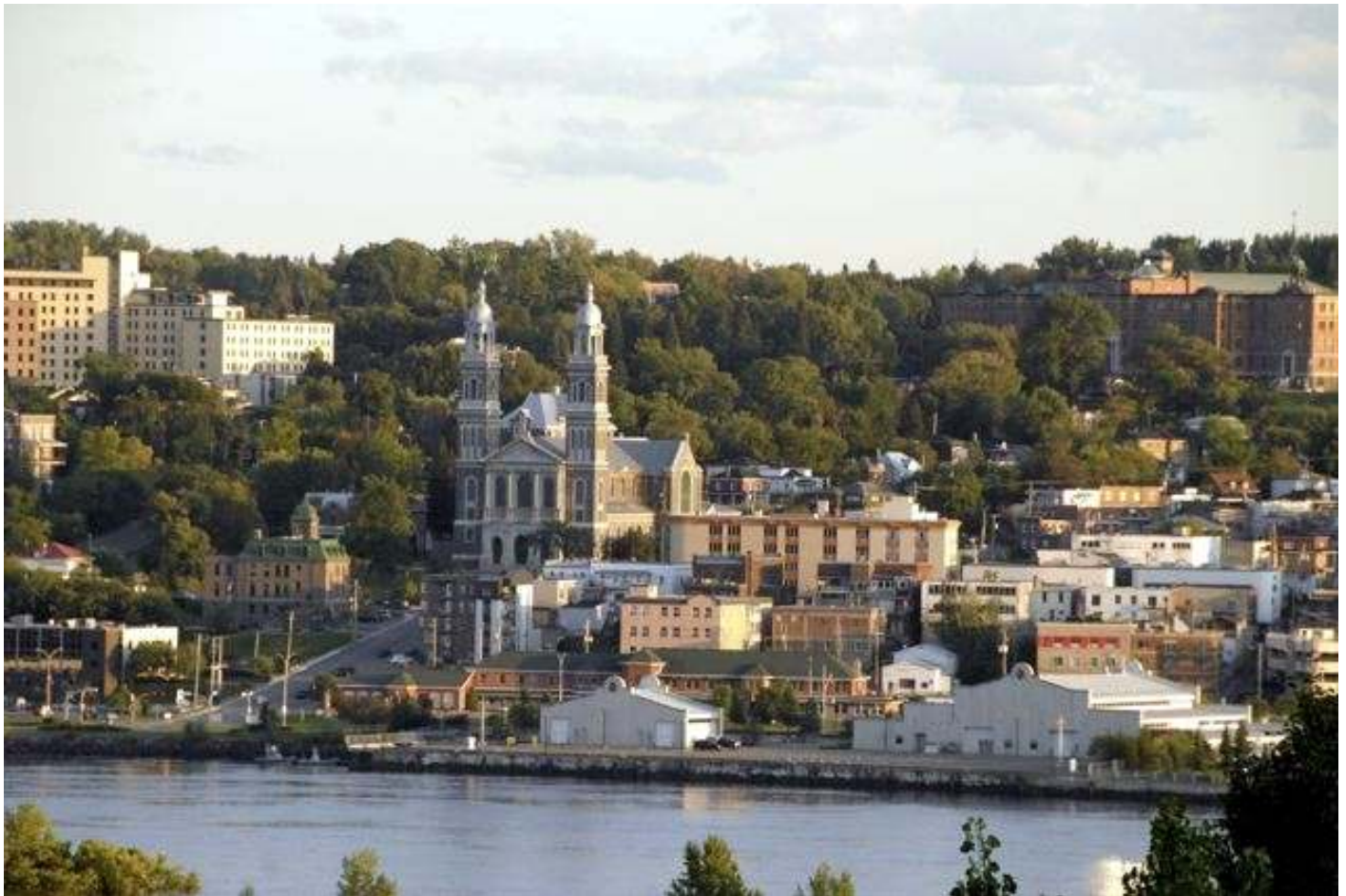


Spring 2009

Number 95

Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



View of the Chicoutimi Cathedral and the town where the Kirouac families will be gathering on 3, 4 & 5 July 2009 (photo: Gilles Potvin)

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 K'voach, 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>The President's Word</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Briefly Speaking</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>Preliminary Programme, Annual Gathering in Chicoutimi</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Ballade Saguenéenne – Guided Tour</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>40th Anniversary of Jack Kerouac's death</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Will we see the end of cross-country skiing in Quebec within the next 40 years?</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Just published: I am not Jack Kerouac</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Meeting Jack Kerouac</i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>Vision of Yesteryears</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Press Review: In The Name of The Fathers</i> | <i>17</i> |
| <i>In Memoriam</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>Press Review: A Tomb Stone for Caroline Kerouac in Orlando</i> | <i>19</i> |
| <i>Cuba — Seventy Years Later - Beyond The Beaches</i> | <i>20</i> |
| <i>Two Great Botanists in the Gaspé Peninsula</i> | <i>23</i> |
| <i>Family Names in Brittany</i> | <i>25</i> |
| <i>New Breeze Over Marie-Victorin Park</i> | <i>26</i> |
| <i>Preserving the Kirouac Photographic Heritage</i> | <i>27</i> |
| <i>Wind of Change Over the Marie-Victorin Park</i> | <i>28</i> |
| <i>Genealogy & The Readers' Page</i> | <i>30</i> |
| <i>KFA Board Members 2008-2009</i> | <i>31</i> |
| <i>Regional Representatives</i> | <i>31</i> |

The President's Word

As announced in the Autumn 2008 *Trésor*, the second DVD presenting the history of the first thirty years of the Kirouac Family Association is now ready, so the two-DVD set is now available.

It is a precious 195 minutes of memories, well over three hours on two DVDs. It is a retrospective in photos, films, music and words are recorded and filmed at the numerous events organized by the KFA or during events in which the KFA took part. In one section, the president tells why the KFA was founded and how it started.

The story of the lengthy search for the birth place of our ancestor is also well documented. It culminated in 1999 with the discovery of his real identity as he had created himself a new identity when he arrived in New France. Starting with the legend of the Kirouac treasure and the marriage certificate of Maurice Louis LeBrice de Kervoach, you will follow the various researchers in their quest for our ancestor's birth place. Finally, you will see how the link was discovered between Alexandre de Kervoach and Urbain-François Le Bihan from d'Huelgoat in Bretagne.

Every yearly reunion organized by the KFA between 1980 and 2007 is revisited in films and photos. You will certainly recognize many people on those photos, yourself and some of your close relatives too, among all the descendants of our common ancestor, who took part in the festivities over three decades.

ceremonies of unveiling of KFA plaques and monuments during the past thirty years on both sides of the Atlantic are documented. There are also many extracts from the videos filmed during the official visit to Brittany in 2000, when the return to the source brought 32 K/s to Lanmeur, Kervoac, Huelgoat, and Quimper.

Another section presents the various brochures and bulletins published by the KFA since 1983. It also shows special events where the KFA was invited to take part over the years. Finally, a last chapter is dedicated to all the volunteers who so generously have given their time and energy to ensure the success of the KFA during its first thirty years of existence, either as Regional Representatives or as KFA Board Members.

We warmly invite you to buy these two DVDs as they will enable you to revisit such wonderful moments of our family history. Then you can look at them as often as you like. Of course, some of those who built the KFA are no longer with us so it is very nice to be able to see them again on films.

The KFA Board Members are very proud to offer you this precious document, a valuable asset in your family souvenirs, for yourself and your heirs.

We hope that many of you will avail yourself of the opportunity to buy it. This box set is also meant to be a promotion tool for the KFA. It is available from the



François Kirouac

Secretariat, by sending \$20. per copy, including S&H. Do not hesitate to acquire it as we know that you will enjoy looking at it . . . with your family.

As a last word, I have to underline the magnificent work that Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve is doing in Lac St. Jean. She is busily organizing our next gathering on 3-4-5 July in Chicoutimi – the Kingdom's Capital. You will find the proposed programme in the following pages.

We are looking forward very much to seeing you all there so, see you in Chicoutimi soon!



BRIEFLY SPEAKING

Marie-Victorin and the Odyssey of the Flore laurentienne

The Heritage Friends of St-Venant-de-Paquet, on the Eastern Townships, have invited Mrs. Lucie Jasmin to present her talk entitled *Marie-Victorin and the Odyssey of the Flore laurentienne*, on Saturday, 11 July 2009 at 2 p.m. Of course all members of Kirouac family at large are most welcome to attend.

Since our last news bulletin, Lucie Jasmin gave her talk last 29 April in Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu at the request of the local Cultural Centre and Historical Society. Our secretary, Michel Bornais, will also be giving his talk entitled *Jack Kerouac...le mal-aimé (the one we hate to love and love to hate)* to the Heritage Friends of St-Venant-de-Paquet, on Saturday, 5 June 2009.

Marie-Victorin Exhibition at the Cayo Largo Museum in Cuba

In Cayo Largo, during this spring, a first exhibition about our Brother Marie-Victorin, "cousin" Conrad Kirouac, was held in Cuba. You all remember that he went seven times to Cuba between 1938 and 1944 to study the fauna and flora of Cuba.

Marie Kirouac, a KFA board member, during her recent holiday in Cuba, took the time to present the Museum with a copy of *Mon Miroir*, on behalf of Mrs. Lucie Jasmin. You can read her account of the occasion in the following pages.

Ninth Edition of *Quinzaine de la poésie*, a poets' festival in Montreal

From 14 to 28 March 2009, the Ninth edition of the *Quinzième de la poésie*, a poets' festival was held in Montreal. Among the many events on the programme, we should mention *La chair des arbres* (The Skin of Trees), a production of *Théâtre Aller Simple* (No Return Theatre), where people were given the chance to discover works by Réjean Ducharme, Jacques Ferron, Saint-Denys-Garneau, Anne Hébert and **Brother Marie-Victorin**.

Once more our *cousin* was in the news!

Société royale Cercles des Naturalistes de Belgique

Our Association, thanks to the *Marie-Victorin Observatory* and Mrs. Lucie Jasmin, who is in charge, contacts have been established with the *Société royale Cercles des Naturalistes de Belgique*. It is a non-profit organization founded in 1957 by Mr. Léon Woué.

The Belgian *Cercles des Naturalistes* was created in the same spirit as the Cercles des jeunes naturalistes (CJN) founded by Marie-Victorin and Brother Adrien Rivard, C.S.C. One of the four Belgian centres is called Marie-Victorin and is located in Vierves-sur-Viroin.

The Sea Is My Brother

The New York newspapers announced last 25 February, that a long lost story written by Jack Kerouac had just been found. Entitled *The Sea Is My Brother*, it was written in 1942 while Jack Kerouac was a midshipman on the *SS Dorchester*. This story by the Franco-American author will be published next year by *Harper Collin*.

UPDATING / E-MAILS AND INTERNET

To all K/rouacs who have internet, whether you are a KFA member or not, in order for us to reach you whenever needed, please help us to update our files by sending us your latest: postal address, e-mail(s), Blog, Web site, Face Book, Messenger, etc. Please confirm what we have or send us corrections and or additions; simply send us an email at afkirouacfa@hotmail.com. Thank you very much.

Did you know that ...

The present Quebec Minister for Culture, Communications and Condition féminine, Mrs. Christine St-Pierre is a descendant of Germain St-Pierre and Marie-Reine Keroack dit Breton? Her Kirouac ancestor, Marie-Reine, was a daughter of Simon-Alexandre Keroack, first son of our ancestor, Louis-Urbain, and Élisabeth Chalifour.



Preliminary Program

Annual KFA Gathering

3, 4 & 5 July, Chicoutimi



N.B. In order to give you the best possible prices and activities, we need to have in hand, all registrations and payments by 31 May 2009. Do feel entirely free to register for all or any one, or two, of the activities on the program: A– Cruise and visit of the New-France site; B- Saturday guided bus tour of the area; C- Saturday evening banquet and entertainment; D- Sunday morning concert.

