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Number 126



Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach
Witness to Kirouac Activities since 1983



André Kirouac, the present owner of Club Jouet, (toy club) is the fifth Kirouac generation in business in Quebec City since 1848.
Here, with his son, Marc-André, 6th generation. (Photo by Pascal Rathé, for *Le Soleil*, Quebec City daily)



Kirouac
Kirouack



Kérouac
Kérouack



Keroac
Keroack



Kéroack
Kyrouac



Breton
Burton



Curwack
Curwick



Le Trésor des Kirouac

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Authors and collaborators for this issue (in alphabetical order)

Céline Kirouac, Donald Kirouac, François Kirouac, Gilles Kirouac, Guy Kirouac, Karyne Kirouac, Nathalie Kirouac, Roxanne Kirouac, Stéphane Kirouac, André St-Arnaud, Marie Lussier Timperley, Éric Waddell

Graphic Design

Front Cover: Jean-François Landry
KFA Logo on back cover: Raymond Bergeron
The Bulletin: François Kirouac

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Layout

French Edition: François Kirouac
English Edition: Greg Kyroutac

Translation for this issue (in alphabetical order)

René Kirouac (St-Constant), Marie Lussier Timperley

Proofreading/Editing English Edition (in alphabetical order)

LeRoy Curwick, Greg Kyroutac, Mark Pattison, Marie Lussier Timperley

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The President's Word

The Kirouacs are in a celebratory mood through all of 2018. In June, *Le Trésor des Kirouac* will have been in print for thirty-five years already! In November 2018, our Association will celebrate forty years of existence. In between those two important dates, in September, during our KFA annual gathering in Quebec City, we will underline the Kirouacs' 170 years of involvement in commercial enterprises in Quebec City, and 130 years in the toy business, including a first quarter-century for the *Club Jouet*.

Needless to say, on 8 September 2018, in Quebec City, it will be wonderful to celebrate all these anniversaries. Please look at the preliminary programme on page 4. In the mean time, also watch our website for more info.

Changes on the KFA Board: arrivals and departures

Last September we welcomed with great pleasure Karyne Kirouac from Laval to the KFA Board. During the last 2017 board meeting, Sylvie Houde from Quebec City, joined the group and took on looking at the social media. We were very happy to have these two ladies on the board; however, during the winter, both had to abandon their involvement due to increased responsibilities at work and professional duties. We are very sorry indeed to see them go. I wish both of them the very best in their respective career and certainly hope that eventually they will be able to come back.

Last September due to a technical problem, Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve's mandate was not renewed as planned during the

AGM held at the Montreal Botanical Garden, so, at the 24 February 2018 KFA board meeting the members voted Mercédès back to her position as KFA counsellor and now she is again officially responsible with her husband, Marc Villeneuve, for the organization of our annual gatherings.

Representative/correspondent needed for the Montreal- Outaouais-Abitibi region

Karyne and Roxanne Kirouac have unfortunately resigned as representatives & correspondents for the greater Montreal, Outaouais and Abitibi region. They did outstanding work for the past two years and we will greatly miss their high-quality interviews and articles. Let's hope they will come back.

Association Archives

Over the past forty years the KFA archives have been growing fast indeed, being enriched with a wealth of documents, photos, books, etc. Last September in the annual report I presented at the AGM, I mentioned that Ariane Kirouac, a professional archivist, had devised a new filing system for the KFA bringing its archives up to date. In one year, she accomplished a great deal of work. She worked diligently and beautifully; however, Ariane had to leave us this winter. So this most important project is orphaned once again. Please advise us if you know someone who could carry on this essential work. We certainly greatly appreciate what Ariane has done and, in my name and in the name of the KFA board members I wish to express our sincere gratitude and our best wishes in her career but we do hope that she will be able to come back at some point.



François Kirouac

Photo: François Kirouac Collection

In the present issue of *Le Trésor* you will read three texts about the development of sciences in Quebec: the history of the CJN (*Cercles des jeunes naturalistes*) the natural sciences clubs for young people, so ardently promoted by Marie-Victorin; also a short biography of Brother Adrien whose idea it was to create the CJN; then the history of *École de la Route*, School On The Road, a related successful project.

Texts Wanted

So, have you been a member of the CJN; or of the 4-H Club? Or of a similar group? Why not write your memories and share them with your K/ cousins and with the readers of *Le Trésor*? It would be great to read about your memories in our family encyclopedia.

And like last year we can write: Why not take advantage of the high value of the American dollar to visit your cousins north of the border?

Enjoy a pleasant summer!

Preliminary Programme
Annual Kirouac Family Gathering
in Quebec City, on Saturday, 8 September 2018
TO CELEBRATE
170 years of Kirouac business in Quebec City
40th Anniversary of the Kirouac Family Association

*Honorary President—Mr. André Kirouac,
President of the Club Jouet*

Saturday, 8 September 2018

09:00 a.m.: Welcome and Registration at Hôtel Quartier

2955 Laurier Boulevard, Sainte-Foy, Quebec, minutes from the bridges

10:00 a.m.: Annual General Meeting

11:30 a.m.: Lunch (recommended: Restaurant: Le Barolo, at Hôtel Quartier.

(Please make reservations when registering for the day)

01:30 p.m.: Guided and personalized bus tour of Quebec City looking at the various locations of the various Kirouac homes, enterprises and stores

05:30 p.m.: Cocktail at Hôtel Quartier followed by

06:00 p.m.: Dinner and evening at Hôtel Quartier

Homage and Surprises

10:00 p.m.: Good Night and Au Revoir - see you next year

Information (French): Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve - Telephone: 418-690-0624

Email: bolducmercedes@hotmail.com

(English): Marie Lussier Timperley – Telephone: 450-292-4247

Email: marietimperley@hotmail.com

Hôtel Quartier: 418-650-1616/888-818-5863 (toll-free)

Rooms have been reserved for those taking part in the KFA gathering.

Nine rooms reserved for Friday night and nineteen rooms for Saturday night at a special rate of \$129 CAN per room (single or double occupancy) + taxes. This special rate is available if reservations are made before 10 August 2018 .

Don't forget to mention that you are part of the ***Kirouac Family Association*** group.



Kirouacs' Commercial Ventures in Quebec City: 170-Year History and So Many Stories

by Céline Kirouac, François Kirouac and Gilles Kirouac



Is Kirouac your surname? Have you ever been to Quebec City? If so, someone must have asked you while you were there if you were related to Kirouac, les jouets? The expression is commonly used in the greater Quebec area which translates into: "Are you related to the Kirouac Toys?" The Kirouac name is very well known in Quebec's provincial capital and not only for toys.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the Kirouacs played a key role in the economic growth of Quebec City¹. You can drive on Kirouac Street when visiting the Quebec City's lower-town. This street was named in honour of the very first Quebec City businessman, the Chevalier François Kirouac². On 18 April 1890 the Quebec City municipal authorities paid homage to the Chevalier François while he was still a member of the City Council. This was quite special and important given that at the time, such honour was usually reserved for a deceased person. In the St-Sauveur district, two streets, Jacques-Cartier and Saint-Flavien, were amalgamated and renamed Kirouac³. The Chevalier François had been the mayor of St-Sauveur for many years and, in 1889, when Saint-Sauveur was annexed to Quebec City, he was the first alderman of the district.

This year 2018 marks 130 years of Kirouac toys in Quebec City and the first quarter-century of **Club Jouet**

founded by André Kirouac, who is proudly walking in his great-grandfather's footsteps, the one who created the first Kirouac toy shop. And there is far more to the Kirouac commercial ventures in Quebec City since it started in 1848, thus going back 170 years.

So, the history starts with the opening of the very first Kirouac store in 1848 in the Vieille Capitale, (as Quebec City was known then; it was Lower Canada's seat of government and capital). As mentioned above, the adventure started with Chevalier François Kirouac (1826-1896)⁴ who owned a novelty store located at 20 Saint-Jean Street⁵. Two years later, in 1850, he went into the grocery business and after that into the wholesale of grain and flour, located at 114 St-Vallier Street⁶. His business grew quickly and greatly, soon he owned and operated from large buildings located at the corner of St-Pierre and St-André Streets next to Bassin Louise (basin)⁷ in the

¹ *Journal de Québec*, 12 April 2003, Diane Tremblay.

² François Kirouac was conferred the title of Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 1886 by Pope Leo XIII.

³ Regulation 289, 18 April 1890; Quebec City. *Guide odonymique de la ville de Québec 1608-1988*, 1989- as per Quebec City toponymy guide covering 1608-1988, published in 1989

⁴ Chevalier François Kirouac was the great-great-grandfather of the founder of Quebec City's *Club Jouet*.

⁵ *Annuaire Marcotte* (directory), 1848-1849, BAnQ.

⁶ *Annuaire Marcotte* (directory), 1850-1851, BAnQ.

⁷ *Le Québec en cartes postales*, (Quebec through coloured postcards) Editors : Pruneau & Kirouac, Club des cartophiles québécois (Quebec Postcard club), book 1, Charles Carrier, Yves Beauregard, Serge Juneau & Jean-Marie Lebel, May 1994, page 7. Louise Basin was the industrial heart of Quebec's port facilities.



F. Kirouac & Son's Warehouses in the port of Quebec during the 19th century.
(Photography: Quebec City Archives)

old Port." After François's death, two of his sons took over the wholesale business: Napoléon-Georges, and Cyrille, father of Conrad who became Brother Marie-Victorin.

Two other sons of François, Philippe-Eugène and his brother, Joseph, opened a grocery store on St-Vallier Street in the St-Sauveur district; it was called Kirouac & Frère (K/ & Brother)⁸. Very soon a hardware store was added. So **Kirouac & Frère** became **P. E. Kirouac** and carried on until 1935, when it was sold to Marie Chaumette-Gauvin from Montreal, the widow of Jules Gauvin, a Quebec City merchant⁹. **P. E. Kirouac** finally closed down in 1945 and the store was taken over by **Magasin Latulippe**¹⁰ specializing in sporting and outdoor goods; it is still in business at the same address today.

Another brother, Joseph-Arthur (1853-1935), opened a bookstore. He had twenty children, a very large family indeed. In 1888¹¹ he went into business with Odilon Pruneau and founded **Pruneau & Kirouac**, located on the famous and highly reputed Côte de la Fabrique

in Quebec City¹², (the steepest hill in Old Quebec). The store was at number 28, next to *Seifert Jewellery* and *Glover, Fry & Co.* dry goods merchant. Pruneau & Kirouac sold books, office supply, stationery, games and (trinkets & ornaments)¹³. They were also printers and, at the beginning of the twentieth century, published 306 coloured postcards (all collectors' item now) as well as being the official printer of the *Petit catéchisme de la province ecclésiastique de Québec*,¹⁴ the official Quebec Catholic Catechism.

"In May 1900, they took over the former *Seifert Jewellery* store. The building opened up on two streets: the bookstore's entrance was on Côte de la Fabrique¹⁵; and the second store's entrance, behind the other one, was on Garneau Street. The whole second floor was reserved for church articles. [...] This business being established very close to the Seminary and the Archbishop's Palace, *Pruneau & Kirouac* made a point to attract the clerical customers and christened their enterprise after the first Bishop of Quebec: *Librairie Montmorency-Laval* (book store). Besides selling missals and breviaries, they also offered religious objects and liturgical vestments."¹⁶

On 28 December 1900, in a Quebec City newspaper one read that according to the general opinion the Montmorency-Laval store was the best stocked

⁸ First mentioned in the *Marcotte Directory* 1899-1900.

⁹ The cession contract was drawn on 17 June 1935; however, the *Annuaire Marcotte Directory* mentions the business until 1937-1938.

¹⁰ The sale is dated 5 January 1945. See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 87, spring 2007, pp. 17-21.

¹¹ On 25 September 1888 in J. E. Boily, attorney's office.

¹² *Annuaire Marcotte Directory*, 1889-1890, BAnQ.

¹³ Knick-knacks, gifts and gadgets.

¹⁴ *Le Québec en cartes postales*, (Quebec through coloured postcards) Editors : Pruneau & Kirouac, *Club des cartophiles québécois* (Quebec Postcard club), book 1, Charles Carrier, Yves Beauregard, Serge Juneau & Jean-Marie Lebel, May 1994, page 8. See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 104, summer 2011, p. 16.

¹⁵ The business address was 46 Côte de la Fabrique (*Marcotte Directory*, 1899-1900, BAnQ).

¹⁶ *Le Québec en cartes postales*, (Quebec through coloured postcards) Editors : Pruneau & Kirouac, *Club des cartophiles québécois* (Quebec Postcard club), book 1, Charles Carrier, Yves Beauregard, Serge Juneau & Jean-Marie Lebel, May 1994, pp. 6-7.

J. A. Kirouac Limitée

LIBRAIRES IMPORTATEURS EN GROS



4½, RUE ST-JEAN

Québec,

Letterhead of Maison J. A. Kirouac Limitée

KIROUAC BUSINESSMEN IN QUEBEC CITY

First and Second Generations

The Chevalier François was the first Kirouac businessman in Quebec City. The first of his sons to join him was Joseph-Arthur who later opened his own business. After Chevalier François's death, Cyrille and Napoléon-Georges, two other of his sons, took over the business. The commercial enterprise founded by Chevalier François closed only in 1929.

Philippe-Eugène and his brother, Joseph, opened a grocery store in 1899, and, a few years later, a hardware store which was ceded in 1935.

Joseph-Arthur opened a bookstore in 1888. The *Maison J.-A. Kirouac Limitée* founded in 1908, closed down in 1956.



Cyrille Kirouac
(1863-1921)



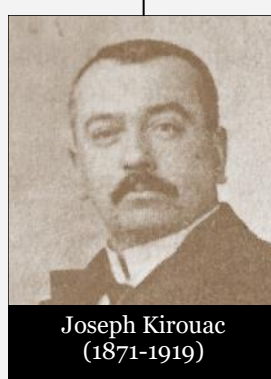
Napoléon Kirouac
(1864-1938)



François Kirouac
(1826-1896)



P.-Eugène Kirouac
(1866-1948)



Joseph Kirouac
(1871-1919)



J.-Arthur Kirouac
(1853-1935)

bookshop in Quebec City and the most popular. That year, the owners of *Pruneau et Kirouac* went to England, France and Germany to visit the best toy manufacturers¹⁷. Joseph-Arthur Kirouac was a true family man and very soon became the sole importer of European-made toys for the province of Quebec. The toy department was always very important. For him, toys were an occasion for sharing with others and creating family pleasure, according to Christiane Tanguay-Kirouac, wife of François Kirouac, one of the co-owners of *Magasins Kirouac*¹⁸.

The *Pruneau & Kirouac* company was dissolved in 1908¹⁹. Joseph-Arthur Kirouac carried on his business under the name *J. A. Kirouac* at 34-36 Côte de la Fabrique, across the street from Quebec's City Hall. "As well as importing toys from Europe, the owner-founder also bought wooden toys made by local craftsmen"²⁰. In the previous paragraph, we mentioned that Joseph-Arthur not only bought toys from Europe but he also went to Europe to buy them. "Crossing the Atlantic between Quebec and France took weeks at the time, so the Kirouacs started buying various objects and toys made and sculpted by the sailors during the long weeks at sea, and selling them in their store, says André Kirouac according to the stories handed down in the family."²¹

When Joseph-Arthur died in 1935, his son Ernest²² inherited the business and, for many years, his brothers Odilon²³, Émile²⁴ and Marcel²⁵ helped him administer it.

¹⁷ *Idem*

¹⁸ *Journal de Québec*, 12 April 2003, by Diane Tremblay.

¹⁹ Notary's deed dated 13 February, Notary P. E. Émile Bélanger.

²⁰ *L'Avis de Quartier*, local paper, special issue for Small & Medium enterprises' week, 23 October 1988.

²¹ *Le Soleil*, Quebec City newspaper, 6 January 2018, by Yves Therrien, page 30.

²² Ernest Kirouac (1884-1945)

²³ Odilon Kirouac (1892-1950)

²⁴ Émile Kirouac (1895-1971)

²⁵ Marcel Kirouac (1901-1968)



Kirouac store located on Côte de la Fabrique in Old Quebec City was destroyed by fire during the winter of 1936.

(Photography: KFA collection)

In 1936, a major fire destroyed Joseph-Arthur's store²⁶. But thanks to his sons' hard work, the store was rebuilt but at a different location, at the corner of Collin and Saint-Jean streets. This time all efforts were concentrated on importing toys, including electrical trains and educational games.

In 1942, Robert²⁷, Ernest's son, got his start in business as manager of the retail bookshop *J. A. Kirouac* while his father was the president. In 1946, after his father's death, Robert bought *J. A. Kirouac Limitée* from his mother and became president and sole owner. In 1956, fire struck again, the store went up in flames and it was the end of the venture. In 1948, in Sainte-Anne-de-Baupré, Robert created a shopping centre comprising about twenty different stores, it was a great innovation at the time; this new concept became the ancestor of the North American shopping malls. In

²⁶ *Le Québec en cartes postales, (Quebec through coloured postcards) Editors: Pruneau & Kirouac, Club des cartophiles québécois (Quebec Postcard club), book 1, Charles Carrier, Yves Beauregard, Serge Juneau & Jean-Marie Lebel, May 1994, pp. 9.*

²⁷ Robert Kirouac (1914-1969)



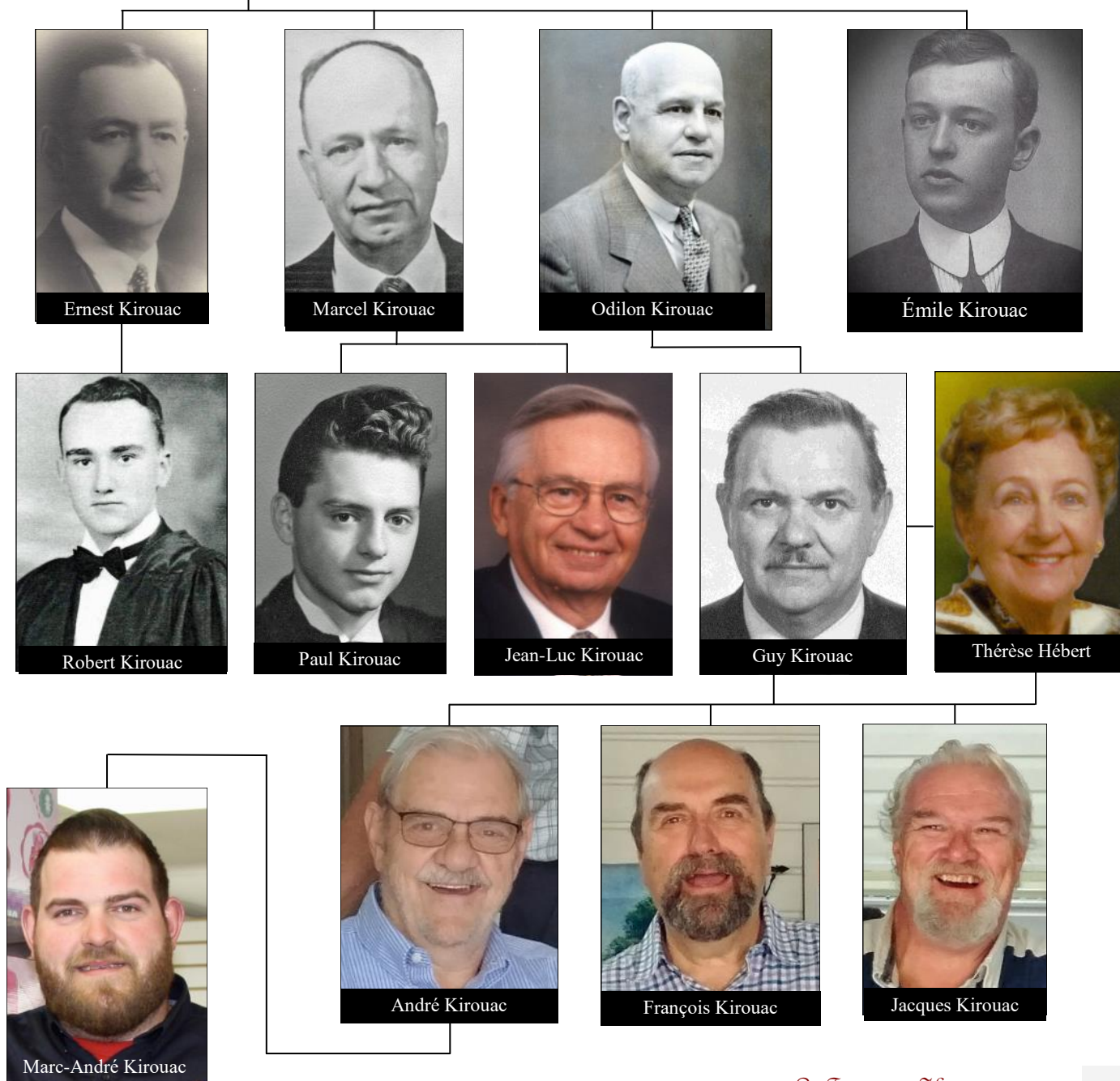
Kirouac store on Côte de la Fabrique in Quebec City
(Photo : Quebec City Archives)

Generation after generation there are Kirouacs in business

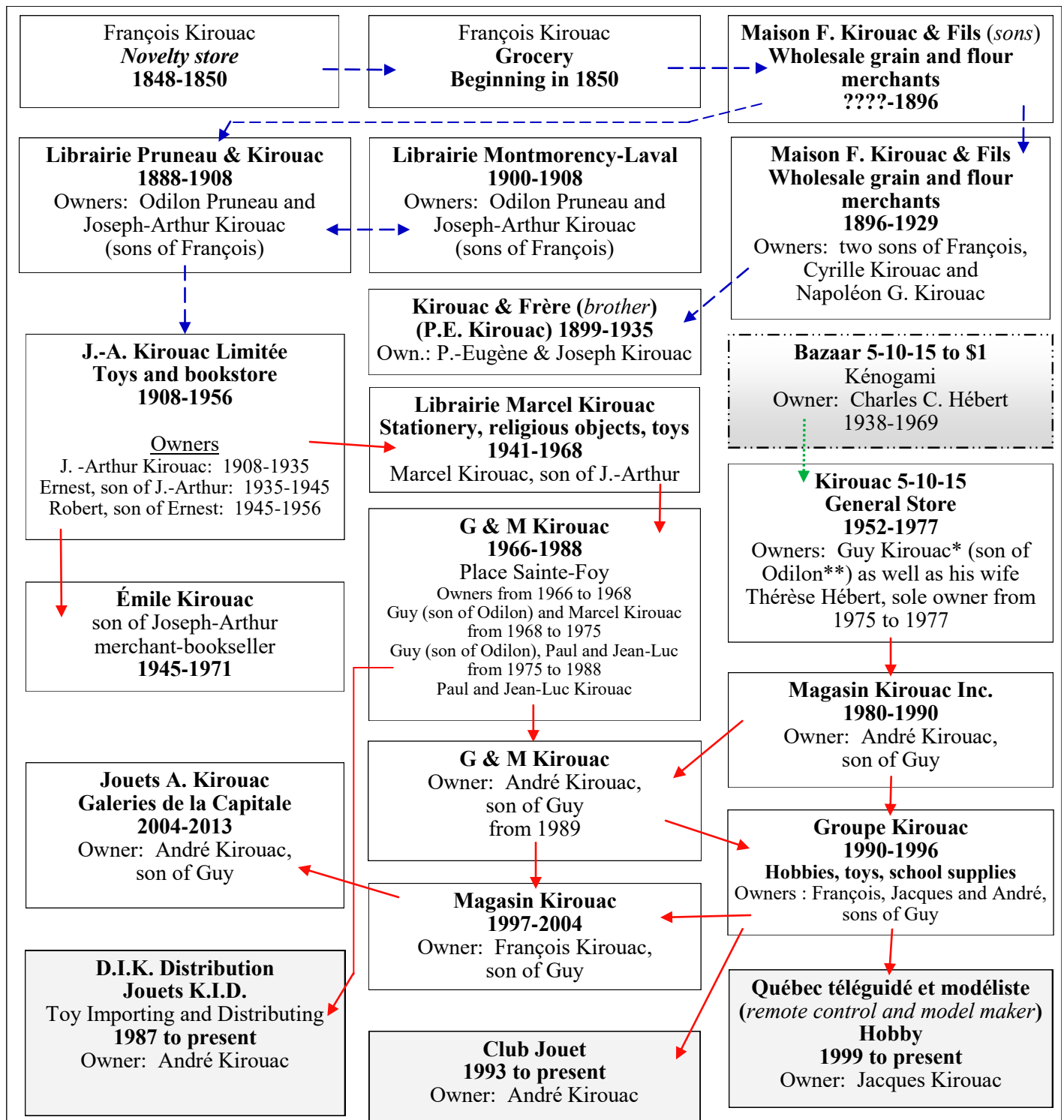


J.-Arthur Kirouac

The history of the Kirouac toy stores in Quebec City started with the opening of the first one called *Pruneau & Kirouac* in 1888 on the Côte de la Fabrique. Joseph-Arthur, one of Chevalier François' sons, started this family passion for the toy trade. André Kirouac, the present owner of *Club Jouet*, created twenty-five years ago, is the fourth generation of toy merchants in Quebec City; and, his son, Marc André, who seems very keen on carrying on this family tradition, is actively involved in the business.



