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Number 93

# Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



On 2 August 2008, some of the Kirouacs visiting the Quebec Citadel during the annual weekend family gathering marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Kirouac Family Association. (Photograph : Pierre Kirouac)

K rouac   ✦   K roack   ✦   Kirouac   ✦   Kyrrouac   ✦   K rouack   ✦   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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# The President's Word

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary — Follow-up

Within the pages of the present bulletin, you will read the report of the celebration surrounding the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Association on 2-3 August in Quebec City. Last spring, within the pages of *Le Trésor*, I called upon you to suggest ways to improve our Association and its activities. During our gathering in Quebec City, some of you answered my request and presented ideas and suggestions to be studied by the Board Members. It will be done at future Board meetings.

However, one idea was immediately and unanimously agreed upon, that is to form a youth committee within our Association. Our new Vice-President, Nathalie, has been given the mandate to contact some people present during our August 2 & 3 gathering to find out if they would like to be on that committee. This committee's mandate would be to find ways and means to attract younger members, interest them in genealogy, and the history and stories of their family. If you wish, you may send your suggestions directly to Nathalie. They will be appreciated.

### Our Association's Finances

Five years ago, the then President, Pierre Kirouac from Trois-Rivières, pointed out that the Association's budget was balanced because of the surplus created as a result of the annual gatherings and the sale of promotional objects. He also pointed out that is not the normal way for an organization to balance its budget. These monies should be

its budget. These monies should be used for special projects, such as development and genealogical research and not to cover the Association's administrative expenses.

Nevertheless, five years later, the situation is still the same. Year after year, our Association does not incur a deficit but KFA administrative expenses are covered by that very uncertain surplus. That is the reason why, during the last Annual General Meeting, on 3 August, the members present authorized the Board to increase the annual KFA membership which is presently \$22.

However, since our AGM, we have been notified by the FFSQ (Fédération des Familles Souches du Québec) that soon we must expect an increase in cost for printing and mailing of our bulletin as well as an increase in cost for other services provided by the FFSQ. As this is the beginning period for subscription renewal, the envelope is included with the present bulletin, and, having no idea what the FFSQ fee increase will be, it has been decided to postpone increasing the KFA annual membership fee until next year. Of course extra revenue for the KFA would be very welcomed now but we prefer to wait for the time being rather than have to make another fee adjustment if the FFSQ's increase were to warrant it.

The last increase was five years ago when, in 2003 the KFA annual dues went from \$20 to \$22. As you well know, our administrative costs have augmented steadily during those



François Kirouac

five years even though it has been possible to reduce the production costs of our bulletin.

### Time to renew your membership to the Association

I wish to remind you that with the present issue of *Le Trésor* begins the period to renew your KFA membership for 2009. Thus, with the present bulletin you will find a self-addressed envelope to do so pronto. Please send in your payment as soon as possible then you can happily forget about it.

Also, why not give a membership to a member of your family as a Christmas or birthday gift? Give someone the chance to discover the history of his/her family and support your Association at the same time!





# BRIEFLY SPEAKING



*The Kirouac Family Association  
presents*

*Brother Marie-Victorin  
and*

*The Odyssey of the Flore laurentienne*

*By Lucie Jasmin*

*Autumn 2008 Lectures*

**11 September 2008  
Saint-Colomban**

7:30 p.m.  
Saint-Colomban Town Hall  
330 montée de l'Église  
Saint-Colomban  
Réservations : 450 436-1453 poste 301

**21 October 2008 – La Prairie**

7:30 p.m.  
Société d'histoire de La Prairie-de-la-Magdeleine 249, rue Sainte-Marie, La Prairie  
Publicity: <http://www.laprairie-shlm.com/conferences.html>

**26 November 2008 — Boucherville**

8:00 p.m.  
Salle Robert-Lionel-Séguin  
Bibliothèque Montarville-Boucher-De La Bruère, 501, chemin du Lac, Boucherville.

Information: Mireille Pinel Davis, 450-655-9407

**A Prize for Yves Kirouac  
(Le Soleil, 13 July 2008)**

Yves Kirouac, a member of *Les Cabotins*, an amateur theatre group in Thetford Mines, recently won a prize for best set design. The prize was awarded for *Création-production-théâtre* by the *Fédération québécoise de théâtre amateur*. Mr. Kirouac won for his outstanding set for *Roméo and Juliette*, given in February 2008 at the Salle Dussault (Theatre) in Thetford Mines. Twelve comedians took part in Gérard Presgurvic's musical comedy directed by Louis-Étienne Nadeau.

(Editor's note: If anyone knows Yves Kirouac, please let the Secretary know asap. We would like to contact him and write an article about him for a future issue of *Le Trésor*.)

On Sunday, 12 October 2008, in the Town Hall of Saint-Stanislas in the Mauricie Region, many gathered for the launching of a short biography of Abbé Gaston Kirouac.

The Saint-Stanislas Historical Society and the author, Mrs. Janine Trépanier Massicotte, had invited all the parishioners of Sainte-Geneviève and Saint-Stanislas where the Abbé Kirouac was a parish priest for many years. His brother and sister-in-law, Jacques and Alberte, as well as all his nephews and nieces were present for this festive occasion.

Many friends of Abbé Kirouac from the time he was Director of the Trois-Rivières Seminary also attended to pay him homage.

Our Association was represented by Pierre Kirouac of Trois-Rivières, KFA President 2002-2005, and also by François Kirouac, our current President.

## SUCCESSFUL BOOK LAUNCHING



Photo: François Kirouac

Gaston Kirouac, priest, with the author Janine Trépanier Massicotte

# 30th Anniversary Gathering

## Kirouac Family Association

The 2008 annual gathering emphasizing the first thirty years of the KFA was a success and some people were convinced that their prayers to Brother Marie-Victorin to hold off the rain during our weekend reunion were heard and granted.

Eighty-three participants turned up at the Quebec Citadel. What a visit it was! Including the Changing of the Guard ceremony and a visit to the Canadian Governor General's Residence, it was all greatly appreciated and the weather was perfect.

In the *Redoute* Cap-aux-Diamants, i.e. the Powder Magazine, built in 1693 and 1694, the participants saw Champlain's Great Book, a delightful gift from France for Quebec City's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is an original work created by contemporary artists reproducing Champlain's notes, maps, drawings and engravings made during his trips in New France. The giant book weighs almost 500 kilos. The pages, each over six feet high and five feet wide, can be turned by the visitors. After such a wonderful day including eating lunch with the soldiers in the Citadel's canteen, the participants boarded the buses back to Maison Jésus-Ouvrier for the cocktail, banquet and evening entertainment.

What a pleasure it was to welcome Mr. Alain Olmi and his wife, Michèle, who came especially from France to celebrate with their *Kirouac cousins*. After dinner, Mr. Olmi, a descendant of the Le Bihan family, spoke about past Le Bihan generations previous to Henri Le Bihan, our ancestor's great-great-grandfather. His talk was a



Photo : Hélène Kirouac Pelletier

Quebec, 2 August 2008 - Changing of the Guard at the Citadel



Photo : François Kirouac

From left to right, front row: Hélène Kirouac Pelletier, Lucille Kirouac and Marie-Andrée Lavigne; back row: Céline Drolet, Danielle Girouard, Denise Drolet, Jeannine Kirouac Dumas, Nicole Drolet, a soldier from the Royal 22e Regiment, Alberte Garon and Gisèle Kirouac.







Photo: Pierre Kirouac

Alain and Michèle Olmi, our distant cousins descending from the Le Bihan of Brittany, who came from Paris especially to attend the KFA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary .



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

Touring the Redoute and the Citadel's Powder Magazine in Quebec City and admiring Champlain's Great Book.



Photo: Pierre Kirouac

Would you like a glass of Breton Cider? From left to right: Marie-Thérèse Girard, Marie-Andrée Lavigne and Hélène Kirouac Pelletier.

*hypothetical reconstitution* of past generations but all based on historical documents. It was a fascinating journey in time taking us as far back as Louis IX of France, 1214-1270, better known as King Saint Louis showing the possibility of a Le Bihan taking part in the disastrous 7<sup>th</sup> Crusade in Egypt led by the brother of King Saint Louis (1248-1254).

During the evening, the first of a two-DVD project about the KFA's first thirty years was also presented. The second DVD will be available in 2009, possibly during the winter. As soon as both DVDs are available they will be advertised in *Le Trésor*.

The participants were also shown the 43rd episode of TFO's Series *La Quête* (Télé Franco-Ontarienne) about Marie-Victorin. The series is produced by Instinct Films for young audiences. The 43<sup>rd</sup> episode on Marie-Victorin was first aired in May 2008. In it, two young "heroes" Charles-Éric and Michael, are looking for the true identity of Marie-Victorin. Both are great-great-grandsons of Télesphore Kirouac and Marie Blais. This couple, originally from Sainte-Euphémie, County of Montmagny, lived in Trois-Rivières at the beginning of the twentieth century.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION

On Sunday, 3 August, Abbé Gaston Kirouac celebrated Mass in the chapel of Maison Jésus-Ouvrier and afterwards we gathered for the AGM.

At election time during the AGM, in order to insure a place to the younger generation, our second vice-president, Lucille Kirouac (St-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud) generously gave up her seat on the Board to Nathalie Kirouac, daughter of Gonzague, our late strong man from Témiscouata. We wish Nathalie a very warm welcome on the Board and extend a heartfelt thanks to Lucille for her devotion to our



Bernard Lafargue entertained us again this year as he had done so pleasantly in 2004 in Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud.

Photographie : Pierre Kirouac

Association.

Upon leaving the Board, Lucille underlined her intention to keep working for the KFA on specific projects. There is no doubt that she will find an ample choice of projects to work on. The KFA is ever so grateful to one and all who contribute time and energy to the life of our Association!

The other board members whose mandates were completed were willing to carry on and were re-elected. So at the following Board meeting, except for Lucille, all members were back in the position they held during 2007-2008 and Nathalie Kirouac was named Second Vice-President.

After lunch, the participants were consulted as to the future of the Association. As the actions and activities of the past thirty years were abundantly discussed during 2007 and 2008, the Board members were keen to hear from those present what they felt about the future of the Kirouac Family Association and which way should the KFA go.

All suggestions offered were noted and will be examined carefully by the Board in autumn.

Members of the Organizing Committee, Céline, Lucille and Marie Kirouac as well as Michel Bornais, Jacques and François Kirouac extend their heartfelt thanks to all those who help in one way or another to make this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering a real success. They are:

Mr. René Kirouac, from St-Constant, as Master of Ceremonies;

Mrs. Geneviève Roger for computer work;

Mrs. Hélène Kirouac Pelletier and Mr. Pierre Kirouac for the photos;

Miss Lucie Jasmin, President of the *Observatory Marie-Victorin* for her Saturday evening presentation;

Mrs. Marie Lussier Timperley for her welcoming services;

Mrs. Mercédès Bolduc and her two sons, François and David who welcomed the participants and looked after our souvenir shop;

Mrs. Yolande Bornais for secretarial work;

Mr. Alain Olmi for his Saturday evening presentation;

Mr. Eric Waddell, President of the *Observatory Jack Kerouac* for his Saturday evening presentation;



Celebrating a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is not only an occasion for new encounters but also a chance to meet again some lost friends and relatives. At the table, from left to right: Robert Kirouac, Hermann Harvey, Nathalie Kirouac and Raymonde Kérouac Harvey; standing behind: Jacques Kirouac and Eric Waddell.

Photographie : Pierre Kirouac



To sing *La paimpolaise*, a wellknown Breton song, no choir master needed: from l. to r. seated: Monique, Gabrielle and Claire Hurtubise, abbé Gaston Kirouac and Brian Timperley; behind: accordion player extraordinaire Bernard Lafargue, René Kirouac, Denise Pépin Kirouac, Gisèle Bergeron Kirouac, Renaud Kirouac and Michel Bornais.

Photographie : Pierre Kirouac





Mr. François Dumulon, Mrs. Marie Thérèse Girard and Mr. Jacques Boulet for looking after the bar at dinner time;

Mr. Gaston Kirouac for officiating at Mass on Sunday morning,

Mr. Marc Roger for his photographic work.

**Much gratitude to our generous sponsors:**

Bureau en gros;

Caisse populaire Desjardins de la Rivière-du-Sud;

Floralies Jouvence inc.;

Gestion privée Desjardins;

Mr. André Kirouac of Club Jouet;

Quebec Tourism Office.

A million thanks to one and all!

The Editors



KFA gift shop sales team: Mercédès Bolduc and her two sons, David and François Ville-neuve.

Photo : Hélène Kirouac Pelletier



Four generations: from left to right: Lauréat Kirouack, Josée Vaillancourt, Rachel Kirouack Vaillancourt and her grandson: Antoine Lessard.

Photo : Hélène Kirouac Pelletier





On Sunday, 3 August, members of the 2008 Organizing Committee presented Marie Kirouac with a special souvenir to thank her for her unstinting work and collaboration since 1979. A plate representing a painting by the famous Canadian painter Suzor-Côté was presented to her by Lucille Kirouac and David Villeneuve, Mercédès Bolduc's son. (Photo: Hélène Kirouac Pelletier)

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Association was also an opportunity to underline the constant support of Bruno Kirouac and his wife, Gisèle Bergeron, who never missed a gathering since 1980. Their son, François, presented them with a photo of them mounted on a souvenir plate by artist France Marcotte. (Photo: Hélène Kirouac Pelletier)



The KFA also thanked René Kirouac from St. Constant, who was Master of Ceremonies during our 2008 gathering. He was presented with a history book on Montreal and, working as a tour guide in Montreal, René was particularly pleased with this gift and saying how useful it would be. (Photo: Hélène Kirouac Pelletier)

Kirouac Family Association  
Annual Gathering in Quebec City  
2 & 3 August 2008

**REVENUES**

Activity A (La Citadelle)	\$1,320.00
Activity B (Saturday Evening)	\$3,197.00
Activity C (Annual General Meeting, Sunday)	\$1,206.00
Drinks and Tips	\$ 241.68
Profit from the raffle	\$ 210.00
Cocktail sponsored by Club Jouet	\$ 139.80
Gifts	\$ 308.20
<b>Total of revenues</b>	<b>\$6,622.68</b>

**EXPENSES**

Hall rental at Maison Jésus-Ouvrier	\$ 430.00
Projector rental	\$ 60.00
Glass rental for cocktail	\$ 30.00
Visit to the Citadelle	\$ 756.00
Bus Rental La Québécoise	\$ 338.62
Accessories for tables, flowers & decorations	\$ 99.18
Musical Entertainment	\$ 300.00
Beer, wine, cider & soft drinks	\$ 381.48
Gifts	\$ 131.27
Colour Photocopies	\$ 65.93
Saturday Evening Banquet	\$2,075.00
Cold Buffet Sunday	\$ 780.00
<b>Total of expenses</b>	<b>\$5,447.48</b>

<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$1,175.20</b>
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<b>AMOUNT REMITTED TO KFA:</b>	<b>\$1,175.20</b>
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30th Anniversary



# President's Annual Report, Presented to the Annual General Meeting On Behalf of the Board, 3 August 2008

## MEETINGS

**D**uring the last year, three Board meetings were held in Sainte-Foy, Quebec, on 22 September 2007, 2 February 2008 and 7 June 2008.

