founding of Quebec City in 1608.

Nonetheless many committees were formed; Sir Thomas Chapais <sup>(4)</sup> presided over the History and Archaeology Committee. Its projects were truly in line with what the French-Canadians wanted to commemorate. Theatrical shows and historical parades were conceived as well as the construction of a replica of the *Don de Dieu* (God's Gift), the vessel that brought Champlain to Québec. Plaques, medals, stamps, etc., were also submitted.

In the mean time, on 19 March 1908, The Governor General approved the law creating the *National Battlefields Commission* and the *Quebec Tricentennial*. From then on the *National Commission* had the upper hand over the whole organization of the 300<sup>th</sup> celebrations as they supervised how the funds voted were used.

Over and above the \$300,000 from the Federal Government, the Quebec and Ontario governments each voted \$100,000 and Quebec City added \$50,000 for a grand total of \$550,000, approximately \$14,500,000 Canadian dollars in 2008 <sup>(5)</sup>.

### Celebrating

The first event, commemorating the bicentennial of the death of Bishop de Laval, the first bishop of Quebec, took place on 21 June and

lasted three days. It started with a solemn procession of the Holy Sacrament in the streets of Quebec City magnificently decorated for the occasion.

On 3 July, the actual date of Quebec's foundation, it seems that nothing special happened as Camille Roy does not mention anything in his book.

But on 19 July, the commemoration really started when, of their own initiative, the members of the *Association de la Jeunesse canadienne française* (French-Canadian Youth Association) gathered at the foot of Champlain's monument on the terrace by the Château Frontenac (Hotel). According to some, up to 25,000 people were present and listened to numerous patriotic speeches about Champlain.

On 21 July 1908, the first historical pageant <sup>(6)</sup> took place. These pageants were obviously highly successful and the crowds loved them. Up to 15,000 people attended each one. Frank Lascelles, a British pageant expert, was brought over to produce eight splendid pageants, which called for 4,500 actors and extras in period costume. Adult entrance fees varied from \$1 to \$2.

On 22 July, the arrival of the Prince of Wales marked one of the important days of the 300<sup>th</sup>. All levels of authorities and thousands of people who had come to Quebec City by train and special boats were on hand to welcome the future King George V with all due pomp and circumstance at the port of Quebec.

From then on, the 300<sup>th</sup> was in full swing as events followed non-stop from 23 until the 28 July, when the Prince of Wales left. The following list of daily events will suffice to prove this.

23 July - Civic holiday, military



The Prince of Wales, future King George V, born 3 June 1865, died 20 January 1936, was the last monarch of the House of Saxe-Cobourg & Gotha.



Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1841-1919), Prime Minister of Canada 1896-1911.

(4) Sir Joseph Amable Thomas Chapais: 1858-1956, Canadian author, editor, historian, journalist, professor, and politician. On the Web.

(5) The important point here is to note each level of government's respective contribution.

(6) Pageant: English word used in French Canada then and now with its full English meaning.





Postcard published for Quebec City's Tercentenary in 1908  
Tent Village on the Plains of Abraham  
(With the permission of the Quebec City Historical Society)

parade requested by the citizens, homage to Champlain at the foot of his monument, arrival of the *Don de Dieu*, state dinner at the *Citadelle*, fireworks, etc.

24 July - Military Revue, wreath laying by the Prince of Wales at the Wolfe Monument and the Monument des Braves (war memorial 1759-1760), Quebec Mayor's banquet, reception on war vessels, athletic competitions, parliament ball with over 6000 guests, etc.

25 July - Review of the war vessels by the Prince of Wales, and Governor General's State dinner for the autonomous colonies, where speeches were nearly all in English.

26 July - Mass on the Plains of Abraham and Service in the Anglican Cathedral.

27 July - The Prince of Wales visits the Quebec Seminary priests' summer residence at the Petit-Cap in Saint-Joachim. HRH travelled from Quebec City in a special carriage on a 'then' fast train. Here I quote Camille Roy as his account really shows the tone and atmosphere in

the Quebec region during the stay of the Prince of Wales who became the central celebrity of the 300th celebrations.

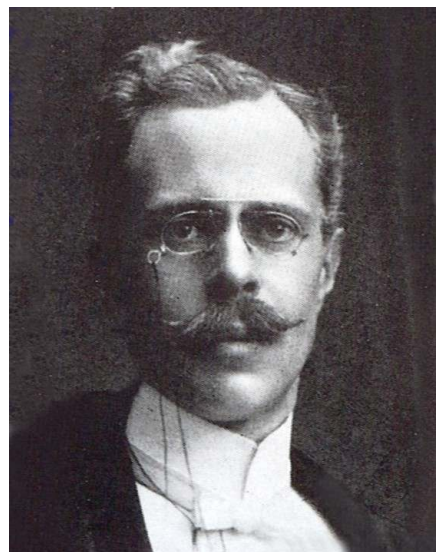
Along the route, the train stations were beautifully decorated and numerous groups of French-Canadian inhabitants came to the stations to see the Prince go by and shout their allegiance at the top of their voice.

The same happened during the return trip by car, in every village people came to pay homage and shout their allegiance to the Prince. There was a special stop at the Basilica in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré; followed by lunch on the Armed Cruiser *Léon Gambetta* offered by the French Admiral Jauréguiberry and boat races.

In the evening, a farewell dinner was served in the Citadel and a reception on the terrace to watch a re-enactment of naval warfare and the fireworks. The same day, across the River, the City of Lévis officially was receiving descendants of Lévis and Montcalm: the Marquis de Lévis, the Marquis de Lévis-Mirepoix, and Comte (Earl) Ber-

trand de Montcalm.

28 July - The Prince's last day in Quebec City began with the planting of a tree in Victoria Park in front of a huge and enthusiastic crowd. In the afternoon there was a large children's party on the Plains of Abraham; a farewell reception for over 800 guests at Spencer-Wood, the Lieutenant Governor's residence. The revelling went on all night at a costume ball in the Parliament building. The Prince enjoyed a



Sir Jean-Georges Garneau (1864-1944),  
Quebec City Mayor 1906-1910).

(Source : Les fêtes du 3e centenaire de Québec)



short last night sleep at the Citadel.

29 July - HRH's early morning departure on his warship surrounded again by all the pomp and circumstance due to the heir to the throne and watched by an ever larger crowd, particularly in the Lower-town. The Prince was gone but the celebrations went on for another two days, until 31 July. There was another children's party, this time at Victoria Park, dinner at the Citadel, reception at the City Hall, fireworks and one last presentation of the very popular pageants.

### Conclusion

The peak of the celebration was evidently during the Prince of Wales' visit. Obviously the French-Canadian greatly appreciated all the military deployment at the various ceremonies surrounding the person of the Prince. Thousands of soldiers, sailors, militia men and policemen greatly contributed to the pomp and splendour. After the first day dedicated to Champlain's memory, the Prince became the object of homage and demonstration of loyalty

to the British Crown. There were many speeches of allegiance, mainly in English even from the Francophones. Of course the *National Battlefields Commission* had the upper hand on the planning of the celebration. The Provincial Government, given its financial contribution of about 18% of the total budget of \$550,000, had a somewhat marginal role to play. Nevertheless, it is quite remarkable that so many large-scale events were produced in only six months.

As the hotels could not cope with the influx of visitors, Quebec City built a 750-white-tent village on the Plains to accommodate 3200 visitors. There were information offices, telegraph, telephone, and post offices, railroad agency, local market, temporary shops, police and firemen stations.

Today, a hundred years later, we can be very grateful that the Federal Government's legacy to us is one of the most beautiful city parks in Canada and this unique park is celebrating its first centennial this year.