KIROUACS, A 170-YEAR COMMERCIAL PRESENCE IN QUEBEC CITY



* From 1942 to 1970, Guy, son of Odilon and grandson of J.-Arthur, worked as a travelling salesman for his uncle Marcel who owned the **Librairie Marcel Kirouac** (bookshop).

** For a number of years, Odilon, Joseph-Arthur's son, worked in his father's business; later he worked with his brother, Marcel, who owned **Librairie Marcel Kirouac**.

---> = Descendants of François

---> = Descendants of Joseph-Arthur



After the winter fire in 1936, *J. A. Kirouac Limitée*, moved to a new location at the corner of Collin and Saint-Jean Streets. Twenty years later, on 12 May 1956, once more the store was destroyed by fire. (Photo: Quebec City Archives)

his own shop, he sold Canadian handicraft products, wooden sculptures and souvenirs, all articles being designed and handmade by local craftsmen.

During the nineteen-forties, while Robert started working at *J. A. Kirouac*, his uncles, Odilon and Marcel, were still involved in the business. A few years later, Odilon joined Marcel who, in 1941, had started his own enterprise under the name *Librairie Marcel Kirouac*, a bookstore, on the 5th Street in Limoilou (one of six Quebec City districts, including Old QC and city centre). The specialties were children's books, religious articles and toys, sold either retail or wholesale. The wholesale business grew so rapidly that the company became an important supplier to many stores across Quebec and Canada.

Around 1945, after producing and selling Javel Water (bleach) and soap, Émile, like his father before him, launched a card business, including funeral, anniversary and postcards. He hired a photographer, Laval Couët, to take photos of Quebec City. He also hired an assistant, Mr. Vermette. Émile was very proud of the cards he produced and sold. After Émile died in 1971, his assistant, Mr. Vermette, carried on.

In 1948, Marcel's sons, Claude²⁸ and Jean-Luc²⁹ immediately after graduating, started working with their father and greatly contributed to the success and expansion of the family business. In 1952, after completing his accounting training, Paul did the same; however, he was replacing his brother Claude, also an accountant, who had died the

previous January. Guy³⁰, Odilon's son, started working as a travelling salesman particularly in the Saguenay-Lake Saint-Jean region. This is how he met his future wife, Thérèse Hébert³¹ who was then working in her parents' general store, *Au Bazar 5-10-15 à \$1* in Kénogami, Upper-Saguenay, Québec.

In 1952, most likely influenced by his wife Thérèse, Guy started his own business, opening a retail store on the 3rd Avenue in Limoilou, under the name *Kirouac 5-10-15* and ran it like his father-in-law, Charles C. Hébert's general store. Thérèse was general manager of the store while

²⁸ Claude Kirouac (1925-1952)

²⁹ Jean-Luc Kirouac (1927-2016)

³⁰ Guy Kirouac (1925-1975)

³¹ Thérèse Hébert (1927-2014)



Kirouac toy store on the Third Avenue in Limoilou (near Quebec City) opened in 1952. (Photo: André Kirouac collection)

On 20 February 1971, a pyromaniac set fire to the store on Third Avenue in Limoilou causing \$100,000.00 in damages. The 33-year-old perpetrator was sentenced to 23 months in prison!

her husband still worked as a travelling salesman. The twenty-five-year-old Thérèse was up to the task, having completed a commercial course with a major in administration and English. She quickly learned to juggle work and family as the couple raised five children.

In 1966, Marcel still owned the *Librairie Marcel Kirouac* on 5th Street, and noticing that commercial centres were promising ventures, with his nephew Guy, he decided to start the specialty shop *G & M Kirouac* at Place Sainte-Foy, a large shopping mall in Sainte-Foy (Quebec).

"On the night of the famous parade during Quebec City's Winter Carnival in 1971, fire³² struck again. The Kirouac store located on the main shopping street in Limoilou, the 3rd Avenue, was a total loss as the fire destroyed the buildings where the store was located. In spite of this terrible setback, Guy rebuilt an even larger store." ... "The first three stores had burned



Photo: Quebec City Archives

down; however, according to family history, the Kirouac tradition had to live on so they always had to be resurrected."³³

When Guy died in 1975, Jean-Luc and Paul, Marcel's sons, who managed the store in Place Sainte-Foy, bought Guy's share and carried on until that store closed in 1988. Even after retirement, Jean-Luc was still very much interested in the family enterprise, so he kept closely in touch with Guy's son, André. So, until his death in 2016, he was always involved in the perennial longevity of the Kirouac commercial enterprise as a consultant, including facilitating access to many suppliers.

After her husband's passing, Thérèse Hébert-Kirouac found herself in charge of the *Kirouac 5-10-15*. Hence, as a wise manager and mother, she asked her third child, André a forester, to join her. "... André remembers a family council held at the time; his mother and uncles³⁴ decided to entrust him with the leadership of the family business. "It was not part of my plans, says André as in 1975, I was working in forestry for CIP³⁵, My mother made me come back to

³² Criminal fire started by a 33-year-old man, convicted to twenty-three months in prison.

³³ *Le Soleil*, op. Cit. The three fires were in 1936, 1956 and 1971.

³⁴ His uncles Jean-Luc and Roland Kirouac.

Quebec City and change my career."³⁶ This important move marks the beginning of the family line that would ensure the Kirouac business activity to this day.

In 1980, Thérèse, André and François, another son keen on the family business, opened a **Kirouac** store at the corner of Saint-Joseph and de la Couronne Streets while the **Kirouac 5-10-15** also became a **Kirouac** store. Right from the start, André got involved in various business related associations like the Limoilou Merchants, the Merchants of Saint-Roch Mall, the Limoilou Chamber of Commerce and others.

In 1986, André and François created Gestion Kirouac; however, two years later, André retired from that administrative firm because the idea then was to open a chain of toy stores. Up to ten stores were opened including in Place Laurier and Galeries de la Capitale in Sainte-Foy, Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce, Saint-Georges-de-Beauce, Thetford Mines (south-central Quebec), in La Pocatière

(Lower St-Lawrence), Lauzon (north of Lévis, across the river from Quebec City). Unfortunately, the chain was discontinued in 2004 due to low rate of return.

In 1987, André created D.I.K. distribution (later renamed Jouet K.I.D. = K.I.D. Toys), an importing and distributing company that became an exclusive Francophone toy importing enterprise providing the opportunity to buy in quantity at a lower price and, of course, sell at a cheaper price. Part of the floor space in the Limoilou Kirouac store was temporarily used as a warehouse.

This is how and where André met his future wife, when Danielle Dion, the daughter of the owner of *Hobby Dion*, came to pick up her order. They were married in 1989. Eventually André bought *Hobby Dion*.

In 1988, when the Kirouac store at Place Sainte-Foy shopping mall was closed, André bought *G & M Kirouac* from Jean-Luc and Paul; that transaction enabled the opening a Kirouac store at Place Laurier Mall. André and Jean-Luc remained close partners for many years.

In 1989, Thérèse asked her younger son, Jacques, then working in Northern Quebec, to come back to Quebec City to assist his brother André who was ill at the time.

In 1990, Jean-Luc's son, Richard Kirouac³⁶, suggested to create a financial society to ease the financing of the various subsidiaries and limit the financial burden for each one. Involved were André, François, Jacques, Thérèse, Roland and Jean-Luc. With time, the society included *K.I.D Toys (D.I.K.)*, *Magasin Kirouac*, *G&M K* and *Club Jouet*.

In 1992, the invasion of American big-box stores forced the creation on this side of the border of similar warehouse-type stores, even for toys, hence the creation of a 100% Quebec made toy warehouse store, in order to compete. Thus, on 29 October 1992, the very first warehouse store *Club Jouet*³⁸ opened its doors in Quebec City not only attracting the general public but also wholesale buyers³⁹ As André Kirouac, the present owner of *Club Jouet*⁴⁰ explains: "Our toys still demonstrate our cultural and linguistic identity. What we keep from the Club formula, is to offer the lowest price possible without the inconvenience of annual membership fees or membership card both limiting customers' access."

This new idea was first tested in Quebec City⁴¹ in 1992 and became permanent in 1993. Today, *Club Jouet* not only runs a store but an



Gilles Kirouac, the youngest store watchman on Fifth Street around 1948.

³⁵ *Canadian International Paper*

³⁶ *Le Soleil*, op. Cit.

³⁷ *Associate of Dallaire, Forest, Kirouac, CPA, accountants.*

³⁸ *On Bouvier Street. Second largest toy buyer in the province of Quebec (source: Chantal Melançon, personal, summer 2017).*

³⁹ *Retail clients of K.I.D. and general public at Club Jouet.*

⁴⁰ *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 119, winter 2015-2016, p. 11.

online business selling around the world. Online sales are fast growing, and it is, of course, the way to do business now and for the future.

In 1999, Jacques⁴² launched a store called *Québec téléguidé et modéliste* (Q.T.M.)⁴³ selling toys for adults, miniatures and “remote-controlled” models! Jacques says: “The difference between grown-up toys and kid's toys is the price.” He collaborated with the police and the Canadian army to create and produce various drones, i.e. remote-controlled engines, and organize their distribution.

In 2004, André opened a new shop in the Galeries de la Capitale Mall, called *Jouets A. Kirouac* and again puts the spotlight on the family name. But in 2013, after a difficult and negative lease negotiation, he put the key in the door. It was the last commercial enterprise bearing the name Kirouac. In spite of that setback, André still believes in the future.

If the closing of that Kirouac stores in Quebec City marked the end of an era, “the Kirouac family remains an important cog in the toy industry in North America. With its subsidiaries, 150 employees, the Kirouac Family Consortium is a very important player in manufacturing, importing and distributing toys to the French-speaking market.” So one could read in 2013 in Quebec City's largest daily, *Le Soleil*.⁴⁴

“For the Kirouac Consortium administrator, the Quebec region represents a unique market in North America, explaining: “Try to find another large metropolis where one can count on the irreducible business enterprise like *Club Jouet and Benjo*⁴⁵ - selling

high class, and high quality toys - capable of firmly standing up to the American giants? Only in Quebec can you find such a phenomenon. If you can offer prices and services as good as those of the big wheels, Quebec people will always be faithful.”⁴⁶

The Kirouacs also contribute to the success of people outside the Kirouac family. In 2013, André received a most touching testimony from one of his clients Michel Tremblay, owner of *Galerie du jouet* (toy gallery) in Alma (Lac-St-Jean East), who wrote: “Lina and I... are immensely grateful to the Kirouac family, particularly to Jean-Luc who made it possible for us to open our first store and later on Jouet KID (toy) for an association going beyond business.”

Looking back at the Kirouac business history and stories, André says he is very grateful for the work accomplished by his brother François and his wife Christiane Tanguay-Kirouac, who held various administrative posts for many years but are now retired.

“From Joseph-Arthur to André, four generations of Kirouacs followed in each other's footsteps within the family enterprise that never ceased growing.” ... “So André Kirouac, who is carrying on his great-grandfather's work, proudly says (in 1988) today: “Perhaps you, personally, have never yet bought at our Kirouac stores, but your father or your grandfather definitely have! Kirouac used to supply toys in the old days as it still does now to the whole Province of Quebec.”⁴⁷

And today, at Club Jouet we still believe in the future and look forward to it. At the modern warehouse that sprang up from the ground, André enjoys the support of a competent team led by Mrs. Paule Rancourt (General Manager, K.I.D. Toy inc. On LinkedIn). The fifth generation of Kirouacs involved in toys is now holding the fort. As André's son, Marc-André declares: “I used to work in Quebec's far north operating heavy machinery; but for the past three years I have been back home and at the helm of the family venture.”⁴⁸

As for Jacques, the manager of Q.T.M., the shop selling scale models and remote-controlled (drones) 'grown-up toys', is promoting the newest in that field and Q.T.M. is the reference in scale models, leisure activities and remote-controlled 'toys'. The business-minded Kirouacs are always and ever present in Quebec City!

Sources

- ◆ *L'Avis de Quartier*, local Quebec City newspaper, 23 October 1988, special issue produced for the SME (small & medium enterprise) week.
- ◆ Five Kirouac Generations Captivated by Toys, *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 119, winter 2015-2016.
- ◆ *Le journal de Québec*, (Quebec City daily) 12 April 2003.
- ◆ *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 103, Spring 2011.

⁴¹ Other seasonal trial-shops were opened outside Quebec City.

⁴² See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 68, June 2002, pp. 35-37.

⁴³ On Henri-Bourassa Boulevard, in Quebec City.

⁴⁴ *Le Soleil*, 30 July 2013, by Gilbert Leduc.

⁴⁵ Charest Boulevard, Quebec City. One can also add Québec Téléguidé & Modéliste!

⁴⁶ *Le Soleil*, 30 July 2013, by Gilbert Leduc.

⁴⁷ *L'Avis de Quartier*, special issue for the SMS business week, 23 October 1988

⁴⁸ *Le Soleil*, 5 January 2018, Yves Therrien.



Photo: André Kirouac family collection

The family of Guy and Thérèse (née Hébert) Kirouac: from left to right, standing at the back: Jean-Guy, one of the fifteen KFA founding members, his sister, Ginette, and François; sitting at the front: André, present owner of Club Jouet, an uncle, Roch Gaudreault, and his wife Yvonne Hébert, sister of Thérèse Hébert-Kirouac, and Jacques, owner of Québec Téléguidé et Modéliste (Quebec Remote-controlled Toy and model maker).



Photo : Marie Kirouac)

André Kirouac and his son, Marc-André, at Club Jouet, the day the Trésor des Kirouac editorial team visited the store in February 2018.

Proudly standing in front is Céline Kirouac, a long time KFA Board member and a cousin of André's father. She also contributed to the present article.

Jack Kerouac, King of the Beats...and Wandering Canadian by Éric Waddell



Photo : Janine Lebel

On 8 November 2017, Eric Waddell, responsible for the *Jack Kerouac Observatory* for the **Kirouac Family Association**, gave a talk about Jack Kerouac, the Franco-American author, to members of an association of older university alumni. The occasion was held at the Restaurant Maman Fournier located on Boulevard des Récollets in Trois-Rivières. Also present, from left to right, Pierre Kirouac (1941-2018), Jules Kirouac, Éric Waddell, François Kirouac, Jacques Kirouac, Louis Kirouac and Abbe Gaston Kirouac.

Subject of His Talk

For far too long Jack Kerouac has been considered by his biographers as well as his American and European aficionados as a typical American with a “special ethnic origin”. Likewise, snatches of culture and a different past were considered irrelevant at the time, in other words, of no pertinence to understanding the man and his work. In other words, all that Kerouac had written, said and done could be explained by his life here and now, and by his American upbringing; period and nothing else. And God knows that here in Quebec, we have always felt rather uncomfortable with this whitewashing identity discourse, however, without being able to articulate it. It took a number of

events here in Quebec during the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties, for the cauldron to finally explode, thence the hidden side of Jean-Louis Kirouac's identity eventually appeared to the whole world, that he was, at least partially, a wandering Canadian...

As in the famous ballad:
The Wandering Canadian:

*If you see my country,
my unfortunate country,
Go, tell my friends,
that I remember them.
Such promising days
are all but gone,
And my fatherland, alas,
I will never see again!*

In this talk I intend to explore the French-Canadian side of Jack Kerouac's persona, and show how important searching for his roots was as well as finding his true deep identity.

Eric Waddell - Short Biography

Director of the memorable *Jack Kerouac International Gathering* held in Quebec City in October 1987, Eric Waddell is a retired professor of Geography at Laval University in (Ste-Foy) Quebec City. The life and works of Jack Kerouac always fascinated him and are part of his lifelong reflection on the influence of Quebec civilization on the North-American continent. He wrote extensively on the subject, and always published in collaboration, including *D'un continent perdu à l'archipel retrouvé: Le Québec et l'Amérique française* [1983, 2007] (From a lost continent to a found archipelago: Quebec and French-speaking America). *Un homme grand: Jack Kerouac at the crossroads of many cultures/ Jack Kerouac à la confluence des cultures* [1990], *Amériques* [2000], *Vision et visages de la Franco-Amérique* [2001] and *Franco-Amérique* [2008, 2017]. (Vision and faces of the French-speaking America-2001).

Interview with Dr. Judes Poirier

Full Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry at McGill University in Montreal
and Senior Scientist at the Canadian Institute for Aging Research,
Cognitive and Alzheimer Diseases at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute

by Karyne and Roxanne Kirouac

K.K. : Karyne Kirouac
R.K. : Roxanne Kirouac

Introduction

Do you know someone suffering from cancer? Do you know someone suffering from an aging related disease, like Parkinson, Alzheimer, etc.? Most people reading this would say yes to the first question. Perhaps not necessarily so to the second question at this moment in time. However, given the aging population, it could be that in a very near future, it would be the case. In order to better understand aging diseases, and learn the latest on research and available resources, we had the privilege to interview Dr. Judes Poirier. Last August we met a very generous gentleman who spared neither his time nor his answers and, besides being passionate about his work, he is a master communicator in layman's language. So, enjoy reading!

K.K. & R.K. For our readers to know you, could you tell us about yourself. Where you were born and grew up; who your parents were; what they did in life; your siblings; what sports you enjoy; any leisure activities?

Dr. J.P. I was born in the eastern part of Montreal Island, close to the Olympic Stadium. My parents owned a house on Darling Street where we lived until I was about four. After that, we moved further east in Pointe-aux-Trembles where I lived until my teenage years. Then we moved to Le Gardeur, north-west of Montreal island where I completed my high school in a private school. During

college and university studies, I lived in Montreal, except for a few years when I had to move to the United States for a sub-specialty. Afterwards I came back to Canada.

My parents, Thérèse Kirouac and Roder Poirier, were married just after the WWII. My father worked at different jobs. During the war he drove firetrucks at the London airport. Once back home, he worked a few years at the Montreal Medico-Legal Institute. His job was to pick up bodies from crime scene. Later he was a truck driver and was most of his active life. My mother was at home looking after the family. I have an adopted brother, Nils, and an adopted sister, Sylvie.

During my free time, I play tennis and ski besides going to the movies and enjoy other cultural activities. I am also very keen on computers and writing; this inspired me to write books about science in layman's language as well as science fiction.

K.K. & R.K. What about your studies? Did you know from a very young age that you wanted to go into medicine? Was there a special event, or a person you met that made you decide to chose research into Alzheimer disease?

Dr. J.P. Growing up, my dream was to become an astronaut or perhaps a scientist like Einstein. I abandoned my first dream when I discovered that there was no space programme in Canada¹. But my interest in sciences never lessened and meeting one person in



Dr. Judes Poirier,
Son of Thérèse Kirouac (GFK 02345)
and Roder Poirier

particular led me into my chosen path.

At the university, I met a prominent Canadian researcher who was studying aging diseases, particularly Parkinson. Eventually he supervised my master and doctorate.

Our first meeting was very special because of what he said to me: *I know so little, but research is pleasant because it is my job, and my job is to find out because I know nothing. This man's hunger for knowledge was incredible, he wanted to know. I thought: Wow! This man's life-work is driven by his passion to learn because he knows nothing, as he says. His*

¹ The Canada Space Agency was created in March 1989.

Maternal Ancestry of Dr. Judes Poirier



influence on my life was tremendous because he made me understand that it is normal not to know everything. What a revelation when comparing that with the impression all other university professors had given me, i.e. considering their students as ignorant and imbecile.

