

Autumn 2021

Number 137

# Le Trésor des Kirouac

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



6 March 2010, seven of the fourteen children of Germaine Kirouac and Alfred Hurtubise: from left to right: front: Huguette, Monique, and Gabrielle, the eldest of the family, who turned 103 on 27 December 2021; back: Robert, Claire, Bernard and Gilles. (Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Kirouac  
Kirouack



Kérouac  
Kérouack



Keroac  
Keroack



Kéroack  
Kyrouac



Breton  
Burton



Curwack  
Curwick



## Le Trésor des Kirouac

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# The President's Word

On 16 October 2021, the board members were finally able to meet in person for the first time in twenty months, unfortunately not at our usual Breton restaurant as we did for over twenty years but in another restaurant in Sainte-Foy, Quebec. We studied various files left in abeyance during the pandemic, including that of our annual KFA gatherings.

## Annual Gatherings

As you know, we had chosen Saint-Jean-Port-Joli to meet in September 2020, it was postponed until September 2021 but had to be canceled too. Let's hope that in 2022, we will be able to meet again and annually from then on as we did during 36 years without interruption from 1984 to 2019.

After studying all aspects of the situation, the consensus is clear: Our next gathering will be one day only and will take place in either Quebec City or Montreal to ensure the greatest number of Kirouac families can take part. There is a simple explanation for this decision as we noticed that the largest concentration of Kirouac families live in and around Quebec City and in the Greater Montreal area.

Like most family associations, we noted a downward trend in our membership in 2020 and also in 2021. However, we hope that the only reason for this is the pandemic. From 135 members in 2019 we are now down to 105. Hence, we think it is preferable to hold our next annual gathering close to either one of the two large towns to enable the largest possible number of "cousins" to attend and revive our family association's activities.

The exact location will be determined at the next KFA Board

meeting in early 2022. We will let you know ASAP by email, via a *Trésor Express*, and detailed information will be published in the Spring edition of *Le Trésor*.

## Archives

During our last board meeting, again we discussed the KFA archives. Safeguarding our precious archives has been a long-time and long-term concern. So much has been accumulated over the 43 years of existence of our association: documents, photos, books, numerous newspaper articles and many varied objects. We have decided that, at our next AGM in 2022, the subject will be presented to the KFA members giving everyone the possibility to express their opinion on the subject. In the Spring 2022 issue of *Le Trésor*, there will be an outline of what the board intends to do, the main lines of action will be explained in such a way that the members may express what they think and feel about it all. Afterwards, some decisions may be taken.

## Electronic Payment via the KFA website

In the last issue of *Le Trésor*, I indicated that electronic payment via the KFA website was not yet functioning. It took some more work but I am glad to announce that it is now up and working. Please read about the procedure on page 6 in this issue. This new service answers the wishes of some cousins and we hope that many more will find it useful. Nowadays, it is an essential service and a no brainer.

I gladly take this opportunity through the *President's Word* to wish you and yours a very pleasant Holiday Time hoping we can all enjoy it safely and happily with our relatives.



Photo: François Kirouac Collection

François Kirouac



MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Looking very much forward to  
seeing you in 2022,  
The KFA Board Members and I  
wish you all**

**HEALTH AND HAPPINESS  
FOR THE NEW YEAR.**



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

Once again this year, **OUR YOUNGER TREASURES**, Alexandre de Kervoach's descendants, hope you enjoy a very special Holiday Season, and wish you a happy new year filled with **HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY!**



Thomas and Maya



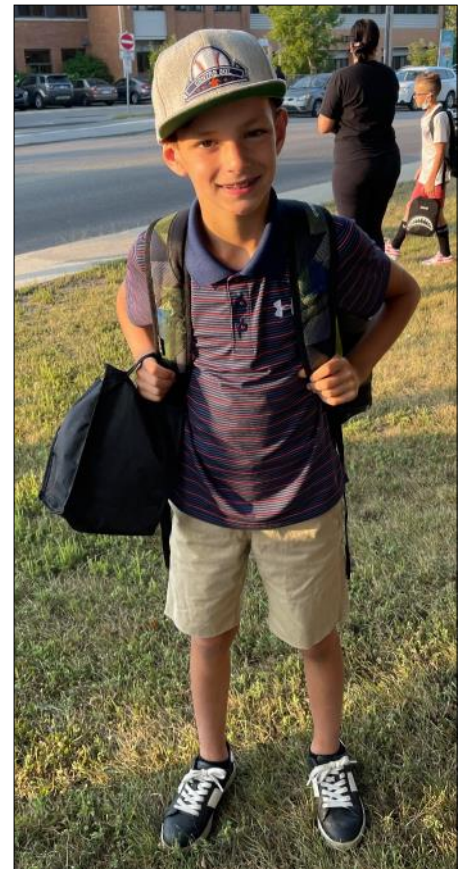
Thomas



Léa



Henry and Hailey



William



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

Once again this year, **OUR YOUNGER TREASURES**, Alexandre de Kervoach's descendants, hope you enjoy a very special Holiday Season, and wish you a happy new year filled with **HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY!**



Elena



Lexie



Michael, Maéva and Raphaëlle



Ella and Henri



Nev and Eva



Harper

## NEW E-SERVICE TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR MAKE A DONATION TO THE KIROUAC FAMILY ASSOCIATION

To answer a general request, the KFA now offers a new service: E-PAYMENT is now available on the KFA website to pay membership and make donations. The site is now totally secure and can be safely used.

We invite you to visit the KFA website and click on the link for the **Membership** form, then on the next link for **Becoming a member**. Or else, you can simply click on the hyper-link on the Welcoming page.

Payment must be done in two distinct and necessary steps. This way it is more secure. **First**, fill in the info needed for **Le Trésor des Kirouac** to be mailed to you.

**Second**, fill in the info needed to pay either by credit card or PayPal. This new service is offered to simplify payment, no more cheque (check), no more envelope and no more stamp. **Please note that payment in Canadian dollars are only when made in Canada.**

When paying in the States, always send the amount in US\$. The difference covers the extra postage AND, believe it or not, it is cheaper for you than trying to pay in Canadian dollars from the US because of the extra-fees, i.e., a double exchange charge, one from the bank and one from PayPal!

We appreciate very much your continued support of our Family Association.

François Kirouac  
for the KFA Board members

The diagram illustrates the online payment process in four steps:

- Step 1:** An arrow points to the text "CLICK ON THE **MEMBERSHIP FORM** and fill it in first."
- Step 2:** The heading "Step 2: ONLINE PAYMENT including DONATIONS (CAD)" is shown. Below it is a "NOTE: for US members, please visit **US page** to complete your registration and payment." An arrow points to a text input box labeled "Type of Membership [Regular (\$22), Benefactor (\$27) or Overseas (\$30)]".
- Step 3:** An arrow points to the text "Total amount including donations:" followed by a currency input box labeled "CAD". Below this, an arrow points to the text "Write the total amount including membership or renewal and gifts".
- Step 4:** An arrow points to two payment options: "PayPal" (highlighted in a yellow box) and "Bank Card" (highlighted in a black box). Below these options, an arrow points to the text "Choose the mode of payment and fill in the second information form".

Payment window on KFA Website at:

<https://kirouacfamilies.com/association/membres.html>

**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO,  
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ASAP**

**IT IS A SURE SIGN THAT YOU SUPPORT THE WORK WE DO  
AND YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS AN ISSUE OF  
LE TRÉSOR DES KIROUAC  
THANKS, WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT**



# 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Greg and Nancy Kyrourac

Greg says, "on our 40th anniversary, we were supposed to leave on a cruise for Alaska with my sister, Donna, and her husband Kerry, and my brother Brian and his wife Bonnie, but the cruise was canceled due to COVID. So, we rented a hall in Springfield on Sunday, August 8, and around 75 friends and family members attended."

We were married on Saturday, August 22, 1981 in Highland, Illinois in the Congregational Church where Nancy had attended youth activities. We were married by four ministers, the Congregational pastor, the Baptist pastor of her family's church, the local Catholic priest and the pastor of the church in Urbana, Illinois where we lived. All four ministers did various parts of the ceremony and at the end, all four laid hands on us together and gave us a blessing.

## What's your secret to reaching a 40th wedding anniversary?

First, and most importantly, is our commitment to each other and to God; from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12\*, "*a threefold cord is not easily broken*". A great marriage includes God as the third strand intertwined, touching both the husband and the wife..

Second, working together and being a unified front in raising our four children. *A cord of three strands is not easily broken.* This tells us that the strength that is needed to overcome the stress of the married life is supplied when you add a third strand to the marriage. God is the important third strand, who touches both the husband and the wife and makes for a strong marriage.

Third, being supportive of each other's choices, such as Greg's working in his spare time on family genealogy and Nancy's playing music, of which she has played in church for over fifty years.

*\*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

NANCY is a musician, she plays several instruments, including piano, keyboard, guitar and clarinet. She also sings. Her father worked as a plumber, following in his own father's path, but he was also a professional union musician. He was in a regular band, but when big acts, such as Elvis Presley, came to St. Louis, he was one of the local professionals to play with the stars. It is also important to note that Nancy is a "birth doula" and this work continues into her retirement.