This concludes my short account prepared only using Camille Roy's official book on Quebec's 300th Celebrations written according to the then prevalent grandiloquent style.

This portrait might have been more complete and more nuanced if it had been possible to include comments from the French and English newspapers of the time. Such a research was beyond my scope and I basically intended to draw a parallel with the present 400th anniversary. Some day the whole story of the 400th will be written, with all its ups and downs. Hoping I have reached my goal, at least in part, let us proudly celebrate together this Fourth Centennial.



Postcard published for Quebec City's Tercentenary in 1908

High Mass on the Plains of Abraham

(With the permission of the Quebec City Historical Society)



# THE CITADELLE OF QUEBEC CITY

HOME OF THE ROYAL 22<sup>e</sup> REGIMENT  
QUEBEC RESIDENCE OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNOR GÉNÉRAL

## THE CITADELLE<sup>1</sup>

In 1759, when Quebec surrendered, there was no citadel as such. The town was only protected by terraces and unkempt fortifications. However, at the east end of Cape Diamant stood an important stone construction erected in 1693 by order of Governor Frontenac after Sir William Phipps' attack in 1690. A plan of this work, number 7 on the photo, is referred to as the *Redoubt* of Cape Diamant.

The *Redoubt* can be found on all plans of *Cape Diamant* since 1693 up to the present time. The *Redoubt* and the Powder House, built in 1750 by Chaussegros de Léry, "the King's Engineer", are the only two remaining constructions built during the French Regime.

Building the citadel took thirty years. Begun in May 1820 under the supervision of Lieutenant-colonel Elias Walker Durnford until his departure for England in 1832, it is the most important fortification built in Canada under British rules.

Designed according to a defence system developed by the French military engineer Vauban, it covers 37 acres and is in the shape of a four-pointed polygon, with each point forming a bastion.

The *Citadelle* includes a number of buildings erected during various historical periods. In the North-East is the *Redoubt* of Cape Diamant dating back to 1693; the King's Bastion and, just south of it, the officers quarters divided in three distinct lodgings: The Governor General's residence near the King's Bastion, then the Commander's



The *Redoubt*, the oldest military building in Quebec City, dates back to 1693.  
(Source : La Citadelle de Quebec)

Residence, and the Officers of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment's Mess.

### The French Regime

The historical value of the *Citadelle* is not only in its buildings but even more so because of the events and people who lived there and made history.

At first, the inhabitants of New France were responsible for their own defence and were usually supported by various troops and soldiers working for the fur trading companies.

In 1665, at the request of Intendant Talon, the first regular troops landed in Quebec. The mission of the eight Companies of the Carignan-Salières Regiment was to put an end to the Iroquois' incursions. In 1667, it was peaceful again, so a large number of soldiers went back to France. They were replaced by new troops from the

regular French army and, by 1756, the permanent garrison in Quebec included: regiments from La Sarre, Béarn, Languedoc, Berry, Guyenne, Royal-Roussillon, and the Queen's Regiment; they were under the command of General Montcalm and made up the bulk of the French forces in the region fighting at the battles of Fort William Henry, Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga), Fort Chouaguen (Oswego), also from the height of Montmorency and on the Plains of Abraham.

British forces under General Wolfe, took part in most battles that led to the final defeat of the French forces led by Montcalm. Both Generals died following the Battle on the Plains of Abraham, on 13 September 1759.

Though that battle lasted only about

<sup>1</sup> French texts taken from the booklet entitled *Musée du Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment: "La Citadelle de Québec, résidence du Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment"*. See [www.lacitadelle.qc.ca](http://www.lacitadelle.qc.ca).





La Citadelle de Québec (Excerpts from *Citadelle de Québec, résidence du Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment*, booklet published by *Musée du Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment*)

twenty minutes, it changed the destiny of French Canada. Indeed on 18 September 1759, Quebec surrendered to General Murray, Wolfe's successor who led his troops into the City.

### The English Regime

After the conquest, many valiant English army regiments, including some soldiers recruited in the American Colonies, held garrison in Quebec City, and later at the *Citadelle*.

The last unit of the Royal Artillery to leave Quebec in 1871 was the 6th Battery of the 3rd Brigade. Since then Artillery units from the Canadian garrison have served at the *Citadelle*. After fighting in WWI, the artillerymen came back to the *Citadelle* but only for a short time.

### The Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment

On 4 August 1914 WWI started and Canada fought along side England through that war. Right from the beginning, French-speaking

Canadian went to the recruiting centers but not as many as hoped for. It could well have been because the French-speaking recruits were integrated into English-speaking units. Therefore on 24 September, a major appeal was presented to Sir Robert Borden, then Canadian Prime Minister, requesting that an entirely French-speaking fighting unit be created. One month later, on 21 October, the Canadian Government authorized the creation of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the French-speaking unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Corps.

On 15 September 1915, less than a year after its creation, the 22<sup>nd</sup> landed in France to take part in nearly all the most important battles of the "Great War".

After taking part in the Armistice Ceremonies and occupying the Rhine Valley in Germany, the 22<sup>e</sup> came back home on 18 May 1919. After receiving a hero's welcome in Quebec City and Montreal, the

battalion was dissolved but this was not the end of the 22<sup>e</sup>. Less than a year later, on 1 April 1920, General Order number 37 decreed the creation of the 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment as part of the permanent Canadian active military forces. The Quebec City *Citadelle* became its official residence. The Regiment settled and remained there except during WWII, (1939-1945). On 1 June 1921, in recognition of its courage in combat, the 22<sup>e</sup> was granted the title "Royal" by King George V.

On 3 September 1939, war was declared once more. At the beginning of December, again the Regiment left for England. During the first three years of WWII, the unit trained and took part in the defence of Great Britain when the German military forces were threatening to invade the British Isles.

From 1939 to 1945, 5294 officers and men served under the banner of the *Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment* and 186



decorations, including a Victoria Cross, were awarded to its members.

Six years later, the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> again was called upon to intervene in the Korean War.

Ardent and dedicated, ingenious and resolute, and ferociously competitive, the battalions of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment are the pride of French-speaking Canada.

#### Official Dress

The Scarlet tunic and blue trousers come from the frontline British Infantry. The fur hat was designed after the hat worn by the Guards Brigade that had been inspired by Napoleon's Imperial Guard.

#### Music of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup>

A Battery had already been lodging in the *Citadelle* since 1872 when it became the official residence of the Regiment. This Battery included, in its ranks, a music corps formed in 1899. In 1922, when the garrison left the *Citadelle* for another post, their musicians remained and became part of the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment. Thus was born the Music of the R22<sup>e</sup>R.

#### The Regimental Goat

In 1844, Queen Victoria gave each regiment of the Regular British Army a goat from the royal herd. Hence was born the tradition of a Regimental Goat, of course taking part in the ceremony of the Changing of the Guard.

In 1955, His Excellency the Honourable Vincent Massey, Governor General of Canada, wanting to revive this tradition, gave the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment a fine goat from the Royal herd called *Batisse* (Quebec French pronunciation of 'Baptiste'; translator's note)).

#### Changing of the Guard

The origin of the changing of the guards has been lost in time. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was a tradition in all the garrisons and part of the daily life of all soldiers.

At the *Citadelle*, the first ceremony of the Changing of the Guards took place in 1928 and, since then, the Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Regiment has always maintained the tradition.

#### **THE OFFICIAL QUEBEC SUMMER RESIDENCE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA IS AT THE CITADELLE.**

The Governor General's Residence located within the walls of the *Citadelle* was built on the King's Bastion from where can be admired the St. Lawrence River, Isle d'Orléans and the Laurentian mountains on the river's north-shore.