During the summer I had the privilege to work with this researcher on scientific projects which helped me to understand demographic changes particular to the end of the twentieth century: the discovery of antibiotics and vaccination that greatly reduced major infections killing so many mothers and children as well as the changes in food habits during the seventies, eighties and nineties contributing to pushing the limits of life expectancy. This last discovery however, showed that the number of persons suffering from Parkinson had greatly increased and that patients were getting older and older. From that point on it was clear for me that aging and aging-related diseases would be the real problems in the twenty-first century. This is the reason why I chose this field of studies.

K.K. & R.K. How did your parents react when you told them about your choice of career?

Dr. J.P. Like all parents during the second half of the twentieth century, mine expected me to become a professional, a medical doctor, notary or lawyer. So they were rather taken aback when I told them that I had chosen biochemistry as my major for my bachelor degree. They had no idea what that implied. So I explained; although they did not fully understand all the ins and outs they were delighted and reassured to know that in the end I would get a PhD.

K.K. & R.K. Can you explain your work as a full professor and research scientist? Can you describe your day's work?

Dr. J.P. Before I held that position, from 1995 to 2012, I created two biotechnology enterprises whose mandate was to use discoveries made at McGill University and transform them into commercial products. The pharmaceutical industry was my main client to whom I supplied tools to help them advance their research. The first company started production in 1995 and was sold to a Boston company in 2000. The second company I created in 2004 and was sold in 2012 to the second largest pharmaceutical multinational in the world which now contributes to the development as well as the promotion of my discoveries. I am very proud of that, but it is also humbling to think that today, six of the ten biggest pharmaceutical companies in the world use technologies that I developed, technologies that are still patented and commercialized today and that give work to many people.

At the moment I am working at the *Douglas Mental Health University Institute* (Montreal) where I am responsible for the largest research programme on *Aging, Cognitive and Alzheimer Diseases* created seven years ago. It is the first of its kind in Canada.

My work schedule varies from one day to the next. As an example, here is what I did yesterday. My day started by a meeting with two PhD students, I suggested paths to help them carry out their research projects. Afterwards, I met with the Director of the Research Centre concerning upcoming administrative changes in which I will be playing a major role. I also attended a preparatory interview for Marina Orsini's TV programme in which I

will take part, it will be aired in September 2017². In the early afternoon, I gave an interview with the Montreal daily *Le Devoir* about a scientific breakthrough made at the Research Centre³. An hour later, I was at Radio-Canada (French CBC) to give a preparatory interview for the radio programme *Les années lumières* (light years) on the same subject⁴. At the end of the afternoon I corresponded with my Japanese colleagues. In the early evening, I discussed with an American colleague, an expert on a subject for which we need someone at the Institute, hoping to convince him to join the Douglas research team.

K.K. & R.K. Your main field is Alzheimer disease. Most people consider the loss of memory associated with aging a normal stage in growing older, and that attitude prevents its diagnosis therefore its treatment.

Could you explain the so called normal loss of memory versus the memory loss caused by Alzheimer?

Dr. J.P. First of all, let me say that it is not normal to lose one's memory when aging. This is an old myth going back to the 1950s, a myth kept up by family doctors

² The programme was aired on 20 September 2017 on Ici Radio-Canada, French speaking CBC.

³ In this study, subjects were submitted to smell tests. It enabled us to demonstrate that reaching a certain part of the brain was a precursor to the onset of Alzheimer disease, and this, way before the first symptoms appeared. This particular part of the brain is parallel to the memory area but located in front of it. To read the whole article, go on the newspaper's Website.

⁴ This TV programme was aired during the week of 13 August 2017.

who have to take on patients suffering from Alzheimer; it creates a proper Chinese puzzle for doctors because they also have to take on the spouse, partner, children, all the natural caregivers. For that reason, they push back testing patients showing signs and getting them diagnosed⁵.

Let me reassure you, and the Trésor readers, about memory: it is normal when getting older to find it more difficult to remember, for example, where one went the day before, the names of certain persons or where one parked one's car in a large parking lot and that one will suddenly remember a few minutes later. This phenomenon is explained by the loss of neuronal cells⁶ that reduces the speed of accessibility to stored information, hence also of fast execution. Nonetheless, the uncle who tells a joke at a Christmas party and starts retelling it ten minutes later (notwithstanding the influence of alcohol or other illicit substances may have on memory) is not normal as it shows that the person has some problems with their short-term memory. I also want to give another example: if a person visiting their grandmother finds a pair of trousers on the second shelf in the refrigerator, that person obviously has a memory problem; the person knows that trousers must be folded and placed on a shelf, but no longer knows which one.

One major difference between the normal person experiencing a memory loss and execution speed is that he/she is conscious of having a memory lapse but in the case of the person suffering from Alzheimer, he/she is not at all conscious of anything wrong. And it is never the person suffering from Alzheimer who consults a doctor because of memory loss, it



Photo: Dr. Judes Poirier collection

From left to right: Mathieu Leroux (Catherine Poirier's partner), Judes Poirier and his wife Francine de Coste, their daughter, Catherine Poirier; their son, Alexandre Poirier and his sweetheart, Rosemarie Francoeur.

is always the partner/caregiver who does so, as the patients are not aware of what is happening to them.

K.K. & R.K. Reading about Alzheimer, we discovered there are two forms of the disease: the familial form (genetically transmitted) and the common form. For our readers, could you please explain them and the difference?

Dr. J.P. The familial form hits younger people and is more aggressive. It represents 1% to 2% of all Alzheimer cases in the world and is caused by three (defective) genes. Researchers have discovered that if only one of these three defective genes is passed on by one of the parents, the person inheriting it will definitely develop the disease. We know what these genes do biologically and physiologically and where they are located. We believe that we know how to combat them, but we still have to explore this avenue. Little research so far has been done to create a remedy to stop this form of the disease because pharmaceutical companies consider that the needed investment would be far too great to treat only 1% to 2% of cases. In other words, the market is too small to be worth the investment.

⁵ This investigation evaluates the patient's spatial and verbal memories by showing them images, but also questioning the accompanying person about those subjects the patient is incapable of answering.

⁶ Starting at the age of thirty, a person loses about ten million neuronal cells per day. The brain compensates for this loss by creating alternative circuits.

However, the common form is not characterized by the transmission of a defective gene by one of the parents but through the “at risk” gene APO E₄⁷. In this case we are talking about a genetic risk. This form of Alzheimer represents 60% to 70% of all cases.

The combination of the transmission of the “at risk” gene and a person's lifestyle is called either anti-Alzheimer or pro-Alzheimer, and this is what will either activate or not the form of the disease⁸. In short, a person who receives the “at risk” gene APO E₄, but who has a very healthy lifestyle is (automatically) protected against Alzheimer.

On the other hand, a person who has inherited the “at risk” gene and who is already afflicted with one or more chronic illness like hypertension, diabetes, obesity, or uncontrolled dyslipidemia, increases their risk of developing Alzheimer. This is why it is so important to diagnose and treat these various illnesses.

In addition to that, the combination of many chronic illnesses helps bring the onset of Alzheimer by two to three years and each risk factor double and triple the risk of developing the disease.

In short, if you inherit the genetic risk, you double your chances of developing Alzheimer and if you inherit from both parents, then your chances are 93%. If we add to that uncontrolled hypertension, your risk is 200%. If you also suffer from hypercholesterolemia, your risk of developing Alzheimer is three times higher.

Chronic diseases have been present in North America and in Europe through the twentieth century and recently they started to appear in China because people have been adopting western food

habits. Diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity and hypertension are characteristic of the twenty-first century. Fortunately, since 1985-1990, better eating habits are strongly encouraged.

To conclude, I will add that the increase in life longevity is a significant factor that contributed to an increase in the number of persons developing Alzheimer.

Indeed in Quebec, if we go back a few decades, people died much younger, years before they would develop chronic diseases as well as Alzheimer particularly if they were predisposed or genetically at risk.

K.K. & R.K. As a means of protection, we read that adopting a Mediterranean diet can slow down the onset or the progression of Alzheimer⁹. Why and how?

Dr. J.P. It has been scientifically proven that adopting a Mediterranean diet does avert the onset of Alzheimer by a few years. We even noticed a slowing down of the progression of Alzheimer when patients adopt that diet. If that diet is combined with physical exercise, we also observe a postponement of the disease as well as a slowing down of the evolution curve of the disease.

K.K. & R.K. Should we believe that people who use memory exercise like *Neuro-Active* and *Lumosity* can actually slow down the onset of Alzheimer?

If so, by how much?

Dr. J.P. Scientists looked closely at these programmes. In order to understand, I will use the example about the clinical research done when drugs are created. Among the participants, half receive a placebo, that is a flour pill whereas the other half receive the real drug/pill.

The results show that because a person is regularly seen by professionals who are attentive to their well-being, that will elicit an improvement of memory in both groups. This positive effect lasts about three months, but after that period, the relative capacity of the memory will decline. It is only after these first three months that it is possible to determine how efficient the medication is, because that is when the placebo effects disappear. This is the reason why studies last between eighteen to twenty-four months.

In the case of memory exercises, the companies who develop these programmes test their products only over a three-month period. So, they maximize the results and profit from the placebo effect.

The main problem is that they over-interpret what they think they see. When we look at the programmes on mid- to long-term, we see that they have no impact whatsoever on the slowing down or the prevention of the disease. However, up to a point they improve people's social interaction as they become more intellectually active.

⁷ In short, APO E is the abbreviation of the gene Apolipoprotein E associated with the risk of developing heart diseases and other disorders related to cholesterol. APO E₄ is one of a list of twenty-five most important genes identified as risk factors in Alzheimer disease.

Judes POIRIER & Serge GAUTHIER. *La maladie d'Alzheimer. Le guide*, Montréal, Trécarré, 2011, p.114.

⁸ Anti-Alzheimer lifestyle means practising physical exercise, intellectual exercise and eating habits where salt, sugar and fats are reasonable. Pro-Alzheimer life-style means potato-couch habit, insufficient physical and intellectual activity and eating habits rich in sodium, sugar and fat.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 145.

K.K. & R.K. Researches show that two-thirds of Alzheimer patients are women¹⁰. Why?

Dr. J.P. Two-thirds represents women over 65 years. At 90, it is eight women for one man. Among hundred-year old, one in two is living with Alzheimer. More women develop the disease because women live longer than men.

K.K. & R.K. Many pharmaceutical companies like Genentech, Biogen and Eli Lilly carried out studies looking for a cure for Alzheimer. But they have yet to develop a miraculous one¹¹. According to what you know, in 2017 why is it that there is no effective treatment to prevent and cure this type of dementia?

Dr. J.P. There are many reasons. So far we understand very well the mechanic of the disease (genes, molecules, cascades). However, when considering the animal species, only humans can develop Alzheimer. Therefore, scientists cannot test new medications on a colony of mice as they do for cancer. They rely entirely on men to advance their research.

The only mean at their disposal is brains given to research. The Research Centre now has 2000 brains from deceased Alzheimer patients. It is essentially thanks to these gifts that it was possible to discover the gene responsible for the disease by comparing brains from people with the disease with others without: finding the molecules and genes that were altered by the disease.

Abnormal proteins are randomly deposited all over the brain of an Alzheimer patient; they look like tiny marbles. Six vaccines aiming at these marbles were developed

by a number of pharmaceutical companies at a cost of four billion dollars. The study included over-exploiting the molecules that are responsible for the development of the marbles in genetically modified mice. Even if the vaccines worked, that is destroyed the marbles, the problem was that they did not affect the Alzheimer disease because mice cannot develop the disease as mentioned before. Then the vaccines were tested on humans but they did not have the hope-for effect. Besides, two of those vaccines helped accelerate the development of the disease in tested patients.

There is one problem within pharmaceutical companies, they suffer from the sheep-syndrome: they copy/follow each other. So, when finding out that it worked, many pharmaceutical companies started developing the vaccines meant to destroy the marbles in genetically modified mice. As a result, when doing that they put aside other extremely interesting hypotheses including the one at the heart of our Research Centre's work which is to tackle the gene responsible for the disease. Over the last fifteen years, about thirty drugs have been developed to tackle the marbles but all proved useless.

K.K. & R.K. People who are suffering from depression, or who in the past went through bouts of depression, and/or anxiety and/or lived very stressful times, are these people more likely to develop Alzheimer?

Dr. J.P. Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as depression are known to continuously release stress hormones and over a long period of time. In people suffering from these mood disturbances and predisposed to Alzheimer, we have noted that the important release of stress hormones will

accelerate the onset of Alzheimer because it interferes with the brain's capacity to repair itself: the reduction is about 80%. Taking antidepressants and anxiolytics will reduce the symptoms of the disease.

K.K. & R.K. Can a cause to effect link be made between concussions and/or all other degenerative diseases and the development of Alzheimer?

Dr. J.P. In collaboration with colleagues at the Sacred-Heart Hospital in Montreal, concussion specialists in sport, I am carrying out a study with former hockey and football players, and with women, former soccer players in the inter-university leagues, who stopped playing twenty-five years ago, and who suffered at least two head concussions¹². Our study proved that 70% of these former athletes genetically predisposed now have memory problems, important cognitive problems in their fifties and sixties directly linked to those head concussions suffered in their twenties. If added to that the fact they also have the gene¹³ linked to Alzheimer, that I discovered over twenty years ago, they are highly likely to develop cognitive problems linked to Alzheimer as a result of their head concussions suffered years before.

¹⁰ Judes POIRIER. *Jeune et centenaire*, Montréal, Trécaré, 2017, p. 64.

¹¹ Dennis LIU. *Vaincre l'Alzheimer?*, États-Unis, Ici Explora, 2016, 60 min, coul. (26 novembre 2016).

¹² The subjects studied were extremely active while playing in inter-university league and, later on, kept practicing their sport but less intensely.

My colleagues and I have made numerous representations to address the problems and inform semi-professional and amateur sport organizations for children in order to inform them of this scourge, a serious reality, and of course to incite them to implement a protocol demanding that players who suffer concussions¹⁴ be taken out of the game for long period of time.

We are following very closely children involved in sports because we are greatly preoccupied by the effect of two heads butting together, something particularly frequent in soccer and then one or both players may lose consciousness, in short, that is a head concussion.

K.K. & R.K. In the book you co-authored with Dr. Serge Gauthier: *La maladie d'Alzheimer. Le guide* (A guide to Alzheimer Disease) you mention that the caregivers can reach out for home care services for example like from *Le Baluchon Alzheimer* in Belgium, but it seems that such services are very few in Canada and in France¹⁵. How could various governing bodies be made aware of the need to invest in the construction of homes and/or centres that could offer respite to caregivers, places that would be an alternative to CHSLD (Quebec long term care facilities) or private or semi-private facilities¹⁶?

Dr. J.P. Following the *carpe diem*¹⁷ concept, an idea recognized and established worldwide, now I can talk about the Maison Francesco Bellini (house) located in the Vimont area in Laval (northern suburb of Montreal) helping to maintain the autonomy of its eight "lodgers" especially by including them in meal preparation and also by allowing them to interact through social and community activities. In Quebec there are six or seven

such homes created thanks to private investments, gifts and donations from the business community. This approach has a positive effect as it slows the progression of the disease up to the moderate and severe stages. In Quebec, the organization *Le Baluchon Alzheimer* offers home care service for the caregivers in need of respite period. In Europe, a gated-village with a bakery, a convenience store, a laundry has been built.

When Mrs. Marguerite Blais was the Minister responsible for the elderly in the provincial government of Jean Charest between 2007 and 2012¹⁸, she greatly helped organizations dealing with Alzheimer patients by obtaining funds from the then Minister of Economic Development because no budget had been allocated to her department. Some of these funds went to the *Baluchon Alzheimer* as well as to the *Maison Carpe Diem* in Trois-Rivières. Needless to say that Mrs. Blais was a listener and understood the situation particularly well. Unfortunately, since she left, no more funds have been made available to help out these organizations.

K.K. & R.K. Is Quebec well equipped to take care of people suffering from Alzheimer?

Dr. J.P. Unfortunately, our health system is not adapted to take care of Alzheimer patients because it extols efficiency and does not consider prevention and quality of life: every intervention is timed and quantified. For example, in order to receive the home care service offered by the CLSC (free community health centre), doctors in charge of referral must indicate the number of hours needed to care for the patient. It is also important to underline that the professional caregivers (nurses,

auxiliary nurses, orderlies, etc.) must work according to a very high ratio which means accomplishing a specific number of tasks within a limited time frame. In short, our health system is a bureaucratic one and, as long as it will remain so, it will never be adapted to the patients (or their care-givers).

Added to this, the provincial government's habit of taking short term decisions thus forgetting economic and social impact in the mid- and long-term caused by their inaction. To give you an idea, the WHO (World Health Organization) demonstrated that in Canada, caregivers cost approximately \$36,000. Can. per year in direct and indirect costs¹⁹. As mentioned before, the amounts provided to help the caregivers

¹³ This is a gene regulating the capacity of the brain to repair itself. In short, if besides being unable to repair itself, we consider the fact that from the age thirty onward, the brain loses between 4% and 8% of its cells every ten years, the brain will age faster.

¹⁴ In October 2017, Marcel Metti, football coach at the Odyssey School in Moncton (New-Brunswick), stopped a game because he felt that too many players had been hit on the head while playing. Article available at: <http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1061423/match-football-titans-olympiens-commotion-cerebrale>

¹⁵ J. POIRIER and S. GAUTHIER, *op.cit.*, p. 197.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 194-195.

¹⁷ *Carpe Diem* is a Latin expression meaning: make the most of the present time. This idea was implemented in Trois-Rivières (Quebec) in 1997, enabling patients to live where caregivers ignore their illness. In short, they are not constantly reminded about their illness. Alzheimer is kept in the background.

¹⁸ Quebec National Assembly. *Marguerite Blais*. Québec.

and people suffering from Alzheimer are mostly supplied by the business world and freewill contributions. These contributions make it possible to operate homes and various organizations because the provincial government does not grant much money to finance this sector since the departure of Mrs. Marguerite Blais, former Minister responsible for the Elderly.

K.K. & R.K. On 18 June 2017, the parliamentary CAQ leader (provincial political party), François Bonnardel, whose mother has been suffering from Alzheimer for almost twenty years, mentioned that he wanted to reopen the debate about physician assisted dying in order to include the pre-request. This document could be filled by a person before being afflicted by a degenerative illness while the person is still allowed to do so²⁰. What do you think about this?

Dr. J.P. I am in favour, because there is no reason why people suffering from Alzheimer should not be allowed to benefit from physician assisted dying like cancer patient for example. I was interviewed about this by Ms. Isabelle Maréchal at 98.5 FM (radio). I believe that excluding these patients is discriminatory. All the more so given that we do not need to wait until we are at the end of our life to decide whether we want or not to take advantage of this right. I consider this identical to signing a document stipulating no resuscitation.

As a matter of fact, I discussed the matter with Mrs. Véronique Hivon, PQ member (present opposition party), the instigator of such a Bill²¹. During our conversation, she confirmed that cognitive illnesses had also been

debated but, because of the opposition of some MPs due to their religious convictions, it was not included in the final Bill project. She added that she preferred to adopt the project without the clause and eventually, to reopen the debate about cognitive illnesses in order to include them. Same for the terminally ill children. At least, she said, she managed to open the debate and go part of the way and she is proud of it.

K.K. & R.K. Where do you think research about Alzheimer will be in one hundred years?

Dr. J.P. I do hope that for the 25-34-year old generation, proper medication and other tools will be available to delay the onset of Alzheimer and that it will no longer be a public health concern. I am also convinced that members of that generation will die of other illnesses long before they are diagnosed with Alzheimer.

However, I cannot say whether Alzheimer can be cured.

On another matter, I fully analyzed the human genome for Alzheimer and I identified a new protective gene, so I was named discovery of the year in 2014. This study enabled me to discover a genetic variation that protect against Alzheimer those who have it from birth²². However, I am not certain yet to know all the subtlety of its functions. To obtain the results I used a number of people and divided them into two groups. In the first group, the participants had the at-risk Alzheimer gene (ApoE4) as well as the protective gene, but in the second group they had the at-risk gene without the protective gene. Given that it is impossible to study the brains of living participants, I used kidney cells found in their urine, cells that I regressed in time to turn them into embryonic cells²³.

Then I let them multiply and kept them at the Institute's laboratory. After a while, I took a group of neurons and fed them a mixture of virus and growth factors and analyzed how the molecular mechanisms transformed the neurons; I did this for each of the twenty-five at-risk genes associated with Alzheimer²⁴.

Eventually in a laboratory, we hope to study between 200,000 and 300,000 chemical compounds susceptible of being used as medications in order to identify one chemical compound that could modify the levels of the defective gene, it would block it, or would stimulate the protective gene.

K.K. & R.K. In an article published in September 2015 on Radio-Canada's website (French CBC) we learned that the Canadian age pyramid for the first time was inverted, Canadians aged 65 and over were in greater number than children aged fourteen and less²⁵. Given this, do you believe that our society has the resources to support an aging population?

¹⁹ Indirect cost refers to lost work days.

²⁰ BIRON, Martine. 6 p. m. News programme covering the greater Montreal, Quebec, Ici Radio-Canada, / 2017, 30 min. (18 June 2017)

²¹ Ms. Hivon is the official spokesperson for the (Quebec government) official opposition regarding the end of life care.

²² In the Canadian, American and European populations, persons possessing the protective gene will not develop Alzheimer, even if they also have the Alzheimer at-risk gene (ApoE4).

²³ Please note that this study could not have been done with the brains of dead persons because it would have been impossible to observe the molecular mechanisms.

²⁴ J. POIRIER and S. GAUTHIER, *op.cit.*, p. 114.

Dr. J.P. We are gradually losing control over our healthcare system because our governments did not take into account the increase in life expectancy and did nothing about it. As a result we have seen new aging related illnesses develop that the healthcare system is unable to absorb.

K.K. & R.K. Your extraordinary career has brought you numerous distinctions, like the Prix Beaubien from the Canadian Alzheimer Society, the National Order of Quebec in 2004, a doctorate *honoris causa* in medicine from the University of Montpellier (France) in 2009. The magazine *L'Actualité* named you Personality of the year in 1995²⁶. Of all these prestigious prizes and accolades which one are you most proud of?