## KFA'S PARTICIPATION IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

### Quebec's Founding Families Fair

The ninth edition of the Quebec's Founding Families Fair was held 22-24 February 2008.

Last year after the eighth event, Michel Bornais accepted to take part in the post mortem session for members of the FFSQ in order to think out ways to improve the visibility of these events. Our Secretary put forward a number of suggestions to the FFSQ members. Two were retained: invite a well-known personality to be Honorary President and plan a reserved area for lectures and workshops. Consequently, the 2008 Genealogical Fair attracted the media attention, and the general public visiting Place Laurier Shopping Mall flocked to the lectures.

Our Association benefited from an excellent visibility through the event. To start with, during the opening ceremony, our Secretary acted as Emcee. Through the weekend, he and I filmed all the lectures given by the famous historians, Jacques Lacoursière, Marianna O'Gallagher, Marcel Fournier and Rénald Lessard from the Quebec National Archives. Michel also filmed the various FFSQ workshops held during the Fair. (The translator invites the readers to Google these names for more info.)

Again this year, many volunteers manned our KFA kiosk. I take this opportunity to thank personally: Mercédès Bolduc, Michel Bornais, André Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Jacques Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Marie Kirouac and Marie Lussier Timperley.

### André Bouchard's Book Launching at Montreal University

On 5 November 2007, the Board Members were invited to the launching of André Bouchard's last book, *Marie-Victorin à Cuba. Correspondance avec le frère*



Photo: Hélène Kirouac Pelletier

2008-2009 Board of Directors: from left to right: Mercédès Bolduc, Nathalie Kirouac, Céline Kirouac, Lucie Jasmin, Marie Kirouac, François Kirouac, Michel Bornais, Marie Lussier Timperley and René Kirouac

**Léon**, published by Presses de l'Université de Montréal. *Marie-Victorin in Cuba, Correspondence with Brother Léon* presents forty years of correspondence between Brother Marie-Victorin (in Montreal) and Brother Léon in Cuba. Dr. Bouchard is a former Curator of the *Montreal Botanical Garden* and Director of the *Institut de Recherches en Biologie végétale* (IRVB= Plant Biology Research Institute). He is presently professor in charge of the Biological Science Department at Montreal University and researcher at the IRBV.

Representing the Board at this auspicious occasion were: Lucie Jasmin, Céline Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Marie Kirouac, Marie Lussier Timperley, Michel Bornais and myself.

### Memorial Plaque Unveiling and Oak Planting in Sainte-Foy

On 14 June 2008, Jacques Kirouac and Céline Kirouac represented our Association at the unveiling of a plaque and the planting of an oak at the Jacques-Cartier Beach Park in Sainte-Foy.

Thanks to an invitation from the Quebec-France Association and its partners, our

Association took part in this event as part of Quebec City's 400th Anniversary. On the monument, unveiled on 14 June 2008, the name **Kirouac** is engraved, as there is a Marie-Victorin Street in Sillery, a Quebec City suburb. Our Association also contributed \$50 to the erection of the monument.

### La Quête on television

Last year, we let you know about the filming of a television program about Brother Marie-Victorin by **TFO**, the French Ontario Television station. The program was part of a series of seventy designed to help children discover the works and identity of historical Canadian personalities to whom they are closely or distantly related.

Thus **TFO** viewers, Ontario's French Television station, at the beginning of May discovered Brother Marie-Victorin, through the search of two young descendants of our ancestor: Charles-Éric Vézina, grandson of our Secretary, Michel Bornais, and his "distant-cousin", Michael Leblanc, both descendants of Téphosphore Kirouac and Marie Blais.



## PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING THE LAST YEAR

### Our Ancestor's monument in Kamouraska - ensuring its maintenance in perpetuity

Last year, discussions started with the FFSQ in order to ensure the maintenance in perpetuity of the Kamouraska monument. The negotiations are now ended. If our Association were to be dissolved within the next 25 years, the FFSQ would take over the lease at the end of the 25-year period and renew the lease at the Kamouraska cemetery. The renewal cost would then be paid with the interest generated by the *Fonds Jacques Kirouac* (Fund). It is important to remember that, in accordance with the donor's wish, the FFSQ will inherit the administration of the Fund if the KFA is ever dissolved.

### Creation of the Marie-Victorin Observatory and the Jack Kerouac Observatory

Amongst the 2008 KFA achievements, it is important to mention the launching of the two *Observatories*, one for, whose President is Miss Lucie Jasmin, a KFA Board Member, is President of the Marie-Victorin Observatory, and Mr. Eric Waddell, former President of the late *Club Jack Kerouac*, is President of the Jack Kerouac Observatory.

These two *Observatories* were created to follow, analyse, and pass on what is being written, published and said about the two K/ beacons and, whenever needed, to comment on, inform and, if need be, rectify.

### Organization of the 2008 annual gathering and other up-coming gatherings

This year the Board put in a good deal of time and work into planning the present August 2 & 3 gathering. A KFA Board subcommittee including Céline Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Marie Kirouac, Michel Bornais and myself, joined by Jacques Kirouac, organized the present annual reunion. Our Treasurer, René Kirouac, looked after the finances.

Planning of the 2009 and 2010 annual reunions is progressing.

### DVD of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

To mark our Association's thirty years of existence, the Board Members voted to produce a DVD about the past three

decades. The project is entitled: *L'Association des familles Kirouac inc., 30 ans de réalisations* = The KFA, 30 Years of Achievements. The first of two DVDs was presented and sold during our August reunion. The Second DVD will be available in 2009.

### Preserving the Photographic Heritage

The preservation of the Kirouac families' photographic heritage slowly started off during the past year. About fifty photos were kindly lent to us to be digitalized and some have been published in *Le Trésor*.

We can only remind you again of the importance of passing on your photographic treasures so we can preserve them and share them with all KFA members. It would be extremely sad if, through fire, inundation or death, precious photos of all those Kirouac family ancestors were lost forever.

### Indexing (and cross-referencing) of *Le Trésor's* articles

Lucille and Céline carry on their great work begun in 2007. The publication of each new issue of *Le Trésor* is entered into the subject index. The document may be obtained by emailing Lucille or the Secretary.

### Revision of KFA general rules and regulations

The Secretary has started revising the KFA's general rules and regulations. The amendments are progressively submitted to the Board before a final version is presented for approval during a future AGM. Essentially some articles need a more detailed explanation regarding the interpretation and/or new ones are needed as some subjects were not originally covered in the R & R, and, should the need arise, the Board would have to refer directly to the Quebec Civil Code or a procedural code for deliberating assemblies to deal with such matters.

### Publication of Janet Michelle Kerouac's *Memoirs*

One of the KFA's aims is to make known members of our family and their works, thus the KFA Board has accepted to give \$400. as financial support to the author Gerald Nicosia. This amount was generously given to the KFA with the proviso that it would be specifically be used to finance the

publication of a book about Janet Michelle Kerouac's memoirs.

The English edition of the book is planned for the autumn to coincide with the annual fall event *Lowell Celebrate Kerouac*. Our Association's name will appear in the book as a partner of the author.

## OUR ASSOCIATION'S VISIBILITY

Again this year, Mrs. Lucie Jasmin generously assured extra visibility to our Association when giving three lectures about Brother Marie-Victorin in Sainte-Foy, Saint-Colomban and Rivière-du-Loup.

## THANKS

Before concluding, let me thank every KFA Board Member for all the work done during the past year. Many thanks also to the KFA Regional Representatives and to all those who contributed from near and far to the publication of *LE TRÉSOR* which, we sincerely hope, you appreciate.

And, last but not least, a very special thank you to Céline Kirouac who, on the recommendation of the other Board Members, prepared the file submitting my candidacy for the "2008 Volunteering Prize" given by the FFSQ.

François Kirouac  
For the Board







## THANKS LUCILLE!

During the last annual general meeting of the KFA, Lucille Kirouac did not put her name up for reelection as a Board member; not an easy decision for her.

Thus on 3 August 2008, Lucille generously passed on her seat to Nathalie Kirouac in order to devote her time to specific tasks within our Association.

In 2004, after organizing our annual gathering in St-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, Lucille decided to join the KFA Board. She was a counsellor from 2004 to 2006 and then accepted the position of Vice-President from 2006 on.

Lucille's responsibility on the Board was the Web site and she was the one keeping in touch with our webmaster, Pierre Kirouac in Trois-Rivières. Among her mandates, with Céline Kirouac, she worked on the Subject Index of the *Trésor des Kirouac*. A painstaking task if there is one!

Lucille always accepted with enthusiasm the responsibilities the Board entrusted her with. Of course we will all miss her very pleasant manner and her pertinent interventions.

On behalf of the members of the Association and of the Board: Thank you so much Lucille!

The Editors

# Most Unlikely Meeting

I have been asked to tell you briefly how my interest in Marie-Victorin was born and grew.

Well I have to start with "Once upon a time, when I was a little girl . . .

I must have been about nine or ten years old, on a grey Sunday afternoon, in the middle of a seemingly endless winter, my father, in order to counter the cheerless mood, decided to take us to Montreal, to the Botanical Garden.

Thus our small family, my parents, my brother and I found ourselves in the main greenhouse at the Botanical Garden. There was a very special aroma in the air, the exhilarating fragrance that emanates from earth wet with fresh rain . . . the exquisite summer bouquet full of natural plant scents.

There were flowers everywhere. Right up to the ceiling.

As a child growing up in the suburbs, I knew the golden dandelions, the velvety petals of the pansies, the tulips in the flowerbeds, the petunias and their funny sticky leaves, and the grass, e.g. the lawn where one was not allowed to walk.

But there, suddenly, we felt like we were floating into some vaporous element, all green and primitive vaguely evoking the films of Jungle Jim . . . but in full colour and in the middle of winter.

You should have seen my father then!

A mixture of pride and joy had taken over my father. The reserved and strict father I knew had suddenly disappeared and there was a young enthusiastic man in front of me telling us about a great scientist, a brother of the Christian Schools, like our uncle Albert, who had founded the Botanical Garden. His name was Brother Marie-Victorin.



Photographie : Pierre Kirouac

On Saturday, 2 August, Miss Lucie Jasmin told those present how she first heard about Brother Marie-Victorin. Miss Jasmin, a KFA Board Member, is responsible for the Marie-Victorin Observatory.

I was impressed even by his elegant name.

Brother Marie-Victorin was the author of a thick book, a bible about our country's plants. And he was the patron saint of the *Cercles des Jeunes naturalistes* (Young Naturalists Circles). Nothing less!

I was expecting to pay a visit to Brother Marie-Victorin in his office. My father liked to take us to places where he knew people. But that did not happen at all. Quite the opposite, we spent the rest of the afternoon walking through the greenhouses. And we went outside in the freezing cold to examine giant trees whose branches were creaking in the bitter wind. My poor mother was miserable being so scared that one of those branches would fall on our heads.

Then I understood: Father has a surprise for us. It must be the time, so I thought, that Brother Marie-Victorin is walking in his garden and he will use





Lucie Jasmin and René Kirouac, our Master of Ceremonies

this opportunity to come and greet us. So I decided to play the game.

My dear, dear, father was preparing a big surprise. I had guessed right and pretended not to know so as not to spoil his effect. Of course for a nine-year-old little girl, her father is as clear as glass. That's why from then on, with a thumping heart, I kept watching from the corner of my eyes to see the mysterious gardener appear. At one point, I just could not wait any longer and I asked my father: *"Please, daddy, when are we going to see Brother Marie-Victorin?"*

My father was stunned. He looked at me and, understanding my mistake, he explained as nicely as he could that *Brother Marie-Victorin had unfortunately died in the forties but, he added probably to console me, he had a wonderful life.*

Was it the early colourful winter sunset of that late afternoon?

Or the tenderness in my father's deep blue eyes?

Or, perhaps, because deep down in a little girl's soul I so much wanted to meet Brother Marie-Victorin but that impossible dream could not become reality?

Just try to understand the mystery of attachment!

So we left and went back home in Laval-des-Rapides.

Then days and seasons followed each other.

I was busy growing up. Marie-Victorin no longer occupied the centre of my thoughts. However, whenever I heard his name mentioned, I listened and remembered whatever bits of information I heard about him.

As I was going through the so-called awkward age, I suppose the romantic atmosphere surrounding the personage seemed more attractive. From what I was learning about his life, I imagined what freedom was: ride in a big car, a large loud Buick through the Laurentians to wander through woods and fields. Take the time to enjoy a wonderful life: admire the scenery, pick up plants and write books. And accomplish all that surrounded by great friends. Save for one detail, quite like Jack Kerouac's lifestyle! Well, save for one thing.

Then seasons and years went by.

One day in 2000, I felt ill, so badly that for some long months I was bedridden. And, believe it or not, that story from my youth would catch up with me in that time of hopelessness, and in the most amazing way possible, I would finally meet Brother Marie-Victorin. It was time to get better acquainted. He became, and here I will borrow Monseigneur Félix-Antoine Savard's beautiful expression, he became the companion of my mind.