Fascinated by this extraordinary

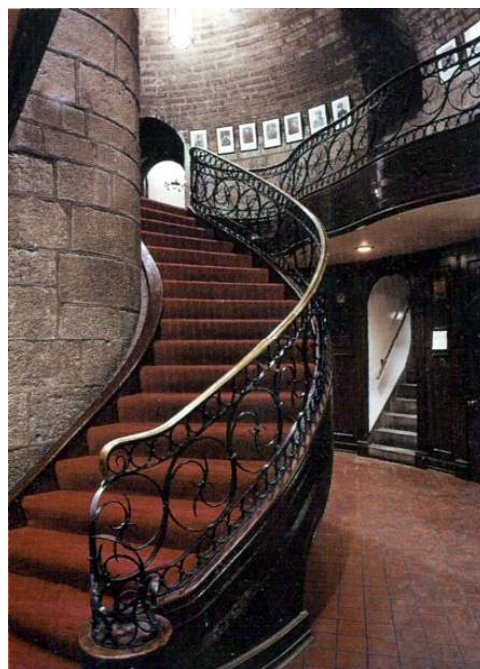
site, declaring it to be "unique in the world", and appreciating the French atmosphere of Quebec City, Earl Dufferin, was the first Governor General to establish his residence in the *Citadelle*.

Since then, all Governors General, representing the Queen in Canada, every year spend a few weeks there.

It is also in this residence that, in 1939, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth stayed before starting their tour of Canada. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip know the *Citadelle* very well as they stayed there on a few occasions.

In 1943 and 1944, the Quebec Conferences were held in the *Citadelle* when the Chief of the Allied Forces convened to discuss how to end WWII.

*Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for  
Le Trésor number 92, Summer 2008.*



Summer residence of the Canadian Governor General in Quebec City. Photo published in *La Citadelle de Québec, résidence du Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment*, booklet published by Musée du Royal 22<sup>e</sup> Régiment.



# CELEBRATING OUR STREETS (and their namesakes) = Toponymy

by Céline Kirouac

Under the theme, “Celebrating our Streets”, in collaboration with Quebec City, the Quebec Government and the Fédération des familles souches du Québec (FFSQ), the Québec-France Association, Seigneuries-La Capitale Regional Section, organized a series of street events to better involve the general population in the celebrations of Quebec’s 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

On 14 June 2008, at the *Parc de la Plage Jacques-Cartier* (Beach Park), thirty-one founding families were on hand to plant red oaks and unveil a commemorating monument in homage to families who include among their descendants one person whose name has been given to a Quebec City thoroughfare because of their lifetime achievements. For our family, the **Marie-Victorin Street** honours Conrad Kirouac, author of the *Flore Laurentienne* and founder of the Montreal Botanical Garden. The monument where the names of the participating founding families are engraved and this memorial garden planted with red oaks will remind future generations of the origin and meaning of this homage. Mr. Jacques Kirouac, founder of the KFA, and I had the honour to plant one red oak.

The Québec-France Association-Seigneuries-La Capitale, just published an impressive biographical book entitled *Nos rues en fête, Hommage à nos 400 célébrités et à nos sources françaises*, this would roughly translate as “Street Celebration, Homage to 400 famous people and our French Roots”. The book presents a biography, genealogy and French place of origin of 400 illustrious persons whose memory is kept alive because their names are part of the toponymy of Quebec City. Distributed free, this impressive book was given to the guests at the reception held in the Great Hall of Sainte-Foy-Sillery City Hall. A commemorative document was also presented to each honoured family.

There were speeches by Mr. Roger Barrette, President, Equipe *Nos rues en*

*fête 1608-2008*, and Mr. Bernard Chouzenoux, Vice-Consul of France in Quebec City, and Dr. Philippe Couillard, Quebec Minister of Health, underlined the exceptional work of the various partners and volunteers who worked on identifying the toponymy heritage of Sainte-Foy-Sillery.

Another aspect of this project involved the younger generation. A contest was launched in the area’s elementary schools on the theme: “Do you know the history of your street? Over two hundred grade-five pupils of the *Commission scolaire des Découvreurs* (Discoverers’ School Board) took part. Each pupil had to present a text about his street illustrated with a drawing. Four very proud young girls received their prize from Dr. François Couillard, then Health Minister. It was a most festive occasion and we raised our glasses of bubbly apple cider to our celebrities and our French origins.



Memorial unveiled at ‘Plage Jacques Cartier’ Beach Park in Sainte-Foy on 14 June 2008



KFA Representative, Jacques Kirouac and Céline Kirouac, at the 14 June 2008 Ceremony where the Association Québec-France, Seigneuries-La Capitale Regional Section, in collaboration with Quebec City, the Quebec Government and the FFSQ, planted an oak at Plage Jacques Cartier Beach Park in Sainte-Foy.





# IN MEMORIAM



## **BÉDARD ROGER - 1922 - 2008**

At Saint-François d'Assise Hospital on 25 June 2008 passed away at the age of 86, Roger Bédard, husband of Jacqueline KIROUAC, daughter of Raoul Kirouac (AFK 01944). Liturgy of the Word took place in the Chapel of Parc commémoratif La Souvenance on Saturday, 28 June 2008. He leaves to mourn besides his wife, his brothers and sisters: Yvette, Jacqueline Girard (the late Édouard Bédard), Jean-Charles (the late Marie-Laure Buteau), Thérèse (the late Henri Ruelland), Paul (Gisèle Leduc), Jules (Carmen Lamontagne); his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of the Kirouac family: Lucette, Françoise (Dr Raymond Boucher), Raymond (Lucille Gagnon) as well as many nephews and nieces, relatives and friends. He was also the brother of the late Olivier Bédard (the late Marie-Anne Bédard) and the brother-in-law of the late Germaine Kirouac (the late Philippe Côté) and the late Thérèse Kirouac (the late Albert Côté).

## **CARON MARCELLE 1928 - 2008**

At the CHSLD Notre-Dame du Chemin (Hospital) on 20 March 2008 passed away at the age of 80, Marcelle Caron, daughter of the late Léonce Caron and the late Bernadette KIROUAC (AFK 01029) and granddaughter of the late Didace KIROUAC (AFK 01027). She was the niece of Sister Cécile Kirouac, Sister Cécile-des-Anges about whom we wrote about in *Le Trésor* number 86, December 2006. Funeral was held on Saturday, 5 April 2008 in the Saints-Martyr-Canadiens Church in Quebec City. She leaves to mourn her brothers and sisters, the late André (Dolorès Gomez), the late

Claude (the late Gertrude Bourgeault), the late Madeleine, Jean-Paul (Charlotte Renaud), the late Gilberte and Jacqueline as well as many nephews and nieces.

## **KIROUAC FERNAND 1926-2008**

At the C.S.S.S. d'Argenteuil (Eldercare Centre) in Lachute, (Quebec) on 21 May 2008, passed away at the age of 81, Mr. Fernand KIROUAC (AFK 01588), husband of the renowned painter Louise Lecorre-Kirouac. He also leaves to mourn his children: Jean-Christian (Johanne Séguin) and Rosanne (Luc Payette); one sister, Jeannette, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces and many friends. Funeral was held on Saturday, 24 May 2008, in Saint-Louis-de-France Church in Brownsburg, Quebec, followed by burial of the ashes in de Saint-Michel de Wentworth Cemetery.