GREG says: "*I began looking into our K/ ancestry in 1975 when I asked my grandfather how were the Kyrouracs, Kerouacs, Burtons and Curwicks of the Bourbonnais area all related. He answered that he knew that they all were related, but could not tell me how.*"



Photo: Greg and Nancy Beckman Kyrourac collection

Photo from the 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party of Greg and Nancy Beckman Kyrourac with their grandchildren. From left to right, back row: Greg holding Leon, and Nancy; middle row: Serena, Elliana and Selah; front row: Samuel, Teddy and Silas.

*After doing some local research, in 1979 I traveled to Quebec City to look at the archives there, which led me to visit the Kirouac store, where they told me there would be a gathering in 1980."*

45 years later, Greg has become the specialist in K / genealogy for the American descendants of our Breton ancestor.

Greg and Nancy attended the 1980 first ever Kirouac gathering at L'Islet-sur-Mer, Quebec, and also went to Brittany in 2000, with the KFA delegation to mark the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of our family association. In 2019, they returned to Brittany with their daughters and a son-in-law.



Press Release from *Science pour tous*

# Retirement Time for Jacques Kirouac

**A**fter over twenty years as head of *Science pour tous*, (Science for All) Jacques Kirouac is retiring.

Montreal, 15 November 2021 - The whole team, the Board members and the close collaborators of *Science pour tous* wish him the very best for many years and new adventures.

Through the years, Jacques built successful relationships with so many partners and the general public. Under his leadership, *Science pour tous* created a strong network of scientific communications resulting in a multitude of pan-Quebec events; for example, the “24-hours of science” now bringing together over 250 organizations, the “Odyssey of Sciences” and the “Scientific Culture Week”. Our tireless director is also the initiator of some of *Science pour tous*' emblematic events like the Cabarets scientifiques and the Scientific Escapades, to mention only these two.

We very warmly thank Jacques Kirouac for his extraordinary contribution to the promotion of scientific and technical culture in Quebec and outside the province. All this happened because of his care for people/individuals, of their needs and hopes, but his sense of humour, his curiosity and his generosity, will leave an indelible mark on all those he met and worked with.

In the name of the Board members, Thérèse Drapeau, vice-president of the board and a volunteer since *Science pour tous* started, wants to underline the essential contribution of Jacques Kirouac to the promotion of scientific and technical culture.

“When *Science pour tous* was created in the autumn 1997, financing for the main scientific organizations was in peril. To rectify this situation, the leadership of Jacques Kirouac and Hervé Fisher was key in the mapping out of the scientific cultural organizations all over Quebec and in bringing them together. The network created is really representative of Quebec's technical and scientific culture's ecosystem and speaking in a common voice is very important as the joint papers presented to various instances under the leadership and label of *Science pour tous* prove.”

We wish to mention that in 2021, the jury of the *Thérèse-Patry Prize* awarded to Jacques Kirouac a Special Mention for his remarkable career in scientific culture. This Special Mention from the jury underlines the dedication, both professional and personal, that Jacques Kirouac demonstrated in promoting scientific culture in Quebec. His career path shows how the relentless work he carried out over more than forty years, including twenty at the head of *Science pour tous*.



Jacques Kirouac, director of *Science pour tous*

French Press release at:

[https://www.sciencepourtous.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Communique\\_departJK.pdf](https://www.sciencepourtous.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Communique_departJK.pdf)

Translated by Marie Lussier Timperley for Le Trésor 137.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*Jacques Kirouac is the son of Jean-Marc Kirouac (GFK 00740) and Suzanne Giard, and the grandson of Henri Kirouac and Malvina Richer from Warwick. He is a member of the younger branch of our ancestor's family.*

*His father's career in agricultural unionism with the **Union Catholique des Cultivateurs (UCC)** (Catholic farmers union) that became the **Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA)** (agricultural producers union) in 1972; he held many executive positions in this organization.*

*During the last years of his career, he was involved in the paper **La Terre de chez nous (Our land)**.*

*On 28 August 1985, The Honorable Jean Garon, Quebec's Agriculture Minister, presented him with the **Quebec's Order of Agricultural Merit with very high distinction**.*

*See : **Le Trésor des Kirouac**, September 1997, Number 49, pages 11-15*



# PROUD OF MY KIROUAC AND HURTUBISE ANCESTRY

by Bernard Hurtubise, son of Germaine Kirouac

Going back in time to recount what happened between 1924 to 1984, at the age of 96 and counting, requires a good memory and stamina. The mind suddenly wakes up and memories flow. By the time you read these pages, I will be 97 years old - or young? You will see that between 1945 to 1970, I spent most of my time cooking up far more than food. Then, from 1970 to 1984, I was a civil servant and that was very different.

Nowadays it is normal to see the younger generation using double surnames, hence I could do the same and introduce myself as Bernard Kirouac Hurtubise, grandson of Pierre-Amédée Kirouac and of Alexandre Hurtubise. I was born on 25 October 1924, the seventh child of Germaine Kirouac (born in Kingsey Falls) and Alfred Hurtubise (born in Montreal). What a blessing!

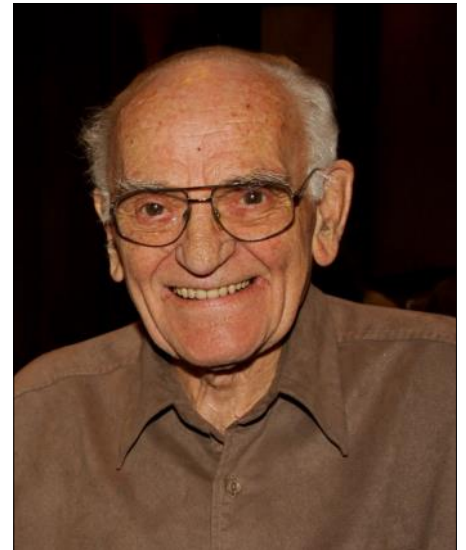
Genealogically speaking, everything else and the rest of the text could be forgotten, except, of course, my wife, Madeleine Thibodeau, whom I married in 1950 and who gave me five wonderful children: Mathieu, Marie-Josèphe, Catherine, Anne and Ève. We had been married 55 years by the time Madeleine died on 2 July 2005.

My parents, my father Alfred (1890-1961) and my mother Germaine (1891-1935) met for the very first time in 1911. Germaine was studying at the convent in Pointe-aux-Trembles (independent municipality located at the eastern end of Montreal Island). It was a magical moment. But, was it accidental or destiny? In short, my future father, Alfred, used to visit his sister, Hélène, who was a dear friend of my future mother and studying at the same convent. Through visits, meetings, lovely notes, post cards, lots of them, the romance developed. Writing was very much "in" then. It was a useful and nice way to get to know the other person and it helped to make a good choice.

The result was a quiet wedding on 27 May 1913 in *Le petit Canada*, at Manchester, New Hampshire, a region where so many French-Canadian expatriates lived. It was often said then that in the USA then, one could get married in the Catholic Church without banns being published (for three weeks before). That suited the future couple very well as they could get married without delay and my father could come back to his job and start on number one of his fourteen children. All lived into adulthood except for Pauline, who died very young.

Eventually I came along. I was born on Meese Street in Montreal. My favourite memory is that of my big dog BUSTER, the faithful companion of my younger years! It was a mixed Saint-Bernard breed, very strong and very intelligent. We lived close to the (St-Lawrence) river and one day Buster saved a person from drowning by pulling him back to the shore by his pants. Then he jumped back in the water, and brought the rowboat to shore. He was also a perfect driver! Here is what he used to do. Buster would be harnessed to a small "buggy" and, at the end of the school day, he would go to Saint-Victor School pick up my sisters, Fernande, Lucille and Marthe, and bring them back home, pulling them home for about a mile and half. Unfortunately, one day Buster was killed by a jealous neighbour. Yes, I cried a lot!

After we moved to Viauville<sup>1</sup>, I started grade one, the elementary school was run by the De La Salle Brothers (FEC in Quebec). Even if some religious congregations are badly criticized nowadays, as far as I am concerned, I am forever grateful for the invaluable education and great training I was given by the brothers during those seven years!



Bernard Hurtubise  
(Photo: Pierre Kirouac)



Parents of Bernard Hurtubise:  
Alfred Hurtubise (1890-1961)  
and Germaine Kirouac (1891-1935)  
(Photo: KFA collection)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Bernard Hurtubise is from the  
the 7<sup>th</sup> generation of the descendants of  
Alexandre de Kervoach  
and Louise Bernier.

<sup>1</sup> Viauville, Montreal district founded in 1892, according to plans by Charles-Théodore Viau; later included into Maisonneuve and finally Montreal.

In 1935, something terrible happened, it was a very sad day when my young mother died. I was only ten. To this day, I still miss my mother and I keep the memory of a very kind and loving mother.

From 1929, followed by the "Dirty Thirties", life was difficult and during that time, every member of the family had to contribute whatever one could do to help. While I was in elementary school, I had tasks to perform. I was an altar boy starting at a very young age. After Mass, I was invited for breakfast at the Sainte-Émilie convent where I could eat as much as I liked. But here is a not-so-funny story. Once I had to serve at the afternoon vespers but there was a baseball game too. All I could think of was if only the ceremony can come to an end, then I would be able to play baseball. Unfortunately, thinking of the upcoming pleasure distracted me from my duty and after the ceremony I put things away as fast as I could, and a little too fast! I placed the very hot censer in the wrong box, although it was a metal box it contained some charcoal briquettes; and I ran off to play baseball! Through the sacristy window smoke started to escape. Mr. Gosselin, the verger who lived across the street, called the fire department. Luckily the damage was minimal, but the church was, in a way, blessed with incense!