Friday 3 July (Activity A)

- 9 a.m. to noon Registration at HOTEL La Saguenéenne
FTFL = free time for lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Cruise and visit of the New-France Site (Robe-Noire)
FTFS = free time for supper
- 7 p.m. Welcome and registration at HOTEL La Saguenéenne in Chicoutimi
NOTE: Those taking part in the Saturday Bus tour should register Friday evening because the tour leaves promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday
- 7:15 p.m. Annual General Meeting at HOTEL La Saguenéenne in Chicoutimi

Saturday 4 July (Activity B and C)

- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration at HOTEL La Saguenéenne
- 8:30 a.m. (Activity B) Departure of *Balade Saguenéenne*, a guided bus tour of three towns: Chicoutimi, La Baie and Jonquière; return about 4:30 p.m. See program on next page.
- 5 p.m. (Activity C) Cocktail at HOTEL La Saguenéenne followed by
- 6 p.m. Banquet at HOTEL La Saguenéenne and
- 8 p.m. Musical evening and dance under the musical direction of Sherly Desbiens

NOTE: On 3 and 4 July all participants meet at La Saguenéenne HOTEL,
250 rue des Saguenéens (street), Saguenay (Chicoutimi), QC, Canada, G7H 3A4

Sunday 5 July (Activity D)

*Homage to Mrs. Antoinette Kirouac
(wife of Maurice Kirouac, founder of Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean Musical Camp)*

- 10:15 a.m. Mass at Ste-Croix Church in Lac-à-la-Croix, celebrant: Abbé Denis Villeneuve
great-grandson of Marie Kirouac GFK: 2480)
- 11:15 a.m. Concert at the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean Music Camp at 1589, Route 169,
Métabetchouan-Lac-à-la-Croix, Québec, Canada, G8G 1A8
- 1 p.m. End of activities

NOTE: After the concert, there is no planned lunch, but there are restaurants in Métabetchouan

Distances: From Chicoutimi to La Baie: 18 km, 15 minutes (autoroute 70).
From Chicoutimi to Jonquière: 14.5 km, 14 minutes (autoroute 70).
From Chicoutimi to Lac-à la Croix-Métabetchouan: 68 km, 60 minutes (autoroute 70 & Rd 169).

If you wish to find out more about the Saguenay-Lake-St-Jean region, please visit the Web site called Promotion Saguenay at: www.promotionsaguenay.qc.ca



BALADE SAGUENÉENNE (SAGUENAY GUIDED BUS TOUR)

On Saturday, 4 July 2009

⇒ **Departure from La Saguenéenne Hotel** in Chicoutimi at 8:30 a.m. A wonderful guide will accompany the group through the whole day to regale us with historical facts, amusing stories and unusual anecdotes.

⇒ The first stop will be in the historical **Bassin** district where the famous **little white house** remained standing during the infamous flood in July 1996. The **Sacré-Cœur Church** and manse are remarkable example of local Gothic architecture.

Then we travel on Racine Street, a popular and busy city street with restaurants, art galleries, shops and the City Hall as well as the magnificent Chicoutimi Cathedral.

⇒ A stop if planned at the **Sisters of Bon-Conseil** Historical Centre, a beautiful peaceful spiritual haven.

On to the town of La Baie, known as a favourite port of call for international cruise ships.

⇒ Lunch is reserved at the Restaurant *La Normande* (75 minutes).

⇒ Still in **La Baie** there will be a tour of the Church of **St-Alexis** built in 1868.

⇒ Finally we go to **Jonquière**; English architecture is predominant in many of the town's neighborhoods; the famous **aluminium bridge built in 1950 and the Shipshaw Hydro-Electric Power-Plant**, a masterpiece of industrial architecture in Quebec are also on our route.

⇒ Your guide will also point out the Roman Style Church of **Ste-Thérèse**, a designated historical monument.

⇒ Return to Chicoutimi where a visit to ***Au courant d'art*** * is a must. In this art gallery you can admire the very best works from regional artists. It is also the perfect place to choose a MADE IN QUEBEC work of art / souvenir of your Saguenay tour. (*The name is a clever play on words that translates into an English play on words: the French expression is *courant d'air* = air current; *courant d'art* = *artful breeze* and/or *current art*!)

⇒ Return to La Saguenéenne HOTEL around 4:30 p.m.

Tour Program fee includes: All day bus transportation
Professional Tour Guide
Visit of the Bon-Conseil Congregation Historical Centre
Lunch at the Restaurant La Normande
Taxes and gratuities all included



Chicoutimi, view of the old Port and the old Ste-Anne Bridge and the Dubuc Bridge. (Photo: Gilles Potvin)



La Baie (Grande-Baie area) with the pyramid built over the area destroyed by the 1996 flood) and St. Alphonse church. (Photo: Gilles Potvin)

**Special Section of Bretons magazine
of Vannes, Brittany**

40th Anniversary of Jack Kerouac's Death

*Jack Kerouac passed away on 21 October 1969 in St. Petersburg, Florida, forty years ago this year. To mark this 40th anniversary, the Magazine **Bretons** (<http://bretons-mag.com/>), with offices located in Vannes, Brittany, is preparing a special ten-page insert particularly to present Jack Kerouac's special links with Brittany.*

*Ms. Maiwenn Raynaudon-Kerzerho, journalist working for the magazine **Bretons** contacted our association to get our testimony and opinion on the history of our family, our roots in Brittany and what these mean to us and to the members of our Association.*

Below are the questions she asked and the answers we sent her on 9 May 2009.

The Editors

Question: Reading Patricia Dagier and Hervé Quémener's book, *Jack Kerouac, Breton d'Amérique*⁽¹⁾, I discovered that since Louise Bernier (the ancestor's wife), the search for the true identity of your ancestor seems to have been a real concern to your family during centuries, is that true ?

Answer: There is no proof, none whatsoever, that the search for our ancestor's true identity has been a concern to our family since Louise Bernier nor during the 18th century. Louise Bernier died in 1802, and it is only in 1886, over eighty years after her death, that we find the first proof of someone searching for the ancestor's origin. This proof is a letter addressed to the Parish Priest of Cap St. Ignace by one Maximilien Aimé Le Brice de Keroack living in Winnipeg who was soon going to France. In his letter he asked the

Parish Priest to confirm the exact spelling of our ancestor's name as it appeared in the Parish Records.

As far as we know, two other persons, one in 1896 and another one in 1901 crossed the ocean to carry out their own research. However, these two first cousins seemed to have been more interested in the prospect of a possible inheritance, because of the famous legend of the *Kirouac treasure*. A version of this legend appears in the book entitled *Légendes des villages*, written by the Quebec ethnographer Jean-Claude Dupont. As far as we know these are the only persons who ever seemed interested in the supposed rights to a certain inheritance from the Kerouartz family.

The research carried out during the 20th Century by some descendants of our ancestors was obviously coloured by the belief that the family was related to some noble Breton family. This belief was based on a text published in 1928 by Brother Lucien Serre, of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and a friend of Brother Marie-Victorin. This text published in the *Bulletin des recherches historiques du Canada* (Bulletin of Canadian Historical Research) was considered the official reference on the ancestor's origin until the creation of the Kirouac Family Association (in 1978). Of course, it seemed obvious that a text published in an historical research bulletin would be well founded. This is why, after the publication of this text, the following generations believed to be descended from a noble Breton ancestor.

Brother Lucien Serre, in the introduction to his text, mentioned that his source was Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac. The latter having obtained the documents quoted by Lucien Serre in his "Study of the Kirouac ancestor" (...) "from Abbé Jules Kirouac, Parish Priest of Sainte-Justine (QC), who had visited the ancestor's country, had spoken with the Parish Priest from the Parish where the ancestor had lived before coming to Canada and also had met representatives, in France, of that family." Here it is important to understand that the members of the family he met were those of the De Kerouartz family, of Breton nobility, to whom Jules Kirouac was convinced to belong to. For this reason, he and his father visited them in 1896.

Other people followed in Abbé Jules Kirouac's foot steps and visited the Marquis de Kerouartz during the 20th century, including one of Brother Marie-Victorin's sisters in the 1930s, as well as our past President, Clément Kirouac in 1974, all believing that they were related to that family. Of course this belief had one source: Brother Lucien Serre's text published in 1928, based on the allegations of Abbé Jules Kirouac.

(1) *The book that Ms. Raynaudon Kerzerho refers to is the last book published by the authors of Jack Kerouac, Au bout de la route...la Bretagne, published in 1999. The new book just published in France by Éditions Le Télégramme gives the totally personal vision of the authors about the ancestor of the Kirouac families and about Jack Kerouac.*



The claim to noble Breton ancestry was already and seriously questioned by some of the founding members of our Association (1978); even more so after a visit of the KFA founding President to the Château de Salles, in Guingamp. On the door step, he was clearly and formally told by a member of the de Kerouartz family that they were able to prove that no member of the de Kerouartz family, legitimate or illegitimate, had ever migrated to, and left descendants in North America. From that moment on, all efforts were put on locating the birth place of our ancestor in Brittany; this was done with one goal in mind, to be able to invite some Breton *cousins* to the 1980 celebration marking the 250th anniversary of our ancestor's arrival in New France. This search proved useless but, nevertheless, from 1980 to 1996, our Association persisted in its search and mandated Mr. Claude Le Petit, a genealogist from Vannes, to find the true origins of our ancestor.

The Kirouac families have always been very proud of their Breton ancestor who, in spite of his too short life, was very active in New France. According to documents found, he was well known and respected, just as much in Quebec City as in the region known as the Côte-du-Sud, where had chosen to settle. In the baptism, marriage, and burial records in the Kamouraska parish church, where he was buried in 1736, it is recorded that the whole parish attended his funeral; this important fact was very seldom noted in parish records. Within the period's context, this shows appreciation for the departed as well as a strong testimony of sympathy towards his widow, Louise Bernier, who must have been very touched by it. She was proud of her husband and this would only have increased her feeling for him.

As Louise Bernier died in 1802, she had the privilege to know some of her great-grandchildren, therefore

we believe that, this feeling of pride found in her descendants, was passed on by her to the next generations.

Question: How did you welcome the work of Mrs. Dagier when she finally gave you the key to the enigma?

Answer: In 1999, we were very happy indeed to learn that the birth place of our Breton ancestor was finally discovered. At last, the enigma was solved. However, we certainly did not expect a change of name, but at least the place of origin was established. For us, what really mattered was historical truth and, in 1999, when Clément Kirouac in Montreal and myself in Quebec City, found two authentic original deeds where the ancestor had included "Le Bihan" in his signature, we were able to corroborate the conclusions put forward by Mrs. Dagier. Until then, the signatures found in New France only included the surname "de Kervoach", which refers to the piece of land owned by the family in Lanmeur.

It is also important to know that, due to lack of funds our Association had put a stop on its own research in Brittany in 1996. Afterward, the then KFA President, Clément Kirouac, decided to carry on the research, not in the name of the KFA, but for his own satisfaction and in collaboration with Patricia Dagier.

In 1997, I also decided to carry out some research on my own, here in Quebec, for our Association. Strangely enough, until then, no one, except for Clément Kirouac and I, had yet done any research in the Quebec archives. Everybody was searching in Brittany. However we shared a common goal: we wanted to find out from whom we were descended, so it was perfectly normal that I should share with Clément Kirouac the results of my own research, given that he intended to graciously and free of charge, to give to the Association, the results of his research carried

out with Mrs. Dagier in Brittany.

Unfortunately, since 1999, no new documents have been discovered in Quebec or elsewhere giving us new information about the history already known about the ancestor since he settled in New France; and nothing more about his wife, Louise Bernier, or about his two surviving sons. Until now, it seems that no new documents have been unearthed, no new notaries' deeds or references made to the oral tradition, nothing whatsoever to prove, or simply let us think, that the ancestor, his wife, even as a widow, his children, or anyone else for that matter, would have been in contact with anyone of the Le Bihan family or someone else in Brittany, whether after the ancestor settled in New France or after his death.