## **KIROUAC FERNANDE 1920-2008**

At the CHUL, Laval University Hospital in Quebec City, on 11 May 2008, passed away Mrs. Fernande KIROUAC (AFK 00512), wife of Roland Couture. She leaves to mourn, besides her husband of 65 years, her six children: Lise (Marcel Robert), Pierre-Paul (Gaby Girard), Diane (Jean-Claude Desrochers), Serge (Germaine Fortier), Gaétan (Danielle Boutet), Daniel (Julie Trudel), her sisters-in-law: Sister Jacqueline Couture, and Thérèse Kirouac; her brother-in-law, Léopold Couture, as well as fourteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. Daughter of the late Odilon Kirouac (AFK 00510) and the late Marie-Anne Simoneau, Fernande was one of the fifteen founding

members of the *Kirouac Family Association*. She was also the cousin of Céline Kirouac, a present Board Member of the KFA. Funeral was held at Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier Church on Saturday, 24 May 2008.

## **KIROUAC MARC-ANDRÉ 1972-2008**

At the Laval University Hospital in Quebec City on 22 June 2008 passed away at the age of 35 years and six months, Marc-André Kirouac (AFK 01897), son of Rollande Côté and André Kirouac, past KFA President from 1992 to 1994 and from 2000 to 2001. He leaves to mourn, besides his parents, his brother, Christian, his sisters Sonia and Monique (Jocelyn Auger), his nephews Danick and Alek, his grandparents Nazarius and Annette Côté, his aunts and uncles from the Kirouac and Côté families as well as many friends. Funeral was held on 27 June 2008 at the Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière Parish Church followed by burial in the parish cemetery.

## **KIROUAC LUCILLE GAGNÉ 1925-2008**

On 15 April 2008 at the CSSS Maria-Chapdelaine in Dolbeau-Mistassini, at the age of 83 years and four months, passed away Lucille Gagné, widow of Arthur KIROUAC (AFK 00299). Funeral was held on Thursday, 17 April 2008, in the Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Church in Girardville. Burial in the parish cemetery. She was the daughter of the late Eugène Gagné and the late Marie Doucet. She was the mother of: Nila (Benoît Savard), the late Denis, the late Nicole, Normand, Magella and Stéphane; the grandmother of: Mélanie, Éric and the late Julie Savard, Cindy and Patricia Kirouac (Francky Raphaël), Vanessa, Alexia and Jérémy



Kirouac. She also leaves to mourn her great-grandchildren: Bryan, Anthony and Éricka; her brothers: Ludovic (the late Monique Smith) and Omer (Solange Boivin); her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law from the Kirouac Family as well as many nephews and nieces, relatives and friends.

**KIROUAC MARIELLE  
LACOMBE - 1919-2008**

At the IUGS, Youville Pavillon, on 26 June 2008, passed away at the age of 89, Marielle Lacombe-Kirouac, widow of Tristan Kirouac (AFK 01822). Funeral was held on 1 July 2008 in the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church in Sherbrooke (Quebec) followed by burial in Saint-Michel Cemetery. She leaves to mourn her three children: Lise (AFK 01823), Carmen (Claude Gérin) and Pierre (Martine Dupuis), as well as her grandchildren: Kim, Éric and Louis-Philippe.

**KIROUAC MICHAUD YVETTE  
1915-2008**

In Quebec City, on 5 July 2008, at the age of 92 years and ten months, passed away Yvette Kirouac, widow of Gérard Michaud. She was born in Saint-Cyrille de L'Islet, daughter of Rose Fréreau and Arthur Kirouac. Funeral were on Saturday, 12 July 2008, at 11 a.m. in Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Church in L'Islet, followed by burial in the parish cemetery. She leaves to mourn, her sister-in-law, Yvette Moreau (the late Martin), her sister, Jacqueline Kirouac (the late Magella Pageau); as well as many nephews and nieces from the Kirouac and Michaud families; cousins, other relatives and friends. She was also the sister of the late Jeannette Kirouac (the late Noël Bélanger; the late Armand Brodeur); and the late Jean-Paul Kirouac from L'Islet-sur-Mer (the late Marie-Paule Normand), who both died in September 2007. Jean-Paul was the area's first KFA regional representative.

**MCKENZIE PAUL-ÉMILE  
1919-2008**

At Saint-Anselme on 8 April 2008 passed away at the age of 89, Paul-Émile McKenzie, widower of Rolande KIROUAC (AFK 01179). Funeral was on Friday, 11 April 2008, in Saint-Anselme Church followed by burial in the Parish Cemetery. He leaves to mourn his children: Réal (Annette Gagnon), Linda (Laurent Laliberté), Gilles (Nicole Roy), Denis (Hélène Bolduc), Brenda, Hervé (Annie Carette), Donald, Pierre (Clémence Leblond); his seventeen grandchildren and his thirteen great-grandchildren, his brothers and sisters: the late Rose (the late Peter), the late Marie-Anne (the late Joseph Cloutier), the late Joseph, the late Toussaint (the late Berthe), the late Jeanne D'Arc (the late Adrien Royer), Marie-Ange (Nazaire Turgeon); his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law : the late Cécile (the late Fernand Imbeault), Gemma (the late Rosaire Chabot), Thérèse (the late Paul-Henri Lafrance), the late Jacqueline (Maurice Paquet), the late Bertha (the late Paul-Émile Pelletier), the late Fernande (the late Jean-Louis Blouin), the late Donat (Agnès Bélanger), the late Hervé (Anne-Marie Gignac).

**PELLETIER MONIQUE  
1917-2008**

In Montréal on 2 May 2008 passed away at the age of 90 years and eleven months, Monique Pelletier KIROUAC, widow of Maurice KIROUAC (AFK 00934). Funeral was held on Saturday, 10 May 2008 in Saint-Médard Church in Warwick (Quebec), followed by burial of the ashes in the parish cemetery. She was the mother of René who often acted as emcee at many ceremonies and gatherings of the Kirouac families, especially in 1980 in L'Islet and in 1999 in Warwick. She also leaves to mourn her two other sons: Paul and Gilles (Claire Lacroix) and her grandchildren: Daniel, Annie and

Philippe. She was also the mother of the late Rita Kirouac.

**TURMEL HENRI-PAUL  
1927 - 2008**

At Saint-Sacrement Hospital, Quebec City, on 19 March 2008 passed away at the age of 80, Henri-Paul Turmel, son of the late Joseph Turmel and the late Ernestine Chabot, husband of Marie Bizier. He lived in Quebec City. He leaves to mourn besides his wife, his children: Mario (Françoise KIROUAC, AFK 02325), Daniel and Simon (Jessica Duffy); his grandchildren: Émilie, Florence and François.

**KEROUAC VICTORINE  
SCHULTZ - 1931-2008**

Victorine "Vicky" M. Schultz (AFK 02741) of Herscher, Illinois, passed away at the age of 77 on 13 Mar 2008. Mass of Christian Burial was on Monday, 17 March 2008, at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Herscher, and burial in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Herscher. Born 22 Jan 1931, in Manteno, Illinois she was the daughter of Elmer and Leah Soucie KEROUAC and the widow of Edward A. Schultz. She leaves to mourn her surviving children, three sons and daughters-in-law, Jeffrey and Wendy Schultz, Douglas and Karen Schultz, Greg and Ann Schultz; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Jeanne and Mike Foltz, Debra and Tim Chmielowiec, Monica and Mike Weimann, Shari Collins; 20 grandchildren and five step-great-grandchildren; one sister and two brothers-in-law, Linda Lou Kerouac Miller and Robert Miller, Laverne Schultz; three sisters-in-law, Evelyn Bauer, Hazel Kerouac and Joan Kerouac. Preceded in death by two brothers, Vernon and Donald Kerouac; and three sisters, Sister Mary Lucilla SSCM, Lorraine Crocker and Alice Moody.

**OUR DEEPEST  
CONDOLENCES TO THE  
BEREAVED FAMILIES**



## Monique Pelletier-Kirouac (1917-2008)

*Excerpts from testimonies read by René, Paul and Gilles Kirouac, Monique's sons, during her funeral in the parish church in Warwick, on 10 May 2008.*

**M**other arrived in Warwick in 1939 and left for Montreal during the Summer of 2000, when she moved to a seniors residence run by the Sisters of Providence where she lived happily for seven years.