From that moment on events followed so quickly as if tumbling over like a torrent.

Coincidence or fate, significant meetings took place: Brother Gilles Beaudet, an authority on Marie-Victorin.

And Marie-Victorin himself brought me a gift – because friendship is a gift in life – I met my great friend Céline Kirouac.

I had the privilege of meeting the unforgettable Maurice Drolet.

Then there was my first meeting of the Kirouac Family Association at the 2003 annual gathering in Longueuil; meeting Madeleine Gervais, a collaborator of Marie-Victorin, thanks to the Sugar Plum Fairy of communications, Marie Timperley.

This adventure keeps opening up new horizons for me: the setting up of the Marie-Victorin Observatory for the KFA. Other projects are in the works. I will let you know in good time.

Some say that *Happiness is a child's dream come true in middle age.*

Dear Kirouac cousins, always remember that, to me, you are a living part of that happiness.

On this 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association, I wish to pay homage to the memory of two members of your family who for ever embellished the name of Kirouac, let us stand and with all our hearts applaud them.

My friends,  
To two wandering angels\*:

Conrad Kirouac and Jean-Louis known as Jack K rouac.

(\*Translator's note: the French title of Jack's book *Dharma Bums* is *Les anges vagabonds* and that, retranslated in English, becomes *wandering angels*, which seems to me the right meaning in this sentence.)



# It was 30 years ago!

9 November 1977

To all the descendants of Maurice Louis Alexandre Le Brice de Kérouac

According to Cyprien Tanguay, the author of the *Dictionnaire généalogique*, the ancestor of all the Kirouac, Kérouac, Keroack, Kérouack, etc...arrived in New-France in 1730 and settled in Kamouraska. Two years later, on 22 October 1732, at Cap Saint-Ignace he married Louise Bernier with whom he had three children; two of them had descendants Louis and Alexandre. The ancestor died on 5 March 1736 and was buried in Kamouraska. He was from Bériel (today Kérien) south of Guingamp, in Brittany.

In 1980, it will be 250 years since he landed in Québec. The present letter is a survey to find out if you would be interested to mark, in some way, this anniversary and to actively take part in its planning.

If you are interested and willing to take part, in some way, in this work, I would be very grateful if you could let me know, either by letter or by phone. A first meeting could then be arranged for the beginning of December at Laval University and a committee set up.

I am convinced that some people will be able to spare some time between now and 1980 to prepare a first gathering of the descendants of our common ancestor, therefore, I remain  
Yours truly,

Jacques Kirouac, Ph.D.  
777, avenue Groulx, Sainte-Foy  
Tel. : Off. 656-5063  
Res. 653-8517

P.S. The present letter is being sent to all the Kirouacs whose names appear on pages 453 and 454 in the Quebec City Telephone Directory, published in September 1977. If you know people whose names do not appear in this Directory and you believe that they would be interested in the present proposal, please let me know. Later on, if a committee is set up, we will try and reach all other descendants of our common ancestor.

31 October 1978

To all the descendants of  
MAURICE-LOUIS-ALEXANDRE LEBRICE DE KEROUAC

This is a follow up to the letter I sent you on 9 November 1977 about celebrating, in 1980, of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival in New France of our common ancestor. Since then about 10% of those who received the first letter answered and told me that they were interested to take part in some way in planning the commemoration.

The main ideas about how to mark this occasion have already been put forward: regional meetings in 1979 to get acquainted, the gathering to be held in the Lower-St-Lawrence region in 1980, organize a trip to the ancestor's country also in 1980, and publish a souvenir book and eventually a genealogy.

However, the permanent Committee has yet to be constituted. It will be done on Monday, 20 November, during a meeting where you are all invited; it will take place in Room 1555 (15th floor) in the tower (north side) of the Teaching Sciences at Laval University, at 8 p.m.

If there is a snow storm, which is possible, the meeting will take place a week later that is on 27 November at the same place.

If it is impossible to form a permanent Committee at that meeting, then the project of gathering will simply be abandoned.

In the mean time, last Summer, I went to Guingamp, and met Mrs. GOHIER, daughter of the late Marquis de KEROUARTZ. The same day, in Quebec City, I received a letter from her paternal uncle. One thing is now very clear as a result of that meeting and the letter written: there is no link whatsoever between the Canadian descendants of the ancestor LeBrice de Kérouac and the actual family of the Marquis de Kerouartz, because, in the latter's genealogy, no one has ever immigrated to North America. Besides, the precise location of BÉRIEL (today KERIEN) has yet to be determined in MORBIHAN, in Brittany.

This is quite unexpected news. It seems that some historical mistakes have been made and written in Quebec in the first part of the twentieth century on these questions.

Whether there is a celebration in 1980 or not, it is certain that all this must be unraveled. If someone can bring me some testimony, one way or the other, I would be very grateful because historical truth is the only thing that matters. In short, it seems that our cousins in France would be called LeBrice (or Lebris) and not called Kerouartz, and it seems that the family's place of origin is not necessarily Kérien, about twenty kilometers south of Guingamp in Brittany.

I end this letter on this which, I hope, will be of interest to you.

Hoping for a minimum of participants on the evening of 20 November, I remain  
Yours truly,

Jacques Kirouac  
777, avenue Groulx  
Sainte-Foy  
Tel. : Office 656-5063  
Residence 653-8517

P.S. The present letter is being sent to all the Kirouacs whose names appear on page 486, in the Quebec City telephone directory, published in 1978. Same for those who write their name Kerouack, which is closer to the Breton spelling.



# Much gratitude to Jacques Kirouac and Alberte, his wife



Photo: François Kirouac

Last 25 October, the Board invited Jacques Kirouac and his wife, Alberte, for dinner at the Breton restaurant *Au Petit Coin Breton* in Sainte-Foy to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of our Association.

Board members and their guests, from left to right, Marie Lussier Timperley, Alberte Garon, Jacques Kirouac, Lucie Jasmin, Nathalie Kirouac, Lucille Kirouac, Marie Kirouac and René Kirouac.

Photo: François Kirouac



The Board presented the KFA founder and his wife with a souvenir of the Association's thirty years of existence.

From left to right: Alberte Garon, Marie Kirouac and Jacques Kirouac.

Photo: François Kirouac



The impressive album, a true labour of love put together by Marie Kirouac, was given to Alberte and Jacques. This scrapbook containing over a hundred pages filled with photos and mementoes presented a colourful retrospective of numerous activities organized by the KFA during the past thirty years .

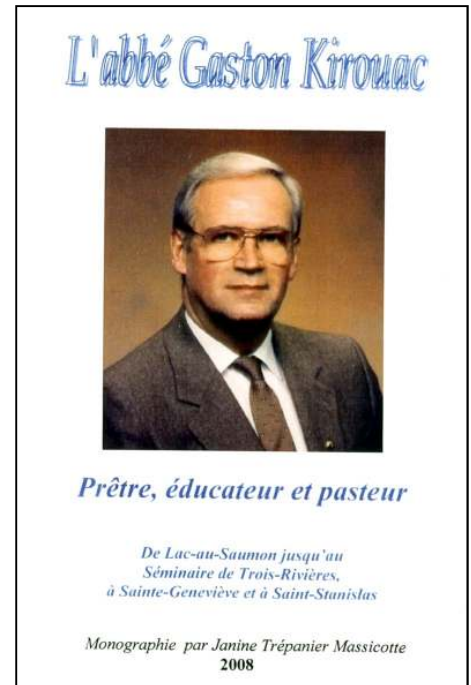


## JUST PUBLISHED

On Sunday, 12 October 2008, the Saint-Stanislas Historical Society launched a short biography of Gaston Kirouac, son of Thomas Kirouac (KFA 02297) and Alice Morin.

This short biography written by Mrs. Janine Trépanier Massicotte, narrates the life of Gaston Kirouac, from his birth in Lac-au Saumon, his studies at the Trois-Rivières Seminary until his time as Parish Priest in Sainte-Geneviève and Saint-Stanislas in the Mauricie Region. The 108-page book costs \$15.

To order the book, contact the *Société d'histoire de Saint-Stanislas*: 232 rue Principale, Saint-Stanislas, G0X 3E0; Telephone: (418) 328-3255; Fax: (418) 328-3773; e-mail: sh\_st\_stanislas@hotmail.com.



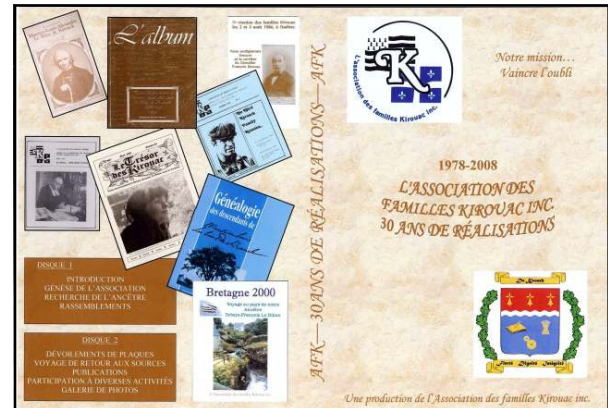
## KFA DVD SOON ON SALE

During the coming winter 2008-2009, a set of two DVDs will be available. It is a retrospective of the past thirty years of the Kirouac Family Association.

To commemorate its first three decades, the KFA is offering you, at a cost of \$20, a box set of two DVDs for you to enjoy in the comfort of your home. For those who have only recently joined our Association, these two DVDs will enable you to discover the history of the K/rouac Family Association, its achievements, discoveries, and numerous activities since 1978.

The first DVD presents the genesis of the Association, the history of the research of our ancestor, and a retrospective of all the annual gatherings since 1978. The second DVD will include the unveiling of various memorial plaques by the KFA, the trip to Brittany which was a return to the source in 2000, a streamlined history of the KFA publications, the KFA's involvement in various activities, and a family album of photographs.

This project was put forward by the KFA Board at the beginning of 2008 for two reasons: not only to pay homage to the many volunteers who have been



Cover of the DVD of the thirty-year retrospective of KFA activities and productions

involved with the Association since 1978, but especially to have a permanent souvenir of the great moments in the history of the Kirouac Family Association.

As soon as it will be ready, we will announce it in the pages of *Le Trésor*. You will then be able to order the two DVDs by writing to the KFA Secretary and including \$20. The price includes the two DVDs and the postage.



# NATHALIE KIROUAC

## New generation on the KFA Board

By Céline Kirouac

Since August 2008, the KFA Board includes a new member, Nathalie Kirouac (01509) who now lives in Quebec City, making it easier for me to meet her. I discovered a passionate young woman with a real zest for life. Her career log book is already very impressive like her personal and social achievements.

Nathalie was born in Edmundston, New Brunswick, on 5 December 1970. Until the age of four, she and her family resided in St-Marc-du-Lac-Long. Then in 1975, her father, Gonzague Kirouac (01505) and her mother, Ghyslaine St-Pierre, decided to move to Dégelis, a village in the Témiscouata Region. She attended the local school and, while living in that beautiful area, she developed a real love for the outdoors, learning to appreciate rivers and forests. As a teenager, some summer jobs she held required a great deal of hard work such as tree planting. It rapidly helped her understand that she needed to keep studying in order to have a better life.

After completing her post secondary education at the CEGEP Lévis-Lauzon (College) she went to Sherbrooke University in the Eastern Townships and graduated with a Baccalaureate in Information, Vocational and Career Guidance. Afterwards she pursued further training and obtained a Masters degree in Counseling. After that, she felt ready to face the future with confidence and enthusiasm.

Between her studies for her Baccalaureate and her Masters, she took a

six-month break to travel. Alone, with a knapsack on her back, she visited ten European countries. In her minds' eyes she can still see the extraordinary sunsets on the ocean from the Islands of Santorini, and Naxos in Greece. Barcelona in Spain, and Switzerland she remembers particularly as her favourite places.

Back from her European adventures she started her career in Cabano, at the *Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi (CJE)* which is the youth employment centre in Témiscouata. Her mandate was to set up the guidance programme for the centre. After four years working there, she went on to work in Saint-Romuald, near Lévis, across the River from Quebec City. After that she decided to work as a Career Guidance Counsellor at the Chutes-de-la-Chaudière *CJE*, the youth employment centre.

After seven years working amongst the community in Saint-Romuald, she felt ready for another challenge and accepted a position as a counsellor in Chibougamau helping college students and adults in need of a career change. Intrepid and adventurous, Nathalie loves taking risk. When she applied for the position in Chibougamau, she had not even looked up a map to see where it was! The job interview was held in Saint-Félicien, in the Lake Saint-Jean area, and it is only after she had been accepted that she looked up the map to see how to get to Chibougamau, discovering at the same time how far away it was! All went well and she got there on the right day and at the right time. She worked five years in the Quebec Northern Region enjoying the warmhearted hospitality of its citizens.

In July 2008, Nathalie arrived in

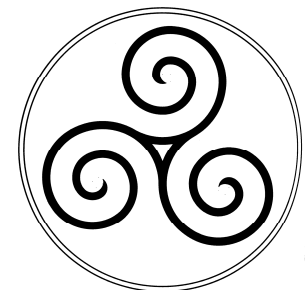


Nathalie Kirouac

Photo : Collection Nathalie Kirouac

Quebec City and since then, she has worked at the Premières-Seigneuries School Board. She loves her new work and considers herself lucky to have the opportunity to work closely with youth and young adults to whom she can bring the help they need to achieve their dreams and professional objectives.

Nathalie literally thrives on challenges. For example she loves jogging. Twice she took part in the *Marathon des deux rives*, a ten-kilometre race, in 2007 and 2008. She also loves long mountain hikes, cycling, snowshoeing, and skiing. She is very proud to be a KIROUAC, the family and humanitarian causes being most important for her. Therefore she never hesitates to commit herself whenever an opportunity arises. This is exactly what she did when asked to join the KFA Board last August. We very warmly welcome her and hope she will find as much pleasure and satisfaction within our KFA team as she wishes.