Dr. J.P. I could not say; each prize is different in a way. I do my research but never thinking about winning a prize or hoping to garner an honour. Besides, I owe my nominations for various prized to many people with whom I work. I can humbly say that I look upon the honours bestowed on me as a gratitude for those working with me as well as the members of the research teams without whom my studies would never come to fruition. In short, I share the honours with them.

I cannot hide the fact that to be named the *Personnalité de la semaine* (Personality of the Week) by *La Presse* (Montreal's largest French daily) is an appreciated recognition. I was named Personality of the week because of research on the protective gene and the participants to this study came to congratulate me. At first, I was rather taken aback but, putting myself in their shoes, I gather that they must have understood that the research they took part in, was important given that it brought me a special prize.

On second thought, I can say that the prize that meant most to me is likely the prestigious **Life Time Achievement Award** that I received *ex-aequo* with an American researcher²⁷ in 1996; the prize was handed to me by the Japanese Health Minister in Osaka in Japan following my discovery of the main Alzheimer gene in 1993. This honour has a choice place in my heart because, four years before receiving it, I had presented in Japan the results of my research demonstrating the link between cholesterol and Alzheimer. At that time, a group of American researchers as well as two Canadian colleagues present at that conference did not believe in my results and thought that it was an odd way to approach the illness; however, some Japanese researchers came to see me and told me that they found my approach novel and original.

So I took the occasion to tell the Minister and the Mayor of Osaka who was present:

"I am particularly proud that my Japanese colleagues recognized before anybody else that the direction of my research was original and different. You understood the importance of what I was doing four years ago. And four years later, in Japan I am awarded the most prestigious prize in the field. I thank Japan and the Japanese scientists."

In my career this is the moment I felt most proud because I had the chance and the privilege to personally thank those who trusted me thus encouraged me to carry on my research on the existing link between cholesterol and the onset of Alzheimer.

K.K. & R.K. What would you like your students to remember from your teaching?

Dr. J.P. Simply this: if they are passionate and love what they do, they must carry on their studies in sciences, because there is still so much to discover.

Conclusion

As you can see, there are many causes to explain the development and appearance of aging diseases. There are genetic factors (gene APO E4, transmitted by a defective gene by one or both parents) on the other hand there are some acquired factors, like sedentary life style, concussions, chronic cardiovascular diseases.

Furthermore, there is little help for people suffering from a degenerative disease or their family, the government does not invest much in this. We hope that the remedy to prevent and stop the disease will be found within the next decades and that, in the mean time, the government will be proactive to support the caregivers by creating centers and homes to dispense needed services for the patients.

We wish all the very best to Dr. Poirier and his team in all their present and future researches.

And, may we add, crowned by a Nobel Prize!

²⁵ LA PRESSE CANADIENNE. Pour la première fois, le Canada compte plus d'ainés que d'enfants, 29 Sept. 2015. For the first time, Canada has more elders than children. Canadian Press report.

²⁶ J. POIRIER, *op.cit.*, p. 145-146

²⁷ The American researcher had studied the familial form of Alzheimer.

Interview with Dr. Judes Poirier

Mediagraphy

Books

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POIRIER, Judes, Serge GAUTHIER. *La maladie d'Alzheimer. Le guide*, Montréal, Trécarré, 2011, 224 p. in French only.

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Websites

High school football game ends after nine players suffer head injuries, 15 Oct. 2017, By Sarah Petz, CBCHYPERLINK "<http://www.cbc.ca/news/cbc-news-online-news-staff-list-1.1294364>" News - at da/new-brunswick/football-game-head-injuries-olympiens-titans (Page consulted 22 October 2017)

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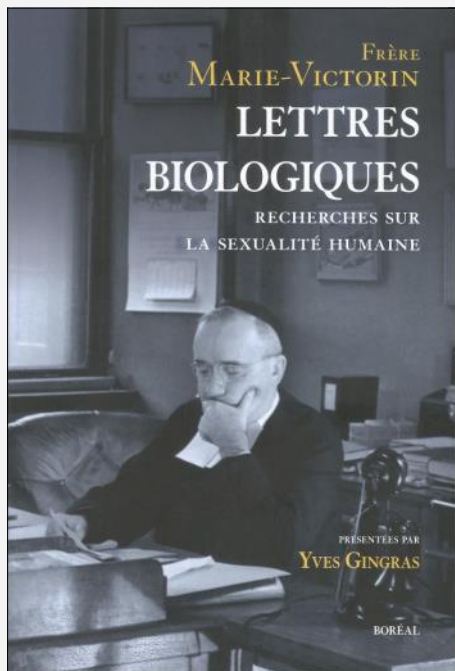
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ROUSSEAU, Marie-Lise. Sentir les signes avant-coureurs de l'Alzheimer (Recognizing the first signs of Alzheimer), *Le Devoir*, 12 Aug. 2017, on line in French only, <http://www.ledevoir.com/societe/science-et-technologie/505567/sante-sentir-les-signes-avant-coureurs-de-l-alzheimer> (Page consulted 12 August 2017)

Marie-Victorin, Always in the News

A New Book by Yves Gingras



Boréal Press just published Yves Gingras's latest book about the correspondence between Brother Marie-Victorin and his scientific assistant, Marcelle Gauvreau. But only Marie-Victorin's letters are quoted in this new book because Ms. Gauvreau's letters are still under embargo.

In 1990, *L'actualité*, a Quebec monthly magazine, published an article by Luc Chartrand¹, he mentioned the correspondence, but could not publish it because it was still under embargo. Once the embargo was lifted, Gingras, a sociologist and scientific historian, published what he considers an exceptional heritage documenting the history of sexuality in Quebec during the first part of the twentieth century.²

In the blurb on the back cover, the author writes that "Marie-Victorin's letters comprising his reflections and research on sexuality, constitute a complete study where Marie-Victorin is broaching a new field of studies in an era when the prevailing strict morality made it impossible to have any public discussion on the subject". In March 2018, when interviewed by *L'Actualité*, the author added that "the letters reveal a progressivism in the field of sexuality perfectly coherent with Marie-Victorin's reformist mind and social ideas."

¹ *Les amours secrètes du frère Marie-Victorin*, *L'actualité*, vol. 15, no. 3, March 1990, pp. 29-33.

² *L'Actualité*, March 2018, p.67.

Roxanne's Adventures in Prince Edward Island

Episode 2

Summerside, 17 December 2017
2:22 pm

Dear Readers of Le Trésor,

For this second installment, I have decided to talk about first-time experiences. For me this is a rather important topic because since the beginning of my odyssey in the Potato Kingdom, I regularly eat spuds. Right now, to start the present article, I am comfortably sitting on a sofa at *Samuel's Café* sipping a delicious cup of *London Fog*, tea of course.

Enjoy reading!

Friday, 22 September 2017
let's run for a good cause

The school was taking part in the annual *Terry Fox Run* for the eighteenth year. To help cancer research funding, students, parents, staff, administrators and teachers were all running in the streets of North Rustico for a person of their choice.

First I was asked to help with road circulation, then with handing out hot dogs at lunch time. In the afternoon, I was put in charge of a group of students doing various activities organized by *Junior High* leaders; these included, among others, obstacle race, capture-the-flag and games of skill.

Tuesday, 3 October 2017, evening dance

Still part of the *Terry Fox Run*, the *Junior High* leaders organized a dance for the students of grades 7, 8 and 9. All the money raised, tickets and food sale, went to the *Terry Fox Foundation*.

Once more I was asked to participate so I was a chaperone for the evening. During this annual dance evening it was fun to discover the unsuspected talents of many on the dance floor, which artists are now the teens' favourite. It was no surprise to find out that Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus and Ed Sheeran were very popular. Remembering my teenage years, nevertheless, I was rather pleased to hear again the main success of the Backstreet



Roxanne Kirouac in Prince Edward Island

Boys, Britney Spears and Bryan Adams! There were games, too, like Just Dance and Snowball Dance. During the first game the students had to imitate or try to imitate their idols' choreography. During the second game, they could choose their partners, but they had to change each time the caller shouted: "snowball". For those who did not want to dance they went to the gym to play soccer-baseball (called "kickball" in USA).

I enjoyed the evening very much particularly seeing that no one was excluded or left aside. There were activities for the youngest ones, the obese, and the most timid, all were respected and treated on the same footing as the most popular, the extroverted and the older ones. It reconciled me with this type of evening because what is depicted in teen films is very blah in comparison!

Sunday, 8 October 2017, Thanksgiving

For *Thanksgiving*, my landlords invited me to a scrumptious dinner. I really enjoyed the turkey, brown sauce, stuffing, turnips, carrots, squash, cranberries, potatoes, cheesecake and peanut butter tarts. My contribution to the meal was an apple

¹ <http://oldtowneorchard.ca/> (Page consulted on the Web on 30 September 2017)



Roxanne at Olde Towne Orchard in Millvale on Prince Edward Island (Photo: Roxanne Kirouac collection)

cobbler made with apples picked at the *Olde Towne Orchard* in Millvale¹. Here everybody knows this orchard, and if you come to PEI in autumn I highly recommend you visit it.

*Friday 20 October 2017,
Nova Scotia, Baby!*
(Sorry, Austin Powers
I could not help it!)

While the PEI teachers attended their annual convention at the Delta Hotel in Charlottetown, I decided to



Roxanne at Cole Harbour, where Sydney Crosby was born

take a road trip. No language monitor was free to accompany me, so I went alone. Driving the three-and-a-half hours to Nova Scotia on my own was a first for me. For company I had my Tim Horton coffee, my favourite music and my GPS.

Once there, I spent a day shopping at the new IKEA in Dartmouth² and the *Mic Mac Mall*. Being in Nova Scotia, I had to make a detour to visit the town where Sidney Crosby³ grew up. So I went to Cole Harbour and made sure to take a selfie in front of the famous poster. This is a family tradition: whenever we go to Nova Scotia, we must go to Cole Harbour and take a photo. And watch out if you forget! Before leaving Cole Harbour, as a true wine lover, I went to the NSLC (Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation) for a treat, I bought myself some delicious local wines, Gaspereau and Jost.

*Thursday
2 November 2017
Happy Birthday to me!*

For the first time ever, I celebrated my birthday without my family and my twin sister. What a strange feeling the whole day, it was as if I were missing half of myself. When

I woke up I looked at the greeting cards sent by my family and to keep a lasting souvenir of the day, I took many selfies using my apartment as the background. For dinner, I was invited at the *Swiss Chalet* restaurant with other Odyssey language monitors. The spare ribs were delicious. Then we spent the evening at the nearby *Baba's Jazz Club* because, yes, like Jack, I love jazz.

Back at my apartment, I helped myself to a piece of carrot cake baked the day before. And as tradition dictates, I sang *Happy Birthday* before blowing the candles on my cake.



² Opened for business in October 2017.

³ Since I was a child, I always cheered for the Pittsburgh Penguins. At the time, my favourite hockey player was Mario Lemieux, now it is Sidney Crosby. I'd better stop here, before boring you with too much hockey talk, besides it is not the purpose of this article.

*Friday 10 November,
Armistice Day**

Believe it or not but the Armistice celebration were a cultural shock for me! In Canadian English-speaking schools Remembrance Day is not just one minute of silence at 11:11 a.m. To mark this key historical date, the ceremony extended through the third and fourth periods and lasted ninety minutes during which the national anthem was sung; adding other songs, pledge of allegiance, videos, veterans' testimonies, photos of deceased military men and women related to members of the personnel or students. At the end of the ceremony everyone deposited their red poppy by the wreaths made by the students. (*editor's note: of course in Canada we celebrate Armistice Day on 11 Nov. but being a school celebration it had to be on a school day.).

I frankly found the atmosphere rather heavy and I felt quite out of sort. I felt out of place and excluded. Yes, excluded is how I felt. Army singers ended their performance with a song underlining their provincial contributions. But there was never a word about Quebec. I do know that French-speaking Canadians at the time fiercely opposed the conscription, nevertheless many men and women from Quebec took part in the war effort and paid the ultimate price.

Did English-speaking Canada forget that it was a majority of French-speaking Canadians who were in the front lines at Dieppe? Oh yes, I was angry and I am still angry. To top this, I was even more shocked when a teacher said to me: "You Quebecers, we never hear about you when talking about the war. What did you do?" - What an ignorant, ignoramus!

At supper, I discussed with a teacher who wanted to know what I thought of the ceremony. I took this opportunity to tell her my uncertain feelings about the army. During our conversation, I understood that when I bought a red poppy this year, I was actually thanking the veteran who sold it to me. It is true. Think about it. It is thanks to these men and women if, today, we live in the world we know.

*Wednesday 15, Thursday 16, and Friday 17
November, on the road to New Brunswick*

The three-day training session for the language monitors of Atlantic Canada were held in Fredericton, capital of New Brunswick. Atlantic Canada, often referred to as the Maritime, comprises four provinces: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. It was also a time to exchange ideas for activities and share our experience as language monitors. On Thursday evening, we went to *La Smokerie*, a restaurant where we enjoyed a *poutine*⁴. Afterwards we walked over the bridge joining Fredericton to Fredericton-North to visit St. Thomas University campus, then to a game centre (in the Atlantic Mall). On the way back to our hotel, Mother Nature changed mood and it rained, so we sang Mario Pelchat's popular tune *Cry in the rain (Pleurs dans la pluie)* and a wet walk turned into a happy souvenir, to this day, one of our top ten best moments in the Maritimes!

*Saturday, 9 December,
Celebrating Christmas with the language monitors!*

Before leaving the Island for the Christmas holidays, the Odyssey monitors and some friends, got together for a pot-luck meal. Each one prepared a lovely dish and it was a great occasion to assess our experience so far, discuss our future projects and share good wishes for the New Year. During the evening we also played parlour games and we discovered that one monitor had a great talent for drawing. She drew something about Christmas on everybody's cheek. I asked her for the Grinch, because my favourite Christmas movie is *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. A snowball fight ended the evening! Well, why not make the most of a sudden snowstorm.

⁴ Poutine, made with French-fries, curd cheese and BBQ or brown sauce.



From left to right, back row: Marcus, Maxime, me, Andrée-Ann, Amy; front row: Emma, Billie-Anne, Joe, Maïté, Mirabelle and Catherine.

*After three months away
from my homeland,
I am feeling blue...*

Of course when I start feeling blue, tastes and odours come back to my mind. Suddenly I miss cheese curds without salt. My mother's pudding chômeur (poor man's pudding), my father's aftershave, the cedars and begonias in our garden. I also miss some favourite occupations which are more important to me than I could ever have imagined: like visiting the Montreal Book Fair in mid-November every year, go for long walks in the mountains, install a large Christmas tree, go for a day-car-ride on Quebec roads. To this list, of course I need to add Darwin my cat, my parents, my twin sister Karine, and my friends.

But honestly it is a salutary kind of feeling. I do not feel homesick at all. I appreciate my solitude. It was a lot easier to adjust to solitude than I thought it would be. But I believe I will enjoy even more being reunited with family and friends at Christmas time and will savour every moment. The present moment especially. This is the first thing I learned about being a Maritimer.

I think I have one point in common with Jack: I like adventure and I need adventure in my life. It is part of my DNA. To take that away from me, or for me not to take advantage of it, would be tantamount to try to pry off the shell off a tortoise's back. However, my roots are in Quebec and I am proud of them! And my home port is indisputably Saint-Eustache (a town north of Montreal).

However, I do not miss...

Simply thinking about the following makes me cringe: you know the famous, or infamous, phrase: "Dodo, métro, boulot." e.g. sleep, travel (on the underground) work; the stress inherent to living in

Montreal, humidity, traffic, orange cones, potholes, my life as an educator, my former colleagues, the kindergarten where I worked, *Unité 9* (a popular dramatic TV series), cold, smog, and the one-track-mind sports commentators towards *Le Canadien*, the Montreal hockey team!

*After four months as a
language monitor,
let's say that*

Professionally speaking, to be a language monitor with the Odyssey programme is an enriching experience. It is the chance to improve my creativity more than I ever thought possible, to increase my communication skills, to learn to adapt more easily as well as discover new talents. Indeed, I have to work with grade 4 to 9 students and my contribution varies according to each group's needs.

For example, for grades 4, 5, and 6 students I coach reading periods, create games to help the students integrate vocabulary and grammar, encourage them to speak French and help them understand mathematical concepts during the math class⁵; on the other hand with grades 7, 8, and 9 students, I offer more complex activities linked to Quebec culture: debate on justice and fair trade, activities about the legend of the *Chasse-galerie* (The Wild Hunt Bewitched) by Honoré Beaugrand; story writing about hockey based on a painting by Michel Sauvé; reflections about the effects of urbanization using the song *La rue principale*, i.e., main street from *Colocs* a Quebec programme about apartment sharing, and Clue⁶.

I would be lying if I were to pretend that my work is always easy. It is not particularly easy to motivate students to learn to speak Molière's tongue when some do not see the point or the usefulness and have no interest to do so. Well to change their attitude, at the end of November I invented a game: My

idol speaks French! So I chose two categories of personalities. The first group included famous people with a French-speaking parent or who had studied at a French school or had been in French immersion at school, like Jonathan Toews, Emma Watson, Matt Murray and Justin Bieber; the second group comprised famous people who had to learn French either to play a part, or sing, either because they played junior hockey in Quebec, or had a French-speaking partner like Bryan Adams, Shakira, Sidney Crosby and Johnny Depp. During this activity, the students, hearing a voice⁷ and other indications, had to guess who was talking.

I got the idea while listening to excerpts from the Radio-Canada (French CBC) programme entitled *Podium* featuring Jonathan Toews⁸, captain of the Chicago Blackhawks. The hockey player was explaining, among other things, how challenging learning and speaking French is, after having grown up in a mostly English-speaking town and province.

In short, working surrounded by devoted and passionate teachers is most inspiring and such a chance to learn more about their roles and ways of transmitting knowledge in a dynamic, efficient and motivating way.

⁵ Here are some of the activities I offer the elementary grade students: to develop quick thinking: games based on popular French songs; recognizing words from a drawing; Go Fish card game, do a drawing on the Christmas theme; matching game (famous couples), treasure hunt, write a horror story, describe your perfect Christmas based on a popular French song and video by singer-songwriter Roch Voisine, etc.

⁶ I adapted this game to suit the school where I work: suspects, situations, locales, arms etc.

⁷ I pre-selected excerpts from French songs and interviews.

⁸ Toews grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His mother Andrée Gilbert is from Sainte-Marie in Beauce, Québec. Video at <http://ici.radio-canada.ca/sports/special/podium-hockey-lnh-jonathan-toews-blackhawks-chicago>

THANK YOU VERY MUCH KARYNE & ROXANNE!

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR
MONTREAL, OUTAOUAIS AND ABITIBI REGIONS

During winter 2015-2016, we were delighted to welcome in our KFA team two new members and representatives for the greater Montreal, Outaouais (Ottawa) and Abitibi region, Karyne Kirouac and her twin sister Roxanne.

Since then, the readers of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* have been able to appreciate the great quality of the articles they produced for our family bulletin. In the present issue number 126, you can enjoy two more new articles.

Of course, we could not forget the story of how they went to San Francisco following in Jack Kerouac's footsteps in **Le Trésor** #118, autumn 2015, pp. 27-31; as well as the richly documented news story about Audrey Kirouac-Ouimet, criminologist, in **Le Trésor** no.120, spring 2016, pp. 9-12; and Laurie Kirouac, sociologist and post-doctoral researcher in **Le Trésor** no.123, spring 2017, pp. 12-18; and finally the story of Louis Kirouac, musician, singer-songwriter from Rouyn-Noranda, Abitibi, in **Le Trésor** no. 124, summer 2017, pp. 7-12.

And how about following Roxanne's adventure in Prince Edward Island, starting in **Le Trésor** no.125, autumn 2017, pp. 32-37.

Many of you have shared most appreciative comments about their work during the mandate they very generously accepted to fulfill and that unfortunately for us ends with the present issue. However, not exactly 'ends' as we will hear again from Roxanne because her adventures in Prince Edward Island are not over yet.



Karyne and Roxanne Kirouac

Sadly, they are no longer KFA representatives and Karyne has also left her post as counsellor, post she took on at the last AGM in September 2017.

In my name and in the name of the KFA Board Members, I wish to express our deep gratitude for their wonderful contribution to the Kirouac history. Thanks to their research and writing we have met some most interesting K/ family members and their stories and histories are now for ever in our Kirouac Family Encyclopedia.

François Kirouac

P.S. May I express a last wish, if either of you ever finds time and feels like preparing other interviews, it would be such a pleasure to publish them in future *Trésors* for the benefit of our readers who have said that they were eager to read more from you.

THINKING ABOUT OUR ASSOCIATION'S FUTURE

This year, our Association is proud to celebrate its fortieth anniversary of foundation. These four decades of existence were made possible thanks to so many volunteers who generously gave time and energy to organize numerous activities that were really appreciated; and to all those who did some research, wrote articles for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, our family bulletin turning 35 years old this year! Much gratitude to all those who put their shoulder to the wheel. In the President's Word, it is mentioned that a number of people have left our team this year. We need some "new blood" to carry on the work now and to ensure the future. The KFA Board needs three more counsellors. The Board meets three times a year in Quebec City. Our archives are orphaned once again. The work is more than begun but it has to be carried on and on a regular basis. The large Montreal-Outaouais-Abitibi region is in need of a representative/correspondent. Perhaps you are thinking about doing something but do not dare? Why not? Give it a try, at least for a time . . . see if you like it . . . and, maybe, decide to carry on at your rhythm.

ON THE ROAD... IN THE MINGAN ARCHIPELAGO

*In the previous issue of **Le Trésor** we announced that movie-producer André Forcier is planning a new film about the Mingan Archipelago (National Park Reserve) in which Brother Marie-Victorin will appear! Or, should we say, re-appear.*

In a recent interview published in *Le Devoir* (Montreal French-speaking daily), 1 March 2018, André Forcier, winner of the *Prix André-Guérin* in 1990, gave some information about his new film entitled: *La beauté du monde* (the beauty of the world).

He said: “It is the story of a beekeeper who used to work for an international corporation, like Monsanto for example; he is on his way to redemption and produces divine honey. Enters Brother Marie-Victorin even if the story takes place today.” The famous actor, Roy Dupuis, is the beekeeper and Marie-Victorin will be played by Yves Jacques, also a well-known actor.