Determined she was and she filled her days by taking care of her soul, her mind and her body:

- ◇ Her soul: by praying and feeding her spiritual life;
- ◇ Her mind: by reading at least one book per week;
- ◇ Her body: by doing one hour of gymnastic every day.

And she cared for people around her. She particularly loved was to laugh! For example, a lady we met recently at The Providence's Seniors Residence told us that mother would bring her *Sélection*, Reader's Digest's French edition, and, while people were in line waiting to go into the dining room, she would read funny excerpts from it to make them laugh. Many of those who got to know her there called her *the happy lady, the smiling lady, the lady who talked to everybody; my ray of sunshine, and a heart on two legs*.

However, the last year of life was difficult and brought its share of suffering. In April 2007, she entered the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal where she spent the next six months and lost the use of her legs. Then she temporarily occupied a bed at the Florales Residence in Lachine, (Montreal south-west suburb) and finally she had a permanent bed at the CHSLD Éloria-Lepage (Long-term health care centre), where she died in her sleep.

Everywhere, the personnel underlined what a lovely lady she was with such a warm personality. Mother had told us: "All I can do is call them by their name, smile to them and thank them for what they do." In addition, many liked to confide in her because she carefully listened to them. We have received so many wonderful testimonies showing that, though she was vulnerable and dependant, mother was always present and strong.

Her secret? "Thank goodness I have faith!" she would often say. One day she wrote: "Every morning I pray to God to put a lot of love in my heart and in yours, my children, and to love as He loves us."

She also believed that we need to learn to thank God, and not only ask Him for things.

Dearest mother, thank you so much for all your love! Happy Mothers' Day!

### Key dates in her life

17 June 1917: Born in Saint-Ferdinand in Halifax, Nova Scotia, daughter of Joséphine Gilbert and Donat Pelletier.

1922: Entered the Orphanage in Fall River, Massachusetts, USA, where she spent the next fourteen years.

1931-33: Commercial Course at the Sisters of Jésus-Marie in Fall River.

1933-34: Taught grade five at the Sisters School in Fall River.

1934-38: Entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity in Quebec City. Taught English at the Mallet Academy and at the St-Jean-Baptiste Academy in Quebec City, as well as in Carleton in the Gaspé Peninsula. After leaving the convent, she went on to Disraéli, Plessisville and Victoriaville. There she met her future husband, Maurice Kirouac from Warwick. He suggested she applies for a job at the Warwick Woollen Mills; and she worked in the office and the factory.

29 May 1943: Marriage of Monique Pelletier and Maurice Kirouac (AFK 00934), in the Warwick Parish Church. They will have six children; after the death of the first two babies, four more were born: René, Rita, Paul and Gilles.

1965: Monique returned to work as a secretary at the Muir Furniture Store that Bruno Kirouac had just bought. She worked there until 1988.

1976: Was a very active member of the *Club alimentaire* (Food Club) in Warwick: doing accounting and inventories. In 1978, became President and was for three years and was actively involved until 1988.

1980: Maurice, her husband, passed away.



Monique Pelletier Kirouac

Collection René Kirouac

1981: She joined the choir. The following year, at her own expense, she took on to buy and send anniversary cards to the members, writing inspiring messages.

1985: At the age of 68, she started going to the municipal pool, learned to swim and dive. (NDLR: see *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 31, March 1993, page 3)

1988: Hit by a car in Victoriaville. Fractures brought her to the hospital for five months followed by physiotherapy. Her neighbours were very impressed by her courage and determination to regain her autonomy.

1996: Her daughter, Rita, passed away.

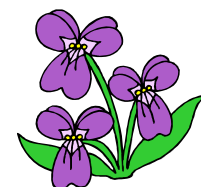
1997: Following a fall on the wet floor at the swimming pool, she abandoned her favourite activity.

1999: Birth of her third grandchild, Philippe, following Daniel in 1985 and Annie in 1991).

2000: She sold the family home, left Warwick and settled in the Sisters of Providence Residence in Montreal.

23 April 2007: She entered the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montréal. From then on she would not be able to walk.

2 May 2008: She died in her sleep at the CHSLD Éloria-Lepage, a Montreal long-term healthcare centre.



# PRESERVING THE PHOTOGRAPHIC HERITAGE OF THE KIROUAC FAMILIES



L'Ancienne-Lorette, 1913 — four generations: baby Maurice Drolet in his great-grandmother's arms, Julie Hamel Kirouac, with his grandfather: Cyrille Kirouac, and his mother: Blanche Kirouac Drolet (AFK 00577). (Collection: Cécile Drolet Girouard)



(Photo : Montminy, Québec)

Marie-Jeanne Kirouac (AFK 00593),  
Daughter of Napoléon around 1905



(Photo : Montminy, Québec)

Future doctor Charles Kirouac (AFK 00594),  
Son of Napoléon around 1905





# FROM THE PAQUET COMPANY TO THE HAMEL'S ELM !!!

by Lucille Kirouac

## Zéphirin Paquet His Family, Life and Work<sup>1</sup>

**W**hen considering life over 400 years, you can see so many faces with your minds eyes, all those known as the founders, men and women who contributed so much to make Quebec City an ever growing and dynamic place. The Marie-Louise Hamels and Zéphirin Paquets of this world can be counted among those who made Quebec City what it is today. The Saint-Joseph Street's Paquet Store with its four stories and various departments stood like a giant general store and is well remembered by so many.

In the preface to the book: *Zéphirin Paquet, His Family, His Life and His Work*, Brother Marie-Victorin wrote that "*the humble author preferred to remain anonymous*". The author, respectful of the facts, gives us the genealogy and a very well-documented history of the two families: Paquet and Hamel. We are introduced to all the generations who lived in New France, starting with Méry Pasquier, *master tailor*<sup>2</sup> from Poitiers, France, who settled in Bourg-Royal (Charlesbourg) in 1667, up to the hero of the book: Zéphirin Paquet (1818-1905), who became a very well-known, respected and influential businessman in Quebec City. The same thing is done for the Hamels who came from Normandy, France. All data is supported by archival research. Starting with Jean (John) Hamel who arrived in Quebec in 1656, up to Joseph (1789-1890),

father of Marie-Louise Hamel (wife of Zéphirin Paquet), Julie Hamel (wife of François Kirouac, Marie-Victorin's grandmother) and Siméon Hamel, the uncle Brother Marie-Victorin talks about in *La corvée des Hamel* in his *Récits laurentiens*<sup>3</sup>.

## Zéphirin Paquet and Marie-Louise Hamel

Zéphirin Paquet, who hailed from Portneuf, had decided to sell milk when he settled in Quebec City in 1834. He became known as *the milkman of Saint-Sauveur*. He started by buying one cow and delivering milk in a dogcart. His business acumen showed very early on. In 1840, just six years later, he owned twenty cows, a barn and pastures and was delivering milk with a strong horse and cart. He had become the first milkman of Quebec City. Unfortunately Mr. Paquet was a victim of the second fire that destroyed the Saint-Roch district in 1845. Still, he managed to save his herd: *he just had time to open the barn doors and push them into the neighbouring fields. Everything else burned to the ground*. Nonetheless, always ready to take up a challenge, the milkman decided to rebuild and carry on the trade he had started alone. In 1843, Zéphirin had married Marie-Louise, and the young family was really put to the test by this ordeal. The cost of rebuilding the house was 180 pounds and all Mr. Paquet could afford was a 50-pound down payment. That is when Mrs. Paquet, feeling gifted for business, proposed to help her husband pay the expenses by starting a small



Zéphirin Paquet  
(Photo from the book: *Zéphirin Paquet, sa famille, sa vie, son œuvre*)

*business using one room in their house that she would set up for that purpose. She added: "All the experience I have had growing up tell me that I will succeed."* Before getting married, she had worked for a lady who ran a shop. This experience had been an excellent initiation and developed her liking for business. Her friendliness and her ability had been much appreciated by the customers and her boss as well.