# Genealogy of Nathalie Kirouac

## I

Urbain-François Le Bihan  
Sieur de K/voach  
(About 1703-1736)

Cap Saint-Ignace  
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier  
(1712-1802)

## II

Simon-Alexandre Keroack  
dit breton  
(1732-1812)

L'Islet-sur-Mer  
15 June 1758

Élisabeth Chalifour  
(1739-1814)

## III

Simon-Alexandre Keroack  
dit breton  
(1760-1823)

Cap Saint-Ignace  
18 November 1782

Marie-Ursule Guimont  
(1765-1820)

## IV

François Keroack  
dit breton  
(1791-1877)

Saint-Jean-Port-Joli  
24 October 1815

Marcelline Chouinard  
(1796-1858)

## V

Édouard Keroack  
dit breton  
(1820-1891)

Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies  
29 February 1848

Séverine Malenfant  
(1824-1887)

## VI

Eusèbe Kérouac  
(1853-1917)

Saint-Antonin  
22 June 1875

Clarisse Dupont  
(1857-???)

## VII

Ferdinand Kirouac  
(1884-1941)

Saint-Hubert (R.-du-Loup)  
23 July 1906

Adèle Ouellet  
(1886-1961)

## VIII

Gonzague Kirouac  
(1927-2007)

Lejeune  
29 December 1962

Ghyslaine St-Pierre  
(1943- )

## IX

Nathalie Kirouac  
(1970- )





# Recently Discovered: A second novel written in French by Jack Kerouac

## Sur le chemin

Gabriel Anctil

LE DEVOIR, a Montreal Daily  
Thursday, 4 September 2008

**S**ur le chemin, sub-titled *On the Road*, is the title of a novel written in French by Jack Kerouac in 1952, which has just been discovered in New York. Unpublished and totally unknown, this manuscript lay dormant for over half a century hidden in some archives. This book sheds new light on the works of a French-Canadian couple's son who is considered one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most important writers. A year ago, *Le Devoir* was the first to announce the discovery of a first novel and other papers written in French by the famous writer. Then the news spread around the world like wild fire.

It is well known that Jack Kerouac was proud of his French Canadian origins but, until very recently, it was unknown that the famous American author had created literary works in his mother tongue. *Sur le chemin*, his second French novel was written in *joual*\* in December 1952 while he was in Mexico. This shows, without any doubt, that Kerouac was capable to use and write in the Quebec vernacular, the language of his ancestors.

*Sur le chemin* is a short novel of about fifty pages. It is handwritten in a cheap notebook. It tells the incredible tale of a group of men who decide to meet in New York's Chinatown.

Kerouac mentioned this novel in a letter he wrote on 10 January 1953 to Neal Cassady, the man who inspired him the



Jack Kerouac in Tangier in 1957, photo taken by Allen Ginsberg  
(Collection Jacques Kirouac)

fiery personage of Dean Moriarty in his famous novel *On the Road*: "In Mexico, soon after your departure, in five days I wrote, in French, a novel about you and me when we were children in 1935, when we met Uncle Bill Ballon, your father, my father, and sexy blondes in a room with a drunken French Canadian and an old T-Ford Model. You will read it once it gets printed some day and you will laugh. It presents the solutions to all the adventures in *On the Road*; as soon as I have finished translating it and typing it, I will submit it to a publisher."

A few days later, Kerouac did translate *Sur le chemin*. In English, the novel became known as *Old Bull in the Bowery*. To this day, this translation remains unpublished.

*Sur le chemin* is not a French translation of *On the Road* but its themes are recurrent in Jack Kerouac's works, however it shows that the author probably would not have translated the title of his most famous book by *Sur la route*.

*Sur le chemin* starts with: «Dans l'mois d'Octobre 1935, y'arriva une machine

du West, de Denver, sur le chemin pour New York. Dans la machine était Dean Pomeray, un soûlon; Dean Pomeray Jr. son ti fils de 9 ans et Rolfe Glendiver, son step son, 24. C'était un vieille Model T Ford, toutes les trois avaient leux yeux attachez sur le chemin dans la nuit à travers la windshield.» In this novel, the character called Dean Pomeray is none other than his good friend Neal Cassady.

Ti-Jean refers to Kerouac himself aged thirteen. His father, Léo, his real name, accompanies him. They leave Boston by car. They are going to New York to meet some friends and help them find an apartment: «C'était un gros nuit dans leur vies, c'était leur premier trip ensemble à New York, en machine; le père ava déjà venu ça Boston-New York boat, et une fois ça train; mais là c'était le gros chemin, le tapis noire actuelle de la ville.»

Whether narrating the story or writing dialogues, Kerouac simply transcribes oral speech; as he did in his first novel written in "joual" *La nuit est ma femme*. Kerouac writes *Sur le chemin* in the kind of French that is very much the way he spoke when he was growing up

in Lowell, a Massachusetts town where French Canadian immigrants made up almost a quarter of the population.

Kerouac transforms the French language to suit his fancy and needs; he varies the spelling of some words, invents new ones in order to create a kind of musical and funny "joual" that seems, in many ways, to be unique in the Francophone literature.

Kerouac's "joual" manages to express the emotions of the father and the son living this great adventure: «"On t've trouvera un tivoyage icite, on voirra si on peu aidez le vieux bum avec son kid, ont l'air à jamais v'nu, c'est des parents, on bavassera un peu, on mangera tef'ben un ti-feed, et moé pi tué on s'enala a Times Square voire des shows. Les burlesc pis les vodville show pi les nouveaux portra pi ils disent qu'y a des portras français -- ça sera beau en voire un porta en français. Ça faira braillez les yeux voire un tite scène avec les amants sur le lit, Marie-Louise m'a contez ca, ca a vue un a Boston - Bon ma ton ti drap alentours de tes genoux la pis d'or si té capable - m'ava drivez droite a New York pis je parle pu." Et le tigas dorma dans machine de l'éternité noire, que son père conducta à travers de la nuit.» Just as he does in his English works, Kerouac first of all aims at creating a literature based on sounds, energy and authenticity by using street lingo.

### A French Canadian in Manhattan

The two cars involved in the adventures in *Sur le chemin* finally arrive in New York. The men had agreed to meet in a seedy bar in Chinatown where Old Bull Balloon is waiting for them. This character is strongly inspired by a friend of Kerouac, William Burroughs, the writer who, in the book *On the Road*, is presented under the alias Old Bull Lee. A character entirely created by Kerouac's imagination, and, of course, these two men never met. This is something rather odd in Jack's works which is basically very closely autobiographical.

Fed up with waiting for Omer, the

French Canadian they are supposed to meet in New York, the men start drinking and play cards. At that moment, under the effect of amphetamines, a hard drug that Kerouac used very often while he was writing this novel, Omer is delirious in an apartment. The reader cannot really tell if what the character is seeing is real or not: at one point Omer is talking to a naked woman, imagines that he sees skeletons and, for a moment, even believes he is transported to Russia ...

The novel ends in total confusion when all, but Léo and his son, leave to go back home. However, the young Ti-Jean observes his father still drinking and playing cards with some Chinese and some Blacks from the area: «Le pauvre tigas ava pas mangé d'la journée, son père avait eu une coupole de drinks et ne pensa pas manger comme a coutume, et Ti-Jean le suiva dans ça, dans leur aventure.»

In *Sur le chemin* it is a feat of skill to have two Kerouacs meet: the child in 1935 with the man in 1952 as well as the Franco-American and the Beatnik. It is also the only important text that Kerouac first wrote in French and, later on, translated into English.

### From Mexico to Montreal

In December 1952, when Kerouac was writing *Sur le chemin*, he had gone to Mexico to be with his old friend William Burroughs. As he collected letters of refusal from numerous publishers, he could only realize that his literary career was doomed. Still he persevered and wrote day and night the novels that one day would make up the *Legend of Duluoz*, the name he gave to the autobiographical works he was creating.

In 1951, at the beginning of the year, Kerouac wrote in French, *La nuit est ma femme*. A few days later, in April 1951, he feverishly started writing his master piece *On the Road*, that he wrote in three weeks on a very long roll of paper.

The following year, in July, in the washroom in the apartment of his junkie friend, William Burroughs, he wrote *Doctor Sax*, one of his most French Canadian novels. In December 1952, after working for a few months on the railroads around Los Angeles with Neil Cassady, Kerouac started writing his second novel in French, *Sur le chemin*.

Kerouac was thirty years old then and burning the candle at both ends; he also felt that his great traveling period was coming to an end. He wanted to get back to the calm and quiet family life and was dreaming of Quebec.

Back in New York, he wrote to Neal and Carolyn Cassady: "New York is great, I love winter, the storms, snow, the long walks with boots on. Eventually I will go and live in French speaking Canada with Mémère (the name he called his mother). I will do it for the snow storms and for my health."

In March 1953, Kerouac went to Montreal. There, while in a Montreal tavern, he wrote in one of his notebooks: "Montreal is my paradise. They almost refused me entry. Train station restaurant in San Francisco combined with a peasants' tavern in Mexico + Lowell - O Thank's Lord." Obviously, Kerouac felt at home in Quebec.

*\*Translator's note:* 'joual' = colloquial oral French. Example: *joual* is the badly pronounced word *cheval*. The word was coined in the early sixties. On 6 September 1960, in Montreal, *Les Éditions de l'Homme* published *Les Insolences du frère Untel*. Under the alias of *frère Untel* (e.g. Brother so & so), Jean-Paul Desbiens, a Marian Brother, wrote an acidic criticism of Quebec society, denouncing people's pathetic way of thinking, religion entrenched in fear, and an archaic education system. In his book, he offered suggestions to correct the situation. His book, the most successful one ever published in Quebec until then, was a precursor of the Quiet Revolution in the Province.

Many thanks to Mr. Gabriel Ancil for authorizing us to publish his French article in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*; English translation by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 93, 2008..



# Under the Cuban Sun with Marie-Victorin

A Must See Exhibition!

*Special collaboration  
Montréal Botanical Garden*

## Travel Log

Wednesday, 28 December 1938

It is nine o'clock a.m. and we are just about to hit the road in a good solid car, going to the Province of Oriente.

Marie-Victorin, *Botanical Itineraries in the Island of Cuba*, vol. I

**A**s of 5 December 2008, visitors to the Montreal Botanical Garden are invited to discover or rediscover the "Pearl of the Antilles" in the company of - or almost so - the founder of the Montreal Botanical Garden, through the exhibition ***Under the Cuban Sun With Marie-Victorin***, which was made possible thanks to the collaboration of the *Friends of the Montreal Botanical Garden*, the Cuban Government, the Archives Department of Montreal University, *Fonds Institut botanique* (E118), the Archives of the Brothers of the Christian Schools - French Canadian Section (FÉCCF) in Laval, and various other lenders.

The exhibition is set up in the Temporary Exhibition Hall adjoining the greenhouses. It has two main sections. The introduction takes us back to the Winter of 1937 when Marie-Victorin is



Marie-Victorin in Cuba Division of archives —  
University of Montréal, Fonds Institut botanique (E 118)

at the Botanical Garden and is overworked and overburdened. Tired and in poor health, the Brother dreams of going to Cuba where his friend the botanist, **Brother Léon** - also a Brother of the Christian Schools - has been inviting him for years. They had met in Longueuil in 1904 and had been carrying on a regular correspondence for years. But the difficult beginnings of the Botanical Garden and Marie-Victorin's multiple occupations forced him to postpone his dream of discovering the Cuban flora every year since... However in 1938, the new Superior permits him to leave, notwithstanding that Marie-Victorin, thanks to his father's inheri-

tance, covers all his travelling expenses.

**Cuba, here I come!** As soon as you set foot in the exhibition hall, an extra-large photo showing Marie-Victorin and two of his sisters - who accompanied him on his first trip - on the Varadero beach, takes us to sunny Cuba. Then some large maps show Marie-Victorin's seven voyages to Cuba between 1938 and 1944. We can see where he and Brother Léon went. Guided by Carabia, the latter's assistant, they covered the length and breadth of the island!

Marie-Victorin was delighted by the country and its flora and just as much by the hospitality and resourcefulness



of the Cubans. Immediately he started filling notebooks and taking photos of the scenery, people and plants that he encountered. He gathered precious texts and photographic testimonies of rare quality. Later on he would use it all to write the three volumes entitled *Itinéraires botaniques de l'île de Cuba* (Botanical itineraries in the Island of Cuba). The works were co-signed by Brother Léon in gratitude for the major role he played in the exploration.

Accordingly, all the visitors are invited to explore Cuba with Marie-Victorin. To say 'with him' is hardly exaggerated because, except when indicated, **all the photos of those seven expeditions were taken by him.** Also, most of the texts are his and he was such a wonderful writer, both accurate and sensitive. Typography was, and is, **courier** – as, like most people at the time, he used the then famous Underwood typewriter! This makes it easy to identify what he wrote. It is such a pleasure for the eyes and for the heart to travel through Cuba from West to East, using the map that the Brother included at the end of his first volume of the Itineraries – a beautiful long map, with comments and images witness to the botanists' precarious means of travelling whether by air, horseback, or motorcar . . . the car often had to be extracted from muddy grooves and ruts by an obliging peasant's oxen! There is also a **time-line chart** depicting the Island's main historical peri-

ods, illustrated by photos clearly showing Marie-Victorin's fascination with Cuba's diverse population.

The island exploration started in **LA HABANA**, (province and town), this century-old oasis being the Brother's headquarter between his excursions. Then, we start travelling west with him fascinated by the regal appearance of the **Royal Palm**, the Cuban emblem, found everywhere. Next, we arrive in the province of **PI-NAR DEL RÍO**, where we discover the savage beauty of the **mogotes** – those steep rocky cliffs; fascinated by geology, the Brother explains their origin! – Now, on to the tobacco fields, the rich fertile red earth produces the leaves essential to the making of the world's most famous cigars. Marie-Victorin also introduces us to the local architecture, the **bohios**, those peasants' dwellings made from the Royal Palms, and to the beauty of the **lagoons**.