Bored stiff in heaven, Marie-Victorin comes back to earth bringing some cosmic seeds producing luminous flowers. The film is now at a critical point: funding. Having heard favourable comments about his project, André Forcier hopes more funds will be coming. Filming is scheduled for this summer.

André Forcier's project is just another proof that our “cousin” Conrad continues to tickle and / or fire popular imagination.

Nowadays, going on the road is strongly recommended as a method of apprenticeship. Ads for travels to exotic locations and novel experiences are common. You may also have noticed that over the last thirty-five years, *Le Trésor* has published many travel accounts by descendants of our Breton ancestor. Within the Kirouac clan, we have two iconic family figures; the notion of going **on the road** is usually linked to Jack Kerouac but what

about Conrad? He too went **on the road**.

You may be surprised to hear that Conrad Kirouac launched the idea a few decades before Jack Kerouac did?

Marie-Victorin was a man way ahead of his time in everything. Want one more proof? In 1931, in front of a large gathering he declared: **“I suggest that, for a whole month, we close all these boring boxes, called classes, that all teachers be sent on holiday, and that everybody signs up for the School on the Road!”**

So *On the Road* with Conrad, or Jack, leads to rich adventures in spite of the fact that their aims, lifestyles, and paths were diametrically opposed and, as a result, so is their heritage . . .

THE EDITOR

Biennial Reunion of the Kyrouacs of Illinois

This year the family reunion of the Illinois Kyrouacs will be on Saturday, 4 August 2018, at the Bradley Bourbonnais Sportsman's Club, 2672 Chippewa Drive in Bourbonnais.

For information, please contact Greg Kyrouac:

Telephone: (217) 476-3358
Email: gkyrouac@yahoo.com

ANNUAL PICNIC OF THE KIROUACS FROM MICHIGAN

This year the annual picnic of the Michigan Kirouacs will be on Saturday, 11 August 2018, at Avoca, near Detroit, starting at one p.m. Bring food and drinks, lawn chairs, games and . . . old photos.

For information, please contact Mrs. Leslie Downey Stern:

Telephone: (810) 300-6988
Email: lesliedowney85@yahoo.com

Thanghe-Curwick-Baert Reunion in Minnesota

This year the family reunion of the Thanghe-Curwick-Baert clan will be on Saturday, 14 July 2018, at Arneson Acres Park, Edina, Minnesota, from 10 am—4 pm. Bring photos, old and recent, to put together a fun family album.

For information, please contact Ms. Susan Waack:

Telephone: (952) 994-6377
Email: swaack@edinamn.gov

I READ FOR YOU

by Marie Lussier Timperley

LES CERCLES DES JEUNES NATURALISTES - PAGES D'HISTOIRE

History of The First 50 Years of Young Naturalists Circles

by Sister Marie-Jean-Eudes, s.s.a.

This book is a gold mine of information! Not only does it tell the story of the CJN, their birth and rapid development but their essential influence on the Quebec education system as a whole. At last natural sciences became popular and entered all classrooms from kindergarten to university during the twentieth century. The CJN grew very rapidly thanks to the dedicated support of hundreds of people passionate about natural sciences and following in the footsteps of Brother Marie-Victorin, who inspired and always supported them.

Between 1931 and 1981, over 300,000 youths and young adults, at various times, benefited from the rigorous and gratifying training provided by the CJN and learned about natural sciences: "The pioneers of this great endeavour ... wrote a glorious page in the history of education in Quebec that should be better known". The book is available¹.

The initiator

Brother Adrien, of the Holy Cross Congregation, was a most dedicated and tenacious man. Backed by Marie-Victorin, he went ahead with his project; thousands gladly accepted the challenge and natural sciences grew in popularity. The amount of work involved can never be appreciated fully and it was mostly done by volunteers from the many Quebec Catholic religious teaching orders, men and women; many lay teachers also got involved. On the following page you can read a short biography of Brother Adrien written by André St-Arnaud, the actual director of the CJN.

The author

Sister Marie Jean-Eudes, born Eugénie Tellier (1897-1978), a nun of the Congregation of Sainte-Anne, started studying botany with Marie-Victorin in 1925. She is acknowledged as one of the natural sciences pioneers in Quebec. For over thirty years she worked relentlessly at spreading scientific knowledge through the CJN movement. Over a thousand mounted specimens signed by her are kept in the

Marie-Victorin Herbarium at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. In 1943 she presented her thesis about the Rawdon flora (a village in the Laurentians, north of Montreal). She published numerous articles about biology, geology and botany besides writing the history of the CJN. She died before completing her book but it was finished by her colleagues and dedicated to *the founder and those who collaborated without salary for the love of nature and of children and young people*.

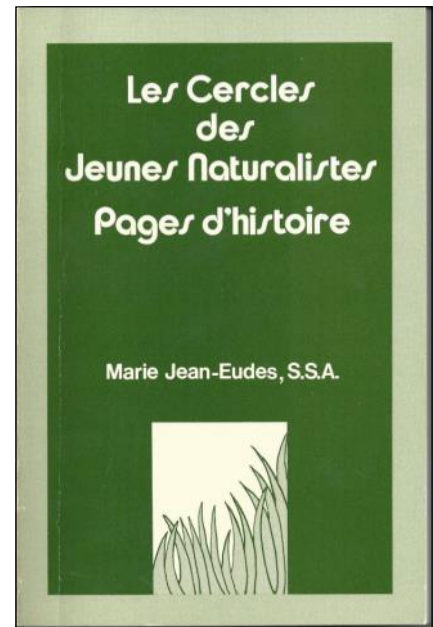
Streamlined History - Key dates

1903-1904: France massively expels Catholic congregations and they land in French-speaking catholic Quebec: Brothers of the Christian Education in La Prairie in 1903 and Brothers of the Christians Schools (De La Salle Congregation) in Montreal in 1904.

From 1903 - 1920: Brothers from many congregations are interested in our flora and fauna; forward-thinking lay people enthusiastically follow the scientific wave; the world of science is attractive and various scientific university departments contribute to a rapid evolution. Marie-Victorin is in the field and on the road collecting plants and publishing articles and studies in *Le Devoir* (Montreal's French-speaking intellectual daily) and in many other newspapers and specialized publications in Canada, the USA and Europe. He keeps constantly in touch with colleagues and specialists at home and abroad.

In 1920, Marie-Victorin creates the Department of Botany at the University of Montreal. In the book we see clearly how "the awakening to natural sciences among Quebec youth was made possible through the dedication of brothers and nuns members of many religious teaching congregations."

Between 1920 and 1931, are founded: the **Société Canadienne d'Histoire Naturelle** (SCHN); some botanical gardens in La Prairie (Montreal south-shore) (FIC); at Collège Notre-Dame, Montreal; at



Scholasticat École Normale (Holy Cross teachers training college); at the Juvénat de Laval (FEC's high school in Laval); as well as **L'École de la Route**. The story of the school on the road, by André St-Arnaud, follows on pp. 35-37.

In 1931, the Montreal Botanical Garden and the CJN are created. As this book was published in 1981 to celebrate fifty years of achievements, may we ask now: will someone write the history of the following four decades in time for the 90th anniversary of the CJN in 2021?

The **Marie-Jean-Eudes Ecological Reserve**, created in 1992, is located in the Mauricie National Park, north of Shawinigan Lake. The 832-hectare area includes a rich maple sugar grove. It covers 536 sq km (207 sq mi) in the southern Canadian Shield region bordering the Saint Lawrence lowlands. The park contains 150 lakes and many ponds. For more info, go on line: **Mauricie National Park**.

¹ The 1981 edition (French only) is available at the CJN office, \$10+S&H, by contacting jeunesnaturalistes@gmail.com – tel.: 514-252-3023; postal address: CJN, at Montreal Botanical Garden, 4101 Sherbrooke Street East, Montreal, QC - Canada - H1X 2B2

Brother Adrien Rivard, c.s.c. (1890-1969), Founder of Cercles des Jeunes Naturalistes, CJN, Young Naturalists Club

by André St-Arnaud

Joseph-Albert-Adrien Rivard was born in Sainte-Geneviève-de-Pierrefonds, a village at the west end of the island of Montreal, on 29 August 1890. He was the son of Joseph and Rose-de-Lima (née Richer) Rivard. At the age of twelve, he entered the private high school of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, in Côte-des-Neiges (one of the many villages on the island of Montreal at the time), where he studied until January 1906. Then he entered the Holy Cross novitiate in Sainte-Geneviève.

When he chose religious life, following tradition then, he adopted the name of brother Adrien. During his second year at the novitiate, while teaching the younger boys he studied a great deal on his own, particularly literature and sciences. He also learned Spanish and English by

himself and memorized many classical French plays. From 1905 to 1906, he was (now saint) Brother André's assistant, who was then doorman at Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur College, in Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal.

He started teaching in 1908. In 1923, he was posted at Beaudet School in Ville Saint-Laurent (Montreal) and taught there until 1931. In 1925, he created an Audubon Junior Club copied on the similar American initiative, to initiate teenagers to the world of birds. With his students, he prepared natural history exhibitions. During the first exhibition at Beaudet School, he gave a talk illustrated with magic lantern projections graciously supplied by Brother Marie-Victorin. He carried on many activities simultaneously, albeit sometimes with less success than hoped for, particularly when projects were not directly linked to natural sciences, like drama and theatre. He was a born enthusiast thence he kept forging ahead no matter what.

He dived into botany and went on field excursions with a first group of boys recruited among his best students. For him, it was a nice way to experiment because, for so many years, he had been thinking of organizing clubs similar to his Audubon Club however for boys interested in various different sciences. In 1925, Brother Marie-Victorin was the president of the SCHN, (Société canadienne d'histoire naturelle, i.e. Canadian Society of Natural History) and Brother Adrien its vice-president. He was rightly

proud of his scientific clubs at Beaudet School, but with the backing of the SCHN, he dreamed of encouraging the creation of similar clubs in most teaching institutions.

On 24 January 1931, he suggested to create in the whole Province (of Quebec), circles and clubs for boys and girls under the guidance of their teachers, with one clear aim that of studying natural sciences. On 27 February 1931, at the SCHN Board of Directors' meeting, a committee presented a report about the project and the SCHN finally approved it. To reach that point demanded a great deal of tenacity on his part and much persuasion to gain general consensus. That is when Brother Marie-Victorin said: "Brother Adrien, create your CJN clubs and the Society (SCHN) will help you!" Having received the Master's blessing, he knew that he could always count on his support.

Besides leading the CJN, the Young Naturalists Circles, as general director from 1931 to 1947, Brother Adrien was involved in numerous and varied activities, including landscaping, exhibition planning, field excursions, exploration, stamp collecting and photography. At the beginning of the Sixties due to failing health he had to abandon his professional activities. He died at Notre-Dame College* in Montreal on 12 December 1969.



Brother Adrien around 1933
(photo: CJN collection)

(* across the street from Saint-Joseph Oratory of Mount-Royal, founded by Saint Brother André; for a virtual visit, see website.)

The School On The Road, An Unusual Leisure

by André St-Arnaud*

It was indeed a novel idea, to say the least, and we owe it to Brother Marie-Victorin. On 22 November 1931, in the evening, at the end of an exhibition of works presented by young naturalists as eager as they were young and new at it, Marie-Victorin made one of his typical speeches perfect to rouse the interest of all present by proposing they enroll into the **School on the Road**. “I would like to show you what could be achieved by joining the **School on the Road**; and, in order to demonstrate this, I suggest to recruit a group of already trained and adequately educated young men, to organize a one-month trip through the Laurentian countryside from Montreal to Gaspé.”

He also added: **“I suggest that, for a whole month, we close all these boring boxes, called classes, that all teachers be sent on holiday, and that everybody signs up for the School on the Road!** The aim is to get in touch with nature again, to learn about our admirable country, its rich nature, to study its secrets, to redress our deformed perspectives, to soak up all the

beauty that God put into nature, the nature He made in his image and that we recklessly ruin trying to remake it in our own image, destroying it in the process.” These holiday classes would largely train new directors for the CJN.

Accompanying the students were twelve professors: Brother Marie-Victorin (1885-1944), Brother Rolland-Germain (1881-1972), Jules Brunel (1905-1986), Jacques Rousseau (1905-1970), Roger Gauthier (1906-1982), René Meilleur, Pierre Dansereau (1911-2011), Georges Préfontaine (1897-1986), Brother Alexandre Blouin (1892-1987), Miss Marcelle Gauvreau (1907-1968), Brother Jules and Brother Dominique (1904-1990). Enrolment was limited to sixty. (Most of these names are on the web).

Marie-Victorin, in spite of his poor health, was coping with a heavy teaching load and various scientific research projects, plus the responsibility of the Botanical Institute he had founded as well as the (Montreal) Botanical Garden. All this prevented him from

working out the whole programme for the School on the Road. Hence he limited his contribution to organizing the holiday courses including field excursions in the greater Montreal area. In 1936, Father Léo-Gilbert Morin, (Holy Cross Congregation) created a geology course for the School. With Marie-Victorin the excursionists explored the Saint-Lawrence plain, the Laurentian region and the Monteregian Hills (a chain of isolated hills south of Montreal).

In summer, the young professors, usually future CJN directors, went on excursions by bus or sometimes by car. They explored the Province of Quebec according to an itinerary planned by Brother Marie-Victorin. Usually accompanied by professors from the Botanical Institute during the field excursions. Eventually, the field trips were interrupted due to gas restrictions imposed by the war. Between 1947 and 1952, there were some popular biology classes organized by Father Ovila Fournier

* André St-Arnaud has been involved with the Young Naturalists Club since 1987 and is the current director of the CJN.



Professors and students of the School on the Road (1936) (CSC Archives)

(1899-1974), the director of the CJN in Grande-Rivière in the Gaspé Peninsula. Students had to reach the town by their own means, usually a bumpy train ride between the Matapédia Valley and the town of Gaspé. Arriving there exhausted, they still had to find room and board. Eventually the classes were cancelled because of major difficulties and lack of students.

In 1957, the happy initiative was reborn under a new form thanks to a valiant team of thirty-seven most enthusiastic people. The sky being the limit of this exceptional school without walls or roof, they started to explore again, this time travelling by bus proclaiming clearly on its side (as on photo) ÉCOLE DE LA ROUTE - SCHOOL ON THE ROAD - Montréal-Gaspé.

Along the road, Sister Marie-Jean-Eudes, the professor-guide used a mike to teach and showed specimens covering geology, fauna and flora of the Saint-Lawrence valley; one and all were thrilled by her teaching, explaining the history of the majestic river; the traces of the Sea of Champlain; the Logan Fault-Line; the differences between

the three geological areas seen on the way; the Appalachians in the distance; the high peaks of the Chics-Chocs (Gaspé Peninsula north) and more.

While on the road, stops were made to salute historical monuments and note the toponymy of the old Gaspesian parishes. The local population was of interest as well as the industries. They discovered the incredible variety of the fabulous natural resources: fertile land of the St. Lawrence valley, the immense forests; mines in the Gaspé peninsula; the rich maritime fisheries. They often stopped along the way which was an opportunity to meet the locals, gather specimens and take photos.

The School spent at least a whole day in the Gaspé Provincial Park. They also climbed one of the two highest peaks, Mount Albert or Mount Jacques-Cartier, to collect and bring back endemic plants that could only be found there and no where else; on a field trip that is always a dream come true. The journey covered the whole peninsula: northern part to start with and the Matapédia Valley on



Sister Marie-Jean-Eudes, SSA
circa 1956
(CJN Archives)

the way back. However pleasant and important the journey was, a main element and the primary goal was the course in marine biology in Grande-Rivière.

Therefore, the participants of the School on the Road always spent twelve days in Grande-Rivière. They were welcomed by Mr. Guy Émond, originally from Rimouski, director of the Fisheries Learning School, who, before the students arrived, had found accommodation for them all.

Dr. Alexandre Marcotte, director of the Marine Biology Station, taught Fishing Methods, and a team of specialists were there to teach: Jules Brunel, U. of M.: Phycology; Marcel Tiphane, U. of M., Geological Oceanography; Pierre Brunel, U. of M., Hydrography; Guy Lacroix, from the Biology Station: Planctonology and Biology; and Julien Bergeron from Cap-aux-Meules: Ichthyology

Marine excursions were part of the programme during those intensive learning days to gather algae and plankton for identification and classification purposes. A trawl was dragged along the seabeds to collect invertebrates particular to the area. The programme included other special excursions: the bird

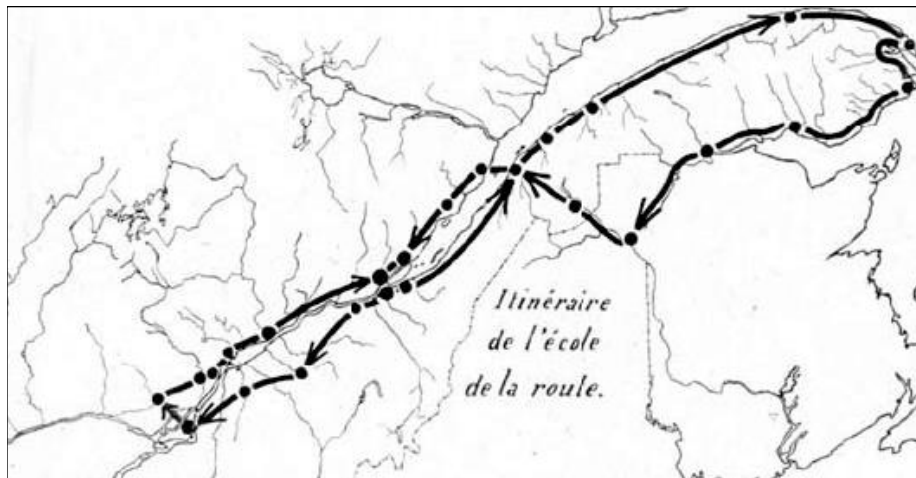


The bus of the School on the Road, around 1957 (CJN Archives)

sanctuary on Bonaventure Island, the flora of Mount Sainte-Anne or Mount Blanc, the peat-bog in Grande-Rivière. Guided tour of other centres of interest to the students: like the fishing cooperative in Gaspé (Coopérative des Pêcheurs unis de Gaspé), the Pisciculture (fish farming), the salmon and trout research station, and the trawler building centre .

Travelling with the School on the Road was quite different from a tourist journey following a guide book. It was a real school, including discipline, a well-planned and scrupulously followed programme and homework. The students experimented with the teaching method they would need later to train the young naturalists they would be responsible for. They looked, touched, felt, examined, dissected, smelled, tasted... Because all five senses help to discover and understand nature.

In a very friendly climate, the students put in ten hours of intense work per day and discovered new research method.



School on the Road, field trip itinerary. Source: University of Montreal Archives. (Photo: circa 1940-1944, E01185FP05251)

Louis Legendre, president of the CJN at Saint-Laurent College (Holy Cross-owned) took part in the School on the Road in 1962 and acknowledged that the courses greatly contributed to his scientific training as an oceanographer. "If one day you pass by Grande-Rivière, as you look at the ocean, and see the surf pounding the shore, think about the groups of students who spent weeks there to get in touch with nature, man's last

refuge, and the magnificent sign of man's union with his Creator."

The last session of the School on the Road was 5-24 July 1965, when twenty-two students, including the botanist, Gisèle Lamoureux, went on a field trip under the capable direction of Mr. Léo Desrochers. Father Gentil (Vincent) Turcotte (1927-2010), a Franciscan, was the chaplain on the last session.

Translation of the rallying song of the School on the Road in Grande-Rivière:

To the tune of "Sur la route de Berthier".

On the road to Gaspé, you simply keep going and if the bus driver is in a good mood you will reach Grande-Rivière because at Grande-Rivière life is good.

On the road to Gaspé; along a rocky coast, sometimes you will see monadnocks and lots of schist.

On the road to Gaspé, if you keep going, one day, you will find crinoidal limestone, trilobites, monolytes and calcite.

If you stop at Percé, you will collect fossils and agates worth as much as four dollars, I guarantee, you will find.

Going to Gaspé, many friends you will make, it is the reward of a return trip to Gaspé.

To the organizers, the friends and the driver we must sing our gratitude for this journey to Gaspé.

(note: Gaspé is the name of a town on the northern part of the Gaspé peninsula; however, it is usual to say only Gaspé, whether talking about the town or the peninsula.)

Sources

Archives of Cercles des Jeunes Naturalistes.

Archives of Université de Montréal.

Archives of the Franciscans in Montreal.

Archives of the Brothers of the Holy Cross

Le Frère Marie-Victorin et son temps, Robert Rumilly, FEC, 1949.

www.rstv.net/rstv_gr1/autres_institutions.htm

Celebrating Saint-Yves, the Patron Saint of Brittany in Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly, Quebec



This is the sixth Fest deiz (i.e. Day Festival) from noon to 5:30 p.m.
An evening Festival is called Fest Noz)

All singing and musical performances are free. The Olde Fort St. Andrew's Pipers, from Quebec City, part of the North American Fraser Highlanders will be 'piping' all day!

A lovely village in Lotbinière County, on the south shore of the Saint-Lawrence, twelve miles from the Quebec bridge.

1:15 p.m. The group "Brise Glace" interprets marine songs*

2:30 p.m. The group "Nous v'la**", Élise Guay and Nicolas Gerardin, plays dancing tunes from various regions of France. (**Here we are)

4:00 p.m. New this year, singing cocktail with the maritimes singers: «Brise Glace»

Food booths: fruits and vegetables, Breton crêpes =

If you feel like it, why not wear a breton/marine type top, with blue and white horizontal stripes, if you have one, or something else on the same theme!

*Brise-Glace, i.e. ice-breakers, is a singing quartet created in 2014 by two Bretons, one Picard (Picardie is an old French province) and one Quebecker. Together they cumulate 65 years of sea shanties experience. (Website: <http://briseglance.ca/>)

thins pancakes, kouign-amann, a delicious very sweet pastry, ciders, coffee, sticky buns, cheeses and many homegrown products from Lotbinière.

Annual exhibition of arts and crafts made by the women of Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly.

Maritime photo exhibition presented by the Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly Heritage Society.

New exhibitors and vendors offering local products (coffee, strawberries, raspberries and tomatoes, sandwiches made with local products, etc.)