About the same time, after school, I started to distribute the French daily *La Presse*<sup>2</sup>, fifty copies for 50 cents per week. I picked up the papers at Bachand the local Nickel & Dime store<sup>3</sup>. After I was finished delivering the papers, the Bachand family kept me at their home to do my school homework and gave me supper. I usually stayed until 7:00 p. m., helping at the store, selling penny candies<sup>4</sup> and answering the English-speaking customers. There were many of them, the workers from the nearby *Vickers*<sup>5</sup>. Well, yes, little Bernard spoke English!



Bernard Hurtubise, altar boy, first at left in front row.  
(Photo: Bernard Hurtubise collection)

Besides delivering *La Presse*, I also distributed *Le Petit journal*<sup>6</sup>, sold after Sunday Mass and *The Standard*<sup>7</sup> (*The Star*), delivered on Saturday evening around 9 p.m. Delivering *Le Star* paid well because tips were good! Every bonus and extra pay went towards our family needs for food, clothing, etc. During Summer, starting at the age of eight, I helped at the *Maisonneuve Market*. My father had a stall where he sold fruits and vegetables. I sorted them and helped with cleaning. Luckily for me, at the market I was able to visit the other stalls. Once grown up, I realized that that is where I learned all

<sup>2</sup> *La Presse*, the largest French daily in North America founded in 1884 by William-Edmond Blumhart. Typographer Trefflé Berthiaume became manager in 1889 and owner in 1894.

<sup>3</sup> "5-10-15 " Nickel & Dime: chain of reasonably priced store in North America, like Woolworth. For younger readers, the ancestor of Dollar Stores. The development of large shopping mall in the early sixties, slowly killed the Nickel & Dime, local stores. The Quebec Historical Society tells the story online.

<sup>4</sup> Penny candies were very popular; often sold in small shops; available for as little as a penny; candies were sold in bulk and by weight. In Canada, on 4 February 2013 the penny was taken out of circulation by the government.

<sup>5</sup> *The Canadian Vickers*, a branch of British Vickers, built ships, airplanes trains on their fifty-acre land in Maisonneuve, Montreal eastern district, from 1911 to 1944 and employing thousands of workers.

<sup>6</sup> *Le Petit Journal*, popular French weekly, founded in Montreal in 1926 by the Roger brothers (1896-1972) and Roland Maillet (1897-1960); it closed down in 1978.

<sup>7</sup> *The Montreal Star*, English daily founded by Hugh Graham, Lord Atholstan, in 1869; closed in 1979.

<sup>8</sup> *Saint-Léonard-de-Port-Maurice*: from 1886 until the middle of the Fifties was essentially a farming village with a population of 300 French-speaking Canadian Catholics. Incorporated as a town in 1916. It was known as Montreal's Garden as all agricultural and dairy products were sold in the metropolis.



the basic things I needed for my future work as a caterer and my career in food! I used to talk with the farmers there. They often came from Saint-Léonard<sup>8</sup>, or with those from Notre-Dame Street where the Louis-Hippolyte-Lafontaine<sup>9</sup> tunnel-bridge is today. While chatting with them, I learned about lots of different fruits and vegetables and their characteristics. I also learned a lot about the various apples grown in Saint-Hilaire<sup>10</sup>. These are part of many delicious memories.

Fruits arrived by train at Bonaventure Station<sup>11</sup>; coming from Ontario or the United States. Watermelons were kept in sheds, (shed is the word we used then even in French). We would place them in sooty coal bins. During those years, I fully explored the Maisonneuve Market<sup>12</sup>. There I also learned about meat at the Pion butcher's shop. Mr. Pion generously gave our family 40 to 50 pounds of bones for our great dog Buster. Of course, Buster was a large dog!

At one corner of the market, Mr. Masse sold eggs and live hens. Mr. Rondeau sold cheese and butter. In season, Mr. Parent, the grocer, sold corn on the cob cooked in large boiling kettle and all day long we would hear him advertising loud and clear: "Delicious boiled corn on the cob, a nickel a piece." Depending on arrivals, we also sold bananas kept in Mr. Séguin's basement, cherries, and bitter black cherries from the Maskinongé region<sup>13</sup>, lilac, Malpègue oysters<sup>14</sup>. These famous oysters were sold directly from the



Buster the dog, Alfred Hurtubise and his son, Bernard, in 1926.

schooners at the fish market (that used to be at the corner of Berri and Commissaires streets). In those days, we had to go and get the oysters there and shovel them into large coconut sacks. Having to pay them fifty cents per shovelful we had to fill the large coal shovel as much as possible!

During winter, the choice of fruit was limited. Oranges came from California during the holidays. If we were lucky there was an orange in every Christmas stocking!<sup>15</sup>

During those years, my widowed godmother, Maria Racicot died. She had been married to one of my grandfather Hurtubise's brothers and had remarried a Mr. Meunier. She left me \$500.00 for my studies. Thanks to her great generosity, after elementary school I was able to start high school. My father had preciousely kept that inheritance for me, in spite of the fact that he badly needed that money during 1929 and the following tough years, through the thirties, he could have used that money many times over. Here I have to say that I was the seventh among thirteen hungry mouths to be fed! Thus, I entered the Jesuit-run Saint-Ignace College<sup>16</sup> and did the first two years of the classical course.<sup>17</sup>

My grades were really good. I want to stress that, then, we spent at least 36 hours per week in class and besides studying hard, the professors were very strict regarding politeness, homework and there was also lots of readings to be done, add to that, the travelling time between home and college, and for me, my responsibilities at home! Sadly indeed, after the second year, I had to quit the college because there was no more money to pay for it. So, my

<sup>9</sup> The Louis-Hippolyte-Lafontaine Tunnel-bridge linking Montreal to Longueuil on the south shore, the tunnel part is under the Saint-Lawrence river. Named in honour of a politician (1807-1864).

<sup>10</sup> Mont-Saint-Hilaire, town south of Montreal, in the Richelieu Valley, famous for its many orchards and great variety of apples. Take a virtual visit. (source: Wikipedia)

<sup>11</sup> Gare Bonaventure: railway station, 1847-1948; demolished in 1952, was located on Saint-Bonaventure Street, now part of Saint James Street.

<sup>12</sup> Marché Maisonneuve — in 1899, a first proposal for a public market was turned down but in 1912, a market opened essentially for stockbreeders to sell their animals. The market was designed by Marius Dufresne, architect and civil engineer, and built in 1912-1914, in the Beaux-Arts style. It is the second of the four largest markets in Montreal; worth a visit. It was a public market when the Hurtubises had a stall there.

<sup>13</sup> Maskinongé - In the Mauricie region, includes the towns of Trois Rivières and Shawinigan.

<sup>14</sup> The oysters from Malpègue Bay in Prince-Edward-Island arrived at Montreal by schooners and were sold directly from the boats anchored near the fish market located at the foot of Berri and Commissaires streets. Hence, merchants or their helpers had to go there to buy them.

<sup>15</sup> Christmas Stockings! As for its content then and up to the late Fifties, read the story in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, no 119, Winter 2015-2016, Christmas & New Year's at the Hurtubise.

<sup>16</sup> Saint-Ignace College was built by the Jesuit fathers in 1927 and offered the "classical course" only to boys. In 1967, with the Quebec government reform of education, it became CEGEP Ahuntsic (CEGEP = College of general and professional education) for boys and girls.

<sup>17</sup> The "classical course" was an eight-year course following a seven-year elementary course (no kindergarten then). Obtaining a BA degree opened the doors to university. Each year had a name: Basic latin, Syntax, Method, Versification, Literature, Rhetoric, Philosophy I and II.

father then found me a job as an errand-boy at *La Sauvegarde Insurance Company*<sup>18</sup>, their headquarters was next to the then Montreal Court House<sup>19</sup>. My job was to bring coffee, Cokes, chocolates, cigars, and Delisle yogurts<sup>20</sup>, on every floor in the nine-story building. My salary was \$5.00 per week including a half-day on Saturday. People gave me tips but there was one *séraphin*<sup>21</sup>, Mr. Charland, scrooge, sometimes, gave me only twopence!

My father was always keen to find me better employment and contacted a Dr. Elzéar Hurtubise (former owner of the Hurtubise house)<sup>22</sup>. He was the doctor to the important Montreal Transport Company, MTC<sup>23</sup>. There I earned \$30.00 per month as errand-boy. I wore a tram conductor's outfit<sup>24</sup> and could travel free on the Montreal tramways. Later they trained me as office boy and I worked there until 1944. One thing I learned at the MTC was the numbering system for bus spare parts; that turned out to be very useful when I was conscripted in the army at the end of WWII.

Photo: Hurtubise family collection



Bernard Hurtubise on St. Catherine Street, downtown Montreal, wearing his Montreal Tramway (MTC) uniform.