With her husband's approval, she set up a small shop inside their Saint-Vallier Street house; one corner window became the showcase of her beautiful fancy handwork: ladies

<sup>1</sup> Original French title: *Zéphirin Paquet, sa famille, sa vie, son œuvre*, author unknown, Quebec 1927.

<sup>2</sup> Serger: craftsman, maker of serge, strong tightly woven pure wool material recognizable by fine oblique lines going upwards from left to right on the right side of the material).

<sup>3</sup> The Hamel's Bee in *Laurentian Tales* by Brother Marie-Victorin; published in French in 1919.



every-day hats and large fancy ones. *To the hats she added clothing and notions (haberdashery): threads, needles, handkerchiefs, neckties, collars, socks, then woollens and cotton garments.* After only a year, with the profits from her shop added to that of the milk sales they were able to reimburse all they owed.

Then Mr. Paquet put a challenge to his dear wife: who would have the best results at the end of the year? Though his business was increasing, Zéphirin noted that Marie-Louise's shop was far more lucrative and promising than his milk business. Consequently, he decided to combine his entrepreneurial talents with that of his wife. Therefore one can say that the Paquet Company was born due to the multi-talented Marie-Louise Hamel.

### The Hamel's Elm

Joseph Hamel and Angélique Moreau had seventeen children; we just learned about the sixth one, Marie-Louise. We already know

the eleventh, Julie, who married into the Kirouac family, and Siméon through the role Marie-Victorin assigned to him in the cutting down of the Hamel's elm. When Angélique Moreau passed away, her son Siméon, the thirteenth child and husband of Marie Pépin, inherited the family estate<sup>4</sup>.

Siméon and Marie were childless. When they retired, they ceded everything to Isidore Robitaille in exchange for his promising to look after them until death. *The donation act was signed on 9 April 1905. The following day, the aging couple retired to their rooms on the first floor and left the ground floor of the house to the new owner.*

**Let us hear the author of the Hamel's chronicle<sup>5</sup> telling us about the felling of the elm, as narrated to him by Mr. Isidore Robitaille; a story somewhat different from that told by Brother Marie-Victorin.**

*"The elm that sheltered the Hamel family for two centuries, in its own*

*way protested against this change. It had lived too long! So it decided to die! During each Spring, Autumn, or Summer storm, it could be heard shuddering as it twisted in the squall; the following day, as the road was being cleared of all the broken branches littering the ground, Isidore Robitaille would be heard saying: "The Hamel's elm is really old; its trunk must be rotten, might as well cut it down." The tree was declared decrepit. It was declared a real danger, because who knows, in its fall, it might squash some quiet passer-by?*

*Well, one Spring afternoon in 1908, Isidore Robitaille and his employee gave the tree a few blow with their axes to sound it off in a way. This was a last warning to the elm but it remained unaffected; not a single branch moved, the buds were swollen with sap but not one rustled, nevertheless the next day the elm had to die! ... Very early that morning, two men from the telephone company removed the electrical wires from the street post along the road and enclosed them in a metal tube lying on the ground. It was an essential precaution to protect the wires and not interrupt the communications because, in its fall, the giant would certainly break everything.*

*The heavy work started around eight o'clock in the morning, when Isidore Robitaille, his employee and six or seven other men with the Paradis neighbours and others, who had come for wheat threshing, tackled the colossus. Axes after axes*

<sup>4</sup> *Le bien familial*, French expression referring to all goods and chattel owned by a person.

<sup>5</sup> *Second part of the book, Zéphirin Paquet, sa famille, sa vie, son œuvre*, according to Mr. Isidore Robitaille himself.



The Hamel farm in L'Ancienne-Lorette and its majestic elm





Marie-Louise Hamel  
(Photo from the book: *Zéphirin Paquet, sa famille, sa vie, son œuvre*)

hit it all day long. It is only around four o'clock in the afternoon that the elm finally crashed in a giant cloud of dust that totally engulfed it. Proud of their success, the workers spread through the branches; axes and godendards<sup>6</sup> getting to work. At sunset only the immense trunk was left lying across the road: its diameter far wider than the length of the godendards, so they used dynamite to finish the job. Fifteen sticks positioned in the right places, hacked it to pieces and they were able to clear the road. That is when they noticed that the heart of the Hamel's elm was still strong and probably could have lived another hundred years. Why then was it losing so many branches during every storm? ... Just from the trunk they got eleven accurately measured cords of wood. This is the true story of the death of the Hamel's elm about which Marie-Victorin's pen embroidered some delicious pages in *La corvée des Hamel*<sup>7</sup>.

Comparing the two texts: the one we just read above with the

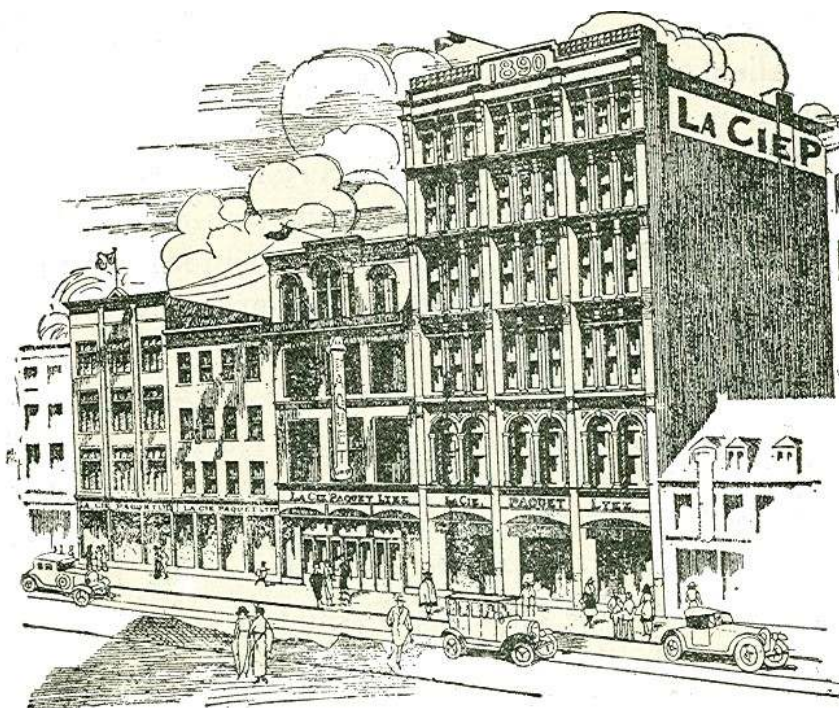
*Hamel's Bee* by Marie-Victorin, published in the previous *Trésor*, number 91, Spring 2008, each reader can draw his/her own conclusion. I think it is interesting though to see how, on the one hand the historian is keen to respect the facts but, on the other hand, the very sensitive and caring poet and author is well aware of the link between human beings and their surroundings. The various characters intervening into Marie-Victorin's account may not have played the part he assigned to them, and perhaps were not even there for the great bee, but having known and loved them all and aware of their deep attachment to the elm that had

witnessed and presided over the life and activities of so many generations, in his mind's eye, Marie-Victorin could see them all mourning in their heart during the long fateful day.

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(6) *Godendard* or *godendart*: large two-handed saw with short handles worked by two men.