After all this work, we were a little sad to learn that there were few Le Bihan descendants. It would have been nice if a Le Bihan family association could have been created in Brittany and that contacts could have been established between with the Kirouac in North America. Joint activities could have attracted members of the two families.

Question: Why was your motivation so strong?

Answer: The answers to the questions: Who are we? Where do we come from? do give us the knowledge of our deep roots. And, of course, it was important to finally discover the place of birth of our ancestor which, as time went by, had become such an enigma. Here we can add that genealogical research is one of the tools at our disposal to preserve the identity of the people from Quebec and it is a cultural and leisure activity that is not only for professional genealogists. This type of research is fascinating not only for a great number of members of the founding families but lots of people also enjoy doing it.

Question: Why is this Breton ancestor so important to you?

Answer: The answer to this question is similar to the answer to the previous question. By discovering who our Breton ancestor was, gives us a starting point to go back as far as possible in time and discover who our ancestors were; what were their trades and professions, what they accomplished in their lifetime, etc. It is a general quest about our origins.

Question: In that line of thought, Jack Kerouac seems to have pushed that quest to the extreme; to find his roots became an obsession? Why was it so important for him?

Answer: There are numerous references to his Franco-Canadian and Breton origins in his novels that some people call pseudo-biographical. Jack was not happy with the American *melting-pot* which he criticized saying it wanted to turn him into an anonymous being in a country without a distinctive culture. We should look at this as Jack's refusal to be the perfect example of the successful policy of *One Country, one Language, one Flag*. In his native New England, essentially it aimed at assimilating all Francophones. The American government had refused to recognize the French language and culture since Washington was afraid that some (New England) states might want to secede and join Canada. Jack of course knew that the *Cayens* (Cajuns) from Louisiana were going through the same thing and possibly worse. The famous 1967 televised interview at Radio-Canada (*Le sel de la semaine*) very clearly showed how embarrassed Jack was speaking such poor French. It is interesting to note how things that deeply hurt us eventually take on a greater importance.

Question: Do you think he would have been happy or unhappy to know his ancestor's true identity?

Answer: Certainly, he would have been happy, just as much as we were! To finally learn where we come from, from whom we are descended fulfils a general and perfectly natural human need and

desire. Ironically, in 1969, death prevented Jack from going to Brittany with Youenn Gwernig, this journey would have taken him directly to Huelgoat, although he was ignorant that this was his ancestor's birthplace.

Question: What links does the family have with Brittany nowadays?

Answer: There are no known family links with Brittany now. However, we are in touch with a descendant of the Le Bihan family living in France. In 2008, he came to Quebec City with his wife to take part in the 30th anniversary celebration of our Family Association.

Question: Some biographers say that in Jack Kerouac's family, *crêpes* were still eaten and that they used Breton expressions; do you think that this is possible?

Answer: It is most likely that the *crêpes* would have been *pancakes*, the traditional heavier and thicker pancakes and certainly not the thin light Breton *crêpes*. And one should not confuse Quebec pancakes with the American pancakes, that French-speaking people call *crêpes*. What English biographers' ears mistook for Breton expressions were, most likely, nothing else but 'joual', that is Quebec thick French idiom.

Question: As you underline in your letter, Jack Kerouac's biographers seem to have given very little thought to Jack Kerouac's search for his roots. Yet, it seems an obsession to him; so, how do you explain that oversight?

Answer: Except for Gerald Nicosia in *Memory Babe*, and Victor-Levy Beaulieu, in his *Essai-poulet* completed in 1972, (tome 10-complete works 1996, published in Quebec) it seems that the biographers all neglected to seriously consider what was nonetheless ever present in Kerouac's work. According to Éric Waddell, Responsible for the *Jack*

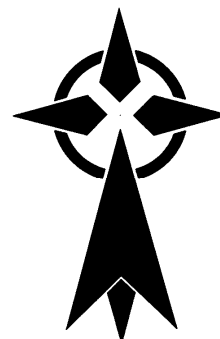
Kerouac Observatory, created in 2008 by the *Kirouac Family Association*, Jack's biographers and American friends who came to Quebec City for the (one and only French speaking) *Rencontre internationale Jack Kerouac* in 1987, admitted that they had never understood Jack's comments about his roots. For most of them, discovering Quebec and its French culture was a revelation. So this shows how it is difficult to understand and appreciate something when you do not know the first thing about it.

And I conclude by adding that this same marvelous revelation has made many visitors very happy when they came here in 2008 to witness the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec.

Hoping these answers are up to your expectations, I remain.

Yours truly,

François Kirouac
President,
Kirouac Family Association



Will we see the end of cross-country skiing in Quebec within the next 40 years?

By Guy Renaud Kirouac

WARNING: THIS ARTICLE COULD CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT YOUR FAVOURITE WINTER SPORT AND THE WAY YOU PRACTICE IT; AND I SINCERELY HOPE SO.

On 30 March 2009, the [David Suzuki](#) Foundation published a most alarming study on winter sports in Canada in general and about the survival of cross-country skiing in particular. The document entitled *On Thin Ice: Winter Sports and Climate Change*, using some very convincing arguments, shows how our winters will shrink in the next few years if nothing is done to reduce the greenhouse gas emission.

The argumentation is very simple: greenhouse gas emission due mainly to fossil fuel consumptions has already started to shortened winters in Canada and elsewhere in the world. If nothing is done quickly and massively to reduce greenhouse gas emission, it may well mean that, within the next forty years, there would not be enough snow for us to enjoy the winter sports which are fundamental to our culture and identity: skating, outdoor hockey, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, to name a few.

Because of the increase in temperature, a phenomenon even more severe in winter, the snow season has been shrinking. In Eastern Canada, in the last fifty years, two weeks have melted away and, in Western Canada, five weeks have thawed out.

Sara Renner, Canadian Olympic medalist writes: "During my fifteen-year career as an Olympic cross-country skier, I have witnessed the impact of climate changes. Seasons are less and less predictable and, in general, there is less natural snow. The World Cup competitions rely more and more on artificial snow whereas twenty years ago, this was unheard of." And she adds: "Now, quite often, we have to ski in green prairies on paths covered with artificial snow; snow that was made at high altitude and trucked to the competition site. When even that fails,

organizers must cancel the event, which is frequent."

Presently, the cross-country season in the south of Quebec is 94 days. Before 2050, if nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gas emission, in the south of Quebec and of Ontario, cross-country ski could well be a memory of the 'good old days'. And 2050, that is in 41 years! How old will you be in 41 years time? And your children? I will be 88, but my children will be respectively, 53, 50, and 47; my youngest will be as old as I am now!

Are we saying that because of Mr. Harper's and his ilk's inaction my children will not be able to enjoy cross-country skiing then? That they will not be able to share their passion for winter sports with their children, my grandchildren? Even worse than that is ahead if we do nothing, thousands of Canadians will lose their jobs. Millions of people will lose a way of life. What can we do? Should we have *ski tunnels* built? This is already routinely done nowadays. (Google *ski tunnel*, translator's suggestion).

The report offers a number of recommendations that we can apply. Some depend on politicians but, let's not forget that WE elect the politicians. Thus, I encourage you to go to the political parties' meetings and insist that the report's recommended policies be included in your favourite political party's platform.

I take the liberty to copy as is the Report's recommendations. I believe Dr. Suzuki and his team will not mind doing so. Source: http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Publications/On_Thin_Ice.asp.

What the Federal and Provincial governments can do:

1. Implement an action plan to meet Canada's international commitments by reducing emissions to safe levels as supported by science (25 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, and at least 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050).
2. Introduce a price on carbon emissions through both a carbon tax system and cap-and-trade system to spur innovation and clean-energy solutions.
3. Adopt stringent fuel-efficiency standards,



Guy Renaud Kirouac

Photo: Collection Guy Renaud Kirouac

such as the California standard or better, for personal vehicles as well as commercial and industrial trucks.

4. Implement ambitious targets and timelines to transform Canada into a global leader in the manufacturing and use of renewable-energy systems including solar and wind power.
5. Scale up funding for a sustainable transportation network across Canada including investments in high-quality infrastructure for public transit, walking, biking, and a more efficient rail network for goods-movement.
6. Phase out dirty and unsustainable power sources such as coal-fired and nuclear power.
7. Assist municipalities in putting into place growth-management strategies to prevent urban sprawl.

What VANOC (Vancouver Organizing Committee) and the 2010 Winter Games can do:

1. Commit to making the 2010 Winter Games carbon neutral (i.e., net zero greenhouse gas emissions).
2. Ensure that all major emissions from the Games are measured, and reduced where possible, or offset, including emissions resulting from spectator air travel.
3. Use only high-quality carbon offsets. In recognition of the international nature of the Olympics, VANOC could use a portfolio of high-quality offsets from B.C. and

Canada, and also at least 20 percent from international offset projects that meet the Gold Standard, the highest standard in the world for carbon offsets. Using carbon offsets from renewable-energy and energy-efficiency projects will help promote sustainable energy use in Canada and in less developed countries.

4. Implement a high-profile public outreach campaign for the Games that describes VANOC's climate initiatives and engages athletes, officials, sponsors, spectators, and the general public, and leaves a legacy of climate solutions in the region.

What winter sport businesses and tourism operators can do:

1. Learn how to manage your business's greenhouse gas emissions with the David Suzuki Foundation's new how-to guide, See: www.davidsuzuki.org/Publications/Doing_Business_in_a_New_Climate.aspx.
2. Power your business and operations with clean, renewable energy. Many electricity utilities offer green power or sell renewable energy, and also offer programs to help you conserve electricity or switch to more energy-efficient equipment for your business.
3. Recommendations: provide bike lockers and facilities for employees and customers and set-up an employee transit-pass program.
4. Encourage all levels of government to take responsible action to reduce global warming in order to protect the future of winter sports in Canada.

What Ski Resorts can do:

1. Develop a national climate change action strategy for Canada's winter tourism and ski industry to advance government climate change policy as well as solutions for the industry such as required targets for renewable energy power. A first step should be to pledge support for the principles of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada's "Canadian Charter of Sustainable Tourism".
2. Develop a climate change action plan to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with all resort operations. Set greenhouse gas emission targets for your business to support what leading scientific institutions such as the UN's expert scientific body are calling for.
3. Invest in energy-efficiency and renewable-energy initiatives as part of your operating budget and long-term investment strategy. Commit to using renewable power for at least 50 per cent of your energy needs.
4. Inform guests (e.g., through signs, brochures) of actions they can take to reduce their carbon emissions.

chures) of actions they can take to reduce their carbon emissions.

5. Provide lift-ticket discounts for those skiers and boarders who take sustainable transportation, such as the bus, to the hill. If a bus service or car-pool network is not readily available, work with local municipalities to make sure sustainable transportation options are a top priority.
6. Set up a website that can help facilitate skiers and snowboarders to carpool from home to the hill and back, and offer priority parking for those who carpool to the hill.

What the winter tourist communities and municipal governments can do:

1. Conduct detailed annual greenhouse gas emissions and energy inventories of municipal operations and infrastructure. These analyses will identify areas with the greatest potential to reduce emissions and save on energy, while also demonstrating informed leadership.
2. Develop an integrated energy, air-quality, and greenhouse gas management strategy and create a dedicated staff team to carry out the necessary measures to reduce community-wide emissions and energy consumption.
3. Make substantial investments in energy-conservation initiatives for key municipal building assets. This will reduce local government emissions and quite often substantially reduce long-term operating costs.
4. Develop a land-use and transportation plan with the aim of building transit and pedestrian-friendly communities where residential areas are close to areas where residents work and play.

What winter sports Clubs can do:

1. Make climate change science and solutions a key part of your club's educational and advocacy mandate.
2. Host a presentation as part of your next club meeting on the solutions to climate change. Request a climate change presentation from The Climate Project Canada, an affiliated group of Al Gore's initiative to raise public awareness. Visit www.climateprojectcanada.org.
3. Include personal tips on climate change solutions in every club newsletter or on the club's website, and update them regularly.
4. Urge your club to examine its carbon emission footprint and implement strategies, targets, and timelines to decrease it. Consider offsetting any remaining emissions with high-quality Gold Standard carbon offsets.