Donald Elpheage Kirouac

**Donald Elpheage Kirouac, born 25 April 1927
at Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.**

At the age of 90, Donald wrote his life story for his only son, Guy. Having learned about the KFA through a distant cousin living in California, he reads *Le Trésor* regularly. Wanting to know his K/ ancestry to go with his story, he wrote to the president who then asked him if his text could be published in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*. Donald gladly accepted. Guy scanned his father's handwritten text and supplied lots of photos to illustrate it. We are very grateful to both of them. His manuscript was typed and translated by Marie Lussier Timperley and published in the French issue of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* (#126).

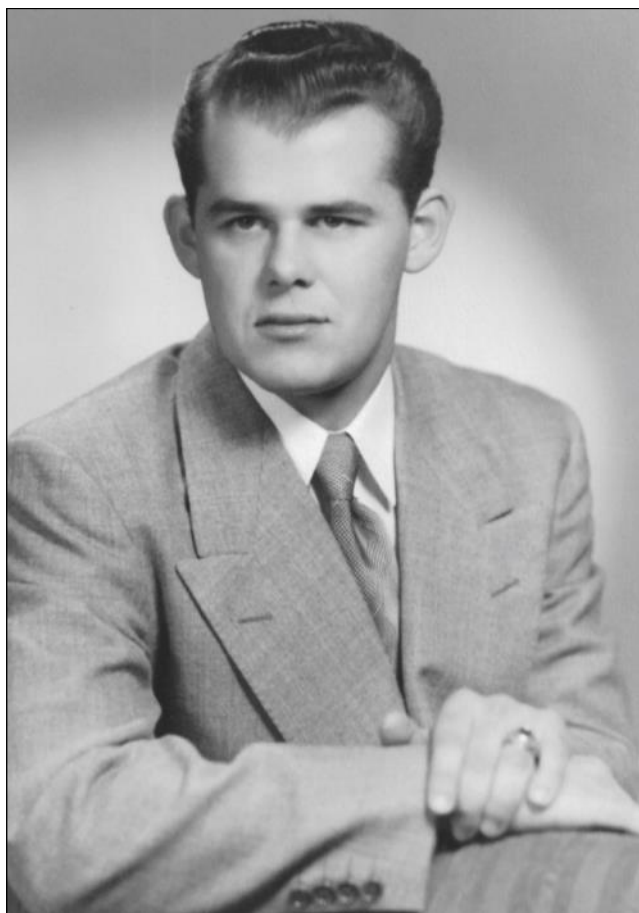
GROWING UP IN THE THIRTIES

My parents moved to Wellesley, Massachusetts, probably for about two years. We then moved to Assonet, Mass. We lived in a house that seemed like a farm house. I remember three barns attached to the house. After a period of time we moved down the hill and around the corner. It was small; small but we managed. There was no heat but it had a large fireplace. A hand pump was in the kitchen for water. It had to be primed all the time. There was also a well in the backyard. There was a two-car garage detached from the house. In the garage was a two "holer" we used for the bathroom (= WC). Kind of cold in the winter. On the right side of the house was a small field. On the other side was a gun shop. Across the street was an Inn. I remember that George Mycock with other people worked there. Back behind the Inn were trees. We would go back there to cut a tree for Christmas. There were no ornaments or presents. The depression was in full swing.

ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

I remember going across the street for picnic. June Everett was a girl I remember. One night we went on a scavenger hunt. Arrows were pinned to trees in a little forest at the end of the street. Several families took part. We were in Assonet for a couple of years or so. I went to a one-room school where the teacher taught two grades, one and two. A stove in the back heated the room. The bathrooms (WC = toilets = outhouses) were out back. One side for the girls, one side for the boys. A two "holer" for each side.

I remember going to Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island. The lady that took care of us there was Mrs.



Donald Elpheage Kirouac, eighteen-year-old
(photo: Guy Kirouac collection)

Hersey. There were many rooms in a large building. I later went to East Pembroke, Mass. There was a main building and we slept in bunk houses. I do not remember how many houses there were. I think my parents went to Detroit, Michigan, so my dad could get training with Burroughs. Prior to that my dad worked for the Shawmut Bank in Fall River, Mass. When my parents came home we all moved to 77 Rock Street in Fall River, Mass. A small apartment for a short period of time. While there, the ceiling fell on my brother and I while we were sleeping.

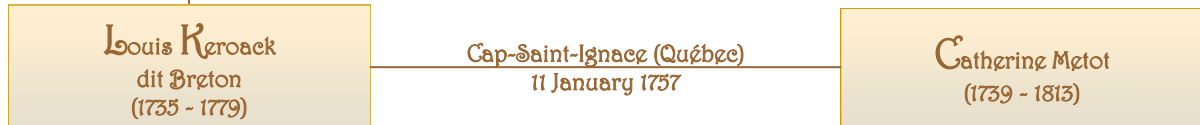
I remember nothing until we moved to West Hartford, Conn. The first house was at 39 Auburn Road. I entered fourth grade in the Morley School. My teacher was Mrs. Milkey. I cannot remember the name of my fifth grade teacher. On to the sixth grade and the sixth grade teacher taught me to read. Before that I could not do so.

Ancestry of Donald Kirouac

Generation 1



Generation 2



Generation 3



Generation 4



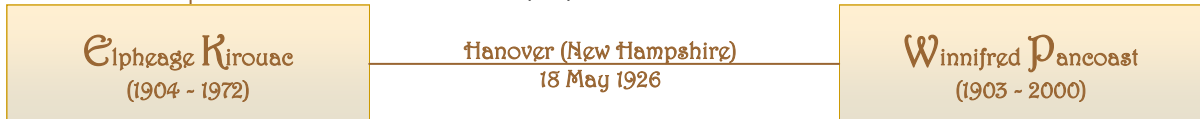
Generation 5



Generation 6



Generation 7



Generation 8





Elpheage Kirouac (1904-1972)
(Photo: Guy Kirouac collection)



Winnifred Pancoast (1903-2000)
(Photo: Guy Kirouac collection)

GRAVELY ILL

While still in Morley we moved to 115 North Main Street, still in West Hartford, Conn. One day my mother went out to do a little shopping in town. I was not feeling too good. When she came home a short time later I was very sick. She rushed me to Saint-Francis Hospital. My father was called in and it was then that both were told I had a strep throat and was going to die. There was no penicillin in those days. He got permission from my parents to give me sulphur. I became very sick. Despite that some of the sulphur must have stayed in and I was moved to the adult ward. I was there a month and besides other things that were done I remember I received seven needles in my side, one after the other to probably drain something. When I went home I had to stay in bed for a month. There was no tutoring at that time. I had a radio and listened to it a lot. The breakfast club and everyone had to march around the breakfast table. Many soaps. I remember saying "can a rich wealthy lord marry a common girl". I never knew what happened in that radio story.

LEARNING TO READ IN GRADE 6

Had to go back to school. It was at Morley the sixth grade teacher Mrs. Allen taught me to read. Just prior to leaving Morley School and now being able to read we moved again. This time it was to 115 North Main Street, still in West Hartford. I did mention that but I had a few things I wanted to tell you. My room was like a sun-room with about eight windows. It was cold in the winter. From the kitchen you could go to the side porch down a flight of stairs to the backyard where there was a cherry tree in the back and the cherries were good too. There was a shed there also. Did not really use it for much.

HANDICRAFT

In the cellar was a long table and I used to make airplanes out of strips of balsa wood, paper, a rubber band, wheels and propeller. A far-cry from today's models made of plastic and steel. My dad drove down hill in the driveway to get to the garage. We moved a few years later to 374 South Main Street. I finished Morley and went on to junior high school. This was Sedgwick High School in West Hartford (website). One half was Junior High and one half was elementary. The principal there was Mr. Graybeal*. I walked to the bus stop and rode to the school. Had to take the usual courses. Latin was included. Also took shop consisting of woodwork. (*there is still a Phyllis Graybeal in WH).

SPORTS

For a while I could not participate in physical education. This school had a full gym and possibly more, I do not remember. Morley did not. Finally I could participate in Gym and recess. On occasion I rode my bicycle to school. Had to go through town. What a pleasure to

get out and be active. I now had the chance to play soccer for the school team.

ETIQUETTE=GOOD MANNERS

I have to tell you that etiquette was the order of the day. Supper was at six p. m. Cloth napkins in napkin rings and reasonably dressed all occurred as my mother came out of the kitchen in a full length dress. This ended when I started dating and going out for the sports and working. I played football for the school at William Henry Hall High School there in West Hartford, CT.

SUMMER JOBS

During the summer I was a lifeguard at the Fern Street Pool. Took the Junior and senior life guard tests so I could work there when I was sixteen. All the men were in the war. Also worked in the Post Office. After getting bonded I started work. Had to set up the mail and walk from the center of town to my house.

In high school most of my work were not college courses. Once we entered High School we could not leave the grounds. After lunch we could go outside but not off the grounds. There were not much to the grounds and we had to play football at Sedgwick.

Besides working at the pool and the post office, I joined the State Guard in Hartford. I learned to field strip and put together a fifty mm machine gun blindfolded. We did a few other things also. Did a lot of marching learning the various orders while remaining in formation. That helped me to take all orders quickly and helped later in the Navy.

TEACHING CRIPPLED CHILDREN

I had the opportunity to work at the Newington home for crippled children. I am sure the name is changed if it is still there. (*History and photos of the abandoned Newington Home and Hospital for Crippled Children, in Newington, CT, also known as Newington Home for Incurable, on the web.) The job was to "teach swimming". Guess I did this on my days off at the pool. Anyway the kids crawled in, walked in, sort of, and one came in on a stretcher put on some kind of hoist. I really liked the work.

Back to the High School for a few minutes. Besides the crazy courses I took such as aeronautics, Morse code, and business math I had to take physical education five days a week for one and half hours a day. The program was changed drastically. A lot better shape for the war. I figured I would never go to College. I was not a college kid. I walked four miles to see May. We would go out getting a bus to Hartford. Sometimes I rode my bicycle. Much of that was done at night. It was safe in the forties. Oh, one night I went to practice in the church choir and sang Sunday. Had to walk Thursday night. It was safe to walk at night in those days. How nice!!

NAVY AT 18

In 1944 had to take test early and leave High School. After signing up for the Navy, I came back home. It was not long before I turned eighteen and a few days later I got my orders. I took a train from Hartford to Grand Central Station, as did some other kids. A Lieutenant met us and many others from the state. All of us took a train to Lake Seneca. A long trip so I slept on the floor. Once there we rode in a truck to the "camp". We got a

sandwich and took one bite, threw the rest out; I think all of us did. Next we got a box and were issued all the clothes (uniforms) we would need while in the Navy. We were now assigned a barracks and a bunk (bed). Had to change to "dress whites" put our street clothes in the box and label it for home. My mother threw them out.

FIRST BOOT CAMP

At camp we had a lot of physical training, much as you see in the war movies. Had to run the grinder (1¼ mile track) while there. This was done many times. My legs were large and I could not get them to move that fast. Always came in last, but I did the best I could and it was noted by those checking on us. We were there for ten weeks. Had to take classes also but many more different classes were to come. During the ten weeks the meals were not bad, except on Sunday, the mess cooks (kitchen helpers, people like me) would stand behind the steam table and we could take



Donald Elpheage Kirouac à dix-huit ans.
(Photo: Guy Kirouac collection)

what we wanted, and we had better want it because we could not throw out any food.

CREW CUT

They did shave all our heads to about one half inch. We were allowed no facial hair while in the service. I had to shave but I did not have to comb my hair. You should see what some of the kids did to save some hair. It made it worse. The barber did crazy things that were obvious. I will give one example. The kid gave the barber a fifty cent coin. He proceeded to put the coin on the top of his head and completely shaved his head bald except where the coin was. We had a few guys who were a little frisky. You were there to watch them run the grinder two or three times holding a rifle high in the air. Toward the end of the ten weeks we would not see many still running. Some learn and some do not but they will be picked up at our next training base.

TEN-DAY LEAVE

Now it was time to leave camp to go home for a ten-day leave. I threw my seaman bag in the truck and headed for the train. This time in dress whites. We were escorted to Grand-Central Station and the escorts put us on the correct train. I went to Hartford and got a but to West Hartford, 374 South Main Street. Do not remember much of what I did at home. Went out with Mary a few times, went roller-skating some, ate dinner at Mary's folks home and went out to dinner. Went out to dinner a few times. Went to a special place my father knew. So mother, dad and I went through the door of this particular restaurant and were happily greeted and were escorted to "his" table. The waiter was a Commander in the Navy, retired. I finally met a commander, a real nice man. That job gave him a chance to meet a lot of people. He was a waiter.

NEW TRAINING SESSION

Well, the navy finally caught up with me again. I got orders to go to Newport, Rhode Island. There I got further physical training, attended special classes. While there I learned many things. With a rifle I did not do bad but wanted to do better. The officer allowed me to do so with further supervision. Later I had to put on a gas mask and go through a quonset hut (a training building) filled with mustard gas. I had to take off the mask and go out. I did not practice that. Once was enough. A lieutenant was in there with his mask on. He was there for obvious reasons.

AUGUST 1945

After all that I got a few days leave so went home. While there the Americans dropped an A bomb on Nagasaki. This bomb gave the Japanese cause for thought. We dropped a bomb again. They gave in shortly after the Germans folded. Berlin was just about totally destroyed as were many other cities. There were concerns about what would happen then. I really do not know the answer.



Donald and his brother, Edmond around 1946.
(Photo: Guy Kirouac collection)

At this point I knew I was going to sea. I decided I would do my best at everything I did. Everything would be done to the best of my ability. I would do everything, say nothing. I would not say anything or volunteer for anything. Just do as I was told.

SEA BOUND - USS FARGO*

Received orders to report to the Philadelphia Navy Yard and board the USS FARGO. I and my sea bag with all the clothes I would need, walked up the gang plank, saluted the Lieutenant. Turned and saluted the ship flag. This occurred every time I came aboard. Once everyone was aboard, we left port and went out for a shakedown cruise. This was a new ship. We trained on a six-inch gun as well as forty-mm gun. No shots were fired at this time. (*Editor's note: USS FARGO (CL-106), named after the city of Fargo, North Dakota, was the lead ship of her class of light cruisers of the United States Navy, most of which were cancelled due to the end of World War II. Launched on 25 February 1945, built by New York Shipbuilding Corporation; Commissioned on 9 December 1945.)

STOP-OVER

We stopped at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. A little piece of land... Went walking there when I got liberty but could not do much. We also went to Trinidad for a couple of days. Was allowed to go swimming. What a marvelous experience. I did not go ashore. We were not there long, had to leave and go home once we docked. At that time the ship was checked over. Be sure bolts were tightened, no holes in the bow, and that the radar was straight. We were back on board with no further liberty for a while. More fuel was put aboard, ammunition was brought aboard along with all other necessary. I took the time to see where it all went. The next day or so the war was over. Both Japan and Germany surrendered. I did not have to fire at the enemy and they did not fire at me. A lot of good men, Americans and enemy were lost; died for what caused this.

THE WAR IS NOT OVER

A few countries were rattling sabers. So we set sail for a long period of time. No liberty unless you wanted to swim a thousand miles. If you did get caught for jumping ship you were put in the brig and guarded by Marines. We had a few Marines on board also. Everything became very strict now. On our travels, I did not leave the ship when we stopped at Trinidad for a very short time then left for Montego Bay (Jamaica) for a few days.

RIO DE JANEIRO

Then on to Rio de Janeiro. We all had liberty, I had a port-side liberty and the next days the starboard side of the ship had liberty. On the first day, I walked around the city

and enjoyed what I called a new modern place. Later on I went to the beach to go swimming in my skivvies (underwear). No one was on the beach so I enjoyed a nice long swim. I later came in to dry off and get dressed. It was hot so I dried rather quickly as did my skivvies.

My clothes were up against a wall. On this occasion I wore dress whites. Went for supper, and back on ship. The next day I had to stay on board. Spent a lot of time up on deck talking to other seamen to see what they did beside high school and where they came from. Interesting places, as well as interesting things done.

The next day was liberty, so I went to an area where a cogwheel took me up to Mount Corcovado to see the Statue of Christ the Redeemer with his arms out overlooking the city. What a marvelous view. We also went to Sugar Loaf Mountain by a small "cable car". Do not really remember much of this except for traveling both ways while there.

MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Back to the ship and off we went to Montevideo (capital of Uruguay) for a few days and good liberty, a large city. Had to be sure not to get lost. On the next day the city provided a marvelous steak dinner for us outside in a park. It was great and we had a real good time. The starboard side had their turn also.

GENERAL QUARTER*

All during this marvelous time we were preparing for general quarter. I was in a particular division aboard ship. When reveille sounded we all had to rise up, dress in dress whites, go on deck, stand in

formation and at attention while roll call was checking on us. We were all there on deck. Then we went to breakfast, we could choose what we wanted but we had to eat it all. We chose it. We put up the trays and some one was there to see that nothing was thrown out. Seaman like myself stood behind each food at the steam table and I never had to serve mess duty for any period of time. I was asked to bring down milk to the kitchen each day. They were heavy and tough to walk down the steps to the kitchen. They were the large milk pails you do not see except at an antique store. (*Editor's note: on a warship, general quarter is a call signaling that all hands must immediately go to battle stations)

When general quarter sounded, all our practice paid off. I had to stop what I was doing and go to the first gun turret on the port side of the ship, climb up to the first gun placement and be ready to work a six-inch gun. Live ammunition all through the drills. A bullet came up and was rammed into the chamber. Next came the magazine (powder, etc.) I had to take it and place it on to a rack to be rammed into the chamber. The Lieutenant behind us aimed and fired. This all went on quickly and I had to stay on the ball to receive the magazine. I was in the forward turret at the bow of the ship. It would swivel from side to side. There are two turrets up on the bow. General quarters again. This time I had to man a 40 mm gun. I would take a clip of ammunition that came up from below and slam it into the breach. There were four bullets in each clip. As soon as I took the ammo from below another was there. We took each clip as fast as we could. This time we fired at a drone pulled by an airplane. We never hit the plane.

There were two 40 mm guns on each mount, two of us seamen loaded the gun and two lieutenants fired. We did not have one general quarter and the other right after. There were many drills called for, day or night.

We had a commissary on board where we could buy cigarettes, toilet articles, etc. It was open a few hours every day. When we left Montevideo and finished the drills except one, we were heading for the Mediterranean. Our last GQ (general quarter) was to go to the six-inch gun assignment. We were in there for about four hours. We fired many times while there. Finally, the all clear was sounded and we were told to go to the mess hall.

IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

There was a great steak dinner waiting for us. A real nice treat. We are fed well in the Navy not necessarily steak but the food in the Navy was quite good aboard ship. Once we got to the Mediterranean, dolphins were at the bow of the ship to escort us beyond the Rock of Gibraltar well into the sea. We arrived at the hulk of an Italian battleship. The Italians were at war with us because they had joined Hitler's forces. So now we were at war with Italy and bombed some of the city along with the battleship.

UNEXPECTED RELEASE

I was called before the second-in-command. I had to go up to the bridge to find him. I'd never met him before but after a big salute he asked me to go to his quarters. A heck of a lot different from mine. It was quite nice. I was invited in and one other seaman by the name of Parks was already there. We were introduced and I was asked to sit. We talked a while about our assignments and I began to be concerned and could not imagine why he wanted us. He finally told us that we were going home because of our exemplary service to the Navy. After picking myself up off the floor (not really) I got up, told him how hard I worked and told him it was a pleasure to serve in the Navy (or something like that). He told me I could be dismissed. I stood at attention, saluted him, turned and walk out the door. My heart was pounding. Somehow Lieutenants were watching all of us and chose me. I guess I deserved it.

I was allowed a little liberty and that was when I bought a loaded Spanish pistol. I was concerned



Edmond (1928-1980) and Donald Kirouac, sons of Elpheage Kirouac and Winnifred Pancoast. (Photo: Guy Kirouac collection)

because my dress whites stood out and we were at war with them. I came back to the ship, packed up all my gear neatly and put it in my sea bag, closed it up and went up on deck. There I met with a Lieutenant who was also leaving and the other seaman. I saluted the Lieutenant at the gang plank, turned and saluted the ship's flag. After getting to the bottom of the gang plank I put down my sea bag and saluted the ship's flag again. The three of us were off. We went into town to board a train. The tracks had been repaired after the Air-force bombed them to prevent the possibility of troop movement. We were taken to a port on the North West portion of Italy. This was a non-stop trip as we passed the Vatican on the way.

SAILING HOME

Once we got to port we had a little time to walk around before boarding some form of tanker. We sailed across the Atlantic and landed in New York somewhere. I was escorted to Grand Central Station where the Lieutenant showed us where to go. I boarded a train for Hartford. Once there I went to the bus station to board a bus for



Elpheage Kirouac (1904-1972)
Donald Kirouac's father, Elpheage, during the sixties
(Photo : collection Guy Kirouac)



Edmond Kirouac (1905-1971)
Elpheage's brother
(Photo: Guy Kirouac collection)

West Hartford and my home at 374 South Main Street. Surprised my mother and all her dogs. She called my father and he came home. A nice reunion. Naturally we went to his favorite restaurant and I met everyone. Do not know much as to what I did.

VETERAN LOOKING FOR WORK

I went to the unemployment office to see if there was anything going on, I joined the fifty-two-twenty club which meant I could collect twenty dollars a week until I got a job. I applied to Springfield College in Springfield, Mass. Working at the pool and at the Newington Home inspired me to work with children; Elementary Physical Education would do the trick. Because of not so good grades in most of my high school, I was not too sure what was going to happen. Somehow I was chosen to attend college on trial. Summer school was the stipulation. The courses were five days a week along with cross-country, track, and other gym classes. No, I did not have to run twenty-three miles every day. Swimming was also on the docket. I had to go all summer but was given ten days for orientation prior to starting classes.

PHYS-ED TRAINING

Not all seventy seven of us who started completed the requirements. The first year moved right along. I had real trouble with a couple of courses but there were a couple A's sprinkling in there. I had to see the Dean. We discussed the first year as well as noticing a couple of high marks. He allowed me to continue, gave me a couple of clues on how to study. A big thank you and I left his office. The next three years were tough as nails for me. We had one week of further swimming and life saving techniques. Land games were in order too. What a nice week of relaxation for me before having to go back to hitting the books. During one summer I went to summer session so I could get a minor in Horticulture. What was I thinking after my first summer? Anyway I succeeded, had to finish up my fourth year and graduated. It happened.