Further along, we discover another extraordinary palm-tree that Marie-Victorin liked to call the "**camel-palm**" because of its distinctive swollen trunk which the Cuban greatly used at the time. After that, we go by boat to **ISLA DE PINOS** (Isle of Pines later renamed Isle of Youth by Fidel Castro), there we discover the **Tropical Pine**. A large photo of Marie-Victorin and Brother Léon, seated on chairs made from hollowed out **camel-palms**, invite us to sit down and read the book, **Marie-Victorin à Cuba, Correspondance avec**



Photo taken by Brother Marie-Victorin during a stay in Cuba Division of archives — University of Montréal, Fonds Institut botanique (E 118)

**le frère Léon.** Published a year ago by *Presses de l'Université de Montréal*, it presents large excerpts from the forty-year correspondence between Brother Marie-Victorin and Brother Léon. It was written and edited by Dr **André Bouchard**, researcher at the (IRBV) Institut de recherche en biologie végétale (Plant Biology Research Institute) and ecology professor at Montreal University, former Curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden. The exhibition was inspired by this book that brings to light **Marie-Victorin's unknown interest for Cuba during the last part of his life.** The brother died accidentally in Quebec shortly after his seventh voyage to Cuba.

Back on the Island of Cuba, now let's explore the centre of the island. First, the Province



of **MATANZAS** invites us: in its northern part sugar canes and agaves cover the fertile **plain**; whereas in the south, the marshy **Zapata** peninsula is home to the **carboneros**, the **charcoal men** whose dangerous life consists in cutting and burning the mangroves to make charcoal sold to families for cooking food.

Now, on to the Province of **CIENFUEGOS** where the two Brothers are meeting with some important botanists at **Harvard House** and at the **Soledad Tropical Botanical Garden**, also managed by the great Boston University. It is the occasion to discover the wealth of the Cuban flora but also its endemic characteristic, e.g. so many species are exclusive to Cuba. Finally, a stop in the Province of **SANTA CLARA** to learn the



Photo taken  
by Brother Marie-Victorin in Cuba  
Division of archives — University of Montréal,  
Fonds Institut botanique (E 118)

many uses of the **Royal Palms** in daily life and the work of the **desmochador**, those extremely agile tree-climbers who collect the fruits at the very top of the palm trees!

The last part of the visit takes us to the eastern part of the Island which, at the time, used to be only one province: **ORIENTE**. Thus we accompany the two Brothers to **Santiago de Cuba**... in the mountains of the **Sierra Maestra**... to **Pilón** and **Guantánamo**... to **Sierra de Nipe** – there Marie-Victorin made some important botanical discoveries. And on to **Baracoa**, where Christopher Columbus landed in 1492; coconut trees, sugarcane, coffee plantations, cocoa-plants... more and more edible plants. Finally, at the end of a choppy trip on a banana boat, we reach the extreme eastern tip of the Island: **Maisí**, with its lighthouse, terraces, and cacti. **¡Aquí termina Cuba!** - “Ici, finit Cuba!” - This is Cuba’s End”, writes Marie-Victorin in the Lighthouse Visitors’ Book ...

However, this is not really the end of the exhibition because if, and when, we go to Cuba to explore the Island beyond its beaches: the Cuban government has indeed created many National Parks in majestic natural areas. To conclude our visit of the exhibition, why not listen to excerpts from a lecture entitled “Under the Cuban Sun” that Brother Marie-Victorin gave at the Montreal Botanical Garden after returning from his very first visit to Cuba.

Loop the loop! We have also discovered the **Brother’s unknown passion for photography** and the importance of the **iconographic corpus** which is preserved in the Archives at Montreal University – black and white photos, colour slides on glass, hand-coloured glass plates ...

In Montreal, there are many traces of Marie-Victorin’s journeys to Cuba as we can find some **4000 floral specimens** collected in Cuba and carefully stored in the *Herbier Marie-Victorin* (Herbarium) in Montreal University’s IRBV archives, **many Cuban plants** brought back by the Brother are still alive and well at the Botanical Garden! Hence, the visitors are invited, upon leaving the exhibition hall, to carry on their exploration of Marie-Victorin’s Cuba simply by visiting the **greenhouses**.

So many texts and photos, little known until now, and of great interest, are illustrated thanks to Marie-Victorin’s **personal archives** as well as with **Cuban products and artefacts**. And let us not forget the two young **Royal Palm** trees standing proudly in the Montreal Botanical Garden’s entrance hall welcoming one and all who want to travel **Under the Cuban Sun with Marie-Victorin!**





# Carrying on with the Chapleau Queen Bees

Article published in  
*La terre de chez nous*

By Richelle Fortin, 4 September 2008

SAINT-CAMILLE — She hails from Montreal, he from Quebec City. Together they have taken over the production of domestic queen bees. The **Chapleau Queens** are first in the province. "And possibly in the world, I think", proudly says Jean François Regalbuto.

In January 2008, he and his partner acquired the production side of the company called **Reines Chapleau**, e.g. queen bees from the company now known as *Rustique Apiculture*. For financial reasons, they leave it to Jean-Pierre Chapleau to exploit the side of the business concerned with improving the genetic selection of the queens. Both Eastern Township enterprises are closely linked and Jean-Pierre Chapleau is the mentor of the two young thirty-two-year-old business partners.

## Bee Sting

Jean-François Regalbuto, like Catherine Kirouac, was already an environmental technician when a friend showed him his dozen beehives. Fascinated, he decided to follow a course in apiary techniques at the *Centre de formation agricole de Mirabel* (Mirabel agricultural training centre). A new world then opened up to him. He completed his studies

and obtained his Baccalaureate in Agriculture from Laval University always with one aim in mind: to run his own bee business with 'a bee in his bonnet' that is to work with no other than Jean-Pierre Chapleau because in the queen bee business Chapleau is THE name, the one always mentioned" says Jean-François.

At the end of his first year of studies for the baccalaureate, Regalbuto was due to do his first summer internship. He was determined to work with Chapleau but as Jean-Pierre Chapleau could only have him the following summer, Regalbuto managed to postpone his internship for a year. By then, Jean-Pierre Chapleau was openly talking about transferring his enterprise to someone else. However, it seemed that those who had been approached did not share Chapleau's goals; therefore Jean-Pierre then sounded the young talented Jean-François. "During the second internship period, says Jean-François, he began testing me, giving me a great deal of freedom. During the third summer, I enjoyed even more autonomy and it became clear that the transfer of the business would be concluded."

At the end of his studies, Jean-François wrote a paper on the problems of transferring a bee farm; the topic was valid not just in his case but also for anyone in the bee business. Putting his case in the proper context eased the

concerns of *La Financière agricole du Québec* (agency offering financial support to the agricultural sector - from the agency's English Web site). However, the business plan was not ready yet. The transfer project took two years of planning and meetings.

Along the way the CLD (1) and SADC (2) counselors were all very helpful pointed out Jean-François, as they wanted to make sure that a good candidate would remain in this area where agriculture still needs developing. However, he regrets the unrealistic conditions demanded to obtain subsidies for new enterprises. "It is demanded from us to be profitable after only two years in business and, on top of that, we are told that the subsidy will be granted only after that period! It is unreasonable and ridiculous."

As for Catherine (3), she fully backs Jean-François in all he does. "It is his project but I like it very much and it gives me the quality of life I enjoy", so she tells *Terre*. Nonetheless her contribution to the venture is not just moral support; it is a very practical business one. She looks after the customers, the orders and shipping, the follow up, the accounting and all the administration. The **Reines Chapleau** supplies one third of the market for Queen Bees, hence, during Summer, it is a full time job. Like all business people, they have goals. Having taken over a very successful enterprise, above all, they wish to maintain the high level of satisfaction of their clients and the excellent reputation of the firm. They also invest a great deal of efforts in the collective genetic improvement project at the *Centre de recherche en sciences animales* (4) in Deschambault. On the subject of genetic selection, Jean-François, as deserving heir to Jean-Pierre Chapleau, has his own views.

Thanks to Mrs. Richelle Fortin for authorizing us to publish this article in the present issue of *Le Trésor des Kirouac*.

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- (1) = Local Development Centre;  
 (2) Society to help communities develop;  
 (3) Catherine is the daughter of Jean Kirouac (01910) and Marie-Thérèse Girard, thus the granddaughter of Agésilas Kirouac (00830). In 2005, while she was working at the Quebec Aquarium, the *Journal de Québec* published an article about her and, in *Le Trésor* of December 2005, number 82, page 26, you can read about Catherine  
 (4) French only web site; since 1918, under various names, it has been and is the Quebec Agricultural Dept. Research Centre.



Photo: Richelle Fortin / TCN

At the age of 32, Jean-François Regalbuto and Catherine Kirouac have taken over the **Reines Chapleau**, a queen bees' enterprise whose reputation reaches well beyond the Quebec borders; just the right challenge for these two passionate young people.





# A Passion for Stamps

Published in L'Hebdo, Article online—4 August 2008

By Marie-Ève Veillette

**T**he Beaver, the Bluenose, the Fleming... Do these names mean anything to you? Unless you have a passion for stamps, for most people, they do not mean much. But, mention these to Gaston Kirouac, the former Parish Priest of Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, and he becomes all smiles as they bring back a flood of happy memories, a life-long passion for stamp collecting.

No one can tell how many stamps he has touched in his long life. He was only ten years old when these small pieces of paper started fascinating him. "My brother and I started building up a small collection. Some stamps from Germany showed Hitler's Swastika. That was in 1936 or 1937. This is how I developed a taste for geography and history. Already then, he adds: I wanted to own stamps from all countries!"

Seventy years later, his dream has almost come true. During those years he has fingered stamps from all over the planet, coming from countries as far away as China,



Gaston K rouac has been collecting stamps for over 70 years. (Photo L'Hebdo/Marie-Eve Veillette)

The Republic of Vanuatu and Coco Island with only 625 inhabitants. Over the years he has been in touch with many missionaries, priests of the *Foreign Missions* and nuns of *Les Filles de J sus (Jesus' Daughters)*, they have become friends and were most helpful in his quest for stamps e.g. 'precious paper treasures'. "Knowing my interest in stamps, they kept sending me some stamps very regularly", says Mr. Kirouac.

For some years now, these valuable collaborators' past generosity has been bringing them important dividends because Gaston Kirouac is selling off many extra stamps to raise money for the foreign missions. As he puts it: "Missionary work is a cause very dear to me; of course, first of all, I am a priest."

## Something to do

Over the years, Gaston Kirouac has accumulated a great many stamps that he did not have time to sort and catalog. "For sure, that will keep me busy through my retirement, for many years to come!" says he laughing. Today he spends a good deal of his time working on his stamp collection, but it was not always the case.

"When I entered the Seminary, I put aside my favourite pastime though I was always interested. It is only when I was given a teaching post at the Trois-Rivi res Seminary during the seventies that I took it up again. At the time, I even started a stamp collecting club for the students, known as the Collecting Beavers. The name was meant to evoke the very first Canadian stamp issued in 1851 and showing a beaver. "My students' chose that name", remembers Mr. Kirouac.

For this passionate stamp collector, the stamp club was an educational and training tool for its forty members. It was one of the optional courses; it taught the students not only how to build a stamp collection, but also values and principles. I put the emphasis on three essential qualities: a keen sense of observation in order to detect every distinctive characteristic of each stamp; cleanliness to keep the stamp in perfect condition, otherwise they lose their value; and honesty, when buying and sell-

ing stamps, there is a fair price for each one. I also emphasized the cultural side of this pastime because a stamp always tells something about a country, its history, culture, politics, economy, natural resources and more."

When Gaston Kirouac became General Director of the Trois-Rivi res Seminary, he quit teaching and abandoned stamp collecting to better fill his new functions during his five-year term. Afterwards, he accepted a new position as Parish Priest in Sainte-Genevi ve-de-Batiscan, where he spent the following seventeen years. For twelve of those seventeen years he was also Parish Priest at Saint-Stanislas.

Only when he retired, did he go back to his favourite pastime. "And I enjoy it fully!"

## It is not what it used to be...

Today, Gaston Kirouac is rather sad to note that stamp collecting is no longer as popular as it was thirty years ago. "Enthusiasm for stamp collecting has tumbled just like attendance at Sunday Mass", says the former Parish Priest.

He says that in the Province of Quebec, there are now thirty-five active stamp collecting clubs but only four or five have a youth section. It is very little compared with what it was in the nineteen-seventies, young people then were very interested in this hobby, notes Mr. Kirouac. Last year, the *Cercle Philat lie Mauricie*, the Stamp Collecting Club in the Mauricie Region, to which I belong, tried to reach out to young people with a very attractive promotion: offering new members one hundred cancelled stamps. Only one young man took up the offer..."

Nevertheless, Gaston Kirouac is always available to help those, young and old, who would like to start a stamp collection. The *Cercle Philat lie Mauricie* is a very good reference for anyone interested in stamps, no matter the level of interest. The regular meetings of this Club started again on 21 September 2008, at 1 p.m. in the Cafeteria of Trois-Rivi res Saint-Joseph Seminary. Entrance on Laviolette Street.

Thanks to Mrs. Marie- ve Veillette for authorizing us to publish this article in the present issue of *Le Tr sor des Kirouac*.

# Until Death Do Us Part

*In December 2007, the Journal de Montréal, a Montreal daily, published a series of articles entitled **This year's Heroes**. The journalist, Mrs. Gabrielle Duchaine, interviewed Johanne Kirouac, daughter of Guy (1) Kirouac and Pauline Maisonneuve. She recorded the extremely touching testimony of Johanne about the extraordinary tender loving care her father, Guy, gives his sick wife.*

*Guy authorized the Trésor des Kirouac to reproduce his daughter's observations. Thus, for our readers' benefit, here are Johanne's comments about her hero.*

*The Editors*

**I**t has been so many years already, fifteen possibly more, that my father, Guy Kirouac has been looking after my mother who is 81 years old now and suffers from vascular dementia. Now she depends entirely on him.

Every day, he gets up very early, around five o'clock in the morning, the only moment when he can enjoy a bit of quality time: reading the newspaper, drink coffee, do the crosswords...

Then my mother wakes up. Sometimes she dresses herself putting on three layers, as she forgets to take her pyjama off . . . Father goes to her and explains that she has to start all over again, take off her pyjama, etc...

From that moment on, he must watch every move she makes, because she forgets, loses things and requires constant attention. He prepares her meals, gives her her medication, helps her put on her overcoat and takes her shopping with him.