What winter athletes and the general public can do:

1. Take a picture that celebrates your winter sport and email it to your MP with a call for stronger action to reduce Canada's global warming emissions in order to protect the future of Canada's winter sports culture. (Find your MP's email www.parl.gc.ca)
2. Go carbon neutral (see Resources below).
3. Minimize your climate change impact when enjoying winter sports – for example, by carpooling or taking the bus with friends to the ski hill or mountains.
4. Professional athletes and Olympic athletes can consider joining programs like Play It Cool, which work to share solutions to global warming.
5. For an up-to-date of action list. See: www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do

Your turn! Our turn! We can start by making our own family **carbon-neutral**. Once this is done, work on convincing one or more families to do the same. Then, demand that the enterprises you work for become **carbon-neutral**. Follow up by demanding the same from the businesses you deal with, etc. To paraphrase Gilles Vigneault's famous song: "My country, is not a country, it is winter", now my country is no longer winter . . . unless we all work together. Our turn to act.

Thanks for your comments.

Web Site Ref.: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2009/03/30/winter-sport-warming.html>

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 95, Spring 2009.

Translator's note: The Canada-US border is a very thin line on paper but non-existent where nature is concerned and, as we all know, winter sports are just as important to our American cousins as they are to us north of the border. As the aunt to two nephews and a niece who all won ski scholarships to American Universities, I can vouch for that.



We invite you to visit Guy Renaud Kirouac's blog site, *Passion Ski de fond*, in French at:

http://passionskidefond.typepad.com/my_weblog/



Just Published

Editions *féderop*, March 2009

Je ne suis pas Jack Kérouac, (I am not Jack Kerouac)

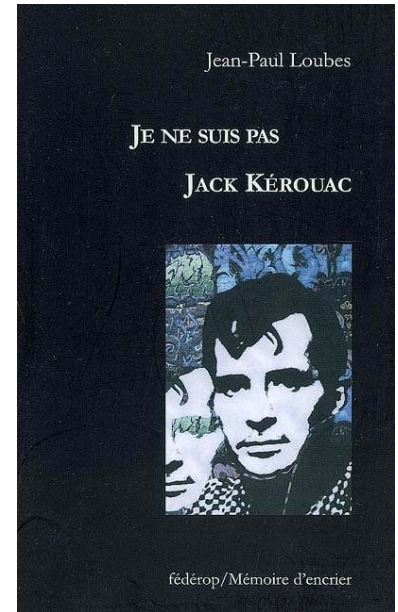
Those who know Jack will note that I write his name with an acute accent: Kérouac. That is the way the Quebec “francos”, who have become my friends, spell it. This is the story I tell, that of the accent on the “e”; its story / history is exponentially as enormous as the accent is minute! Do you realize how important it is? In one of his last letters, my friend, Jean Morisset explains it thus: “I write his name with an accent because it is the Yankees who took it away and not Jack’s father – nor his mother who was on the one hand half-illiterate, brandished her rolling pin with the other to better hit on the head a frightened Ginsberg – and we, since then enjoy the painful pleasure of leaving the accent on, to respect those who do not respect us.” Of course, we all believed that Jack was an American writer, leader of the Beat Generation, he who never wanted to be a chief of anything anyway. We have all read *On the road* a long time ago believing it was an hymn to America.

You think I exaggerate? Listen to this: on 4 September 2008, *Le Devoir*, a Montreal French newspaper, announces the discovery, in a New York library, of a short novel handwritten in French in a cheap notebook. Gabriel Anctil discovered it after searching for years. It was known that Jack had written in French but American researchers did not think that the “detail” was important. A year ago, Anctil had already found a first

novel written in French entitled: *La nuit est ma femme* (Night is my woman/wife). When we say French, of course it means *joual*, Jack’s mother tongue. Now what is the title of the novel discovered in New York? “*Sur le chemin*”, written in 1952, one year after... *On the Road*.

So Kerouac is a French writer! I am repeating what others say. Here is what he wrote in 1953, in a letter to Neal Cassady: “*In Mexico, after you left, in five days I wrote, in French, a novel about you and I when we were children in 1935, when we met in Chinatown, with uncle Bill Balloon, your father and my father and a few sexy blondes in a room with a debauched French-Canadian and an old Model-T Ford.*”

When I took the road heading



towards Cap Nord with Kerouac’s books sitting on the small bookshelves built inside a second-hand van I had purchased, I did not know any of this. I have written about this posthumous association before. I travelled with him in the fjords and lakes, meeting reindeer herds and some frightening northern skin-heads in the cold cities. Jack was there beside me. In the morning we drank coffee together while watching the sea otters disappearing



Éric Waddell, responsible for the Jack Kerouac Observatory with the author Jean-Paul Loubes and his friend, Colette Prévost, during a meeting in Quebec City on 2 May 2009 (Photo: François Kirouac)

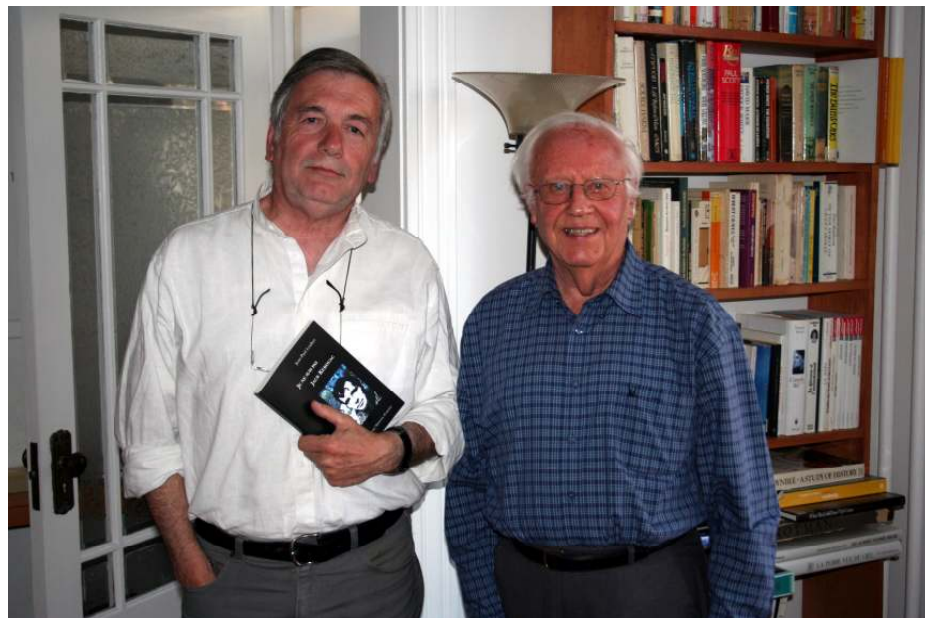
between the large rocks. And Jack loved it. Am I raving? That is what they told me: *Jack died forty years ago, so stop raving*. Some even said I pretended to be Jack Kerouac! I lost many friends then and many more as well. For so long I had been trying to understand why some exceptional people never die. How, beyond their death, one can establish and maintain a real relation with them. Intuitively I knew that at the end of the dark rocks, Jack the western-world-wanderer would have found eternal life.

Jack loved prostitutes, drifting friends, small children holding hands, the Negro escapee from the asylum, the small kittens rescued by sailors.

Bob Dylan once declared: "I read *On the Road* and it changed my life, as it changed everyone else's life." I cannot say as much for myself; that guy had escaped me and, now, I was finding him.

In Lowell (Massachusetts), a police car was parked at the Quick Pickin's crossroads where "Bledinde Soup" and "Dynamite Chili" was selling for five dollars. The police officer was looking at the store windows. He was young. I mean that he was a lot younger than me. I asked him if he knew the cemetery where I would find Jack's grave. "*Of course*", he answered. It struck me dumb, as Caulfield would have said in *l'Attrape cœur*! None of my students knew Jack Kerouac! That is how I came to shake hands with an American cop.

What did Jack die of? An oesophagus varicose ulcer, the typical demise of an alcoholic? Well, I say he died from being a French-Canadian. Let me explain. After the publication of his first novel, he wrote to a critic who had published a good review. "*All my knowledge is based on the fact that I am a 'franco-canadien' and*



The author, Jean-Paul Loubes with Jacques Kirouac, KFA founder, during the 2 May meeting in Quebec City. (Photo: François Kirouac)

nothing else. The English language is an instrument I discovered later... much later (...) The reason why I can use English words so well is because it is not my own language. I shape it to adapt it to French images. Can you see that?"

Yes, Jack, we can well see this. Because you lost one language, you invented another. But, from such a state of affairs, one does not come out unhurt.

How did I end up in Lowell? There had been the cabin in the Appalachian, the sleds, the Blue Jays, the seedy motels in Maine and Vermont, the flights of white geese flying north along the St. Lawrence River for days on end. I even discovered that Francis Cabrel* was in St. Zénon, one of the last villages along the Matawinie, at the edge of the endless forest! I had just been travelling *on the road* the length and breadth of the country where the uprooting of the Kerouac family and its escape to America had taken place.

The immense Edson Cemetery was deserted. The large trees' leafless

silhouettes were black; dirty snow patches were still lingering on the frozen lawn. The crows' call and the cold were piercing through all living creatures.

Under the engraved stone, at my feet, Ti-Jean was resting and *I am not Jack K rouac*.

Jean-Paul Loubes, 23 October 2008

*Francis Cabrel: (1953- -); famous French singer-songwriter

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Tr sor des Kirouac*, number 95, Spring 2009.

Who is Jean-Paul Loubes?

Anthropologist, architect and poet, born in 1946, he spent two decades traveling through China. He authored many books and documentaries on China. He teaches at the Architecture School in Bordeaux, France, and at the  cole des hautes  tudes en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris (School of Advanced Studies in Social Science). He is also the author of stories, short stories and poems.

Source: BiblioMonde



Meeting Jack Kerouac

In 1962, a twenty-two year old Jacques Dumais, left Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly, his native village, to join his two brothers Marcel and Denis in Lowell, Massachusetts, in order to learn English while working as a plumber.

One day he was asked to help deliver a heavy box to a “writer’s home”. This event was the start of a chain of events that changed his life for good and still affects him today. Indeed, Lowell people used to refer to Jack Kerouac as “the writer”.

The conversation was carried out in French. Jacques Dumais, having just arrived from Quebec, something that keenly interested Jack Kerouac, became *le frenchie* to him, to differentiate him from the other Franco-Americans.

Jacques Dumais, a lot younger than Jack, was rather surprised by Jack’s accent when he spoke French; it was not like the Acadian accent at all. He noticed that Jack’s appearance was different and that there were papers all over his bedroom.

Jack told him immediately that he wanted to see him again but not the deliveryman. This was the start of regular meetings between the two of them at the *Club Passe-temps*, the gathering place of the area’s Franco-Americans who essentially worked in the cotton factories.

He gradually noticed that Jack was always wearing dark clothes, usually brown his favourite colour. He did not wear traditional shoes but something more like boots. When walking, Jack usually

dragged his feet. There was always a small pencil hooked over Jack’s ear that he would regularly use to scribble notes on bits of paper. Jack used to say that the small pencil had covered “a lot of mileage”.

They often talked about travelling, particularly about the Amish, a protestant group leading a rather austere life secluded in their own village. He seldom talked about his father but more often about his mother. Only once, did Jack mention he had a daughter, but nothing more.

In fact, Jacques Dumais found him quite pleasant, endearing, special, not fussy, human and solitary. As we were talking with Jacques Dumais, he often repeated that Jack was unique, that he never did anything like everybody else; he walked differently and talked differently. He loathed honours. He smiled a lot but rarely laughed. In fact, he was not very talkative, did not seem to think that much either but he wrote a great deal.

Strangely enough, he did not like the word *American*, nor did he like to talk about politics. On the other hand, he often referred to Kamouraska, Saint-Pacôme and La Pocatière, the towns where his close relatives came from and that were constantly on his mind and imagination.