Training started at Saint-Jérôme, then I was sent to Farnham<sup>25</sup>; and finally at the military supply depot in Longue-Pointe<sup>26</sup> (at the eastern end of Montreal island). There my knowledge of the parts numbering system was much appreciated. The parts were prepared to be shipped to Europe. While I was waiting for a new position in the sheds, for one month I was assigned to the kitchen, learning to bone meat, prepare filets mignons, beef cubes for stews, etc. No rationing in the army!

To everyone's relief, the 1939-1945 war finally ended. My father, forever looking for work for his children, took me to his Bridge Club, *Cercle Préfontaine*, and showed me a large underused hall where I could set up a canteen. What a great idea! Once more, food would be at the heart of my life. I took over the cloakroom, the bridge tournaments' equipment, the hall's upkeep. And when came time to renew the lease, luck struck again, I was offered to run the hall as my own business. The contract stipulated that I had to keep two free evenings per week for the Bridge Club.



Bernard Hurtubise's business card from the 1940s.  
(Photo: Hurtubise family collection)

<sup>18</sup> *La Sauvegarde*, life insurance company founded in 1902. In 1913, *La Sauvegarde* moved into its new headquarters at 150 Notre-Dame Street East, in Old-Montreal. Story on internet at: <https://histoire-du-quebec.ca/sauvegarde>.

<sup>19</sup> *Montreal's Court House*. Bernard worked in the second court house located at 100 Notre-Dame Street East, in a building called by the architect's name: Ernest-Cormier, an Art Deco specialist. One extra info, Lucien-Fernand Le Brice de Keroach, also art-deco specialist, worked for Ernest Cormier.

<sup>20</sup> *Yogourt Delisle*. In the Fifties, Delisle delivered yogourt in small glass jars directly to its clients at home. Although very popular nowadays, it was unknown at the time, and not available in groceries yet. Family history behind the product at: <https://www.journaldemontreal.com/2013/11/23/les-delisle>

<sup>21</sup> *Séraphin*, as in *Séraphin Poudrier*, Central character in a novel entitled: *Un homme et son péché*, (A man's sin, greed) by Claude-Henri Grignon. Published in 1933, it was a long-running radio series. It also ran on Radio-Canada French television from October 1956 until June 1970. It was made into a film in 2002. Hence, in Quebec, calling a man *séraphin* means he is a heartless miser, i.e., a Scrooge.

<sup>22</sup> *The Hurtubise house* was built in 1739, located at 561, Côte-Saint-Antoine Road, at the corner of Victoria Avenue, is the oldest house in Westmount, a wealthy Montreal suburb.

<sup>23</sup> *MTC* — Montreal Tramways Company (English name then) created in 1911, included and administered all the urban transport routes / services on Montreal Island until 1951 when it was replaced by the Commission de Transport de Montréal (with a French name).

<sup>24</sup> For many years, this was a French play on words about transportation: people used the word "char" for car and pronounced it "shar". So the joke worked three ways. If you had money you could afford to buy a car, a "shar", but very few did then. The other means of transportation being either the "p'tits chars", i.e. trams and, for long distances, the trains, known as the "gros chars", because they were big indeed.

<sup>25</sup> *Saint-Jérôme* (in the Laurentians, north of Montreal); Farnham, Canadian Army Training Centre created in 1910, in the Eastern Townships always in use.

<sup>26</sup> *CFB Longue-Pointe* - Canadian Forces Base located in Montreal, Quebec. Its official name is Second Canadian Division Support Base Valcartier, Detachment Montreal on Notre-Dame Street East. (Source: Wikipedia)



I advertised in the *Journal de l'est*<sup>27</sup> that the hall could be rented for wedding receptions and many other activities. After renting it out a few times, and thanks to many members of the Hurtubise clan, I decided to offer catering services for banquets. The whole family volunteered to prepare sandwiches, salads, desserts, etc. My sisters, the neighbour, everyone gave a hand. Fun activities it was for all!

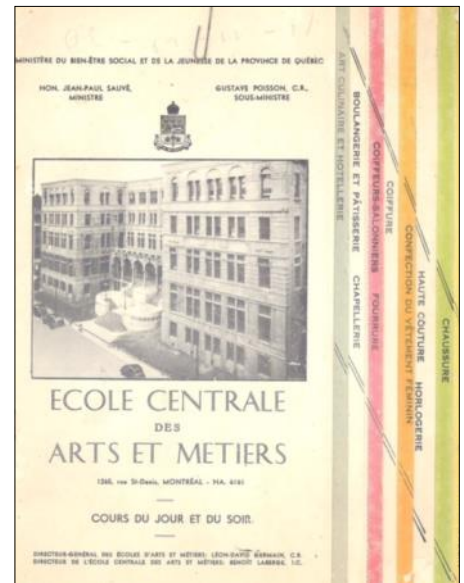
My father's contacts were numerous and he knew where to buy the needed provisions. It was an immediate success and it turned out to be quite a challenge, and a pleasant one! For the following two years, there were non-stop wedding receptions, rather normal right after the war. There were also many in my immediate family; oyster parties, union gatherings, etc., there was even demand for home catering services, out of town, in church basements, etc., etc. Eventually, I realized that my culinary knowledge was not quite up to par given the increasing demand for large-scale and fancier catering!

One more stroke of faith. The same year, the Quebec government opened *L'École des métiers commerciaux*, i.e., a multi-trade school in a renovated building on Saint-Denis Street<sup>28</sup>. That building had housed the original Montreal University when it was still only a branch of Laval University from Quebec City<sup>29</sup>, but Montreal University having moved to a site on Mount Royal in Côte-des-Neiges area, I immediately enlisted in the cooking classes of Mr. Napoléon Girard (former military camps chef). He was part of a first-class team of professors. There was Mr. Émile Puvilland<sup>30</sup>, chief cook and former chef to King George V of England; Mr. Conte, a Swiss pastry chef, known and appreciated on cruise ships as well as number one in Quebec with all gastronomical clubs and professional

organizations; and Mr. Burke, European baker, bread expert and French pastry chef. I often stayed on after school hours as a volunteer kitchen helper. Those were pleasant and delicious moments as not only did I learn more but I also got to taste more.

But the sweetest of all while at that school, was meeting the love of my life, Madeleine Thibodeau (1925-2005). My children have often asked me how it all started. What was the spark? First by serving her a cup of coffee. Then, greeting her at her table; a few words were exchanged in the staircase. And there was a spark. The rest is history. Madeleine was studying sewing and high fashion. It was the beginning of a wonderful love story. More to come!

For the moment, let's get back to the ovens. After the day-time professional classes, there were receptions afterwards, often for government officials, including the then Quebec Premier, Duplessis. The students would cook and serve elaborate meals for them as well as cocktails, wine tasting, etc., whatever was requested. Given my previous experience acquired over the past years, I was often responsible to organize these events. It must be there that I learned the secrets of diplomacy and the art of serving



Prospectus of Montreal's applied trade school, where Bernard Hurtubise studied in the late 1940s. See footnote 28.

while remembering the cost of food; that would always be useful to me all my life!

Being a volunteer also enabled me to learn every detail. After the one-year course I was recommended for a summer job as manager at the *Pine's Hotel* at Saint-Jovite in the Laurentians, north of Montreal. As summer 1948 was really beautiful, I invited Madeleine, with a friend as chaperone of course. My heart was more set than ever. I could now plan both my career and a family.

<sup>27</sup> Founded in 1938 as a bilingual newspaper serving French-speaking readers and English-speaking business owners in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. Its name was bilingual: *Les Nouvelles de l'Est*, *The East End News*. (Source: <https://estmediamontreal.com/journal-nouvelles-de-est-bon-vieux-temps-hochelaga-maisonneuve>)

<sup>28</sup> In 1946 the *École des Métiers commerciaux de Montréal - EMCM* / school of applied trades was opened to students. It closed in 1968. Located at 1265 Saint-Denis Street, in a completely renovated building that had been the first location of Montreal University. Story at: <https://encyclopedieqc.musee-mccord.qc.ca/fr/fiche/ecole-metiers-commerciaux-montreal>

<sup>29</sup> In 1878, Laval University (Quebec City), opened an annex in Montreal, the first French-speaking university in Montreal, including only three faculties: theology, law and medicine; it was housed in the above-described building and moved to the actual site on Mount-Royal in the mid-Thirties.

<sup>30</sup> *Émile Puvilland*, name given to the professional catering department where he taught for many years. The history of gastronomy in Quebec was published in a Master's Paper (French) written by Priscilla Plamondon-Lalancette, presented at UQAC in 2020. (UQAC= University of Quebec at Chicoutimi) Available at: [https://constellation.uqac.ca/5920/1/PlamondonLalancette\\_uqac\\_0862\\_10709.pdf](https://constellation.uqac.ca/5920/1/PlamondonLalancette_uqac_0862_10709.pdf)

In the Autumn, once more Lady Luck was on my side. *L'École des métiers* recommended me for the position of manager at the restaurant at **Dupuis Frères**<sup>31</sup>. This multi-story store also included a dining room, a cafeteria, a banquet service and a special dining room for clergy members. All the commercial equipment was available, and we could serve 2,000 persons (per day). For example, one day we organized a reception at the Joliette arena, about 40 miles east of Montreal. This was a hockey arena and we had to fix a foot-large board around the outside perimeter to accommodate the extra guests. Mr. Antonio Barrette<sup>32</sup>, provincial deputy for Joliette, was reporting on his visit to the Pope !