At the grocery, father has to push the cart with one hand and the wheelchair with the other because mother can hardly walk nowadays. Back at home, though tired, he has to put away the

groceries, in the fridge and the cupboards, and then prepare the next meal.

## House cleaning

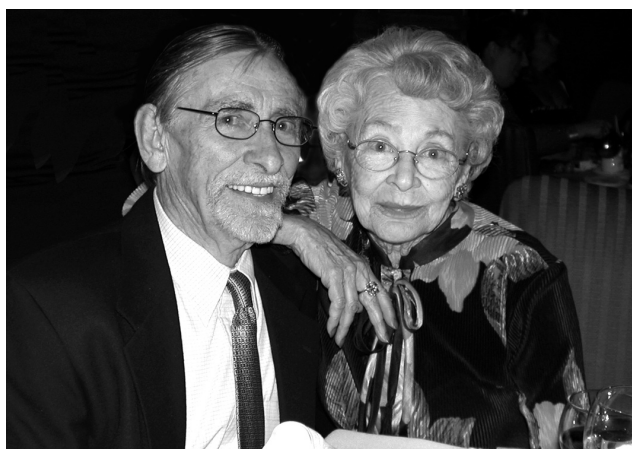
In spite of his 83 years, every day father has to do the house cleaning, shovel the snow in winter, do the accounting, without ever forgetting mother incessantly talking to him and asking for his help with all those tasks that are so easy for anyone else. Sometimes he asks her to do some simple tasks, just to keep her occupied and make sure she does not forget every thing.

With time, her long-term memory is getting more fragmented. She does not always recognize her own daughters nor remember her grandchildren.

Sometimes while sitting in the living room, she asks father: "When are we going home?" He finds this very difficult and it makes him very sad.

He lives with the knowledge and certainty that one day, she will not recognize him either. She will forget him though they have been together for sixty-two years!

So often, doctors have told him that it would be much easier to put mother into an institution. Every time, father says: "Never! We are united until death do us part!" He refuses to be separated



Guy Kirouac (00669) and Pauline Maisonneuve on their 58th wedding Anniversary (Collection Anne-Renée Kirouac)

from her. He wants to protect her always. To better look after her, he even followed a course on how to help one's relative.

He shelved his social life to always remain with mother. His only respite is golf, his passion, and he manages to play thanks to a homecare service from the CLSC.

But when he talks about mother, instantly his eyes fill up with tears! He adores her and never complains about the situation. When mother is confused or makes a mistake, he smiles at her and they laugh together. He tells me about mother's latest blunders or slips as if they were jokes and he says that she is extraordinary.

It is a true example of courage, patience and love.

To me, my father is a hero. He looks after mother so well! What would we do without him? We try to bring him some moral support and entertain him too. He really deserves the highest recognition available!

Johanne Kirouac  
Guy's daughter

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(1) In *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 74, December 2003, pages 7 to 19, you can read the article about Anne-Renée, Johanne's sister, to find out more about Guy and his wife, Pauline.



## Response to the article

### *From Paquet Company to the Hamel's Elm*

*Le Trésor des Kirouac, Summer 2008*

**G**reetings, It is with great interest that I read the *Trésor des Kirouac*, number 92, Summer 2008. It is well documented and well written. Bravo!

I am writing especially to pass on to you some information you might not be aware of. Lucille Kirouac's article *From the Paquet Company to the Hamels' Elm* is noteworthy. But I would like to point out that the book entitled: *Zéphirin Paquet, sa famille, sa vie, son oeuvre....* (ZP, his family, life and works...) was not strictly speaking by an unknown author. The author wanted to remain anonymous but it is a well known fact that the author was also a Brother of the Christian Schools by the name of Brother ALCAS Marie (Auguste Legall or LeGall).

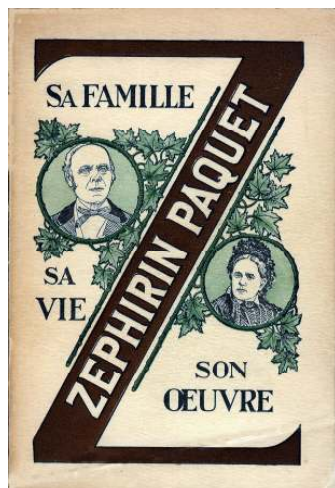
Born in 1874 in Lopuen (France) Brother Alcas entered the noviciate in 1890. He taught at the Buzenval Boarding School, in Issy, and at the Scolasticat in Paris before coming to Quebec in 1906 when religious people were unfairly thrown out of the schools in France. He also taught in Limoilou (Quebec) from 1913 onwards but went back to France in 1932. He was a capable writer who wrote a number of short biographies but particularly the story of Zéphirin Paquet's family.

As I was reading Lucille Kirouac's article, it all came back to me and I checked on the following web site: "http://www.genealogie.org/club/sgq/famille/fami4.htm" where indeed I found that the book was listed and its author well identified: *Zéphirin Paquet, sa famille, sa vie, son oeuvre*, ALCAS, Frère, Éd. n/d, 1927, 376 p.

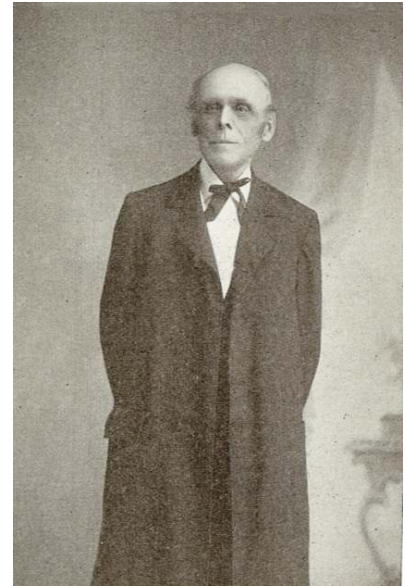
However, I did not find any mention of the publisher but it could have been the FEC (e.g. Brothers of the Christian Schools). However there could be some indication to that effect in the first pages of the book. The Iris Catalogue of the BNQ might also supply some more pertinent information. This does not take away from the quality of the article but simply dismisses a non warranted doubt.

Yours truly, F. Gilles Beaudet.

(Collection Marie Kirouac)



In the preface to the book, Brother Marie-Victorin writes that the author "being modest wishes to remain anonymous".



Zéphirin Paquet

(Photo from the book: *Zéphirin Paquet, his family, life and work*, Quebec 1927)

*I checked in the Iris Catalogue of the BNQ. This is how the book is presented:*

Alcas-Marie, frère, F.É.C., 1874- [\*4 doc.]

**Title :** Zéphirin Paquet : sa famille, sa vie, son œuvre / Preface by Brother Marie-Victorin].

**Publisher :** Québec : [s.n.], [\*52249 doc.] 1927. --

**Description :** vi-374 p.-[1] f. de planches : ill., carte, plan, portr. ; 20 cm.

**Notes :** Ex. de conservation (372787) : Collection Saint-Sulpice (Fonds L. W. Sicotte)

Under the title: Essai de monographie familiale (Short family history). --

Plus one loose page of corrections. -- Brothers Marie-Victorin and Méthodius contributed to this work.

**Info on used copies:** : loose page of corrections missing, replaced by a photocopy.

**Subjects :** Paquet, Zéphirin, 1818-1905

*No publisher mentioned. Wherever and whenever this book is listed, no publisher is ever mentioned.*

*Yours truly,*  
Lucie Jasmin



# Memories of Fernande Descent K  rouac<sup>(1)</sup>

By Lucille Kirouac

The following information was gathered by Genevi  ve K  rouac, while interviewing her grandmother Mrs. Fernande Descent K  rouac. Congratulations Genevi  ve for your wonderful initiative and thank you so much for sharing with us your love and admiration for your grandmother. (See article about Genevi  ve K  rouac in *Le Tr  sor*, number 90, Winter 2007). Her memories are plentiful and I hope that my summarizing does not fall short of those valued souvenirs of your dear grandmother. Though streamlined, I know that what is printed within these pages will add precious gems to the already rich family treasure.

On 17 February 1917, at 2768 Ch  teau-gay Street in Pointe-St-Charles (Montreal), was born Fernande Descent, daughter of Joseph Descent and Albina B  lisle. She is the second of three children: the eldest, Lucille, died even before Fernande was born and the third, Lucien, a boy was born in 1919.

Fernande talks about her rather uneventful childhood in the big city of Montreal. But surprisingly it was too quiet for the young girl who would have liked a bit more action. Certain events though do come back very clearly, like those summers in Sainte-Rose (a village on Ile J  sus, now the suburb Sainte-Rose-de-Laval, north of Montreal Island). Those Summers spent on the shores of Riv  re-des-Prairies (known as Back River in English) bring back delightful memories, particularly of her dear uncle Paul who brought her dolls he had won at the very popular *Summer Amusement Park*. Unfortunately, a cloud of sadness hangs over the souvenir of Uncle Paul as he died too young from the Spanish influenza.

Guided by her aunts, who were really like older sisters to her, Fernande quickly learned roller-skating, ice-skating and dancing: Charleston, Fox-Trot and waltz.

## Holiday Season - Christmas Time

Christmas and New Year hold unforgettable memories. On Christmas Eve, the Christmas tree was brought in the house and decorated; it stood in the living room until Epiphany on January 6 when the visitation of the three Kings was celebrated.

According to Fernande, she thought that Christmas in 'the old days', i.e. when she was a young woman, was too religious an occasion, and too quiet for her liking. By contrast, New Year was the day to really "party" (in English in the French text). At the Descent grandparents, dinner at noon was the great occasion. However, being the only grandchildren, Fernande and Lucien got a bit bored but, on the other hand, they received a lot of presents. At supper time, the feast was held at her maternal grandparents, the B  lises. As they stepped into the house, boots and coat still covered in snow, they would all kneel in front of grandfather Napol  on B  lisle to receive his blessing. One never got bored in such a large family but there were fewer gifts. However, the grandfather always managed to give every grandchild a nice shining dime. Supper was followed by a musical evening with singing accompanied by piano, violin and mandolin.

There were many musicians in the family. Studying in the schools run by the Sisters of the Holy Cross, the girls could study piano for \$4. a month and boys studied violin for the same price.

## School Memories

Like her mother before her, Fernande studied with the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Four times a day, as she went back home at lunch time, she walked about fifteen minutes to go the Convent and back. Life at school was busy. There was so much going on and Fernande loved action so she was happy in that environment. She says that she was well-behaved and a very good student; a report-card kept as a souvenir attests



Fernande Descent at the age of five



Fernande Descent  
wife of Rom  o Kirouac

to this. Her favourite subject was French composition but she dreaded drawing. She very happily recalls her first teacher: Sister Marie-de-Saint-St  phane. She was from the States and taught the girls a few English words. At the time very few pupils learned English in grade one.

(1) See the article on her granddaughter, Genevi  ve, in Number 90, Winter 2007, pages 7 to 11, of *Tr  sor des Kirouac*.



First confession: "Oh my God! I went to confession and said I had cheated during Mass! When the Altar boys rang the bell we had to bend our heads down but I wondered why we had to bend our heads down and I wanted to know what was going on....The priest laughed at me."

First communion: "How could I ever forget my First Communion? On that day, my family was moving! My mother did not want me to dirty my dress, so she sent me to my grandmother's house but there one of my aunts was dying of tuberculosis. It was not very pleasant."

### Family Life

Fernande says she was a well-behaved young woman who went out with her girl-friends but either she went to her girl friends' home or they came to hers. Knitting, embroidering and reading occupied some of her time during weekends and holidays. It seems that she went to the cinema quite often because she says that she learned English watching American films, of course very few French films were ever presented in those days.

The family was 'not rich' but as Mr. Descent always had work even during the dirty thirties, they counted their blessings.

Mrs. Fernande Descent Kérourac remembers seeing the first motorcars: her grandmother owned one of the first Model-T Fords; one that had to be cranked by hand to get going. Then in 1923, electricity came, followed by radio: "a model with knobs and earphones"; a first gramophone when she was 12 or 13 years old and, a little later . . . cigarette smoking, first secretly; then, openly.

### Work

Gifted and attentive, Fernande had good grades in school. After completing her grade 9 at the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, she did one year at the Teachers Training College of the Sisters of the Congregation Notre Dame. At first she tried teaching; possibly out of town because her father, feeling that she was not earning enough, \$500 a year, told her to stay 'in town'. So she got a job at the Charbonneau Store in Verdun (on Montreal island, south-west area) specializing in ladies lingerie. Her weekly salary was \$7. she was earning less than when teach-

ing but at least she was living at home.

### Marriage

On 21 June 1941, Fernande Descent married Roméo Kirouac. They had known each other for four years. She was 24 years old and Roméo, who was six years older, was the son of Georges Kirouac and Eugénie Côté. It was war time and lots of people were getting married. That morning, in Saint-Charles Church, in Montreal, there were eight or ten weddings.

The couple met through the brother of Fernande's best friend as the two young men worked for CN (then CNR=Canadian National Railway).

Roméo's sister was also courted by a young man then so the two couples used to go out together chaperoning each other and they got married within two months of each other. Over half a century later, the wedding day memories are as fresh as ever.

The bride's dress "was made to measure it was a lovely pink dress, and the bride wore a *bakou* hat (1) with a flower made of the same material as the dress." "The groom wore a navy suit with very fine white stripes."

There were sixty guests at the reception held at the Victoria Hall. Fernande has kept a copy of the menu: wine, salted nuts and olives, assorted sandwiches, asparagus, mocha cakes and ice cream, mint, chocolates, coffee and punch. After the meal, the newly weds opened the dance by waltzing to the music of a trio: piano, violin and accordion. They left for their honeymoon by train to Quebec City where they spent one night at the Château Frontenac, then on a cruise to the Saguenay. Can you imagine anything better than a night at the Château Frontenac and a cruise for a honeymoon?

Back home they settled in an apartment on Caron Street; the building belonged to a brother-in-law. The parents-in-law also lived in that building as well as an aunt.

Fernande had three children and two miscarriages; they were all born at Saint-Luc Hospital: Geneviève's father, Michel was born in 1947, Daniel in 1951, and René in 1957.