During their conversations, he always learned something new from Jack, especially when Jack was back from some trips. Mr. Dumais could see that he was a privileged conversation partner because he was almost the only one that Jack invited to sit with him to drink



Jacques Dumais, a resident of Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly (Photo: François Kirouac)

beers. Jack drank a lot but did not smoke much. Jacques Dumais then showed us how Jack used to sit at the table, usually his hat on his head, his eyes fixed on the floor and his short pencil over his ear.

Everybody greeted him and, as he was nearly always broke, people bought him beer and cigarettes. Mr. Dumais even remembers the two kinds of beers Jack used to drink. These two beers do not exist anymore. Jack usually spoke in short sentences and always in French.

Jack Kerouac was also very popular with women and many used to cross the streets to meet him. Mr. Dumais remembers seeing two of them fighting over him once. In fact, Jack did not spend a penny on women. Quite the contrary happened; women were ready to give him everything including themselves!

Obviously, Jacques Dumais will never forget Jack and, as he often

repeated during the interview, Jack was unique, always acted differently from everybody else. For one and all, he was the solitary writer, dreamy, who listened far more than he spoke. Still according to Mr. Dumais, it was impossible to label Jack. What Jack preferred above everything else was to grab his knapsack and take to the road, not even knowing where he was going to sleep that night.

After about two years of regular meetings at the *Club Passe-temps*, Jack left for the West Coast and Jacques Dumais only saw him very occasionally in Lowell in 1967-1968, the year of Expo 67 in Montreal and of his TV interview with Fernand Séguin at Radio-Canada (French CBC).

Today, Jacques Dumais still lives with all his memories of Jack and he very generously shared them with us in Sainte-Croix-de-Lotbinière. This interview took place in the Town Hall and was kindly made possible thanks to Mr. André Kirouac who also arranged two other meetings at a restaurant. Mr. André Kirouac, as you may remember, was twice the President of our family Association. We are very grateful to him for arranging an interview with someone who actually knew Jack Kerouac.

The Editors

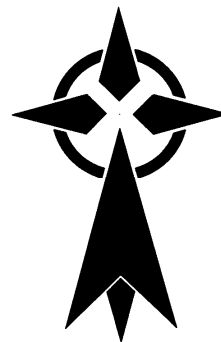


Photo : François Kirouac

Jacques Dumais with people keen to hear him recount his memories of Jack Kerouac while living in Lowell.
From left to right: Michel Bornais, Jacques Kirouac, Éric Waddell, Jacques Dumais and André Kirouac.



VISION OF YESTERYEARS

*It is always interesting to find out how things were done in the 'good old days' and to see how far we have come since and compare it with the way we live nowadays. In a book published in 1973 and entitled **Tradition bretonne, le savoir-vivre**, (*Breton Tradition, Good manners*), the author, Pierre Jakez Helias (1), tells us how traditionally, people used to eat in Brittany:*

THE ART OF EATING

How many times I have heard my friends naively say, when at my mother's house, how surprised they were to see my mother standing while everyone else was seated at the table and eating. Were they also thinking that my father was treating his poor wife like a slave? Well, in the countryside, there was no shame for a woman to stand; quite the opposite was true. She was the mistress in her home, she was the host. Her place was to stand between her guests and the hearth. She was keen to do her utmost, to make sure the meal was perfect and her guests satisfied. Standing, she dominated all, she watched and cared for food and people. Her reward was to hear: "You have fed us to trusting". Then, and only then, would she accept to sit down and eat something after her obligations were fulfilled, she was happy.

Father, the head of the family, was seated at the high-end of the table, by the window, to the right of it. The guest of honour was seated in front of him. The other adults were


seated on either side according to their rank and age. Children were seated at the lower-end of the table, at the place reserved for the beggar in the olden days. If they spoke too loud in front of a stranger, they were immediately kicked out. But, on the whole adults much preferred to have the children quietly sitting at the table to listen and learn. The guests would serve themselves first; then the father would help himself. Afterwards, the mother would serve the children. Before offering his homemade cider to his guests, the father would taste it to make sure it was good; however, he would often ask for the bottle to be removed and another one brought, simply to prove that he was keen to serve only the very best to his guests.

To sit down at the table, the Breton peasant would first place his posterior on the bench; push it backwards and then rest both arms on the table while waiting for the food. For him, eating was a satisfying restful time. Masticating and swallowing noises were not interfered with; doing so would have indicated a lack of appetite and offended the cook! The large cooking pot was placed directly on the table and each one would dip in with his/her own spoon into the space allocated. Galettes and crêpes were held with the fingers to be eaten. Often people would not even use plates to put the lard on; it was cut and put directly onto a piece of bread. Great care was taken of the knife, the most important utensil. Sometimes only the father had a knife and it was used for the needs of all at the table. When he clicked his knife shut, it meant the end of the meal and time to leave the table.

Well brought up people ate without getting messy or dirty and did not even use napkins. They would take their time, chew slowly and lengthily, pick up their crumbs and clean up around their place. And, believe me, they took the time to savour their food! In addition, you never saw anyone bring a fork near a crêpe, because, as they said: "Iron sours the dough when there is no fire between". The elders I knew preferred to eat the stew with a wooden spoon for the same reason. Do you still wonder why peasant recipes were so successful with the connoisseurs? Do you wonder why the cooks were held in such high reputation? Women instinctively knew they were cooking for gourmets. And for these gourmets, food was a religion and they knew its price because everything, almost everything, they were eating: meat, vegetables, fruits and flour, was the produce of their labour. Have you ever seen a peasant make the sign of the Cross with his knife on the bottom crust before cutting the bread? This was a very solemn moment. And this is why it was impolite to refuse food anywhere when you were visiting people. I remember when I was young, some days we would pay our respect to our relatives in three different homes. We had to eat everything given to us in every house if we did not to offend the hostess. Thank goodness we always made the rounds of the houses on foot; otherwise we would have been really sick. Nothing better than walking through fields, on rough dirt roads and footpaths, and up and down so many banks to help digest all the rich food.

(1) Pierre Jakez Helias is the author of the book: **Cheval d'orgueil**, a classic of Breton literature written in the Breton language.

PRESS REVIEW: IN THE NAMES OF THE FATHERS

 On 7 March 2009, **Le Devoir**, published an article entitled **Aux noms du père**, written by Hélène Vézina, Michèle Jomphe and Marc Tremblay, all members of GRIG, the Research Group on Demographic and Genetic Epidemiology as well as members of the **BALSAC Project**, based at the Quebec University in Chicoutimi (UQAC).

These three people have carried out a research on the women pioneers in New France, their daughters and their descendants, trying to answer some questions:

- In Quebec, if women's surnames had been passed on to their families instead of the men's, how would that affect today's surnames?
- What would be the most frequently used women's surnames today?
- What would have happened to all the Tremblay, Roy, Gagnon, Bouchard etc., so numerous nowadays because the fathers' surnames have been carried down the generations?

Thanks to the BALSAC (1) extensive population data, now they can answer these questions.

This is how they went about it: *"From the large existing number of genealogies, we used 2221 ascending genealogies which, within the GRIG research project, were reconstructed. These genealogies go back to the 17th century, to the time when the first pioneers arrived in New France. In some cases, we trace up to seventeen generations in these genealogical trees. By going back up the genealogical branches only following the mothers, e.g. mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, etc., it is possible to identify the immigrant women founders / ancestors, i.e. the very first women who arrived in Canadian soil (Quebec soil) whose names we have through the parish records, and women who still have living descendants to this day."*

This enabled them to conclude: *If these immigrant women had passed on their own surname to their children, instead of the father's name, and following suit from mothers to daughters, to granddaughters, etc., the distribution of family surnames in Quebec would be quite different what we find today . . ."*

"According to our estimates, in the first place there would be 210,000 Langlois, which would be three times as many Tremblay today, as assessed by the Quebec Statistic Institute. This very high number is due to the fact that three French pioneers named Langlois came to New France. They were: Marguerite (marriage in 1621), Françoise (marriage in 1620) and Marie (marriage in 1656). The female surname Robin, arrives in second place with almost 124,000 persons. However, there was only one pioneer by that name: Mathurine Robin, marriage in 1615. The Michel are in third place, followed by the Grenier and the Dupont, and, all in greater numbers than today's Tremblay!"

A number of now unused names also appear: Tourault (60,800), Gargottin (49,500), Trotin (45, 000), Riton (38,300) and Achon (36,000) are all names totally absent from the actual surname scenery. Incidentally, the woman pioneer Ozanne Achon was the wife of Pierre Tremblay, the couple from whom all the Quebec Tremblay are descended.

In fact, the Tremblay would not even exist today, because there was not a single woman called Tremblay among the women pioneers. In addition, the same would be true for the Côté, Bouchard, Fortin and Lavoie. On the other hand, there would be some Gagnon, Gauthier, Morin, Ouellet, Pelletier and Roy, but in a far less important numbers than they are nowadays. Among other women's surnames, who are rather few and far between, and who would be

used today by at least 4000 people in Quebec, let's mention, Ancelin, Boisdon, Bougon, Cerisier, Couteau, Crampon, Crevet, Desnaguez, Devoisy, Dodin, Doucinet, Duvivier, Fauconnier, Fressel, Giton, Gobinet, Itas, Liercourt, Macard, Nadereau, Peuvrier, Pigarouiche, Pomponelle, Repoeche, Rouselière, Savonnet, Sidelot, Targer, Triot, Viard and Voidy.

Thus, we can conclude that the distribution of surnames in Quebec today is quite arbitrary because only the surnames of the fathers have been transmitted from one generation to the next and many surnames have completely vanished from the scenes while others have greatly multiplied.

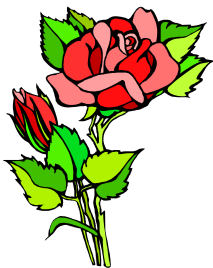
This has been an interesting statistical exercise enabling us in a way to pay homage to all the women pioneers of former New France and today's Quebec whose descendants are still living here today."

THE EDITOR

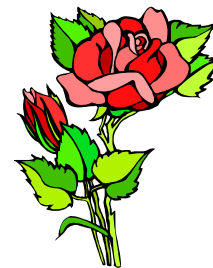
Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 95, Spring 2009.

1) The BALSAC population database is a computerized database that enables the automatic reconstruction of family histories, as well as ascending or descending genealogies. The data has been acquired essentially from the state registries for births, marriages, and burials. It aims to cover all of the Quebec population from the early 17th century settlement to today. The building of the BALSAC database was started in 1972. The Saguenay and Charlevoix regions have so far been completed; other Quebec regions are being processed. The BALSAC database is used especially for human genetic purposes, population genetic, genetic epidemiology. It is also supporting other research works regarding historical and social sciences. (From the Université du Québec in Chicoutimi (UQAC) Website)





IN MEMORIAM



BELANGER, RAYMOND

1936-2009

On 18 April 2009, passed away at the CSSS Maria-Chapdelaine in Dolbeau-Mistassini, at the age of 73 years and one month, Raymond Bélanger, husband of Pauline Savard. The funeral was on 22 April 2009 in Notre-Dame de Lourdes Church in Girardville. The ashes will be interred later in the Parish Cemetery. He was the brother-in-law of Benoit Savard (**Nila Kirouac**, daughter of **Arthur Armand Kirouac**, GFK: 00299, and Mélina Tanguay) and also of Denise Savard, widow of the late **Régis Kirouac**, GFK: 00312).