At Dupuis Frères, where I worked for three years, I served over a thousand banquets, receptions, hot meals, buffets, etc. While working at **Dupuis Frères**, on 4 January 1950, Madeleine and I were married. It had to be at a time of the year when there was less entertaining and the restaurant not as busy. At last, the long-awaited day came without snow; it rained and we got soaked. However, they say that rain is good luck for newlyweds. We were married at seven a.m. at Saint-Antoine Church in Longueuil (Montreal south-shore); the bride's parish. My mother-in-law prepared a first-class reception; a buffet for twelve and, as wedding cake, a **tarte paradis** or paradise pie! (*See recipe on the right*). We left the reception rather quickly as we had to get to Windsor Station<sup>33</sup> to catch the early train for New York City for our honeymoon. When we came back, there was a small apartment waiting for us, thanks to my Uncle Gérard, parish priest at Saint-Albert-le-Grand (near Botanical Garden), who had found us a place to live with a Polish lady. In those days, it was almost impossible to find an apartment.

<sup>31</sup> Nazaire Dupuis opened a small store on 28 April 1868. Convinced his brothers to join him and created Dupuis Frères in 1870. For 110 years, this French-Canadian store was one of the largest in Montreal. Remarkable story on internet.

<sup>32</sup> Antonio Barrette, Quebec politician (1899-1968), conservative deputy for Joliette in Quebec Government 1936-1960, and Labour minister 1944-1960.

<sup>33</sup> Windsor Station, inaugurated in 1889, was also Canadian Pacific Railroad head office. CPR linked Montreal and Vancouver since 1885. The Canadian metropolis was the hub of the North American development, and a rival of Chicago, Boston and New York. (Source: Windsor Station on Wikipedia and history web sites)



Photo: Hurtubise family collection

Bernard Hurtubise and Madeleine Thibodeau, during their honeymoon in January 1950, staying at the Victoria Hotel on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York City.

## PARADISE CAKE or PIE

### Ingredients for decoration:

2 cups of whipping cream  
5 tbsp of icing sugar  
1 can of sliced pineapple  
1 can of apricots  
2 tbsp of unflavored gelatin  
½ cup of pistachios  
½ cup of thick (red) jam

### Preparation

One sponge cake baked in a 9-inch tube mold by 4-inc high is needed. Cut the sponge cake horizontally in four equal parts of one inch thickness. OR use 4 X 9-inch molds of 1-inch thickness.

Whip the cream fairly stiff adding 4 tbsp of icing sugar.

Drain the pineapple and save ½ cup of the juice. Soak 1 tbsp of gelatine in one tbsp of pineapple juice, over hot water; cool and add ½ cup of whipped cream.

Apricot filling: drain apricots, keep 8 for top decoration; mash the rest, measure ½ cup of pulp and add one tbsp of gelatin, over hot water, then cool and mix lightly with ½ cup of whipped cream and the rest of the icing sugar.

Mix ½ cup of (red) jam with ½ cup of whipped cream. On bottom cake layer, spread the pineapple cream. Put second layer on and cover with the apricot cream. Put 3th layer and cover with jam & cream mix. Add 4th layer and cover the whole cake with the rest of the cream. Decorate with apricot pieces and pistachios.

*Editor's Note: Mrs. Emma Duquet, called it **Paradise Pie** when it had only two layers, as for her daughter's wedding, Madeleine Thibodeau with Bernard Hurtubise, the ceremony was at 7:00 a.m. on the 4 January 1950; followed by a small reception for twelve people. She added some canned pears and peaches to decorate.*

*This recipe comes from a recipe book printed in Montreal, around 1936 by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary, pp. 104-105. The book is still in print!*



Because Dupuis Frères refused to give me the bonus I was entitled to, after the wedding, I left them and found another job within two days. I was hired by Hydro-Quebec to take on the cafeteria at Bersimis<sup>34</sup> and manage its Montreal service centre on Jarry street which had a cafeteria and meeting room.

My first child was born in 1951, **my son Mathieu**. I was in seventh heaven ! We had moved to Saint-Elzéar, then a country village, now part of Laval (north of Montreal). Then, in 1953, **my first daughter, Marie-Josèphe**, was born at Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal. I remember well when the nurses first brought the baby they were humming a very popular tune: *Little Marie, I am crazy about you!*<sup>35</sup>, as they knew the name we had chosen for our daughter. These were happy times when we were starting our family, according to our wishes and values.

In 1954, after reading some publicity in *La Presse*, Montreal's French daily, I joined the municipal administration as assistant superintendent of restaurants within the **Parks Service**, under the direction of Mr. Claude Robillard<sup>36</sup>. It marked the beginning of important developments: opening of a food counter at the Chalet on Mount-Royal<sup>37</sup>, dining room at the municipal golf club<sup>38</sup>, snack bar at Sainte-Hélène Island, at Jarry Park, in arenas, etc. But the biggest project was the modernization of a Quebec style building known as the old hall. It had been built of red stones quarried on Ste-Hélène's Island<sup>39</sup>. In 1956, it became a restaurant known as **Hélène de Champlain**<sup>40</sup>. Mr. Claude Robillard, engineer, decided its vocation/use. He was helped by Mr. Eddy Prévost from the Quebec Association of Restaurants<sup>41</sup>, by Mr. Gérard Delage<sup>42</sup>, director of the Quebec Association of Hotel Owners/ Managers, as well as by Mr. W.W. McCaffrey<sup>43</sup>, superintendent of restaurants and myself, without forgetting Mr. Lucien Bergeron, responsible of the Municipal Tourism Office.

Montreal public works employees renovated the whole building from top to bottom. The interior decoration was done by Mr. Gaston Hinton. The aim was to use this restaurant to receive in style Montreal's guests when conventions were organized by the City's Tourism Office and remembering that it had to be available for various associations and countries too. The dining hall also had to be open to the public during the daytime offering reasonably priced meals to accommodate all classes of customers, whether Montrealers or tourists.

In 1956, my best gift was definitely the birth of **my daughter, Catherine**. She was born at the Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital in Montreal. It was Easter, so I brought my two eldest children to the hospital to see the new baby. The nurses were nuns in those days and they had prepared a special Easter breakfast for Madeleine and treats for Mathieu and Marie, including chocolate. What wonderful memory! A year later, the whole family moved into a new house on Laflèche Street, in Montreal, where I am still living! This was followed by a period of intensive and motivating work. Let me explain...

When Montreal was chosen to hold the international exhibition, for three years in a row before it opened, Montreal hosted all the countries who intended to take part in **EXPO 67**. There were professional meetings, presentations, unveiling of scale



Hélène-de-Champlain, the restaurant to be seen eating at during those years. (Photo: Bernard Hurtubise collection)

<sup>34</sup> Construction of the hydro-electric power station in Bersimis (Quebec north-shore) started in 1953 and was in service by 1956.

<sup>35</sup> Then a very popular tune entitled *Mon petit grain de folie* was interpreted by famous French born singer Line Renaud (née Jacqueline Ente in 1928). Everybody sang along the chorus: freely translated it said: *I am crazy about you, There is no one like you, You upset my life, you knock me over.*

<sup>36</sup> Claude Robillard (1911-1968), Canadian engineer, visionary and writer, first director of the Montreal Park Department, 1953-1961. (Source: Wikipedia) (see footnote 80)

<sup>37</sup> The chalet located at the top of Mount Royal, built in the Beaux-Arts style was inaugurated in 1932. The Kondiaronk Belvedere in front of the chalet offers sweeping city views of Montreal and of the Saint-Laurence River.

<sup>38</sup> Municipal nine-hole golf next to Maisonneuve Park and the Botanical Garden.

<sup>39</sup> The largest island located between Montreal and the south shore; named Sainte-Hélène by Samuel de Champlain in 1611, in homage to his wife, Hélène Boullé.

<sup>40</sup> Pavillon Hélène de Champlain, historical building built in 1937, was transformed into a restaurant in 1955, and used as the venue for all special events during EXPO 67.

<sup>41</sup> The Quebec Restaurant Owners Association started in 1928 and was legally created in 1938. In 1952, Bernard became President of the QROA, French and English newspapers alike announced this special honour. See page 23.

<sup>42</sup> Gérard Delage (1912-1991), lawyer, journalist, writer, administrator, humorist, emcee, gastronome, œnologist, union member and artist. Quebec Hospitality Ambassador and a gastronomy apostle. (See: The Canadian Encyclopedia online)

<sup>43</sup> W. W. McCaffrey, head of protocol for the City of Montreal with whom Bernard Hurtubise worked very closely for many years.

models, or people simply coming to Montreal to find out about the city and its organization. It was during those visits that the wine cellar at *Hélène de Champlain* restaurant was set up with the help of the Quebec Alcohol Corporation (SAQ) (Mr. Chapleau and buyers). The *Pineau des Charentes* was then imported for the first time ever as well as other wines not available at the SAQ and served exclusively at the *Hélène de Champlain* restaurant.