(7) *The Hamel's Bee* in *Laurentian Tales*, Brother Marie-Victorin, 1919.



Paquet Store in Quebec City (Drawing from the book: *Zéphirin Paquet, sa famille, sa vie, son œuvre*)



# Camp Marie-Victorin (1953-1982)

[In a world of sounds, open your ears, in a world of light, open your eyes] Rolland Dumais

by André St-Arnaud

**C**amp Marie-Victorin of the *Cercles des Jeunes Naturalistes* (C.J.N. - Young Naturalists Club) took place at Lake Trois-Saumons, in L'Islet County, on the site of the Trois-Saumons summer camp, founded in 1946. On 15 June 1953, Abbé Robert Plante and Mr. Rolland Dumais<sup>(1)</sup>, as co-founders, officially announced the foundation of the *Marie-Victorin Natural Sciences Camp*.

Reputed to be the first of its kind in Canada, it offered courses on nature sciences to the C.J.N. members. since 1947, the C.J.N. with the *Société canadienne d'histoire naturelle* (S.C.H.N. = Canadian Society of Natural History), had organized intensive summer courses taking place in turn in Grande-Rivière, Rimouski, Quebec City, Mont-Joli, Sherbrooke and Montreal.

The first camp, from 2 to 16 August 1953, gave twenty-one campers the chance to have a direct contact with nature. That first summer, the courses included:

Meteorology with **Abbé Robert Plante**; botany and herb conservation with Elzéar **Campagna**; entomology and limnology with **Georges Gauthier**; forest entomology with **Lionel Daviault**; ornithology with **Louis-Amédée Laure**; physical geography with **Louis-Edmond Hamelin** and mycology with **René Pomerleau**.

The camp curriculum was based on a two-year course. During the first Summer, campers enriched the basic knowledge in natural sciences acquired during their school year. During the second Summer, they developed one topic in particular through practical experiments and. At the end, were given a certificate recognizing the work accomplished during the two Summers.

In 1968, *Camp Marie-Victorin* was incorporated in order to insure the project's continuity. **Oscar Villeneuve** was elected President; **Laval Lord**,

Vice-President; **Raymond Cayouette**, Secretary and other administrators were: **Rolland Dumais**, **Benoît Dumont**, **Abbé Robert Plante** and **Jacques Roberge**. The last owner of the camp was Arthur Labrie, who also owned the Beaumont mill. The camp closed during the Summer of 1982. Today, the *Camp Trois-Saumons* is part of *Camps Odyssée*<sup>(2)</sup>.

In 1954, the (S.C.H.N) Canadian Society of Natural History rented a lot at Lake Ouareau (in the Laurentians, north of Montreal) from the Quebec Government to organize a C.J.N. camp called *Camp Marie-Victorin*. In 1955, it became *Camp Kalmia* under the direction of Raymond Goudreault, C.J.N. Director of Public Relations. **Jacques Rousseau** and **Marcel Cailloux** were among the professors who gave classes in natural sciences at Camp Kalmia. The camp closed two years later, in 1957.

*Bibliography: Camp-école, l'aventure du camp Trois-Saumons, Yves Houde, Éditions Septentrion, 1997.*

*Source: C.J.N. Secretarial Archives.*

(1) *Rolland Dumais* (1911-1972) was a member of the Courville Municipal Council from 1957 until 1960, now part of Beauport. A disciple of **Brother Marie-Victorin**, Dumais authored many botany and zoology school books published in the 1950s and 1960s. Natural science teaching counsellor and director of Audio-Visual Learning Centre with the C.E.C.Q. (Quebec City School Commission), he was also a biology professor at *L'Académie de Québec* and became the assistant-curator of the Provincial Museum in 1953. He founded the first C.J.N. group at the Collège Saint-Charles-Garnier, renowned high school in the Greater Que-



Rolland Dumais, founder of the camp, around 1955 (Photo by permission of C.J.N.)

bec area, and simply called it *C.J.N. Saint-Charles-Garnier*, and was its Director from the foundation in 1941 until 1956.

Founder of *Camp Marie-Victorin*, he was its Director from 1953 until 1972. Amongst many other responsibilities, Roland Dumais, was a founding member of the Quebec City Club d'Ornithologie in 1955, President of the Quebec Regional Council of the C.J.N. from 1941 until 1954 and from 1957 until 1963; C.J.N. Board Member from 1957 until 1962; Secretary-Treasurer of the Quebec City *Société linnéenne* from 1942 until 1943

Roland Dumais was married and had five sons; however, after his wife's death, he studied theology and was ordained to the priesthood on 6 May 1972, five months before passing away, on 20 October 1972. In 1988, a Quebec City Street was named after him. In 1976, Jean-Claude Caron, his friend and successor as Director of C.J.N. *Saint-Charles-Garnier* (1956-1992) founded the *Camp Rolland-Dumais* in his honour. The camp's activities took place in Rivière-à-Pierre on the Brothers of the Sacred Heart's property..

(2) Internet link: (<http://www.camps-odysee.com/camps-odysee/histoire.php>)



# Louis Dupire <sup>1</sup> (1887-1942)

A great collaborator of the Montreal Botanical Garden

by André St-Arnaud,  
Vice President of C.J.N.

Louis Dupire, born in Ploërmel, Brittany, on 5 December 1887, was the son of Eugène Dupire and Louisa Le Terte. The fifth child in a family of nine, he was only two or three years old when his parents decided to cross the Atlantic. At first, they went to live in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, then in Baie Sainte-Marie, in Acadia (Nova-Scotia); then on to Cohoes, New York State, where they lived a few years before settling in Quebec. For this reason, he did his

elementary studies in Cohoes in New York State, and his classical studies at the College in L'Assomption (Quebec) and at the Seminary of Philosophy in Montreal. On 4 May 1914, he married Yvonne d'Estimauville and they had six children: Bernard, Marie, Thérèse, Jean, Jacques and Pierre.

After being an intern at Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal, intending to become a medical doctor, he opted for journalism. For a few years he worked for various newspapers: *Le Canada*, *La Patrie* and *La Presse*. In 1912, he started at *Le Devoir*, when the paper was just two years old, and he remained for the following thirty years, until his death. At first he was a general reporter then became parliamentary correspondent in Quebec City and later in Ottawa. He also wrote for two other papers: *Le Nationaliste* and *Le Petit journal*.

Secretary to the editor in 1924 and a board member of *Le Devoir* for many years, he published hundreds, even thousands of news, notices, parliamentary chronicles and editorials. During the last twenty years he was mostly interested in municipal and social issues, strongly campaigning in such a way that it stirred public opinion like never before raising it to a level of civic responsibilities little known until then.

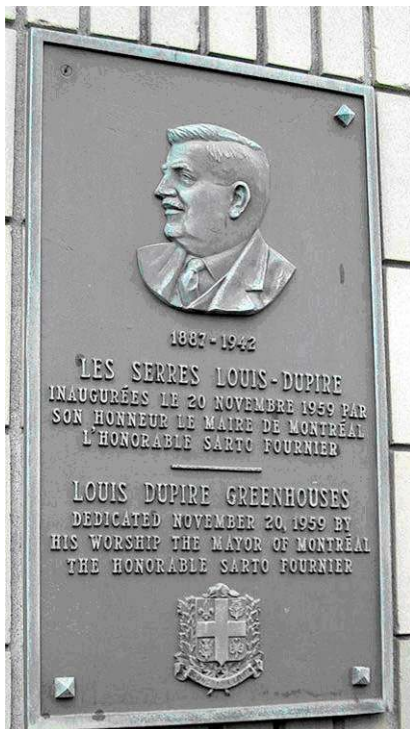


Louis Dupire

Archives of the Montreal Botanical Garden

He was particularly interested in the physical and moral protection of the children as well the well-being and education of youth. He wrote about hygiene and health; was forever appealing to the readers in favour of charities, hospitals, about sanitary lodgings, playgrounds, clinics for nursing mothers, etc. Staunch defender of the French-speaking Canadians, he supported and encouraged social work and played a prominent role in planning and founding of many organizations and movements, including the Montreal Botanical Garden and the *Cercles des jeunes naturalistes* (CJN) (Young Naturalists Circles).