DUPRAS, Rachel (L'Heureux)

1917-2009

At IUGS, Pavilion St. Vincent, on 4 February 2009, passed away Mrs. Rachel L'Heureux Dupras, at the age of ninety-one years and six months. She resided in Sherbrooke. A religious ceremony took place in the presence of the ashes on 21 February 2009. The ashes will be later deposited in the Warwick Cemetery. Mrs. Rachel L'Heureux Dupras leaves to mourn her sister Georgette (the late Jean-Paul Gauthier), Sherbrooke; her brothers: Jean-Rock (Solange Turcotte) and Laurent (Madeleine Turcotte), Warwick; Jacques (Laurette Giroux), Montreal. She was predeceased by her sisters and brothers Jeannette (the late **Adéland Kirouac**), Edgard (the late Élisabeth Morin), Juliette (the late Adrien Racine), Roland (the late Yvette Anctil), Simone (the late Césaire Giroux), Benoit (**Simone**

Kirouac). Mrs. Dupras was the granddaughter of Jean L'Heureux and **Marie-Anna Kirouac** (GFK 00734).

KIROUAC, ANDRÉ

1937-2009

At Montreal, on 22 January 2009, at the age of seventy-one, passed away André Kirouac (GFK 01593), husband of Thérèse Chouinard. A religious ceremony was held in the presence of the ashes on 31 January 2009 at the Fortin Funeral Parlour in Montreal. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn, his children: Alain (Lyne) and Daniel, his grandchildren and his brothers and sisters: the late Camille Kirouac (Noëlla Ouellet), Cécile Kirouac (Claude Lévesque), Yvonne (Émery Nadeau), Albert (Jeannine Saindon), the late Lucien (Rita Pelletier), Roger (Jacqueline Ouellet), Léopold (Jeannine Castonguay), the late Henri (Lucille Hamel), Philippe (Normande Robichaud), Adrien (Thérèse Ouellet), Dorian (Angèle Massicotte), Roland, Gérard (Pierrette Lebel), the late Rosanne and Louiselle (R.E.J.).

KIROUAC, EARL 1933-2009

On 26 February 2009, at the *Centre de santé et de services sociaux in Jonquière*, at the age of seventy-five years and eleven months, passed away Mr. Earl Kirouac, husband of Annette Bélanger. He was the son of the late Alfred (Albert) Kirouac (GFK 02650) and Katleen Hugues. Funeral was on 2 March 2009 at St. Dominique church in Jonquière. Besides his wife, Annette Bélanger,

he leaves to mourn, his children: Barry Kirouac (Marlène Larouche), Sandra (Mario Boudreault), Allen (Régine Devin), Sammy (Cathy Beaudoin), Christine (Gino Savard), Michael; his grandchildren: Nelson, Cassy, Mathieu, Kimberly, Mélanie, Sébastien, Johanna, Michaël, Tracy, Kelly, Megan, Brittany, Jonathan, Tamylia, Samantha, Brian, Roxanne; his sister: Patricia (Bernard Audet); his brother: Larry (Jacqueline Bourbeau). He was predeceased by his sisters and brothers: Lenny (the late Germaine Poitras), Elsie (the late Bill Goldberg), Jack (Lili Walsh), Joan. He also leaves his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Gisèle (Adrien Dion), Régis (Jocelyne Tanguay), Irène (the late Michel Jean), Monique (Michel Bilodeau).

KÉROACK, JEAN-MARC

1927-2009

At the Centre d'hébergement La-Jemmerais at Varennes, on 11 April 2009, at the age of eighty-one, passed away Mr. Jean-Marc Kéroack (GFK 00149). He was the son of the late Adrien Keroack and the late Simonne Duteau. He leaves to mourn his brothers and sister: Gérald (Rita Blais), Alain (Louise), Nicole, Gontran (Régine Beauchemin), as well as nephews and nieces and other relatives and friends. According to his last wishes, the funeral was on 17 April 2009 in the church of St. Sébastien, followed by burial in the Parish Cemetery.

KIROUAC, PHYLLIS

1939-2009

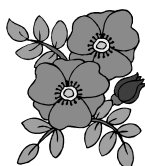
Phyllis Marie Kirouac, (GFK 0871)

aged 69, of Sterling Heights, died Feb. 7, 2009, at Harbor Chase in Sterling Heights. She was born June 30, 1939, in Detroit. Ms. Kirouac was a thirty year employee of Michigan National Bank, treasurer of Friends of Eastpointe Library, and she enjoyed reading, knitting, and shopping. She is survived by siblings, Janet E. of Warren, Gerald W. (Mary Frances) of Chesterfield, Judith A. Hart of Warren; one niece, five nephews, one great niece, and three great nephews. She was predeceased by her parents Louis-Philippe Kirouac and Leona Miller and brothers Robert and James A. Funeral Service: In State 10:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Mass at St. Athanasius Church, 18720 13 Mile Rd, Roseville, Rev. William Siebert officiating. Arrangements by Gendernalik Funeral Home, New Baltimore. Memorial contributions may be made to the City of Eastpointe Memorial Library, 15875 Oak Street, Eastpointe, MI 48021, USA.

KIROUAC, SUZANNE
1931-2009

At the CHSLD Christ-Roi in Quebec City, on 31 March 2009, at the age of seventy-seven, passed away dame Suzanne Kirouac, daughter of the late Lucien Kirouac (GFK 02096) and the late Julia Toupin. A religious ceremony was held on 3 April in the chapel of the Lépine Cloutier Funeral Parlour in Quebec City. She leaves to mourn her daughter Ginette Gauvin (Mr. Jean Gamache); her granddaughters: Isabelle Gamache (Mr. Yan Tremblay) and Vanessa Gamache; her sister Micheline (Mr. André Picard); her nieces, cousins, and friends.

**Our Deepest Condolences
to the Bereaved Families**



PRESS REVIEW

A Tomb Stone for Caroline Kerouac in Orlando, Florida

Your secretary received this news from Robert Cawood, from Cheshire, Connecticut, who winters in Florida with his wife, Noreen, who happens to be a Bornais descendant from a family that left the parish of Saint-Roch in Quebec City just before 1900. This Bornais family settled in Connecticut, and around 1901, on the American census, their surname became Burness. Knowing of my involvement with the Kirouac Family Association, Robert Cawood spotted an article in the *Florida Sentinel*, written by Mrs. Joy Wallace Dickinson and published on 5 April 2009, entitled *A monument at last for Jack's dear Nin*, a monument for Jack's only sister, Caroline Kerouac-Blake. Robert was overcome by curiosity so he visited the Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando. He took some photos and forwarded them to me with a plan of the cemetery showing where Nin's tomb is. The KFA and I are most grateful to him for his care and concern.

Caroline, *Ti-Nin* as her family called her, died on 19 September 1964 in Orlando where she was buried. However, her brother Jack, who also died in Orlando, in 1969, was buried in the Edson Cemetery in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the family lot of his third wife, Stella Sampas. According to the *Florida Sentinel's* article, "*Neither of them could afford a gravestone for Nin.*" . . . *But now, thanks to Kealing and other supporters of the Kerouac Writers' Project, and to Orlando's Superior Design Monument Company, Nin's ashes rest below a proper monument. On a picture-perfect spring morning late last month, Jack Kerouac's good friend and collaborator David Amram and others gathered at Greenwood to dedicate the memorial. Kerouac Project board member Kim Buchheit read Kealing's moving chapter, "For Nin," and Amram spoke of Jack Kerouac's joy in life along with his struggles and played haunting flute melodies that floated on the kind breeze.*

Let's point out that Quebec's motto: JE ME SOUVIENS is engraved on the monument; a kind gesture letting Caroline remind the world of her family's Quebec origin. And, as her brother wrote: "*Nin had a loyal heart, and now, that loyal mother, daughter, sister, wife and WWII veteran is remembered in stone at Greenwood. As words there say, "Je me souviens, Ti Nin."*

Many thanks to Robert Cawood, from Cheshire, Connecticut, for sending us the article and photos. Web link to the *Florida Sentinel* article: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/lifestyle/orlivflashback05040509apr05.0.1582241.column>

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 95, Spring 2009.



Photo graciously sent by Mr. Robert Cawood



CUBA - SEVENTY YEARS LATER – BEYOND THE BEACHES

By Marie Kirouac

Is there anything more pleasant at the end of a cold winter than going to Cuba to enjoy one week of holiday? Whether called winter break or spring break here, in sunny Cuba, how wonderful to walk bare feet in the warm sand of Cayo Largo? All the more delightful since our last trip was eleven years ago.

We also had a special appointment with Mr. Jorge Félix Cordovès, Public Relations Director at the Museum of Cayo Largo who has become a good friend of my sister Hélène Kirouac (00839) and her husband Luc Pelletier. While in Cuba we had planned to present

Mr. Cordovès with a copy of the book **Mon Miroir** published in 2004 by Mrs. Lucie Jasmin and Brother Gilles Beaudet. As you most likely know, this personal journal written by Brother Marie-Victorin is a very precious source of information, and almost essential reading for anyone interested in the work of our famous botanist, whom we know under his real name: Conrad Kirouac.

You may well ask why it seemed so important to present a copy of this book to a small Cuban museum. The story goes like this: on 11 April 2007, Hélène Kirouac-Pelletier, Luc Pelletier and a group of friends planted a tree in Cayo Largo; a simple gesture that opened a hidden door onto a not well-known work of Marie-Victorin. Planting a tree was a short and simple ceremony but since Mr. Jorge Félix Cordovès developed a passion for the work of this great Canadian scientist whose contribution was essential to the discovery and knowledge of the botanical heritage of the Pearl of the West Indies. (You may wish to re-read about this event in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 88, Summer 2007, page 23, and number 91, Spring 2008, page 4.)

On the day before returning to Quebec, we went to the village of Cayo Largo in order



Photo : Marie Kirouac

Mrs. Beatriz Gil Sarda, Director of the Cayo Largo Museum and Jorge Félix Cordovès, Public Relations Director

to visit its small museum. Mr. Jorge Félix Cordovès was waiting for us with the Museum Director, Mrs. Beatriz Gil Sarda. Then we officially presented them with a copy of **Mon Miroir** that Mrs. Lucie Jasmin had dedicated to them. It was a great pleasure to play delivery person and, as the book numbers over 800 pages, you can imagine what the cost would have been had we sent it via Canada Post . . . Luckily too, our hand luggage was not weighed at the airport. Marie-Victorin must have seen to that!

During our visit at the Museum, we spent some time in the section reserved for Marie-Victorin's exploration in Cuba. On a wall, near the entrance, were three large

Photo : Marie Kirouac



Jorge Félix Cordovès, Public Relations Director at the Cayo Largo Museum

picture displays. In the first one, there was a photo of the boat in which Marie-Victorin travelled to Pine Island on 22 February 1939. The next one showed a photo of the Hotel rented by Marie-Victorin in Nueva Gerona, Pine Island's capital. At the bottom right, there were two other photos taken by Marie-Victorin: one of the Church of Santa Fe and the other one showing the scenery of Pine Island. Finally, at the top right some geographic maps of Pine Island caught our eyes as Marie-Victorin's itinerary through that island was well indicated. In the second display there were photocopies of maps showing Marie-Victorin's various trips in the Islands of Cuba:

1. The first trip in 1938-

1939.

2. The third trip in 1940.

3. The seventh and last trip in 1944.

Here is what is written in Spanish, French and English:

"On 28 December 1938 arrived in La Habana, a Canadian botanist by the name of Marie-Victorin. Between the years 1938 and 1944, he travelled seven times to Cuba. During three of these trips, he came to Pine Island, known today as Youth Island. Cayo Largo is part of Youth Island."

The third display presented a short biography of Marie-Victorin. Further on, a photocopy of the cover of the book entitled *Itinéraires Botaniques dans l'Île de*

Cuba, by Marie-Victorin.

To complete this homage to Marie-Victorin, on a pedestal, is placed in full view for all to see the book, **Marie-Victorin à Cuba**, written by Dr. André Bouchard; and now **Mon Miroir**, Marie-Victorin's personal diaries 1903-1920, edited by Gilles Beaudet, E.C. and Lucie Jasmin, is next to it.