During the six months of **EXPO 67**, Commissioner General Pierre Dupuy<sup>44</sup>, hosted a special luncheon for each country on their national day. Evenings and weekends, the restaurant was available to all the countries and their personnel. *Hélène de Champlain* was also "the" caterer for the US pavilion and the official caterer for all countries who often suggested their own special menus. It was not known then that Montreal had loaned to the Federal Government the two islands where **EXPO 67** was and all equipment/facilities for the six-month duration of the international exhibition. The Montreal City Hall council chamber was transformed into the official dining hall where the city received dignitaries from various countries. The catering was always the responsibility of the chef of *Hélène de Champlain* restaurant.

One anecdote from 1967: During an official dinner at *Hélène de Champlain*, a Scandinavian princess raised her glass to toast the General Commissioner, Pierre Dupuy. What no one saw was that she was standing on her stocking feet. She had taken off her shoes and put them under the table!

It is in this council chamber that was held a famous luncheon for General de Gaulle<sup>45</sup>, right after he had made his (in)famous speech from the City Hall balcony. I will never forget standing with the officials in the doorway and looking through a window and witnessing the crowd



Montreal City Council Chamber where French President, General Charles de Gaulle, was received for lunch in July 1967. Far left, standing at back, Bernard Hurtubise.  
(Photo: Bernard Hurtubise collection)



Bernard Hurtubise serving Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau, French President General Charles de Gaulle, and Lucien Fournier, the mayor's right-hand man.  
(Photo: Bernard Hurtubise collection)

literally rising as far as Château Ramezay<sup>46</sup>! At the mayor's request<sup>47</sup>, I cancelled the cheese course to leave more time for the speeches during desserts. After the meal, all guests went out onto the terrace by the Champ-

<sup>44</sup> Pierre Dupuy (1896-1969) studied law at Montreal University and at the Sorbonne in Paris. Posted in Paris from 1922 to 1942; posted at London to work closely with governments in exile. Ambassador to the Netherlands 1945-1952; Italy 1952-1958; and France until retiring from the Diplomatic Service in 1963 when he was appointed Commissioner General of EXPO 67. He received the Order of Canada in 1967; died in 1969.

<sup>45</sup> Général Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970) French politician and writer.

<sup>46</sup> Château Ramezay, built in 1705, located across the street from Montreal City Hall. American historical link: from 1775 it became the Canadian headquarters for the Continental Army after seizing Montreal. Benjamin Franklin stayed there overnight in 1776 while trying to raise troops to fight for the Americans in the American Revolutionary War.



de-Mars<sup>48</sup> where liqueurs were served. As for Mayor Drapeau, and General de Gaulle, they stood away from everybody and had a very private twenty-minute conversation! The media were barred from that reception, thus the accounts were often less than correct. For example, four books published about **EXPO 67** mentioned that the luncheon was held at *Hélène de Champlain*, which is false. The meal was served at the City Hall, in the council chamber, while the next door councillors' chamber was used as the kitchen and pantry.

Citizens and tourists alike were often amazed by the high quality of our catering. That very active period did not stop me from increasing my family and in 1960, **my daughter Anne** was born and, in 1964, **my youngest daughter Ève**.

It is also in 1964 that one of the funniest stories of my professional life happened. I remember it well. There was a special reception held at Château Ramezay for international travel agencies' managers. At one point, a fawn, a Bambi, was paraded in the dining hall, led by the then well-known *Uncle Pierre*<sup>49</sup> (an important character in the former **Jardin des merveilles**<sup>50</sup> in Montreal), after going around the dining hall, both the fawn and Uncle Pierre left; they disappeared into Pierre's truck. But, to everyone's dismay, a gunshot was heard. And moments later the guests were presented with a sumptuous dish called "gigue du chevreuil malchanceux" (the unlucky deer jig)<sup>51</sup>. There were many sad and puzzled faces.

After **EXPO 67**, Mayor Jean Drapeau decided to carry on with activities on the site of *Man and His World* (1968-1984), under the direction of the Montreal Property Services. It was a mixed success. The nice beach is still available, the many gardens and a few **EXPO 67** buildings including the magnificent French pavillon that became the Montreal Casino in 1993 (history on Wikipedia), and the Biosphère!<sup>52</sup>

There were many great events in 1968. For example, many international artists performed at **Place des nations**,<sup>53</sup> an outdoor amphitheatre. Among them, Gilles Vigneault<sup>54</sup> faced a huge chorus when the crowd of between 7,000 and 10,000 spectators sang with him his famous success: *Gens du pays* (almost a national anthem in Quebec since) and the French singer-songwriter, Gilbert Bécaud (1927-2001)<sup>55</sup>. What Mr. Bécaud enjoyed most during the afternoon rehearsal was eating hot dogs! Imagine... ! !

Another story I like to tell is what happened during a gastronomic dinner attended by Madeleine; she sat next to the Russian Consul. At the end of the meal, as I gathered the menus left on the tables, surprise, on Madeleine's menu there was a phone number – that of the Russian diplomat. . . Obviously he had enjoyed her company.

That whole period, 1945 to 1970, was, as far as I am concerned, a pivotal time for the Quebec culinary heritage that we enjoy nowadays. After living through the Dirty Thirties, WWII and all its restrictions, during the years immediately after the war, food started to be imported in large quantity, people were discovering diverse cultures, and the opening to the world



<sup>47</sup> Jean Drapeau (1916-1999), lawyer and politician; mayor of Montreal 1954-1957 and 1960-1986.

<sup>48</sup> Champ-de-Mars, historical park located behind the Montreal City Hall, The largest park in Old Montreal. It was used for military manoeuvres and parades until the end of the 18th century. The last remnant of the imposing Montreal's fortification can still be seen there.

<sup>49</sup> Désiré Aerts (1924-1997), better known as Uncle Pierre, was a zoo veterinary and a Belgian-Canadian actor. In May 1957, he landed in Quebec invited by Claude Robillard, Director of Montreal's Parks. They had met in France. First hired by Jasmin & Jasmin veterinary clinic in Montreal in 1959, he became director of the Montreal Zoological Garden, the delightful Jardin des merveilles in Lafontaine Park with winter quarters at Angrignon Park from 1958 to 1989. During Expo 67, he was in charge of all animals on the EXPO islands living either outdoor or inside some pavilions. (Wikipedia)

<sup>50</sup> Le Jardin des Merveilles, (garden of wonders) was a small zoo for children, story and photos at: <https://histoireplateau.org/album-virtuel/scenes-de-parcs/le-jardin-des-merveilles>.

<sup>51</sup> Roasted deer jig. In French cuisine "gigue" refers to deer's leg or hind quarters or large venison including deer.

<sup>52</sup> The US Pavilion at Expo 67 was the geodesic dome created by Richard Buckminster Fuller on St. Helen's Island. It was donated to the City of Montreal by then, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson. It is an environment museum since 1990. For a virtual visit see: BIOSPHERE on internet.

<sup>53</sup> Place des Nations, located at the south end of St. Helen's Island, during Expo 67 was used for all official ceremonies, from inauguration to closing, all cultural, artistic, folkloric presentations from participating countries.

<sup>54</sup> Gilles Vigneault, born 27 October 1928 at Natashquan, Quebec north-shore, is a poet and prolific singer-songwriter.

<sup>55</sup> Gilbert Bécaud (1927-2001), famous French singer-songwriter, pianist, known as "Mr. 100,000 Volts", because of his energetic performances.

through **EXPO 67**, all the flavours of the world invaded us!

It is also during those years that I had the occasion to prepare and serve cocktail parties and special luncheons and dinners for the inauguration of the **Saint-Lawrence Seaway**<sup>56</sup>; champagne and appetizers at the opening of **Place des Arts**<sup>57</sup>, dinner at the top of the **new stock exchange building**<sup>58</sup>; the opening of the **Montreal Métro**, our subway<sup>59</sup>, breakfast at the official opening of EXPO 67, cocktail parties and receptions during the **Summer Olympic**<sup>60</sup> games in 1976, Add to that some 2,000 to 2,500 other receptions! Finally, in 1952, I had the great honor of being named president of the **Association des restaurateurs**. (See page 23) What an exceptional period!

There is a second part in my professional career. My years of service for the City of Montreal that can be divided into two. I like to call the second part: the years behind the curtain. I can remember so many receptions, silently listening to everything that was being said. I had the privilege to live to see the emergence of the gastronomic clubs and culinary salons. Instead of always serving others, as I had done all my life, I found myself at the receiving end, being served. After spending my life standing and serving, I was invited to sit down and be served. What a change! It was also a great time for food critics and writers; Roger Champoux<sup>61</sup>, Françoise Kayler<sup>62</sup>, Hélène Rochester<sup>63</sup>, and so many others.

I want to pay homage to those I got to know well and work with during those years, because they were all part of the culinary awakening in Quebec. I will name a few: Mr. Kretz, chef at *La Sapinière*<sup>64</sup>, Max Rupp of the *Chaîne des rôtisseurs*<sup>65</sup>, Gérard Delage<sup>66</sup> from the salons gastronomiques organized for



The Bernese Bear Trophy given annually to recognize the best promotion of the year. Mr. Max Rupp presents this prestigious Swiss trophy, on behalf of the Swiss Consul, to Bernard Hurtubise, who accepts it on behalf of the City of Montreal. Bernard's comment: *All through my career Max remained my best friend, starting at Dupuis Frères, then at the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, at the Society of Chefs and in all the gastronomical Clubs.*

<sup>56</sup> The St. Lawrence Seaway includes a 189-mile section built 1954-1959. A 20th-century engineering masterpiece with seven locks, five Canadian and two American, enabling ships to climb 246 feet above sea level between Montreal and Lake Ontario. It opened navigation from the Atlantic to the end of the Great Lakes as far as Thunder Bay, Ontario, and Duluth, Minnesota. (Wikipedia).