ODD JOBS

Other summers I worked at the Fern Street Pool. I was a playground director at the site for one summer. Also directed a water ballet. This was ten-and-eleven-year old girls who participated. The queen on a raft was escorted down the pool by a six-year old. Once there the twelve girls that followed did a ballet under water and on top of the water. Other activities took place also while a large number of spectators on bleachers enjoyed the show. For a short time I was hired by a company as a carpenter and dug out half a cellar for a house.

MARRIAGE TO JOAN SPENCER

I married Joan Spencer (in June 1950) and went to Long Island to find a place to live and find the schools where I could work. Dwane Hawkins had called me to tell me I had the job. He was interviewing for the Board of Cooperative Services in the Second Supervisory District. For a few year, during the winter I worked for the Blue Point Post Office and drove an Ice Cream truck in the summer.

BIRTH OF ONLY SON

Guy was born in February 1959. When he came home, things got a little busy here in Blue Point. I continued driving the truck in the summer until I joined the Y.M.C.A. to teach at their summer camp. I taught swimming, rowing, canoeing, horse-back riding, and other sports. There were kids ages ten to thirteen or so. This went on for a few years. I had been teaching physical education at several different schools at the time. Schools were small. Long Island was just beginning to grow. Most of the schools were four room schools, all with no gym and not all with a playground. I had to scratch my brain and come up with a lot of ingenious ideas to provide some sort of physical activity for a couple of years.

One day I was asked by Dwayne Hawkins if I wanted to teach fourth grade in Blue Point (Long Island, New York) school. I did some physical education work there. This is one of the schools that had a nice gym and a good playground. After I finished my class I went to his office. We talked a bit and I decided I would like to teach grade four. After a year a blind boy* was now assigned to my class. He transferred from somewhere and moved to Blue Point and was a fourth grade student.

(*Billy Keller and his family became family friends for many years.).

ADOPTION

Joan and I decided to adopt a child from the social service department of Suffolk County. We visited with her at her office, then she visited our house as well as my place of business, then she left. We did not hear from her for quite a while. One day, we got a phone call asking us to come in to see a child. It was

a girl about six months old, Gail. We brought her home, things got busy again. Guy was now going to school at the Blue Point Elementary school. Sometime later I was asked to be a principal at a two story elementary school for Kindergarten through fifth. I had to teach also. A seven room school was being built down the road. It was finished well before the school year ended. Someone was hired and I heard he was having trouble. Later in the school year I went to see the president of the school board. He owned a small store. I introduced myself, handed him my resume, talked for a few minutes and left.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Later on I was called in before the school board. After the interview I left and waited to hear and was told I had the job. Seven classrooms, an auditorium, a couple of small rooms. No teaching this time. Went to my classrooms every day which was my policy. While working there more rooms were added, seven in all. One was an art room. We had nice assemblies. Many classrooms put on programs. I occasionally showed a fitting curriculum film. We had many good times for many years during those years.

We were growing and ten more rooms were added on. All this time the students could eat in the cafeteria-auditorium if they wished. Teachers' aids were hired for supervision. In the cafeteria and on the playground. The kitchen allowed students to buy lunch if they wish.

SUMMER HOLIDAY=CAMPING

While all this was going on, Joan, Guy, Gail and I were tent camping for part of the summer.



Evelyn Kirouac (1908-1978)
Elpheage's sister and Donald's aunt
(Photo: Guy Kirouac collection)

We packed up our tent and supplies and went off for Nova Scotia and other Canadian provinces. At Saint-John, New Brunswick, we went to Magnetic Hill and Reversing Falls. Camped in Caribou Park (part of Fundy National Park, NB). Off to Maine and Acadia National Park.

Took time off then to go to Lake George, NY. Had to take a boat to Arid Island (Lake George) to set up camp; while there we climbed a mountain.

Another time we went to the New York World Fair (1964). Also took time to camp at French Hills Creek State Park in Pennsylvania as well as at Thompson's Lake State Campground, New York. Went to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to the Amish Country. During those summers I still drove an ice cream truck and worked at a day camp in Blue Point.



One of many sailboats built by Donald
(Photo: Guy Kirouac collection)

EXIT JOAN

I asked Joan for a divorce. She is a fine Lady and we had a lot of good time together. Don't ask!

Guy played little league as well as played on an older age team that traveled a bit. Guy and I took a long trip one summer as opposed to working. We started from home drove through Pennsylvania to West Virginia and Kentucky to Tennessee camping all the way and occasionally eating lunch at a diner. In Nashville, we visited Ryman Auditorium, the old home of the Grand Ole Opry. On to Arkansas and Texas. Went to Six Flags, a major amusement park. Went to camp there and went through Amarillo on to Kansas and Nebraska of course camping. Moved on to South Dakota and saw the Four Presidents' heads carved on Mount Rushmore. We did stop at a large barn to see the barn and the different farm tools that were used. We continued up through Canada a bit and came back to Minnesota over the Mackinac Bridge into Michigan and on to Illinois. Visited the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois.

TRIP TO EUROPE

In 1968 the Board of Education allowed me to go to Europe with a group of four all expenses paid. I went to England, Switzerland, Germany and France. I found all these countries fascinating. While in Germany we crossed the Brandenburg gate into East Germany. While in those countries I had the chance to see a lot, visited many places and talked to many people. All except in East Germany. We had an escort. We stayed overnight in Hotels that were left standing and ate nicely even in East Germany.

ENTER JEAN

Jean came to work in the cafeteria at the school for a few years. I used to sit at a table with kids every so often. I saw her and visited her each day until she left for a job at the Mather Hospital in Port Jefferson on the North Shore. Several years later I called Jean to ask if I could see her. I went to see her in a condominium she lived in with her daughters, Deanne and Christine. I saw Jean a few times and went out with her. I fell in love with her and married her in Bayport, NY in 1981. We moved to Blue Point. I retired in 1986. I did not do much for a while. My life had completely changed. Made up a lot of puzzles and worked around the yard. Went up to see Guy and Laurie get married. Went up to see Guy a couple of times in Colorado. Another time we took a trailer with some furniture and whatever. Stayed for a couple of days. Went to Estes Park in the mountains and stayed in a log cabin and had quite a different type of meal. We flew home.

Once we all went camping with Jean's brother, Tom and his wife Ginnie. Again after a few days we came home. It was not long we flew to Florida, rented a car to Sanibel Island and Captiva Island. We stayed a few days, walked the beach and watched pelicans dive into the water along with resting, eating and sleeping.

Oh, by the way, when I retired the staff held a party for me and presented me with two tickets to Bermuda with room and board. I rented a motor scooter and traveled the Island. We lived in a hotel for a week. After flying home Jean had to go back to work, the girls were in the Bayport Junior High and Senior High.

DOWLING COLLEGE

Soon after that I received a letter from Dowling College (Long Island, NY) asking me to come in for an assignment as a supervisor of student-teachers. I would see which students and what schools in the area I would go to and observe the young teachers. At the same time Christine and Deanne went to Suffolk County Community College. Upon graduation, Christine got a job at Mather Hospital and Deanne worked as a dental assistant. I worked at Dowling for several years doing something I really liked. It involved traveling to a different school each day helping Dowling students learn how to teach.

Gail went to school in Connecticut then moved to Stony Brook University. She joined the Navy and was later discharged honorably. She later married Jose and eventually moved to Florida. She eventually got a divorce and married Matthew Church, bought a house. He fixed it up for her and they are still living there.

After retiring from Dowling, I went on vacation to the Santa Claus Village upstate New York. Not much there, we stayed overnight and came home. We went to Salem, Mass. And visited Tony and Chris Patten at their house. They invited other members of the family and invited us for dinner. The house was built in the late 1800's and one or two rooms were moved around. Nice big piece of property. Later on we went past Dannemora (NY) prison and on to visit Guy. He and Laurie were staying for a while at Laurie's grandmother's place. We slept there; and came home through Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

We had the opportunity to travel to many interesting places. When we were not traveling we did many things here on Long Island. There were many street fairs festivals and a couple of small shows at the street festivals. On occasion we went to music festivals also. Sayville and Benner's Farm are examples of music festivals. In between the trips that are to come up I had to keep the yard in order also I spent time in the cellar making many things. Made a couple of small wheelbarrows, windmills and lighthouses as well as many whirligigs. Storms, hurricanes, etc. have taken most of them. One thing was to build little wooden Christmas ornaments about a dozen of each for the family. Made about twelve different ones.

MORE TRAVELS

We traveled to the Amish area in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Had the opportunity to sit at long tables as they served us bowls of food so we could serve ourselves. Took a long ride in an Amish buggy as we learned more about their life. We did not go into any of their houses. Visited a couple of places where they worked.

We went to Ogunquit, Maine, and stayed in a (guest) house. Both of us walked a path along the water and ended up in the small town of Perkins Cove*. Did this a couple of times. It is interesting. People would pile one rock on top of another. The largest one on the bottom, etc., until the top one was so small another could not be placed on it. Some got as high as seven feet (two meters) or so and the others could be of any height. There were many of them on the beach. Another long trip was to

Western Virginia to an amusement park. On to Williamsburg, Virginia, and up to see the tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the soldiers guarding it. My cousin was one of the soldiers but not at the time we were there. Hershey, Pennsylvania was fun. Besides eating we spent time watching them make various kinds of candy. All the streets were made to look like Hershey Kisses. (*The Marginal Way runs along the sea between Ogunquit and Perkins Cove)

Jean and I went to the Danbury Fair in Connecticut a few times. Many vendors, many chickens, hens, etc. There was a parade of horses, pulling wagons. A pig race was a popular event. Donkeys had to pull weights on a skid. The weights were quite heavy and naturally there was a winner.

Ben & Jerry's was nice because we could eat ice cream and watch them make it. There was a graveyard there showing the several flavors that did not do well and they took them off the market. A colonial village in Connecticut was interesting after which we visited some small towns in Connecticut. Jean's sister and her husband were with us on this trip. Yankee Candle had a variety of candles put into special jars and other items as well as make candles. They did a nice job. I was able to make candles the old fashion way.

Later on we ventured to Corning, New York, to a glass blowing factory. They did it in the old fashion way by blowing into a tube and shaped the item over a real



Glenn Donald Kirouac,
Guy's only son and Donald's grandson

flame. Vases to horse figurines were made. It would be interesting to see the modern way to make glass.

For some reason I visited Guy, Laurie and Glenn alone. He picked me up and we went to Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. No one was there so we walked around. Noted the homes were very small. A family stayed in one. Body heat helped to keep them warm in the winter. They had plenty of food and water to drink. As I remember they built their own reservoir for water. Not too shabby.

We went to Durango, Colorado, a small town. As we went down the street there were mountains at the end of the street. On that street was the local radio station. We spent the night at a motel. The next morning after breakfast we went towards home. Laurie, Guy and Glenn packed it in and was on the road again. After we all got home I stayed a day or two and took a flight to Long Island and home.

MAKING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Probably did some latch hook craft, used felt to make Mr. and Mrs. Claus and each Christmas put up an extensive Christmas town on the mantle that finally reached to the hearth. I bought **Department 56** miniature collectible houses ranging from candy cane house, Santa's house, people living in a house to a railroad station with a train and many more stores of one kind or another. Santa flew with his reindeers to the houses. In 1952, I had purchased 25 pieces for \$1.00. That was my first Christmas scene along with many different types of trees. Jean and I purchased Christmas Carolers: they were mother, father, son and daughter, street sweeper, kids sliding, snowman, a couple of dogs and a man making chestnuts. Cannot forget grandmother and grandfather. They were all poised as if singing Christmas carols. I made a wooden barn to put Jesus in and other members in or near the barn because they were figures that belonged to my mother. We had a very large fireplace with a cut out space in it for warming bread. I decorated that space with the barn and figures. They are very old. Years later we gave them to Deanne knowing it would be taken care of it all. I have since given my entire scene to Joseph and Branden, my grandsons.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

During this time I was taking care of my mother, trying to keep up the yard. Guy cared for the yard also. She lived next door to the High School. Now I began to have problems. It was not long after my mother died. (Winifred Pancoast Kirouac, (1908-2000)). I complained of a major stomach ache and I was rushed to the hospital. It was determined that I had an aneurysm on the aorta. I was frightened because years earlier my father had the same only they could not save him. The doctor told me that after many years the entire procedure was changed and that I would live. Once I recovered I had to go to rehabilitation for a couple of weeks before going home. Once home I got health care from a nurse and physical therapist for about three weeks.

GUY AND PRISCILLA

The next part of this story is extremely important. This was a marriage between my wonderful son, Guy, and a marvelous young lady, Priscilla. The two worked in the same school for a few years. Not being there I am sure I knew what took place. Both Priscilla and Guy boarded a ski lift to the top of the mountain. After friends gathered together the ceremony took place. Glenn, Guy's son, officiated at the wedding. Shortly after, a small party was held at the top of this mountain. Once over, the bride, groom, and friends skied to the bottom of the mountain either to their home or to the lodge to have a party.

In the past, Christine took me to the Country Shows in Patchogue village on Long Island. Went to the amphitheater at Bald Hill with Mike, Deanne and Branden, to see a country show. Just recently Jean, Branden and I went to the Gateway Theater to see Million Dollar Musical. Branden still comes many times to the library to do things and will continue to do so. Last time he and I went to the Bayport Flower shop (website) to make a large Christmas green pot with ribbons, colored sticks, etc....

During my stays in the hospital the nurses and aids have been very nice to me. The same is true in the rehabilitation center. Once I had to go to physical and occupational therapy all the therapists assigned to me were most pleasant and caring. My home health people were concerned and caring also.

As I wrote this, my sentence and punctuation is not good. I had trouble with my spelling as well. I still hope you can read and

understand what is being said. Sorry for the cross-outs. I guess distraction caught up with me.

I will probably do more latch hook work and other crafts, read the Native American* books I subscribe to as well as the Smithsonian Magazine, and more books. I learn from them and they are interesting as were all the tips, fairs, and festivals that I have had the good fortune to see.

My intention is to do as much as I can for as long as I can in all that I have doing.

Take care of yourself,

Much love,

Dad, Don

(*Guy says his father has always been fascinated with Native American)

PIERRE KIROUAC (1941-2018)

It is with great sadness that we have learned that **Pierre Kirouac (GFK 00321)** from Trois-Rivières, a former president of our family Association died on 2 April 2018. Pierre was the son of Camille and Simone (née Baril) Kirouac.

Pierre completed his high school studies with the Brothers of the Christian Schools at Académie de La Salle in Trois-Rivières. In 1958 he studied Business at the Faculty of Commerce at Laval University in Quebec City and earned a first diploma in 1962. In 1971 he studied business administration at Laval University, Faculty of business administration, earning his MBA.

Pierre was a member of the Quebec Order of chartered accountants thus he was hired by the Trois-Rivières CEGEP (college) where he was director of administrative services until his retirement in 1997.

In 1967, he was elected president of Trois-Rivières's Young Chamber of Commerce, became a member of Trois-Rivières's International Kiwanis Club, also a member of the Executive Committee of the Trois-Rivières Symphony Orchestra from 1987 to 1999, including three years as President of the Orchestra.

From 1993 to 2005, he was a Board Member of the Kirouac Family Association, first as a Board member from 1993 to 1997; then as vice-president from 1997 to 2002 and finally as president from 2002 to 2005. Pierre was also a member of the organizing committee for the 25th anniversary of the KFA, held in Longueuil in 2003. He was in charge of the organizing committee for the trip to Brittany of July 2000: *Return to the Sources*. We also owe him to be the first one to redesign our Association's website in 2005.

He leaves to mourn, his brothers and sisters, and their spouses: Jules Kirouac (the late Gisèle Bruneau, Suzanne Lemay), Hélène Kirouac, Louis Kirouac (Janine Lemay), Claude Kirouac (Louise Richard) and Suzanne Kirouac (the late Louis-Georges Larouche); his nephews and nieces: David Kirouac (Caroline Dubuc), Caroline Kirouac (Stéphane Abgral), Mélissa Kirouac, Mathieu Kirouac, Benoît Larouche and Stéphanie Larouche as well as many cousins and friends, including the Curwicks from Minnesota.



Pierre Kirouac

The funeral was held on 8 April 2018 in the Memorial Chapel at the Rousseau Funeral Centre in Trois-Rivières. Interment at a later date at Saint-Michel Cemetery in Trois-Rivières.

We offer our deepest condolences to his family.

REUNION OF THE DESCENDANTS OF
FERDINAND KIROUAC AND ADÈLE OUELLET
by Stéphane Kirouac
Translated by René Kirouac (Saint-Constant, Québec)

In October 2017, we had a reunion of the descendants of my grandfather Ferdinand Kirouac and his wife Adèle Ouellet at the Hôtel Universel in Rivière-du-Loup (Quebec Lower-South-Shore). We arrived early in the afternoon quite excited at the idea of meeting cousins, aunts and uncles. So many of us had not seen each other for so long, we had a lot to catch up. So our first conversations covered different family matters. It was fun to evoke many anecdotes from our youth and old family stories too. We had prepared many photo displays and photo albums as well as genealogies of the families present for all to enjoy.

Conversations continued over dinner. Most people even slept at the hotel. The next morning was as exciting. We took advantage of the generous hotel brunch to keep talking together. For this first family reunion we were 35 cousins, descendants of Ferdinand and Adèle. We chose the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend to gather in order to make sure a maximum number of cousins could take part.

My cousin Nathalie Kirouac* and I got together to plan this first event. First, we created a Facebook page where we included all known descendants of our grandparents. Then we invited all the cousins to the event. We planned the reunion, booked the hotel and sent invitations. Our cousins' answers were very positive. It would be the first-ever gathering of our grandparents' descendants together in one venue.

I had personal reasons for inviting the whole family and boost communications between us as my father died in 1967, leaving my



mother, Jeanne Tremblay, a widow at 46. My father was Gérard Kirouac from Saint-Hubert and my mother had always loved her in-laws, the Kirouacs. Before she died in 2000, she expressed one wish: she asked us her children to get together once a year, which we have been doing as promised. With the arrival of Facebook, I started to publish reports and pictures of our annual family gatherings on my personal page. My cousins Nathalie and Renée-France saw these photos and liked the idea of those reunions. So they suggested we organize a big gathering for all the cousins, which generated the idea of a larger reunion.

¹ Nathalie Kirouac is the daughter of Gonzague Kirouac, known as "Zag", a former strongman from the Lower-South-Shore. She was a KFA board member from 2008 to 2012.

My mother would be so proud to see how her idea of an annual family gathering has now evolved. She liked her Kirouac in-laws so much!

Besides the fact that the idea came to my cousin Nathalie and I, let me explain how things worked out in such a way that we ended up planning this first enlarged family gathering of all the descendants of our grandparents.

Since we are the youngest of the Kirouac cousins, we had far less opportunities to know the whole family. We really missed that! So we really wanted to meet everyone and we jumped at the opportunity.

It was a great adventure and we plan on doing it again in a not so distant future.

Following this memorable occasion, the family picture illustrating this article is now published on the KFA Facebook page. It did not go unnoticed! Indeed, since those family gatherings are exactly in line with the KFA objectives to facilitate family reunions, Sylvie Houde, a member of the KFA board, got in touch with me and asked me to write an article for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*. I am very grateful to her for allowing me to share this great success with you. Everybody was happy and all the cousins are looking forward to meeting again.

In closing, I extend the invitation to all our cousins in the province of Quebec to do the same. You will love those family reunions especially because, nowadays with our hectic lifestyle, they tend to become increasingly rare and it is so important to meet, to get to know each other and celebrate the importance of families.



Ferdinand Kirouac and Adèle Ouellet,
Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, 23 July 1906.



(Photo: Nathalie Kirouac collection)

The youngest participant at the family reunion, Joseph Kirouac, son of François and grandson of Rino (GFK 01484).



Nathalie and Stéphane Kirouac who planned the gathering of the descendants of Ferdinand Kirouac (GFK 01469) and Adèle Ouellet.
(Photo: Nathalie Kirouac collection)

IN MEMORIAM

AUGER, JACQUES (1941-2018)

At Enfant-Jésus Hospital in Quebec City on 8 March 2018, aged 77, died Jacques Auger, husband of Denise Lecomte. Born in Quebec City on 1 February 1941, son of the late **Rose Kirouac (GFK 00316)** and the late Israël Auger. Memorial was on 24 March 2018 in La Seigneurie Funeral Coop. Interment of ashes in Fargy Cemetery, Beauport. Besides his wife, he leaves his children: Christian (Josée Cloutier), Jean-François (Johane Bilodeau); his siblings: Thérèse (the late Henri Lafrance), Colette (the late Odilon Potvin), Jean-Guy (Colette Godin), Yvette (Laurent Leblanc), and André (Nicole Leullier).

BASTARACHE, WILLIAM (1931-2017)

At Notre-Dame-de-Fatima Hospital in La Pocatière, on 12 November 2017 aged 86, died William Bastarache, retired surgeon, husband of Marie Saint-Jacques. Funeral Mass was on 18 November 2017 in Sainte-Anne Cathedral in La Pocatière. He leaves to mourn his beloved wife and his children, including Louis Bastarache and his wife **Natalie Kirouac**.

BÉGIN, JEANINE née HAMEL (1929 - 2018)

At the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Sorel, Quebec, aged 88 years and nine months, died on 20 January 2018, Jeannine Hamel widow of Gérard Bégin. She leaves to mourn her children including Elaine Bégin wife of **Philippe Kirouac**. Funeral Mass was held in the parish church in St-Ours (Quebec) on 27 January 2018.

BRULOTTE, ALMA née KIROUAC (1929-2018)

Mrs. Alma Brulotte **née Kirouac (GFK 01032)** died in Quebec City on 22 February 2018. Widow of Raymond Brulotte; daughter of Bernadette (née Bernard) and Albert Kirouac. Died before her, one son, Dany. Memorial

was held in Sainte-Euphémie in spring 2018. She leaves to mourn her children: Louise (Lucien Jean), Diane (Rodrigue Bouffard), Lisette (Michel Mercier), Line (Gaétan Noël), René (Diane Couture) and Marie-Claude (Éric Baulne); her grand- and great-grandchildren; her siblings: the late Émile (the late Lorraine Ledoux), Gertrude (the late Jean-Paul Dumont), Marie (the late Denis Bernard), the late Charles (Denise) and Louise (Richard Morin) as well as in-laws of the Brulotte family.