21 June 1941, Saint Charles Parish in Montréal, wedding of Roméo Kirouac and Fernande Descent

During those years, women were often anaesthetized to give birth and the fathers were kept away in a waiting room! It was also normal then for doctors to decide everything. No questions asked! Thinking about it today, Fernande is sad because she was not allowed to nurse her children simply because the doctor did not want her to do it; she never found out why.

In 1950, the family moved into their "own home" at 2027 de Maricourt Street, a two-story duplex. They occupied the ground floor while the upper floor was rented. "I lived there for thirty years. I can still remember the trees there and I still miss them ..."

The tragedy hits. Sickness and death. Roméo died in 1960 at the age of 49. "He was such a good man; good natured, generous, money did not matter to him. He had always given all his pay to his mother until we got married. . . . He was a truck driver for the CN (Canadian National Railway) like everyone else in his family. He was very sociable, had no bad habits. Everything was right."

Henceforth, Fernande was alone to raise her three children, the youngest one being only three years old. But Fernande was not the type to weep on her lot. First

1. Large-brim straw hat popular from 1935 to 1945.

she took in boarders and, when René was old enough, she started working at the Côte-des-Neiges Library. She liked her boss and he obviously trusted her because he gave her the keys to the Library.

### Retirement

“At 64, I started to have a really pleasant life travelling to Quebec City and to Europe, twice I went on a cruise to Italy, I followed many activities with the Golden Age Club and lived interesting experiences. It was a nice way to grow old and it still is. Life is good to me, I am enjoying growing old, I consider myself lucky to be able to look after myself without bothering anybody.”

Question: What would you like people to say about you?

Answer: That I was never mean. I hope I always saw the good side of everything.

Question: What are you most proud of?

Answer: My children's achievements. I am very proud of my children.

Question: If you had to start your life over, what would you change?

Answer: We do not conduct life, life leads us. You do what you can with what life gives you.

Question: What title would you give to your biography?

Answer: A happy life hoping for a happy ending.

At 91 years young, Mrs. Fernande Descant Kérouac lives in a Retirement Residence in Montréal. She enjoys

good health and makes sure to keep it so by walking everyday. Everyday she goes to the pharmacy to buy her daily paper. She reads a lot and watches a few television programmes. This is her mind and body diet. As for her heart, her children and grandchildren care very much for her and frequently visit her.



Collection Geneviève Kérouac

From left to right: Fernande and Roméo's three children: Daniel, Michel and René (in Michel's arms)



Collection Geneviève Kérouac

1955 — The Kérouac family, from left to right: Michel, Fernande, Roméo and Daniel





## *Passing of a member of the 2007 Amos Gathering Organizing Committee*

**T**he annual gathering of the Kirouac families held in Amos, Abitibi on 3, 4 & 5 August 2007 was a landmark for our families, an event that will forever be part of our family memory, where precious moments of deep emotion were lived by the descendants of Amédée, son of Andréas.

However, on 9 July 2007, our elder brother, Yvon, learned that he was suffering from the deadly disease: *amyotrophic lateral sclerosis* often referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease. As a member of the KFA organizing committee, he remained very much involved in the planning even if the disease was very aggressive and the effects more and more apparent. For him, this Kirouac meeting and his participation were taking a completely new meaning and, indeed, it was the same for all of us.

On 3 April 2008, eight months later, he and I went back to Amos to dine with our cousins of the Organizing Committee. He was very keen on attending this dinner. A few days earlier, we had coffee with our cousins, Gisèle and Jeannine Kirouac in Rouyn-Noranda. None of us could imagine that so soon after he would be gone. Perhaps he knew that his time was approaching.

On 7 April 2008, he left us...

On 12 April, Yvon's funeral was a reflection of his goodness. It was peaceful like him, serenity glowed from him as it equally did with the generosity and love that, through his life, he gave his family, friends, colleagues and students. And they were all there!

As he had asked me a few months

earlier, Yvon left the church for the last time while Louis Kirouac, the son of his cousin Gérard, sang the song that, in his mind, best summed up his whole life: *"Take a child by the hand."*

Nicole, Yvon's sister  
Dubuisson, Abitibi



Yvon Kirouac, son of Andréas

### *Homage to Yvon, written by Nicole Kirouac Read by her sister, Murielle, at the funeral*

**D**ear Yvon,

During thirty-five years you taught thousands of students to whom you passed on your passion and love of sciences and knowledge, on their behalf, we say,

Thank you.

Hundreds of colleagues and friends shared with you numerous activities at work and leisure, in sport groups, and volunteering; to all of them you gave competence, enthusiasm and spirit, on their behalf, we say,

Thank you.

For your uncles, aunts and the numerous cousins in our large family who, through your ever faithful presence, witnessed your real and sincere pleasure in sharing with them the great joys and sorrows inherent to life within such a large family so important to you, on their behalf, we say,

Thank you.

For your eight sisters and two brothers present here, who had the privilege to count you as their older brother, who benefited so much from your talents, your sharp intelligence, your generosity and to whom, at the end of your life, you are still showing the way with wisdom, exceptional inner strength and most unusual serenity, on their behalf, we say,

Thank you.

In spite of your illness during the last eight months, you enabled us to live some intense moments of happiness just like when we were children. For our happy childhood relived.

Thank you Yvon, Thank you very much Yvon.

## THE ASSOCIATION HAS LOST ONE OF ITS FOUNDING MEMBERS

### ***Sarto Kirouac, C.G.A., 1918 - 2008*** ***First treasurer of the*** ***Kirouac Family Association***

On 14 September 2008, at the age of 90, passed away Sarto Kirouac, one of the fifteen founding members of our Association. He was the KFA treasurer for thirteen years, from 1978 until 1991.

Sarto graduated from the Business Faculty of Laval University in Quebec City. He was a chartered accountant and a Certified General Accountant. In 1940, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Laval University.

Sarto was Secretary Treasurer for P.E. Poitras Company from 1944 until 1987. He also held various positions in many organizations. He was a member of the Surveillance Board of the *Caisse populaire Laurier* (Bank) from 1971 until 1993; Treasurer for the *Maison Hélène Lacroix*, a residence and halfway house for women in difficulty; treasurer for the *Leisure Corporation* of Saint-Thomas d'Aquin Parish in Sainte-Foy; Board Member of the Clinique Roy-Rousseau; one of the founders in 1971 of the *Centre social de la Croix-Blanche* an organization dedicated to reintegrating former mental patients into society, and its President from 1971 to 1976; Provincial President of the *Professional Corporation*

*of Quebec C.G.A.* in 1967; Board member of the *Canadian Association of C.G.A.* from 1960 until 1967; President of the *Sainte-Foy Chamber of Commerce* in 1967, President of the *Caisse populaire Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin*, founding member of the *Quebec Carnival* in 1953 and responsible for the Parade Committee from 1954 until 1966; finally, Sarto was a member of the *Ordre of the Bonhomme Carnaval* since 1966.

The religious service was on Saturday, 20 September 2008 in Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin Church in Sainte-Foy, Quebec. His ashes were later deposited in the François-de-Laval Mausoleum at the Belmont Cemetery.

#### **Homage To Sarto Kirouac published in *Le Soleil, Quebec City daily***

A Great C.G.A. has left us

HOMAGE to  
Mr. Sarto Kirouac, FCGA  
1918-2008

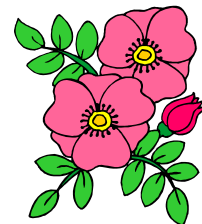
The Quebec Order of C.G.A. wants to pay homage to Mr. Sarto Kirouac, FCGA, who passed away on 14 September 2008 at the age



Sarto Kirouac (02245)  
KFA Treasurer 1978 -1991  
KFA Counsellor 1991- 1993

of 90, at the Laval University Hospital (CHUL). Mr. Kirouac was involved in the Quebec City section of the Quebec Order of C.G.A. before becoming its President in 1960. After his term as President he was always involved in his professional order.

Mr. Kirouac was known for his dedication, integrity, and professionalism. His influence will be felt for many years to come. He leaves an important legacy to all the accountants, members of the CGA. The Quebec Order of CGA joins all the CGA members in offering their condolences to his family.



# Green Light to Marie-Victorin Park \$5M project<sup>(1)</sup>

## La Nouvelle Union

Victoriaville, 8 July 2008

by Claude Thibodeau

Thanks to the support of both Governments, the Marie-Victorin Park in Kingsey Falls will be able to start its long-awaited development project worth nearly \$5M. Monday morning, Yvon Vallières, Quebec Liberal Deputy for Richmond, and Christian Paradis, Canadian Minister of Public Works and Services, announced that each government is contributing \$1,614,906 for a total of \$3,229,812.

Divided into various stages, the project will cover the development of theme gardens, including Brother Marie-Victorin's *Île fantastique*\*, the Quebec prairies, and its wet lands. The *\*Fantastic Island* will cost \$1.3M. It will be one of the great attractions with *mosaicultures* (2) Mr. Normand Hinse, Cascade's Horticultural Director and Administrator of the Marie-Victorin Park, added that guided tours will be organized.

Also included in the redevelopment is the Park Welcome Centre. To transform it into an Eco-Energy Centre will require a \$2.2M investment. All new green energies available will be integrated: solar, wind powered and geothermal. Normand Hinse explains that: "It will be an intelligent green building where new energies are used and demonstrated."

In the Welcome Centre there will be two new rooms: *Le Victorin* for workshops and nature courses and where Brother Marie-Victorin's life story will be depicted. The other will be a multi-purpose room for thematic exhibitions and will also be used for workshops, lectures and meetings.

"These are ways to attract visitors outside the nice season. With this



Marie-Victorin Park, Kingsey-Falls, Québec (Photo: François Kirouac)

project, we want to become the Ecological Attraction Park of Quebec, nothing less than that," adds Normand Hinse.

We have been working on this project for quite a few years already, reminded the Park's Board President, Jean Sauvageau. He said: "Since July 2000, we have been thinking about it. The Park will become a true ecological garden and a national attraction centre."

The Deputy for Richmond and President of the Quebec Government Caucus, Yvon Vallières, approved the project from the very beginning. "It is thanks to the administrators' perseverance that this project is now becoming a reality. At least on ten occasions it could have been abandoned. In spite of difficulties, obstacles, and problems, it was always a stimulating project" said Mr. Vallières.

"It will generate multiple ripple effects on the quality of life, the environment, tourism and regional economy. It would also undeniably please Brother Marie-Victorin as it is in line with his values and convictions, discovery, learning processes, adventure and environment. It will greatly bene-

fit the already beautiful area" underlined Mr. Vallières who also confirmed an additional \$200,000. grant from the Quebec Department of Tourism.

The Federal Government's representative, Minister Christian Paradis, also underlined how happy he was in participating in "the development of a park built according to Brother Marie-Victorin's values to whom I wish to pay homage today." He added that "infrastructures include far more than roads and waterworks, it also includes culture and tourism, two important economic growing sectors."

In addition to financial support to the project coming from the two levels of governments, also came from: *Cascades* (\$600,000.), Laurent Lemaire (\$200,000), the Municipality of Kingsey Falls (\$75,000.), the CRÉ

(1) Editor's note: On 10 August 1985, our Association unveiled a commemorative plaque in honour of Brother Marie-Victorin in the Marie-Victorin Park in Kingsey-Falls. Maurice Drolet, Marie-Victorin's nephew, son of Blanche Kirouac Drolet, officially unveiled the plaque.

(2) Translator's note: Look up *Mosaiculture* on the net to visualize these giant green sculptures.



(Committee of Regional Elected Officials, e.g. Mayors) of Centre-du-Québec (\$100,000.) and the CLD (Local Development Centre) of Arthabaska (\$60,000).

Everybody is invited to contribute. Mr. Patrick Lemaire, President of the Fund Raising Campaign, says that "so far \$1,035,000. has been raised and \$379,000. more is needed but, the amount aimed at during the next fund raising campaign starting in August (2008) is \$600,000.

The Marie-Victorin Park development is a major project, spread over thirty months, and it aims at doubling the number of yearly visitors to 60,000. Denis Beaudoin, the Project General Manager, says: "At that level, it becomes profitable and various activities can be organized on the site."

Presently the Park has fifteen fulltime employees and about forty seasonal ones. Mr. Beaudoin adds: "The project will create another ten fulltime jobs."

Within the next ten years, a second development stage to the Marie-Victorin Park project is planned and will include activities along the surrounding rivers as well as the construction of a 'Jean-Nicolet' house and a pedestrian bridge linking the Marie-Victorin Park and the Kingsey Falls Municipal Park.

In addition, representatives from the Marie-Victorin Park plan to travel to Japan in the autumn of 2009 to see mosaicultures there. Mr. Normand Hinse says: "The reason is to find ideas for the 2010 Mosaicultures in Kingsey Falls". And Mr. Denis Beaudoin adds: "I want to contact representatives from other countries, and invite a different country each year, to install mosaicultures in the Marie-Victorin Park."

Thanks to Mr. Claude Thibodeau for authorizing us to publish both articles in the present issue of *Le Trésor des Kirouac*.



## \$1.6 Million Fund Raising Campaign

*For Development of Marie-Victorin Park*

*La Nouvelle Union, Victoriaville, 6 Octobre 2008 (Article online)*

*by Claude Thibodeau*

**I**n Kingsey Falls, a Fund Raising Campaign is now underway to raise \$1,650,000 between now and December 2008, to develop Park Marie-Victorin. The idea is to find the money within the community to help finance a \$5M project. Work on the Park is due to be completed by 2010.

Thanks to *Cascades'* support, the Municipality of Kingsey Falls, and other regional partners, it has started on the right foot with \$1,035,000. having already been raised.

And, as the campaign was being launched on Monday morning, *Boralex* announced it was giving \$100,000. Indeed, the President of *Boralex*, Patrick Lemaire, also accepted to be the Honorary President of the Fund Raising Campaign. He Said: "We are very enthusiastic about this project and delighted to be involved in it. *Boralex* feels very much part and parcel of this region and we intend to make this Park a green energy powered centre which is part of our company's very own mission." (See *BORALEX Web Site, Editor's Note*)

He also added that since a number of partners had already contributed, now it is up to individuals and organizations to show their interest in this project.