Before leaving, we were invited to sign the Museum's golden book. What started as a kind gesture, having accepted to deliver a signed copy of **Mon Miroir** to the Museum Director, Mrs. Beatriz Gil Sarda, and to Mr. Jorge Félix Cordovès, on behalf of Mrs. Lucie Jasmin, and in the name of the Kirouac Family Association,



Photo : Patrice Royer

Marie Kirouac presenting a copy of *Mon Miroir* to Mrs. Beatriz Gil Sarda, Director of the Cayo Largo Museum, on behalf of Mrs. Lucie Jasmin



quite unexpectedly the occasion was taking on a whole new importance, as much for us from Canada as for our Cuban hosts. Particularly when I realized that this was happening exactly seventy years, almost to the day, when Brother Marie-Victorin, our famous cousin, was in Cayo Largo.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely and warmly Mrs. Lucie Jasmin for contributing so generously and competently at making the work of Marie-Victorin known.

I also wish to thank Mrs. Beatriz Gil Sarda, the Museum Director, for her warm welcome. Finally, I wish to thank Mr. Jorge Félix Cordovès for all the efforts

made since February 2007 to better inform the Museum's visitors about the precious work done by Marie-Victorin in Cuba.

If you are planning a holiday in Cuba, and its magnificent small islands lost in the warm South Seas, do take the time to visit the Cayo Largo Museum where you will be able to admire so many documents attesting to Marie-Victorin's presence in the West Indies. In another room in the Museum, you will see photos of tourists who regularly return to Cayo Largo. If curiosity is one of your qualities, in some photos, you will recognize my sister, Hélène Kirouac and her husband, Luc Pelletier. In early April this year, you might even have met them on

the beach as they were on their thirty-fourth visit to Cuba . . . It is up to you to discover this Eden . . . and, remember, Marie-Victorin, a.k.a. Conrad Kirouac, was a happy frequent visitor and explorer in Cuba seventy years ago.

N.B. The Cayo Largo Museum is open three days a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Bon voyage.

Marie Kirouac (GFK 00840)

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 95, Spring 2009.



Photo : Patrice Royer

Marie Kirouac signing the guest book of the Cayo Largo Museum in Cuba

Two Great Botanists in the Gaspé Peninsula

By André St-Arnaud

Marie-Victorin (1885-1944) and Rolland-Germain (1881-1972), both Brothers of the Congregation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, greatly contributed to the knowledge of the rich flora of the Gaspé Peninsula.

Marie-Victorin wanted to give his country a botanical literature and, with Brother Rolland, he was working on the Canadian Flora. *La Flore*, written by Provancher, was excellent at the time it was published in 1868 but it was no longer so (40 years later); more recent studies, explorations of new territories, countless new species discovered, and essential additions needed to the known nomenclature shoed clearly the need for the publication of a new flora. Marie-Victorin believed that what was needed was an illustrated flora of Quebec.

In 1914, the two Brothers did field explorations in Cacouna, Notre-Dame-du-Portage, St-Simon, Rivière-du-Loup, Trois-Pistoles and the surroundings to study the influence of salted water on the local flora. They hired a horse and gathered some 'sea moss', they cut it at low tide and dried it. The sea moss, that the local inhabitants sold in large quantities, was used to insulate floors (deaden the sound) and also to stuff non-combustible mattresses.

In 1923, the year of the foundation of the ACFAS (1) and the SCHN (2) they went up Mont Albert, one of the highest peaks in the south-east part of the province, in the heart of the Gaspé Peninsula, where explorers enjoyed unique scenery. The season was quite advanced, they had to sleep under tents; it was raining but also snowing.

Sometimes they had to walk on all four to reach the summits where the pine trees grew stunted; they were in the tundra encroaching on the bears' and caribous' land. They explored a plain cut by deep valleys where many endemic species grew. Only those who have trekked on those paths can understand the joy that comes from discoveries made in such secluded places.

During those two explorations, Marie-Victorin walked by the Plaqué Malade stream, flowing west of a mountain, named *Mont Marie-Victorin* in his honour, in 2000. In spite of his delicate and

fickle health, he insisted in completing the exploration of the flora in the Gaspé Provincial Park. Later on, at international conventions in Europe and the United States, he will give talks about the exceptional flora of the area. The manuscripts of Marie-Victorin's two trips in the Gaspé Park are entitled *Journal de l'exploration botanique de la Gaspésie, juillet et août 1923* (Journal of the botanical exploration of the Gaspé Peninsula in July and August 1923) and *Voyage de Marie-Victorin en 1940* (Marie-Victorin's travel in 1940).

In 1989, another mountain will be



Brother Rolland-Germain and Brother Marie-Victorin during a field trip in Sandy Beach, Bay of Gaspé. Photo 1923. Source: University of Montréal Archives (E01181FP01176)



named in honour of Brother Rolland-Germain in the Gaspé Provincial Park. As Marie-Victorin is keen on exploration travel, as a basis for his works, and on his relations with the American and English-speaking Canadian scientists, once again in the Summer of 1931, he will travel to the Gaspé Peninsula and the Baie des Chaleurs area as far as New-Brunswick with Émile Jacques and René Meilleur. The group travels all the way around the Gaspé Peninsula and discover the lovely Gaspé Gentiane, a plant that closes up under the rain or when the sky darkens, sometimes keeping prisoner some insects. The friends come back by the Restigouche River, with two large boxes of plants and fossils of Devonian ferns from Miguasha (3). This marks the beginning of the Canadian paleobotany collection.

As they go up some rivers, Grande Rivière, Petit Pabos, and especially Bonaventure, they are surprised by the large quantity of asters to be found; they also collect a lot of algae.

Brother Rolland became a specialist at rock climbing but his companions were forever afraid to suddenly find his shredded body at the bottom of the escarpments. He would tempt fate for the sake of an extra addition to the flora. Did he see an *Oxytropis* on a cliff above the sea? Well, of course he had to collect it immediately. But, a deep chasm stands between the Brother and the coveted plant! He must jump and if he misses, it is a plunge in the sea! He jumped nevertheless and collected the plants. Now leaping back presents another difficulty as the rocky ledge is not wide enough for him to spring forth; so he barely managed to clutch the edge of the cliff while his feet are dangerously



Brother Rolland-Germain and Brother Marie-Victorin standing by a Gaspé Aster (*Aster Gaspensis*) near the Bonaventure River. Photo 1930. Source: University of Montréal Archives (E01185FP05125)

dangling above the abyss and Marie-Victorin is there to offer him a helpful hand. This happened dozens of times.

In other places, the risk was less and the alpinist cum botanist would be lowered down some escarpments using ropes held by the other botanists.

In November 1933 at the first ACFAS convention, Brother Rolland presented two papers on the monocotyles of Quebec and on the Gaspé Peninsula; at the time he was the only one in Montreal who could tell the difference between the graminaceae and the cyperaceae. This is dessert for him; bring him hay by the armful, and he will receive you with a large smile! He would spend entire days at the herbarium at the Botanical

Institute, researching difficult plants, isolated from distractions and noises as he was becoming more and more hard of hearing with time. From 1933 to 1944, from the first convention until Brother Marie-Victorin's death, Brother Rolland-Germain presented a total of twenty-nine papers including nine with Victorin.

The *École de la Route* (school on the road) was founded by Marie-Victorin in 1930. He said then: "I suggest that all those boring boxes called classes be closed for a month. That professors should be sent on holiday and that every one should enrolled into 'the school on the road'! Rolland-Germain offered his services to give courses and organize the initiating work, the demonstrations, the lab sessions, and the filed trips. From fifteen registrations at first, the numbers

grew quickly to the maximum of sixty: religious and lay professors would forgo their month-long July holiday in order to increase their knowledge and teaching methods. Marie-Victorin presided the first thirteen field excursions and crisscrossed various Gaspé area habitats. At the end of each excursion, the master sat with his students, commented the day's exploration and showed the relation between the physiography and the vegetation. At first, it was a three-week intense period of field work within the enchanting Laurentian nature. But from 1940, the three weeks became two months. The two organizers were very happy with the results and the personnel enthusiastic.

Between the trips, Rolland-Germain spent long days hidden in the Herbarium at the Montreal Botanical Garden; so quiet was he that he could have spent months there and not a soul would have been aware of it.

War put a damper on field trips, but young recruits were initiated to field work in the Gaspé Peninsula: Jacques Rousseau (1905-1970), Ernest Rouleau (1916-1991), James



Brother Marie-Victorin with an *Aster Gaspensis* in Bonaventure (Quebec). Photo 1940. Source: University of Montréal Archives (E01182FP01948)

Kucyniak (1919-1962), Louis-Marcel Raymond (1915-1972) and many others who will all find their niche and high reputation in the Canadian scientific world.

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 95, Spring 2009.

(1) ACFAS - Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences, (French-Canadian Association for the Advancement of Sciences) founded by Brother Marie-Victorin on 15 May 1923; now known as Association francophone pour le savoir.

(2) SCHN - Société canadienne d'histoire naturelle, (Canadian Society of Natural History) founded in 1924 by Brother Marie-Victorin.

(3) Miguasha: Google for an incredible visit to one of only five similar sites in the world.

Family Names In Brittany

In the book *Tradition bretonne, le savoir-vivre* (Breton Tradition, Good Manners), by Pierre Jakez Hélias, there is a text entitled **Appellations contrôlées** (the term **Appellation contrôlée** (AOC) that is most frequently used, even in English, for example in the classification of wines). This particular chapter deals with the way our family name or surname has been determined. It is also interesting to see how a new surname may be created. Knowing about what went on in the old days concerning surnames might help us better understand why our ancestor was well known under the alias Alexandre **le Breton** on the whole Côte-du-Sud (e.g. South Shore) just like in Quebec City. Possibly this is an indication that for our ancestors it was not absolutely essential to use the same name at all time for one person. It seems that what was really important for everyone was that whatever the name used, everybody knew who the person was, whether using the name of their trade or of their country of origin.

"The farm manager for example, or the farmer whose family has been working on that farm for so long, becomes known by the name of the farm; just like the Seigneurs in the old days, often were known by the name of their land/estate. For example, if you hear about Yves de Kerlaeron, do not for one moment think that he is a noble person, earl or marquis. He is a farmer by the name of Calvez or Gentric like the king of France whose surname was Capet. But with time, the surname gets forgotten and on top of that the wife kept her maiden name all her life. For example, she was Marie-Jeanne Salaün. On special occasions, even her husband might call her by her maiden name. Or else, she could also be called Marie-Jeanne DU Yves de Kerlaeron. Here DU means OF = wife of. The laborers who, for generations, worked on the same farm were also allowed to use the name of the farm as their surname. Ordinary people were often known by their trade. My own grandfather was always known as Alain le Sabotier = Allan Cobbler. When father and son had the same Christian name, the first one was Pierre Jaouen le Vieux (le Grand) = Senior, the second Pierre Jaouen le Petit = Junior. But if this latter had a son also named Pierre, who was the third one alive, this one would be known as Le Petit = Le Bihan, in Breton language, and he would become Moyen = Krenn, before he became the older one Vieux = Koz upon the death of his own father. And that was that. Anyway, a peasant was always the king and master in his own home (in Breton = ar mestr) or chief of the household = an ozah; his wife was the Mistress of the house = ar vestrez."



New Breeze Over Marie-Victorin Park

By Claude Thibodeau
(La Nouvelle union)

Article online, 25 February 2009

a brand new team is now in place, many new important projects are on the drawing-board, a development project worth \$5 million, in other words, even in winter, in Kingsey Falls, Marie-Victorin Park is very alive. Particularly in winter, as the General Director, Denis Beaudoin, likes to say: "this is when we work hardest."

The www.lanouvelle.net got the scoop and learned that, for the past six months, the Park's team has been planning next season's activities. To launch the 2009 season on 14 June, there will be a brand new activity called the **Rendez-vous des véhicules verts**, e.g. a **Gathering of Green Vehicles**. The General Director says: "Not only will visitors enjoy discovering various ecological vehicles, like electrical bicycles, hybrid vehicles, but they will also be able to drive them. We want to demystify the whole concept. It is part of our mission."

The Marie-Victorin Park also plans a two-day event in September, 19 & 20, **Bières et bouffe du terroir** offering

a choice of local beers from local micro-brewery and regionally grown produces. Denis Beaudoin adds: "We already know that over seventy different beers will be offered. The event will be a kind of **Oktober Fest**, with a very European ambiance and a variety of shows."