<sup>57</sup> Place des Arts, inaugurated in 1963. History and virtual tour on Internet. A must see when in Montreal.

<sup>58</sup> The Stock Exchange tower, at Victoria Square, was inaugurated in 1964.

<sup>59</sup> Construction of the Montreal Métro started in 1962. Inaugurated on 14 October 1966 when Jean Drapeau was Montreal's mayor. It is the second Canadian subway system after Toronto which opened in 1954. Montreal Metro was inspired by the Paris Métro and the first subway in North America to run on rubber tires instead of metal wheels.

<sup>60</sup> The 1976 Summer Olympic Games took place in Montreal during the last two weeks of July 1976. Montreal was the second French-speaking city, after Paris, to hold the Olympic games (Wikipedia)

<sup>61</sup> Roger Champoux, well known food critic and author; the Roger-Champoux prize was created in his memory and honour.

<sup>62</sup> Françoise Kayler, born in 1929 in France, died in 2010 in Montreal, Canada, was a journalist and eminent food critic passionate about gastronomy. In March 2011, the ITHQ (Quebec Tourism & Hospitality Institute) inaugurated a large hall in her honour. The Françoise-Kayler Scholarship is awarded yearly by the ITHQ to top students in restoration.

<sup>63</sup> The venerable Helen Rochester, who died in December 1994, had been the fine-dining critic for *The Gazette*, and ergo for all of *Anglo Montreal* for 33 years. Her book, *Guide to Montreal Restaurants*, was published in November 1994.

<sup>64</sup> Marcel Kretz, former Chef at *La Sapinière*\*. He came from Alsace in the fifties was the precursor of the new wave of eating local bio food. \*On 20 November 2013, after 77 years, this famous hotel in the Laurentians founded and operated by the Dufresne family closed its doors.

<sup>65</sup> Max Rupp, originally from Switzerland, was a member of the famous association *Chaîne des rôtisseurs*. He founded, and was president of the Quebec Society of Culinary and Pastry chefs. The restaurant of the Montreal Calixa-Lavallée Hospitality School, at 4500 East Henri-Bourassa in Montreal-North, is named in his honour for his exceptional culinary contribution.

<sup>66</sup> Gérard Delage. His influence is still greatly felt today through the Fondation Gérard-Delage created in 1980 to encourage new generations of high-quality professionals in hotel management, catering and tourism by awarding scholarships for students carrying on superior studies and internships.



American journalists at the Chanteclerc Hotel<sup>67</sup>, the Gourmets du Nord at Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson<sup>68</sup>, the suppliers of the *Bonne table* with Jean-Guy Daudelin, Eddy Prévost, secretary of the *Quebec Restaurant Association*, all were backed by exceptionally talented chefs, including Abel Banquet<sup>69</sup>, Carlo Del'Olio, Pierre Demers from the Ritz<sup>70</sup>, and all the members of the *Société des chefs de cuisine*<sup>71</sup>. An exceptionally rich period!

My catering life came to an end in 1970 halfway between the time when I was hired in 1954 by the Civil Service Commission, after passing many exams in subjects related to catering; and just before the municipal Civic Party was launched in Montreal in 1960<sup>72</sup>.

<sup>67</sup> *The Chanteclerc, built in 1938, started as a 45-bedroom lodge by Lac Rond (round lake) at Sainte-Adèle in the Laurentians. Skiers' demand was such that it expanded rapidly and is always a favourite with skiers and American tourists.*

<sup>68</sup> *The Esterel Hotel, built in 1936-1937 in Art-Deco style, by Belgian Baron Louis Empain at Ste-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson in the Laurentians, is a listed heritage building.*

<sup>69</sup> *Chef Abel Banquet and many other chefs are mentioned in Priscilla Plamondon Lalancette's thesis presented at UQAC\* in 2020: Histoire de la gastronomie québécoise: l'émergence d'une identité culinaire. (\*Quebec University at Chicoutimi). The PDF in French only is available on the web. It seems to be the best reference for the recent history of Quebec's culinary development.*

<sup>70</sup> *The Montreal's Ritz-Carlton is one of the top hotels in the world. When it opened in 1912, the Ritz inaugurated new standards in luxury hospitality.*

<sup>71</sup> *Société des chefs de cuisine (chefs' society). Until the 1950s, only European chefs were accepted in Quebec's top hotels and restaurants. Those trained here at the Trade & arts school were not appreciated as they should. In 1953, pastry chef Max Rupp founded the Amicale des maîtres de l'art culinaire (club for culinary masters). This group visited every Montreal restaurant inviting cooks and chefs to a first general assembly which produced a friendly determined group of 35 people. It was an alternative to the Société mutuelle des*



Tuesday, 20 June 1972, printed in LA PRESSE, under the title: LA BONNE TABLE, Gastronomes (gourmets) from around the world are magnificently received in Montreal's very best hotels. ... Mr. Jean Phisel, Grand Financier for Canada's Baillage, and Mr. Bernard Hurtubise from Montreal's Baillage, both members of the organizing committee of the World Gastronomical Convention, and Mrs. Hurtubise. This photo illustrated Mrs. Françoise Kayler's article describing the World Convention held in Montreal for the first time. It was the seventh World Convention organized by the *Chaîne des Rôtisseurs*, an international brotherhood dedicated to the promotion of good cuisine.



*Medal of the Gastronomical Merit*, minted on the occasion of the convention held in Montreal. It shows a skewer, strait and sharp as a symbol and emblem of French cuisine, according to Curnonsky's definition. The *Chaîne des Rôtisseurs* chose it as its emblem. Thirty-three silver medals were minted as well as three gold ones awarded to Mr. Roger Champoux, for literature; Mr. Jean Phisel, for organizing provincial, national and international groups; and Mr. Gérard Delage, for humour and gastronomy.

*cuisiniers canadiens existing since 1950 but Quebec members had disagreements it. The SMCC disappeared and the Amicale des maîtres de l'art culinaire became the recognized Société des chefs, cuisiniers et pâtisseries du Québec (SCCPQ) i.e. the official group for Quebec culinary and pastry chefs. Today, with its 800 members it is the largest professional group of food production in Quebec. Source: <https://www.facebook.com/sccpq>*

The whole **EXPO 67** period was shared with my family; so many memories, stories, outings. My family came at lunch time visiting the site and I met them at noon to enjoy a picnic with them! Those were precious moments!

I was transferred, without my consent, to the municipal real estate department as assistant manager as I was one of the few who best knew Sainte-Hélène and Notre-Dame islands, the various pavilions and the organization. Hay & Associate (business consultant) was hired by the city administration to reorganize the non-unionized management personnel. For six months I was part of the assessment committee but, in the end, the report was shelved. I went back to the Montreal Park Service, but this time, I was assigned to the *Montreal Botanical Garden*<sup>73</sup>, in charge of reorganization. It was a very happy time. The atmosphere was very pleasant and there was a real sense of well-being. In a way, I was co-habiting with the past, working from the office of Miss Marcelle Gauvreau<sup>74</sup>, who founded the children's school: *L'école de l'éveil*. I remember that my son, Mathieu, enjoyed taking part in that program. I was very proud of my family link through my mother, Germaine Kirouac, with Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac. And I was also very proud



Photo: Bernard Hurtubise collection

Municipal Official decorated by France: Mr. Bernard Hurtubise, deputy-superintendent, responsible for the restaurants of Montreal Parks Service, was decorated by France for his exceptional services to the cause of French gastronomy. During a ceremony attended by many important food experts, Mr. Pierre Brassac, commercial attaché from France, presented him with the **bronze medal of merit** from France's famous *Académie culinaire*.



At the Lachute Golf Club\* (between 1968 and 1972) during a special dinner of the Chaîne des Rotisseurs, from left to right: Mr. Guy Lamarche (1935-2021), journalist at **Radio Canada** (CBC) and **Le Devoir**, Montreal daily, the Lachute Golf Club Chef and the Maître d'hôtel; Mr. Jean Zanda, president of the Outaouais Baillage, Mr. Bernard Hurtubise, president of The Montreal Baillage since 1967, and the Chef from Rideau Hall, the Governor General's official residence in Ottawa. (Photo credit: SYD DREW from Lachute)

\*Founded in 1923 by Gilbert E. Ayers, the Lachute Golf Club is known as one of the most beautiful in Canada; it has two 18-hole courses. Located in the province of Quebec, half-way between Montreal and Ottawa

<sup>72</sup> *Parti civique (1960-1994): municipal political party founded by Jean Drapeau with Lucien Saulnier, in 1960 to fight corruption in Montreal and put the city on the international radar.*

<sup>73</sup> *Montreal Botanical Garden, founded in 1931 by Brother Marie-Victorin, born Conrad Kirouac (1885-1944). Visit the MBG website and the KFA website.*

<sup>74</sup> *Miss Marcelle Gauvreau (1907-1968), Canadian scientist, botanist, writer, and Marie-Victorin's assistant, 1933-1944.*

<sup>75</sup> *André Champagne (1915-2000), one of Marie-Victorin's most faithful disciples. Director of the Montreal Botanical Garden, 1958-1961, and Director of Montreal's Parks Department until he retired in 1980. He worked closely with Mayor Jean Drapeau.*



to work with many of his colleagues: André Champagne<sup>75</sup>, Ernest Rouleau<sup>76</sup>, Jacques Rousseau<sup>77</sup>, Henry Teuscher<sup>78</sup>, Louis Dupire<sup>79</sup>, and others who were all carrying on the founder's work. The Botanical Garden is all about nature and it is always very beautiful!