To encourage sponsors at various levels of gift giving, *The Friends of the Park* have prepared a plan to attract gifts from \$100 to \$2,500. Various categories have been identified for gifts of \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000, \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000 and more.

Denis Beaudoin, the General Director said: "We are targeting about fifty regional enterprises plus another twenty-five to thirty provincial ones. The Marie-Victorin Park already has an excellent reputation and, he stressed, "We want it to become the largest ecological garden in Quebec."

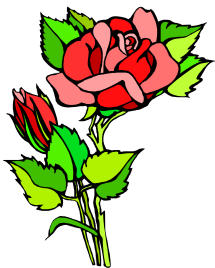
Some of the work has already begun. "This autumn we are redoing the parking. In 2009, we will start working on the landscaping and the various buildings due to open in 2010", explained Normand Hinse, a *Cascades* Board Member and Director of *Cascades'* Horticultural Department.

The Marie-Victorin Park recently gathered ten professionals, architects and engineers. "They took part in a work session to create an integrated design. Finding ideas for the project was a worthwhile exercise; some were excellent. Now we have to find the right team to accomplish the work. In the coming weeks we will present the project", indicated Normand Hinse.

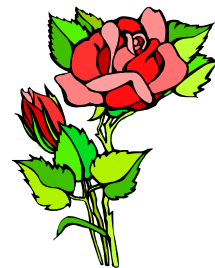
"This park will become a calling card for Quebec, you will be very proud of it," underlined the President of the Marie-Victorin Park, Jean Sauvageau. It will be something really extraordinary, profoundly rooted in nature. It will become a provincial template for environment and green energy."

The project announced in June includes the creation of a fantastic garden, a large greenhouse, a multipurpose auditorium, an herbarium, all integrating green technologies, energies, programmes and activities will be designed to favour long-lasting development.





# IN MEMORIAM



## **BEAUDET MARCEL 1930-2008**

In Warwick, at the Étoiles d'Or Residence, on 19 September 2008, passed away at the age of 78, Mr. Marcel Beaudet, founding President of the company *Échelles Warwick inc.* He was the husband of the late Lorraine Kirouac (GFK 00768).

He leaves to mourn, his children: Marjolaine (Guy Leblanc), Carole (Jacques Auger), Renée (Marq Doyon), Pierre (Manon Rivard), his grandchildren: Hubert, Marie-Pier, Mikaël and Sabrina; also his brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law and many other relatives and friends.

## **COUTURE ROLAND 1919-2008**

At Le Faubourg Residence (Quebec City), on 19 August 2008, at the age of 89 years and seven months, passed away Mr. Roland Couture, husband of the late Fernande Kirouac (GFK-00512) Mrs. Fernande Kirouac who passed away in May 2008, who was one of the fifteen founding members of the Kirouac Family Association.

He leaves to mourn his six children: Lise (Marcel Robert), Pierre-Paul (Gaby Girard), Diane (Jean-Claude Desrochers), Serge (Germaine Fortier), Gaétan (Danielle Boutet), Daniel (Julie Trudel) as well as fourteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. He also leaves his brother, Léopold, and his sister: Sister Jacqueline of the Franciscan of Mary Congregation. Funeral service was held in Sainte-Catherine-de-la-Jacques-Cartier parish church on

Friday, 22 August 2008.

## **KIROUAC ANDRÉ 1924-2008**

At La Canardière Residence, on 18 August 2008, at the age of 84, passed away Mr. André Kirouac, husband of Pauline Mercier. He lived in Charlesbourg. He was the son of Charles-Édouard Kirouac (GFK-00479) and Béatrice Marceau. Most of his life he was in the men's clothing business and the co-owner of Maison Jean-Dero, a men's clothing store.

He leaves to mourn, beside his wife, his children: Carol (Danielle Bilodeau), Daniel (Isabelle Ricard), Richard (Denise Métivier), Pierre (Annie Bourdeau), Jean (Sonia Côté) and Denis (Chantale Lavoie); his twelve grandchildren: Sébastien, Kevin, Dominik, Vanessa, Emilie, Claude, Sarah, Justine, Mélissa, Tommy, Étienne and Laurent; his sister Hélène (Paul Vézina); his sister-in-law Rolande Mercier (the late André Mercier); his brother-in-law Armand Mercier (Jeannine Gauvin) as well as many other relatives and friends.

## **KIROUAC SARTO 1918-2008**

At the Laval University Hospital (CHUL), on 14 September 2008, at the age of ninety, passed away Mr. Sarto Kirouac (GFK-02245), FCGA, husband of Yvette Hunter, one of the KFA founding members and its first treasurer.

Funeral was held on Saturday, 20 September 2008, in Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin Church in Sainte-Foy, Quebec. The ashes were deposited

in the François-de-Laval Mausoleum at the Belmont Cemetery.

Beside his wife, he leaves to mourn, his children: Pierre-Yves (Line Paradis), Sylvie (André Comeau) and Josée (Louis Brunet); his grandchildren: Mathieu (Claudia Latulipe), Émilie (Olivier Bourgeois), Charles, Dominique, Marie-Claude (Antoine Malenfant), Thomas, Sara, Anne-Sophie, François, Félix and Élise; his great-grandchildren: Charlotte, Éléonore and Joseph; his sisters: Lucille (the late Jean-Charles Bouchard) and Huberte (the late Giuseppe Pugliano); his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Carmelle Caron (the late Conrad Kirouac), Gisèle Hunter (Laurent Lord), Jacqueline Hunter (Raymond Langlois), Raoul Hunter (Thérèse Amyot), Claire Hunter (André Proulx), Adrienne Lévesque (the late Maurice Hunter), Irène Thibaut (the late Élysée Hunter) and numerous nephews and nieces and friends.

## **KIROUAC YVON 1939-2008**

At the Palliative Care Residence in Rouyn-Noranda, on 7 April 2008, at the age of 69, passed away Mr. Yvon Kirouac (GFK-01324), husband of Anita Saumure.

Beside his wife, he leaves to mourn, his children: Hélène (Serge Bélanger, Sylvie (Michel Lessard), Daniel (Sylvie Lyzotte), Chantal and Nathalie (Francis Moreau); the mother of his children, Françoise Gamache; his brothers and sisters: Murielle (Raymond Lefebvre), Lise, René (Luce Boivin), Clément (Betty Scrob), Nicole, Diane, Lucie (Serge Gagnon), Claudette (Jacques

Laplante), Monique (Alain Mailloux) and Carmen (René Hénault); his six grandchildren: Vanessa, Jessica, Tania, Audrey-Ann, Ariane and Alexandre.

Funeral was held on 12 April 2008 in the Saint-Bernard Parish Church in Évain, Abitibi, and the ashes were interred in the Malartic Cemetery. Yvon was a member of the organizing committee of the Kirouac Family Gathering held in Amos on 3-5 August 2007.

#### **LÉTOURNEAU JEAN-GUY 1931-2008**

At the Montmagny Hospital on 15 August 2008, at the age of 77, passed away Mr. Jean-Guy Létourneau, son of the late J. Donat Létourneau and the late Éva Kirouac (GFK-02132).

Funeral was held on Friday, 22 August 2008, in the Saint-Thomas de Montmagny Parish Church, followed by the internment in the Montmagny Cemetery.

He leaves to mourn, his sister Lucille (André Mercier), his brother Paul (Carmen Chabot); his late sister Marguerite (Léandre Proulx), his sisters-in-law: Suzanne Fournier (the late Jacques Létourneau), Noëlla Laberge (the late André Létourneau), his nephews and nieces from the Létourneau and Mercier families as well as many cousins and friends.

#### **LÉVESQUE ANGÉLINE, R.E.J. 1916-2008**

At the Provincial Residence of the Sisters of L'Enfant Jésus de Chauffailles, in Rivière-du-Loup, on 30 September 2008, passed away Sister Angéline Lévesque (known as Sister Angèle-de-Foligno), at the age of 92 years and five months, including 69 years as a nun. She was the daughter of Alice Kirouac (GFK-01569) and Joseph Lévesque.

Funeral was held on 3 October 2008 followed by internment in the

Parish Cemetery. Besides the members of her religious family/congregation, she leaves to mourn, her brothers, sisters and sisters-in-law: the late Joséphine, the late Charles (the late Étiennette Lebel), the late Adrien (priest), the late Armand (first the late Émilie Nelson, and second the late Marthe Pelletier), the late Léo, the late Yvonne, the late Sister Gabrielle r.e.j., the late Gérard (priest), the late Roger (first the late Cécile Fortin, second the late Yvette Larouche and third the late Marie-Paule Ouellet; his half-brother, Mr. Jean-François Lévesque (Pierrette Michaud); his nephews and nieces, and many cousins.

#### **PAIEMENT GINETTE 1952-2008**

At the Chaleur Regional Hospital in Bathurst, on Sunday, 10 August 2008, at the age of 55, passed away quietly Ginette Paiement. Born in Montreal on 19 August 1952, she was the daughter of Aline Kirouac and the late Gilles Paiement and the granddaughter of the late Aimé Kirouac (GFK-01815) and the late Gertrude Bouchard.

Beside her mother, she leaves to mourn, her sister, Hélène, her brother, Daniel Carré (Hélène) and her niece, Isabelle Carré; her aunt, Lucille Kirouac (Roger Pelletier); her uncle, Fernand Kirouac (Rolande Daigle); her cousins: Yves, Pierre, and Josée, her late maternal grandparents: Gertrude Bouchard and Aimé Kirouac. Funeral will be held at a later date.

#### **TREMBLAY GABRIEL 1933-2008**

On 21 July 2008, passed away at the Domaine du Roy Long Term Care Residence in Roberval, at the age of 74 years and eleven months, Mr. Gabriel Tremblay, husband of Bibiane Lavoie. He was the son of

the late Zoël Tremblay and the late Irène Lajoie. Funeral were held on Friday, 25 July 2008, in Sainte-Thérèse Church in Arvida, Jonquière. Mr. Tremblay's ashes were interred in the Arvida Cemetery. He was the brother of Lucille Tremblay (the late Charles Kirouac - GFK-02383).

#### **TURCOTTE KIROUAC MARIELLE 1923-2008**

At Wotton CLSC Residence, on 4 October 2008, at the age of 85, passed away Mrs. Marielle Turcotte wife of the late Fernand Kirouac (GFK-00696). Funeral was held in the Church of Saint-Médard in Warwick on 11 October 2008 followed by the internment of the ashes in the Parish Cemetery.

She leaves to mourn, her children: Denise (Denis Dion), François (Réginald Caron), Chantal (Jean-Pierre Boutin) and René (Nicole Beaudoin); her grandchildren: Denise and Martin Dion, Martin and Julie Caron, Jacinthe and Jean-François Boutin as well as Alain and Annie Kirouac; her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Jeanne-D'Arc Cantin (the late Roger Kirouac), Thérèse Lambert (the late Richard Kirouac), Bruno Kirouac (Gisèle Bergeron), Monique Kirouac (the late Marcel Bolduc) as well as her brothers and sisters and nephews and nieces.

**Our Deepest  
Condolences to  
The Bereaved  
Families**





# 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*

**Reference: *Le Trésor*, Summer 2008, Number 92. Answers sent by Mrs. Camil Delaunière**

## 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?

*The parents of Léger Therrien are Émery Therrien and Léonie Turgeon.*

## Question 179

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

*The parents of Martial Larose are Edmond Larose and Béatrice Ferland.*

**Answers sent by Mr. André Kirouac from Sainte-Croix de Lotbinière**

## Question 178

What are the names of the parents of Doris Rousseau, spouse of Denis

Kirouac, son of Joseph Kirouac and Marie-Rose Daigle?

*The parents of Doris Rousseau are Patrice Rousseau and Jeannine Martineau.*

## Question 180

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

*The parents of Simon Lambert are Rénald Lambert and Gyslaine Côté.*

*Joseph Kirouac married to Marie-Rose Daigle had four children: Céline, Alphonse, Lise and Denis. Lise married Henri Lamontagne and they had a daughter, Marie-Josée who married Christian Paulin. Céline married Gaston Lamontagne and had two daughters: Sylvie and Nathalie. Sylvie married Simon Lambert and they had a daughter, Mélina. Nathalie married Martial Larose and they had two sons: Keven and Alexandre.*

Finally, André wants to know if the ancestor's second son, Jacques, died without issue.

*Indeed, Jacques was born on 16 November 1733. Nothing has been found in any parish records about him after that date. However, some notary's deeds enabled us to put his death between 1737 and 1756. It is possible that he did not die in New France which would explain why nothing can be found in any Quebec parish records.*

## Question 181

What are the names of the parents of Jean-Yves Bélanger, spouse of Denise Fournier, daughter of Fernand Fournier and Colette Kirouac?

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 182

What are the names of the parents of Maria Helena Resendes, spouse of Simon Kirouac, son of Jean-Luc Kirouac and Georgette Garneau?

## Question 183

What are the names of the parents of Jean-Yves Bélanger, spouse of Denise Fournier, daughter of Fernand Fournier and Colette Kirouac?

## Question 184

What are the names of the parents of Suzanne Riendeau, spouse of Timothy Richard Kirouac, son of Jules Kirouac and Geneviève Lucille Morang?

## Question 185

What are the names of the parents of Robert Kirouac, spouse of Nicole Poulin, daughter of Alphonse Poulin and Jeanne D'Arc Kirouac who was the daughter of Édouard Kirouac and Alexina Dubé?

## Question 186

What are the names of the parents of Lyse Néron, spouse of Rosaire Poulin, son of Alphonse Poulin and Jeanne D'Arc Kirouac who was the daughter of Édouard Kirouac and Alexina Dubé?

## Question 187

What are the names of the parents of André Côté, spouse of Francine Poulin, daughter of Alphonse Poulin and Jeanne D'Arc Kirouac who was the daughter of Édouard Kirouac and Alexina Dubé?

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

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Enclosed please find a reply-envelope for effortless renewal of your membership to the KFA.

You are heartily encouraged to do so as soon as possible;

As early as possible in the new year.

Please mail directly to the Treasurer, at the address below.

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