Conscious of its educational mission, the Marie-Victorin Park is scheduling a **Fête des petits jardiniers (Young Gardeners' Fête)**, on 5 July, with mascots, buskers, and TV personalities, adds the General Director.

This year the painters gathering will be different. Denis Beaudoin explains: "We have widened the scope of the activity. New called **Jardin'Art (Garden'Art)**, it will include more than painters. We are inviting

recycling artists who create works with recycled materials. It will take place on Sunday, 26 July.

The **Floratherapy** was very successful last year so it will be back this year for a second time on Sunday, 9 August. It will also be a second time for the popular **Fête du potager bio** (Biological vegetable gardening) on Sunday, 30 August. Mr. Beaudoin mentions that last year's theme was tomatoes and was much appreciated, so we want to develop it further." All these activities aim at drawing a new clientele. "Some people are interested in far more than flowers and we want to attract them."

Ideas abound among the Park team. In addition, there will be a food store to sell



Entrance to the Marie-Victorin Park in Kingsey Falls, Quebec

Photo : François Kirouac

regional produces. Denis Beaudoin adds: "The micro-brewery *Multi-Brasse* is creating new beers using products from our gardens. We want the visitors to take home something from the Park."

New Team

The General Director, Denis Beaudoin, has a brand new team including: Jonathan Grandmont, events coordinator, France Labarre, responsible for reservations, Kateline Grondin, communications coordinator, and Isabelle Pellerin, responsible for special files. Mr. Beaudoin says: "With our \$5 million development project, I asked the Board to build up a team able to cope with the demands of an increased clientele."

The Marie-Victorin Park has just received a contribution of \$60,000 from the *Corporation de développement économique des Bois-Francs* (Bois-Francs Regional Economic Development Corporation) in order to resume in Mid-March the work started on the parking lot last Autumn.

The plan is now to start on Phase two of the project during the coming Summer, particularly on the construction of the **Fantastic Garden**. Mr. Beaudoin adds: "All we can say at the moment is that it will be linked to the many voyages of Brother Marie-Victorin."

Next Autumn, we will start the construction of new buildings. The whole project should be completed by 2011

for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Park. And the Director proudly adds: "So far we are within our budget and timetable."

The regional fundraising is progressing very well with only \$375,000 still missing out of \$1,650,000 needed. And Mr. Beaudoin to conclude: "With this project and the innovations, we aim to be self-sufficient within the next five years. To reach this goal, the number of visitors must double to reach 60,000 to 75,000 per year." The new installation will lengthen the season from three to six and even seven months.

Another benefit occasion is the very popular lobster dinner; this year it will be held on 23 May 2009. The Deputy for Richmond and President of the National Assembly, Mr. Yvon Vallières, has accepted to be the Honorary President of this dinner gathering every year 500 guests.

Volunteers Needed

The Marie-Victorin Park is extending an invitation to all organizations interested in contributing to the activities.

In exchange for services rendered, the Park will make a financial contribution to the participating groups.

Any organization wishing to get involved should contact the Park Team as soon as possible at 819-363-2528.

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 95, Spring 2009.

Preserving the Kirouac Families Photographic Heritage



Blanche Kirouac (GFK 00577) and her eldest son, Maurice Drolet in 1913. Photo owned by Céline Drolet; graciously lent to the KFA in May 2009.



Claire Marie Hallsworth, daughter of Rose-Alma Kirouac and granddaughter of Louis Kirouac (GFK 00107) from New Bedford, MA, photo taken in 1947. Photo owned by Claire Ménard; graciously lent to the KFA in the 1990s.

Please let us know if you have any family photos that could enrich the collection of the Kirouac Family Association.

Thank you very much.

The Editor



Wind of Change at the Marie-Victorin Park!

*L'Express, Drummondville and region;
Article online on 27 March 2009
(www.journalexpress.ca)*

The Marie-Victorin Park will keep three of its regular activities and will add three new ones in 2009. This is a fresh breeze over the Park!

At this time of the year (March in Quebec) when nature is still sleeping under a blanket of snow, the administrative offices of Marie-Victorin Park are bustling with activities and green with new ideas for the 2009 season. It will be most appealing!

In order to carry out successfully the activities at the Park, which is scheduled to become the largest and most ecological park in North America through its impressive development project, during the past months the General Director, Mr. Denis Beaudoin, gathered a new "crew".

The tour and group organizers, especially the regional ones, will recognize a familiar voice when calling to plan their visits. Indeed, after fifteen years as supervisor of the ticket office at the *Théâtre des Grands Chênes*, the well known France Labarre has accepted to join the ranks of the Marie-

Victorin Park administration as customer service coordinator. Her duties will include group and tour bookings, corporate events and weddings. As for reservations for weddings, the Park is sold out for this summer and there are but very few places available for 2010. If you are thinking about it ...

In charge of programmes and logistics, the events' coordinator, Jonathan Grandmont, brings his ten-year experience in the field of leisure activities. He is an outdoor fanatic and during last season he successfully organized three events, to be repeated this summer, and will create three new ones.

The new communications' coordinator, Kateline Grondin, will put her pen and creativity at the service of the Park's team. With a ten-year experience in the remarkable media world, including events and publicity, she is determined to broadcast far and wide the Park's services, regionally, provincially and worldwide!

Isabelle Pellerin, who was responsible for groups and reception, from now on, will be in charge of special files/events, one day per week. She is a precious resource for the Marie-Victorin Park and its new team, and is

delighted to keep contributing to its success while carrying on the public relations responsibility for the *Association des responsables d'espaces verts du Québec* (AREVQ= Quebec association of groups/persons responsible for green spaces). AREVQ's regional office is at the same address as that of Parc Marie-Victorin.

This association, like a number of others, is happily benefiting from a fruitful partnership that enables it to use the Park administration's offices. Another one is the **Bonsais and penjings Society** who hold its meetings and give training sessions to its members in the Park Building.

Students enrolled at the **École d'agriculture de Nicolet** (Nicolet's Agriculture School) also benefit from an important partnership with the Park, as they can hone their skills by working on the Park's various horticultural projects.

Enriched by past years' positive experience, three of the regular activities will be on at the Park this year and three new ones will be added.

The new planned events will enable the Park to further its outreach by attracting within its gardens visitors who, normally, would not be interested in horticultural pleasures... It is important to note that, in case of rain, all events will take place under the big top, an 8,000 square feet marquee!

To open the new season, on 14 June 2009, the Park will welcome the first edition of

Rendez-vous des véhicules verts (Gathering of Green Vehicles) a way to reconcile the most ardent environmentalists with various means of transport. On 5 July, there will be a special day for the younger gardeners, the wee ones that is, as it is the **Fête des petits jardiniers**, a picnic for families where everything will be fun!

Finally, in order to close the season on a festive note, the "crew" is preparing a great sampling of micro-brewed beers and of locally grown produces. This event called: **Bières et bouffe du terroir (local beers and food)** will take place on 19 and 20 September 2009.

What used to be called *Rencontre des artistes peintres* (Painters' Gathering), this year will enlarge its palette and become **Jardin'Art (Garden'Art)**, and will take place on 26 July. From this year on, the event will also welcome sculptors and recycling artists who will work on the gardens. The very successful **Florathérapies**, for the first time last year, will come back this year on 9 August and will develop the theme *Fleurs et plantes médicinales* (Medicinal flowers and plants). Finally, harvesting will be celebrated again this year on 30 August, at the **Fête du potager bio** (Biological vegetable gardening)!

Of course, when organizing so many important events, volunteers are in great demand and absolutely essential to their success. Therefore the Park's



Photo : L'Express

administrators are extending an invitation to organizations: sports clubs, various associations, charity organizations, extra-curricular school activity groups, who would like to contribute to the success of the Park's programme by "lending" volunteers. In return, the Park will train the volunteers before each event and make a financial contribution to the participating group as a compensation for services rendered. Interested groups are invited to contact the Park as soon as possible at (819) 363-2528.

News about the project!

As you may remember, the first phase of the project, begun last autumn, is the doubling of the parking area, to provide space for 200 vehicles. The work will resume mid-March as the parking lot must be ready to welcome visitors for the

opening day on 13 June.

Before the opening of the new season, the Park will also be entirely fenced in and every visitor will have to register at the Welcome Pavilion. The second phase, including the creation of **Jardin fantastique de Frère Marie-Victorin**, should begin this summer. The work in progress in **Marie-Victorin's fantastic Garden** will be part of the guided tour in order to answer the visitors' many questions about it. Right now, to see the work in progress at the Park, do consult our web site at: www.parcmarievictorin.com.

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 95, Spring 2009.



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

Answers received from our readers

Question 184 in Le Trésor 93

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

Answer from Mark Pattison and from Cathy Robinson: *The parents of Susan Riendeau Kirouac are Eugene Charles Riendeau and Grace Mary Palazzolo.*

Question 190 in Le Trésor 94

What are the names of the parents of Jim Saindon, spouse of Pamela Kay Kyroutac, daughter of Arthur Leo Kyroutac and Alice Elaine Patterson?

Answer from Greg Kyroutac: *The parents of James Ramon Saindon are Louie John SAINDON and Lucille Mary REGNIER.*

Question 196 in Le Trésor 94

What are the names of the parents

of Marcelle Young, spouse of Léopold Kirouac, son of Téléphore Kirouac and Marie Blais?

Answer from Pierre Kirouac: *the parents of Marcelle Young, spouse of Léopold Kirouac, are Joseph Young and Amanda Morin. Both from the Portneuf area.*

New questions

Question 209

What is the name of the father of Victor St-André, son of Sandra Kirouac, daughter of Maurice Kirouac and Micheline Marois?

Question 210

What are the names of the parents of Christian Sévigny, spouse of Claudia Gendron, daughter of Claude Gendron and Diane Kirouac?

Question 211

What are the names of the parents of Pierre David, spouse of Sophie Gendron, daughter of Claude Gendron and Diane Kirouac?

Question 212

What are the names of the parents of Louis Gratton, spouse of Anik Gendron, daughter of Claude Gendron and Diane Kirouac?

Question 213

What are the names of the parents of Michel Delisle, spouse of Marie-Josée Gendron, daughter of Claude Gendron and Diane Kirouac?

Question 214

What are the names of the parents of Pierre Delage, spouse of Marie Kirouac, daughter of Yves Kirouac and Huguette St-Laurent?

Question 215

What are the names of the parents of Lucie Durand, spouse of Pierre Kirouac, son of Gaston Kirouac and

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

Marie Lesieur?

Question 216

What are the names of the parents of Philippe Renouf, spouse of Alvina Kirouac; they were married in Cap d'Espoir in the Gaspé Peninsula on 8 October 1907. Alvina was the daughter of Isaac Kirouac and Marie Couture.

Question 217

What are the names of the parents of Nick Szigatti, spouse of Gwendolyn Kirouac, daughter of Raymond Kirouac and Yolande Couture?

Question 218

What are the names of the parents of Garry Pearson, spouse of Linda Kirouac, daughter of Raymond Kirouac and Yolande Couture?

Question 219

What are the names of the parents of Erin Larusci, spouse of Paul Robert Kirouac, son of Robert Allan Kirouac and Rhonda Luann Budd?

Question 220

What are the names of the parents of Rocky Greenaway, spouse of Theresa Kirouac, daughter of Raymond Kirouac and Yolande Couture?

Question 221

What are the names of the parents of Louise Corriveau, spouse of Steven Kirouac, son of Raymond Kirouac and Yolande Couture?

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Our ancestor's signature on a request addressed to
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CONVOCATION TO THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Please take note that the Annual General Meeting will take place on
Friday, 3 July 2009 at 7 p.m. at the HOTEL La Saguenéenne located
at 250 des Saguenéens Street, Chicoutimi, Saguenay, Quebec, Canada**

CHICOUTIMI IS WELCOMING YOU ON 3-4-5 JULY 2009

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