Au printemps 1930, Louis In the Spring of 1930, Louis Dupire, editor of *Le Devoir* newspaper, and his friend Oscar Dufresne (1875-1936) (2) offered to Brother Marie-Victorin to launch a provincial botanical contest. The challenge was addressed to high school students; each was to collect a hundred



Plaque placed by City of Montreal at the entrance of the *Louis Dupire Greenhouses*.

Taken from: <http://pages.videotron.com/>



plants and assemble them into an herbarium. The students had to identify the plants in details using texts, drawings, watercolours, and photographs. It was the beginning of what was to become the (C.J.N.), officially founded in 1931, by Brother Adrien Rivard, C.S.C. (1890-1969). He supported the C.J.N. through a regular chronicle in *Le Devoir*.

It can be said about Marie-Victorin what he used to say about Louis Dupire, his great ally, the editor of *Le Devoir*: "An education project and monument to the science of life, the Garden, more than twenty times nearly drowned, but every time, the vigorous arm of Louis Dupire gave the project the necessary impetus". In great part the Montreal Botanical Garden owes him its existence, as such he is its cofounder.

He was also a founding member of the Montreal Microbiology and Hygiene Institute and a patron of the C.J.N. *Cercle Amédée-Marsan* at the *Collège* in L'Assomption, his alma mater.

On 19 June 1942, Louis Dupire while walking on Bernard Street West collapsed. In spite of a doctor having him without delay transported to a hospital, he died almost immediately, victim of an acute pulmonary oedema.

What the Botanical Garden owes him is not only persistent promotion in the newspapers but so many discreet interventions where the honest newspaperman

put aside the pleasure of the scoop in order to better support the project. (*L'Action Universitaire*)

### In his memory

The City of Montreal has kept alive the souvenir of this remarkable man by giving his name to one of the city streets and to a school.

From 1959 to 2006, the City administered the *Serres Louis-Dupire*. These greenhouses were located at the north-west limit of the vast ground occupied by the Montreal Botanical Garden. They were right at the corner of Rosemont and Pius IX Boulevards; the main entrance was at 5655 Pius IX Boulevard.

In 1959 at the inauguration ceremony, on the right-hand side of the main door, a plaque was installed by Mayor Sarto Fournier to remind us of the great man for whom the greenhouses were named. However, in 2006, after 47 years of activities, the City of Montreal closed the greenhouses.



Oscar Dufresne

Taken from: *Montreal, Old and New*, published in 1915.

Source: Montreal Botanical Garden, Bulletin SAJIB, January-April 1982, Volume 6, nos 3-4.

Internet Site: <http://pages.videotron.com/jacko007/> (Jacques Lafrenière's Web site)

1 Louis Dupire used many aliases during his career as a journalist: Paul Anger, Louis Breton, Jacques Cœur, Le Grincheux, Nemo, Nessus, Pascal, Sans-Quartier. Honours received: Life member of the *Société canadienne d'histoire naturelle* (Canadian Society of Natural History) and of the *Cercles des Jeunes Naturalistes* (C.J.N.). Publications: *Le petit monde: recueil de billets du soir*, 1919; *Le catéchisme des électeurs d'après l'ouvrage de A. Gérin Lajoie* (in collaboration), (1935?); *Comment se fait le Devoir* (in collaboration), 1935; numerous articles published in various periodicals including the *Almanach de la langue française*.

2 Important Montreal shoe manufacturer. (see *Château Dufresne* on the web)



Photo : André St-Arnaud

Rue Louis Dupire located in the West Mercier district in Montreal



# GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

*The KFA's computerized genealogical database includes a number of couples where the name of one of the partners is missing.*

*Answers to the following questions would enable us to complete this data.*

*You are also invited to consult previous issues of Le Trésor. If you know the answers to any of the questions, please forward them to us and we will publish them in the Readers' Page in future issues.*

*Thank you very much.*

*François Kirouac*

**Référence: *Le Trésor*, Winter 2007, number 90, answers sent in by Raymonde Kéroutac**

## Question 141

What are the names of the parents of Ghislain Thibault, spouse of Carole Gamache, daughter of Albina Kéroutac and Jean Gamache?

*The parents of Ghislain Thibault are Blanche Éva Brie and Clermont Thibault.*

## Question 142

What are the names of the parents of Réjean Lamarre, spouse of Réjeanne Gamache, daughter of Albina Kéroutac and Jean Gamache?

*The parents of Réjean Lamarre are Lucille Lagacé and Simon Lamarre.*

## Question 143

What are the names of the parents of Benoît Bélanger, spouse of Louiselle Gamache, daughter of Albina Kéroutac and Jean Gamache?

*The parents of Benoît Bélanger are Colette Pelletier and Hilaire Bélanger.*

## Question 165

What are the names of the parents

of Tommy Turcotte, spouse of Pierrette Lapointe, daughter of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

## Question 166

What are the names of the parents of Gisèle Fortin, spouse of Raymond Lapointe, son of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

## Question 167

What are the names of the parents of Céline Tremblay, spouse of Roland Lapointe, son of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

## Question 168

What are the names of the parents of René St-Hilaire, spouse of Lucille Lapointe, daughter of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

## Question 169

What are the names of the parents of Clément Lambert, spouse of Laurette Lapointe, daughter of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

## Question 170

What are the names of the parents of Aimé Lapointe, spouse of Juliette Lapointe, daughter of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

## Question 171

What are the names of the parents of Lucienne St-Hilaire, spouse of Robert Lapointe, daughter of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

## Question 172

What are the names of the parents of Léo Paré, spouse of Yvette Lapointe, daughter of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

Please send us your genealogical questions; we will try to answer them and the result will be published in a following issue of *Le Trésor*.

The Editorial Team

## Question 173

What are the names of the parents of Léger Therrien, spouse of Georgette Lapointe, daughter of Victoria Kirouac and Zéphirin Audet dit Lapointe?

## Question 174

What are the names of the parents of Luc Bernard, spouse of Guylaine Lamontagne, daughter of Solange Kéroutac and Bertrand Lamontagne?

## Question 175

What is the name of the father of Lucille Nadeau, spouse of André Kirouac and what are the names of the parents of André Kirouac?

## Question 176

What are the names of the parents of Lynn Mercereau, spouse of Richard Keroack, son of Albert Keroack and Emma Baril?

## Question 177

What are the names of the parents of Lynn Palleshi, spouse of Antonio Keroack, son of Albert Keroack and Emma Baril?

## Question 178

What are the names of the parents of Doris Rousseau, spouse of Denis Kirouac, son of Joseph Kirouac and Marie-Rose Daigle?

## Question 179

What are the names of the parents of Martial Larose, spouse of Nathalie Lamontagne, daughter of Gaston Lamontagne and Céline Kirouac?

## Question 180

What are the names of the parents of Simon Lambert, spouse of Sylvie Lamontagne, daughter of Gaston Lamontagne and Céline Kirouac?

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Our ancestor's signature on a request addressed to Governor Beauharnois in November 1733

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## REMINDER

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS ON SUNDAY, 3 AUGUST 2008  
AT 11 A.M. AT MAISON JÉSUS-OUVRIER  
475 BOULEVARD PÈRE LELIÈVRE, QUÉBEC CITY**

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