DESROCHERS, FERNAND (1951-2018)

At Laval Hospital in Quebec City, on 5 April 2018, aged 67, died Fernand Desrochers, son of the late Roméo and the late Cécile (née Tousignant) Desrochers, husband of Marlayn Roy. Fernand was a descendant of **Odile Kerouack (GFK 00822)** and Lazarre Desrochers. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his children: Éric Desrochers, Véronique Simoneau, Vincent Simoneau and Sébastien Simoneau (Marilou Larochelle); his grandchildren: Shérine, Zélia, Alie, Évan, Abby. His siblings and their spouses: Renaud (Ghislaine Desrochers), Pauline (Paul Gagnon), Normande (the late Paul-Yvon Desrochers), Huguette (the late Richard Lavolette), Ginette (Pierre Robitaille), Hélène, the late Michel Desrochers, Denise (Réal Lemieux), Denis (Sylvie Desharnais), Sylvie (Bernard Mathieu), Alain (Nathalie Picard) and **Francine (François Kirouac, current KFA President)**.

GIFFORD, MIRANDA (1998-2017)

Miranda Sage Gifford, 18, of Rome, NY, died on 1 November 2017 from injuries sustained in a car accident. Born on 10 November 1998 in New Hartford, daughter of Connie (née Schnell) and Mark Gifford. Miranda was an athlete and a loving and giving person and continued that, in her death, as an organ donor. She is survived by her parents, two sisters, Melody, Mandy and Nick Sandt; a brother, Jimmy and

Kalee Gifford; three nephews, Logen, Cole, and Zachary; maternal grandmother, Phyllis Schnell; paternal grandparents, **Fred and Theresa (née Kyroutac) {GFK 00265}** Gifford of Bourbonnais, IL; aunts and uncles, Patty and Mike Hatch, Dave and Alyssa Gifford, Fred Jr. and Robin Gifford, Cindy Gifford, Donnie and DeeDee Gifford, Bruce Gifford, Jimmy and Karla Gifford, Danny and Sherri Gifford, and Marie Ozturk; many loving cousins and numerous friends. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Glen Schnell in 2016. Funeral was on 9 November 2017 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Rome, NY, followed by interment in St. Peter's Cemetery.

GRONDIN, FERNAND (1941-2018)

At the Asbestos Long-Term Care Facility on 19 January 2018, aged 77, died Fernand Grondin, husband of Yolande Dumoulin. A memorial ceremony was held at the Fréchette Funeral Home in Asbestos (Quebec) on 27 January 2018. Besides his wife he leaves to mourn his children including Vicky, wife of **Martin Kéroack, son of Jean-Paul and Pauline (née Leclerc) Kéroack, GFK 00150**.

KEROACK, SISTER YVETTE (1917-2017)

Sister Yvette Keroack, CSC (GFK 02559) (Mary Yvette of the Cross), 99, died 8 May 2017. She entered the Holy Cross Congregation in 1942 (serving 75 years) and made her final profession in 1949. Born in Manchester, N.H., on 13 July 1917, she was the daughter of Louis Hebert and Aurore (Duff) Keroack. She earned a BA from Notre-Dame College, Manchester. She was a teacher and Principal in elementary Holy Cross parochial schools, in Springfield and New Bedford, Mass.; Newmarket, Gonic and Nashua, N.H., and West Franklin and Pittsfield, N.H., before retiring to St. George Manor in Manchester in 1993. She also served as Director of the Associates from 1981 to 1991. She is survived by nephews and nieces. Funeral was on 11 May in the chapel of St. George Manor.

**KÉROACK, KATHERINE née WHITE
(1926-2018)**

On 16 February 2018 at the age of 91, died Katherine "Kitty" Kéroack (née White), widow of **Raymond Kéroack (GFK 02497)** of St-Bruno-de-Montarville, Quebec. Born in Grand-Falls, Newfoundland, Canada, she was the daughter of Leo and Elizabeth (née Morris) White. Last surviving sibling, she was predeceased by her sisters and brother, Bride, Eileen, Zita, Betty, Leona, Tom and Ida. She leaves to mourn her children and their families, Yvonne, Raymond (Charlotte), Linda (Guy), André, Michael, the late Mark, Danielle (André) and Suzanne. Funeral: 27 April 2018.

**KIROUAC, EDWINA née THÉRIAULT
(1945-2017)**

At the Grand Falls General Hospital, 8 December 2017, aged 72, died Mrs. **Edwina Kirouac** of Grand Falls, New Brunswick, Canada. She was the wife of **Roger Kirouac (grandson of Alphonse Kirouac, GFK 01586)**. Born at Siegas, NB, in 1945, she was a daughter of the late Armand and Edwidge (née Lavoie) Theriault. She is survived by her husband, her two daughters, Tina Doucette (Fabien) and **Cheryl Kirouac**; four grandchildren, Branden Doucette (Cassandra), Cynthia Doucette (Joleen), Jessica Cote (Jeremy) and Tanya Laforest (Jaime), three great-grandchildren, Harley and Braxton Doucette and Noah Cote, her brothers and sisters, Leonide Theriault (Luce Desforges) of Flemming, Doreen and the late **Reginald Kirouac**, Noella Turgeon (Aime), Alyre Theriault (Joanne), Guilda Thibodeau (Greg Corran), Zoel Theriault and Dianna Roussel (Guy Bonenfant); nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by siblings, Guy and Enos Theriault, Armande Martel and infant sister Roseanne. Funeral was on 11 December at St. Georges Catholic Church in Grand Falls, NB, followed by interment in the parish cemetery.

**KIROUAC, CLAIRE née TRAHAN
(1932-2018)**

Claire B. (née Trahan) Kirouac, 85, died on 24 February 2018 at Holy Cross

Health Center. Born in Manchester, she was the daughter of the late Lucien and Adrian (Lemay) Trahan. Claire married **Camille Kirouac (GFK 01049)** in 1952. She is survived by her three sons, Robert, Paul and wife Nina, and Gerald and wife Linda; six grandchildren, Mathew, Lanie, Courtney, Andrew, Henry, and Jeffrey; four great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends. Claire was predeceased by her husband, Camille, and two sisters, Doris Dionne and Lillian Trahan. Funeral Mass was celebrated in the Parish of the Transfiguration, Manchester, on March 1, followed by entombment at Mt. Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum.

KIROUAC, GÉRARD (1923-2018)

Peacefully on 6 January 2018, aged 94, died **Gérard Kirouac (GFK 01459)** husband of Réjeanne Bélanger-Kirouac. He leaves to mourn his wife and children: Michel (Mireille), Claude (Lorraine) and Guylaine (Paul), five grandchildren: Marie-Pier (Gabriel), Marylène (Frédéric), Jean-François (Noémie), Michaël (Mélicha) and Audrey (Frédéric-Olivier); three great-grandchildren: Justin, Édouard and Clara; his brothers: Lucien and Roland. Homage was on 20 January in the chapel of Goyer Funeral Home in Sainte-Thérèse (Québec); his ashes were placed in the Columbarium.

**LALANCETTE, GIZÈLE née GODON
(1929-2017)**

At Trois-Rivières Long Term Care Hospital, on 13 October 2017, aged 87, died Gizèle Godon, widow of Philippe Lalancette. Funeral was on 21 October in St-Laurent Church in St-Vincent-de-Paul Parish. Followed by interment in Saint-Michel Cemetery. She leaves to mourn her children including: Pierre, husband of **Sylvie Kirouac, daughter of Léopold and Pauline (née Désilets) Kirouac, GFK 00333**.

**LAROCHE, THÉRÈSE née DUPUIS
(1930-2018)**

At the Trois-Rivières Long Term Care Hospital on 13 January 2018, aged 87, died Thérèse Dupuis, widow of Albert

Larouche. A religious ceremony was held on 19 January 2018 at the Rousseau Funeral Centre in Trois-Rivières, Quebec. She leaves to mourn her children including the late Louis-Georges Larouche (**Suzanne Kirouac, GFK 00330**).

**LAVERGNE, COLOMBE née KIROUAC
(1911-2017)**

At Place Besserer in Orleans, Ontario, on 20 November 2017, died **Colombe Kirouac Lavergne (GFK 01785)** widow of Fernand (Fern) Lavergne. She leaves to mourn her children: Pierre (Lyne Légaré) Suzanne (the late Normand Bélair), Jean-Marc (Paulette Leroux), Julie (Pierre Morin), eight grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. Funeral was on 9 December 2017 in St. Sebastien Church in Ottawa (Ontario).

**LAVOIE, ROLANDE née ST-PIERRE
(1931-2018)**

At Laval Hospital in Quebec City, on 15 February 2018, aged 87, died Rolande St-Pierre-Lavoie, widow of Roger Lavoie. Daughter of the late Octave St-Pierre and the late Joséphine Ouellet. Service was on 24 February 2018 in the chapel of the Maison Gomin in Quebec City. She leaves to mourn, her children including Alain and his wife **Carole Kirouac, daughter of Gérard and Isabelle (née Thérberge) Kirouac (GFK 01987)**.

**LEGAULT, GILBERTE née KIROUAC
(1928-2018)**

Gilberte "Jill" Legault, 89, died on 19 January 2018. Jill was born in Montreal, Canada, on 19 April 1928 to the late **Joseph and Rosa (Dandurand) Kirouac**. She is survived by her sons, Steven and wife Dana Legault, Wayne and Barbara Legault, Thomas Legault, Robert and Holly Legault; daughters, Diane and John Nelson, Janice and Michael West, Jacqueline and Thomas Hirth; grandchildren Christopher and Jennifer Nelson, Robin and Jeff Beauchemin, Rachel Legault, Jason and

Miranda Legault, Jennifer and Ben Brierley, Justin Albert and Vanessa Brown, Jillian and Kevin Gabryel, Jessica and James Jianaces, Amber and Brandon Yannone, RJ Legault, Kristen and Isaac Martinez; 12 great-grandchildren; brother-in-law Marcel Kirouac; nieces and nephews. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Mother-Teresa-Of-Calcutta, St. Bridget Campus, Manchester, on 24 January 2018, followed by burial at Rose Hill Memorial Park in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

**LEPAGE, CLAIRE née KIROUAC
(1922-2017)**

Claire Lepage née Kirouac (GFK 01801), aged 95, died on 28 October 2017 at Mathieu-Froment-Savoie Home. She was the widow of François Lepage and the daughter of Émile and Malvina (née Lagacé) Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her children: André (Marie-Andrée), Nicole (Richard), Louis, Richard (Gladys), Michèle (Marc) and Marie (Serge); twelve grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; her sister Colombe (the late Fernand) as well as many in-laws and relatives. She was predeceased by her daughter Lise, her sister Françoise and her brother Fernand. Funeral Mass was on 2 December 2017 in St. Paul Church in Aylmer (Gatineau, Quebec).

MOODY, STEVE C. (1950-2018)

Steven C. Moody, 67, of Chebanse, Illinois, passed away 12 February 2018 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, Illinois. Born 15 October 1950, in Kankakee, he was the son of Charles and **Alice Kerouac (GFK 02744) Moody**. Steven married Patricia Erwin on 28 December 1985 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley. Steven was a retired employee of Riverwood International in Kankakee. He was a parishioner of St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Church in Chebanse. Surviving are his wife; one son, Brian Moody; one daughter and son-in-law, Renee and Shaun McGinnis, three grandchildren, Hailey, Colby and Brycen; two sisters- and brothers-in-

law, Mary and Gordon Johnson, and Claudia and Mark Warpet; and one brother, Dave Moody. Preceding him in death were his parents; one sister-in-law, Jackie Moody; and one niece, Lindsey Johnson. Funeral was on 16 February 2018 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, followed by burial in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee, Illinois.

**PARENT, THÉRÈSE née KIROUAC
(1919-2017)**

At the Sacré-Cœur Long Term Care Facility, on 12 November 2017, aged 98 years and two months, died **Thérèse Kirouac (GFK 01394)**, widow of Henri Parent; daughter of Lauréat and Juliette (née Bussière) Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her only son Jean-Claude, her brother André (Jocelyne), her sister-in-law, Janet (the late Guy Kirouac), and nephews and nieces from the Kirouac, Michaud, Bélanger, Beaumont and Dionne families. Funeral will be in the spring 2018.

ROBERT, GABRIEL (1935-2017)

This great sportsman and hunter died in Trois-Rivières on 27 November 2017. He leaves to mourn his brother Georges Robert, his ex-wife and forever accomplice, Ginette Baume; his sons: Jean-Yves (**Elaine Kéroack, GFK 01270**) and Philippe (Nicole Gendron).

ROY, ORVILLE (1928-2017)

Orville Roy, 89, died on 29 September 2017, at his daughter's home in Celina, Texas. He was born 9 July 1928, to Dona and Nathalie Roy. He was a U.S. Army veteran, a member of the American Legion and a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus. Survivors include his wife, Evelyn; two sons, Thomas Roy and William Roy and wife, Lori; three daughters, Jeaneen and Rheinhold Olson, Nancy Peterson and husband, Chad, and Jeanette Storm; two brothers, Cliff Roy and Stan Roy; three sisters, Viola Ricks, Norma Griffin and Donna Roy; eleven grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren. Funeral was on 27 October at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Damar, Kansas. (**Orville Roy was a grandson of Joseph Burton, GFK 00201**)

SAINT-CYR, ROBERT (1927-2018)

At Quebec City General Hospital, on 17 February 2018, aged 90, died Robert St-Cyr, husband of Pierrette Dallaire. He was the son of the late **Marie-Paule Kirouac (GFK 00548)** and the late Albert St-Cyr. He leaves to mourn, besides his wife of 58 years, his son Patrick, two grandchildren: Maxime and Thomas St-Cyr, a brother Gaston, a sister Jeannine, sisters-in-law: Andrée Dallaire (the late David Penney), Nicole Dallaire (Claude Lapierre) and one brother-in-law Robert Dallaire (Élise Bergeron); nephews and nieces. Funeral was on 24 February 2018 in St-Michel-de-Sillery church; interment at St-Michel-de-Sillery Cemetery.

**THIBAUT, SOLANGE née DESBIENS
(1931-2018)**

Solange Desbiens, wife of Jean Thibault, died in Jonquière on 13 February 2018, aged 86. She was the daughter of the late Thomas-Louis Desbiens and the late **Marie-Louise Kéroack (GFK 02444)**. She leaves to mourn her two sons: Pierre (Ginette Tremblay) and Louis (Madeleine Vanasse); her grandchildren: Emanuelle (Olivier Morin), Jean-Pierre (Maude Côté), Ariane (Thomas Christopherson), Raphaëlle, Florence, Félix-Antoine; one great-granddaughter, Élisabeth; her siblings: Colette Desbiens, André (the late Jeanine Roy), the late Claude, the late Gabrielle and the late Marthe. Funeral was on 24 February at Nault & Caron Funeral Home in Jonquière, Quebec.



**Our Deepest
Condolences
to the
Bereaved Families**

Montreal is celebrating a century of botanical research

by Marie Lussier Timperley

On 23 February 2018, the IRBV (Institut de recherche en biologie végétale = Plant Biology Research Institute) researchers and personnel gathered in the former library now transformed into a new multipurpose room to mark its opening and the unveiling of a mural created by Jean-Nicolas Pitre. The text engraved on the mural is a passage from Brother Marie-Victorin's last will written on 17 February 1944, six months before his death. Here is the full passage with, underlined, the part etched on the mural:

"To my dear colleagues of the Botanical Institute of the University of Montreal and of the Montreal Botanical Garden, here I bear testimony that they have always served me devotedly and unselfishly. They were my family and replaced the family I sacrificed years ago. From the bottom of my heart I thank them one last time! And I am asking them, now that I am no longer there, to unite their strength, fraternally to make and ensure that the two great institutions will be great and permanent works dedicated to the service of truth and good."

On this occasion, Professor Luc Brouillet, Curator of the Marie-Victorin Herbarium, presented a streamlined history of the development of scientific research during the last hundred years. Starting in 1920, when Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin (1885-1944) created the Botanical Institute of the University of Montreal; a new department in the brand-new faculty of sciences

comprising at the time only a few members led by a self-educated man!

Professor Brouillet summarized the exceptional growth of this university department from 1920 to the present. Thanks to Marie-Victorin's influence on Camilien Houde, the Mayor of Montreal at the time, and one of his former students, the Botanical Garden was born and grew during the Thirties' economic crisis. During the Eighties, Dr. André Bouchard (1946-2010) revived the collaboration between the City and the University of Montreal.

Then in 1990, thanks to the support of Robert Lacroix, Rector of the University of Montreal, and Pierre Bourque, Director of the Botanical Garden, and some Montreal city councillors, the IRBV was created.

Professor Brouillet concluded his talk by presenting a chart showing how the number of researchers and students, who graduated in this scientific field, increased since 1982; as well as a chart showing the number of scientific papers, monographs and reports produced



Professor Luc Brouillet, Curator of the Marie-Victorin Herbarium.

Photo: Javier Francisco-Ortega collection

during the last thirty years by the IRBV. He was happy to underline that since 2014 a new generation of researchers has been working at the IRBV bringing a refreshing youthful air to the centre soon to celebrate its centennial in 2020!

Mathieu-Robert Sauvé's whole article (in French) and two photos are available on line at: nouvelles.umontreal.ca/.../2018/03/01/montreal-celebre-pres-d-un-siècle-de-recherche-en-botanique



New mural unveiled on February 23, 2018 at the IRBV. (Photography: Amélie Philibert)

GENEALOGY / THE READERS' PAGE

The KFA's computerized genealogical database comprises a number of persons' names for which we are missing either the spouse and/or the parents' names; therefore, answers to the following questions would enable us to complete our data. Feel free to consult our previous issues of *Le Trésor* and please forward us any relevant info.

*Many thanks,
François Kirouac*

Question 632

What are the names of the parents of Nathalie Kirouac, spouse of Louis Bastarache? See In Memoriam notice on page 54.

Question 633

What are the names of the parents of Philippe Kirouac, spouse of Éline Bégin? See In Memoriam notice on page 54, Bégin, Jeannine Hamel.

Question 634

What are the names of the parents of Marie Kirouac, spouse of René Pelletier? The couple was married on 21 December in Saint-Jérôme (Laurentien area in Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of René Pelletier?

Question 635

What are the names of the parents of Lucille Kirouac, spouse of Réal Lapointe? The couple was married on a December first in (Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of Réal Lapointe?



Question 636

What are the names of the parents of Lucie Kirouac, spouse of Gérald Wylie? The couple was married on 5 July in Victoriaville (Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of Gérard Wylie?

Question 637

What are the names of the parents of Louiselle Kirouac, spouse of Daniel Dagenais? The couple was married on 24 May in Montréal (Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of Daniel Dagenais?

Question 638

What are the names of the parents of Louiselle Kirouac, spouse of Serge Malo? The couple was married on 13 July in Montréal (Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of Serge Malo?

Question 639

What are the names of the parents of Linda Kirouac, spouse of Michel Morabito, son of Michel Morabito and Thérèse Sawchuck? The couple was married on 7 December in Montréal (Quebec). What year and where exactly?

Question 640

What are the names of the parents of Joanne Kirouac, spouse of Guy Laforge? The couple was married on 26 March in Montréal (Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of Guy Laforge?

Question 641

What are the names of the parents of Joane Kirouac, spouse of Laval Lapointe? The couple was married on 29 November in Montréal (Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of Laval Lapointe?

Question 642

What are the names of the parents of Guylaine Kirouac, spouse of Réjean Blanchette, son of Napoléon Blanchette and Laurette Desmeules? The couple was married on 27 Octobre in La Tuque (Quebec). What year and where exactly?

Question 643

What are the names of the parents of Germaine Kirouac, spouse of André Thibert? The couple was married on 5 December in Montréal (Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of André Thibert?

Question 644

What are the names of the parents of David Hodgson, spouse of Chantale Kirouac, daughter of Gérard Kirouac and Suzanne Côté? The couple was married on 23 January 1982 in Saint-Fabien Parish in Montréal (Quebec).

Question 645

What are the names of the parents of Cathy Kirouac, spouse of Guy Dallaire? The couple was married on 14 May in Jonquière (Quebec). What year and where exactly? Also, what are the names of the parents of Guy Dallaire?

Question 646

What are the names of the parents of Carmen Kirouac, spouse of Mario Leclerc, son of Léonel Leclerc and Hélène Bernier? The couple was married on 22 August in Drummondville (Quebec). What year and where exactly?

If you would like answers to some genealogical questions, please send them to us and we can post them on this page if we do not already know the answers.

The Editor

KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2017-2018

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François Kirouac (00715)
31, rue Laurentienne
Levis (QC) Canada G6J 1H8
Telephone: (418) 831-4643

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Quebec (QC) Canada G1S 2B4
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Telephone: (418) 653-2772

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1039, rue Raoul-Blanchard
Quebec (QC) Canada G1X 4L2
Telephone: (418) 871-6604

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140, rue de la Victoire
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Telephone: (418) 549-0101

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1039, rue Raoul-Blanchard
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Mercédès Bolduc
140, rue de la Victoire
Chicoutimi (QC) Canada G7G 2X7
Telephone: (418) 549-0101

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ONTARIO AND
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Georges Kirouac (01663)
23 Maralbo Avenue East
Winnipeg (Manitoba)
Canada R2M 1R3
Telephone: (204) 256-0080

Region 7

UNITED STATES

EASTERN TIME ZONE

Mark Pattison
1221, Floral Street NW
Washington, DC 20012 - USA
Telephone: (202) 829-9289

CENTRAL TIME ZONE

Greg Kyrouac (00239)
P. O. Box 481
Ashland, IL 62612-0481 - USA
Telephone: (217) 476-3358

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Annual Kirouac Family Gathering **Quebec City, Saturday, 8 September 2018**

Preliminary programme on page 4

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To contact us or receive information about our activities:

Main Office
3782, Chemin Saint-Louis
Québec (Québec)
Canada G1W 1T5

Internet Site
www.familleskirouac.com
Email: association@familleskirouac.com

Treasurer and Membership:
René Kirouac
Telephone: (418) 653-2772

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