Upon the creation of the **Municipal Sports and Leisure Service** in 1971, I was named assistant director, responsible for the structure, the installations and the administration. The greatest result of these years of works was the agreement signed with the Montreal School Board for exchange of services. The schools used the arenas for various sports in daytime. In the evening, we could use the schools' gymnasiums for our own sports and leisure activities.

With the Eudistes congregation<sup>80</sup>, we exchanged a large piece of land to build an arena to be used by students during the day. It worked well as all levels of society were respected. As Claude Robillard wanted it, the less well off could use the sports facilities like everybody else. The Centre Claude Robillard was named after him and is still a testimony to his vision. It shows how much he was appreciated and respected. Then it became evident that sports and leisure needed to be two separate entities because the activities were growing much faster than ever anticipated.

For example, during those years, the libraries were still the responsibilities of the municipal secretariat as they had always been. The leisure activity department was properly organized and Maisons de la culture (Cultural Houses) were created with headquarters in Montréal North. I retired from

that department in 1984. When looking back, I see that these last years serving my fellow citizens were a gift well programmed by Claude Robillard, this exceptional and honest man. During the Sixties, he was chosen to work in the town planning department, but he was never given the financial means to carry out the various needed projects. The success he achieved with the parks keeps giving joy and satisfaction to Montrealers.

Yes, family life was possible, but it demanded a great deal of work and sacrifices from every member. I am for freedom for each Montrealer but it requires citizen implication.

Yes, a catering career is valuable, because it is always so pleasant to eat, drink and spend time in good company.

<sup>76</sup> Ernest Rouleau (1916-1991), one of Marie-Victorin's first disciples, dedicated his professional career to preserving and enriching Marie-Victorin's Herbarium and Botanical Institute.

<sup>77</sup> Jacques Rousseau (1905-1970), botanist, ethno-biologist, explored Quebec's Labrador peninsula and outer regions, was an encyclopedia of natural and human sciences. With Brother Marie-Victorin, he worked at creating the Montreal Botanical Garden and became its director after Marie-Victorin's death in 1944 until 1957.

<sup>78</sup> Heinrich (Henry) Teuscher, (1891-1984), born in Germany in 1891, died in Canada in 1984, landscape architect, horticulturalist and botanist best known for having designed the Montreal Botanical Garden; was also its first curator.

<sup>79</sup> Louis Dupire (1887-1942), born in Ploermel in Brittany in 1887, died at Montreal, Canada, in 1942. Botanist and journalist worked closely with Marie-Victorin to create the Montreal Botanical Garden in 1931. See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 92, summer 2008, pp. 36-37.

<sup>80</sup> The Complexe sportif Claude-Robillard,\* (CSCR), large multi-purpose sport facility built on land formerly owned by the Eudistes Fathers' congregation, and exchanged for another one. (\*in homage to a truly remarkable man, see footnote 36).



Bernard Hurtubise and his children: from left to right: Ève, Anne, Catherine, Marie and Mathieu.

## *Bernard Hurtubise elected president of the Quebec Restaurant Owners Association*

*La Presse, Montreal, Wednesday, 9 January 1952\**

The annual convention of hotel and restaurants suppliers is a real gathering of all involved, near of far, in catering services, gastronomy and table arts and everything else connected with it. Hence the Canadian Association of Restaurant owners (Montreal section) uses this annual gatherings to hold its elections.

Yesterday evening, the election's results are as follows: **Mr. Bernard Hurtubise, manager of the buffet and restaurant at Dupuis Frères, was elected president**, following Mr. Victor Hill. Mr. T. Tomasso and Mr. A. Walker, are elected vice-presidents; E.D. Phelan, A.V. Madge, Paul Dandurant, S. Gersehnson, H. Grivakis, Miss

Maud Dahms, I.W. Hughes, G. Geracimo, H. Poole and Oliviers, administrators, Mr. Eddy Prévost, remains secretary-treasurer. During his brief allocution, Mr. V. Hill congratulated those elected, and thanked his colleagues for their collaboration and particularly insisted in the importance of maintaining the highest level of service in spite of the constant cost price increase.

### **MONTREAL HOTEL OWNERS AND MANAGERS**

Yesterday, the Montreal Hotel owners and managers also chose their board members for the new year.

Mr. Richard H. Nash, general manager of **Mont-Royal Hotel** was elected president, and Mr. Gordon McMichael, general manager of **Hotel Laurentien**, was elected vice-president. He replaces Mr. E. H. Frappier, from **de La Salle Hotel**, who has accepted an important position in hotel management in Mexico. Mr. C. E. Smith was elected executive secretary and treasurer of the association. Mr. Jean Contat from the **Ritz-Carlton**, Harold W. Sweeney from the **Windsor**, and Percy D. Martin from the **New-Carlton**, were elected directors.

\* Translated by Marie L. Timperley for *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, no 137



9 January 1952, Bernard Hurtubise elected president of the Quebec Restaurant Owners Association.



# MARTHE GODBOUT'S WEDDING RECEPTION IN FRELIGHSBURG

## by Bernard Hurtubise

On 22 April 2021, I received *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 135. On page 26, I could hardly believe my eyes when I read that Dorilda Fortin, the wife of Adélar Godbout, former Premier of Quebec, was the granddaughter of Marcelline Kirouac. And the memories started flooding back!

From 1949 until 1953, I was restaurant and banquet manager for *Dupuis Frères*, one of the largest retail stores in Montreal. *Dupuis Frères* distributed thousands of catalogues everywhere in Quebec and customers ordered directly by mail and merchandise was delivered province wide.

In 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Godbout came to my office located on Sainte-Catherine Street east, near Berri (where the provincial bus terminal is located). They were regular customers of *Dupuis Frères*. I had no idea then of a link with the Kirouacs. The Godbouts wanted to know whether a wedding reception for their daughter could be held at their home in Frelighsburg.

After discussing, we agreed on what was needed. Dupuis' catering service would supply and transport all the material to their home:



Photo : Francine Jobin collection

The Godbout family photographed in front of their family home in Frelighsburg (Quebec) in July 1941. From left to right: Marthe, Pierre, Dorilda Fortin-Godbout, Thérèse, Adélar Godbout, Rachel and Jean. In 1941, Adélar Godbout was the Premier of the Province of Quebec.

tables, chairs, dishes, china, cutlery, ice boxes, etc. ... The food would be prepared outside under a canvas tent because of a great number of trees. It would be a hot and cold buffet reception. In case of rain, the buffet would be served directly from the truck onto the house balcony. The trucks were those used by *Dupuis Frères* to deliver furniture; they were dark burgundy colour. It had to be an outdoor reception as the house could not accommodate 200 guests and more.

As far as I can remember, in those days, a buffet reception included an assortment of hors d'œuvres and appetizers to accompany the toast. On the 30-foot-long tables would be a selection of cold meats, ham, turkey, etc.) three cold salads, a whole salmon from Gaspé, and some mounted pieces. Besides the hot and cold assortment, there were also sandwiches and desserts. Finally there was a tiered wedding cake served at the end of the meal. A variety of drinks were served: tea, coffee, milk, juices and wine. Oh, those great buffets of yore! It was a grand reception and a happy one too!

No rain, only glorious sunshine. The invoice was paid in full then and there. This was the only wedding reception I did in Frelighsburg at the request of Mr. and Mrs. Godbout for their daughter Marthe!

Thanks to the *Trésor des Kirouac*, I wanted to share some happy memories of seventy years ago.

Bernard Hurtubise, son of Germaine Kirouac and Alfred Hurtubise and younger brother of Gabrielle (Gaby), who is the eldest *KFA* member at 103.

*In his ancestor's footsteps*  
*Richard Kirouac elected Mayor of Saint-Edmond-de-Grantham in Quebec*  
by François Kirouac

L'Express, Drummondville's newspaper, in its E-edition of 4 October 2021, wrote that the municipal council of Saint-Edmond-de-Grantham was elected without opposition and that Richard Kirouac was acclaimed mayor.

Of course that caught my attention as there are relatively few among the great number of descendants of our common ancestor who have held such functions. Indeed, before Richard Kirouac and until now, as far as is known, only eleven people have held municipal responsibilities.

Richard's ancestor, CHEVALIER FRANÇOIS KIROUAC (1826-1896)<sup>1</sup>, was the mayor of the Parish of Saint-Sauveur twice, first between 1870 to 1883 and again from 1887 to 1889, the year the Municipality of Saint-Sauveur was annexed to Quebec City;

CLOVIS KUEROUACK (1837-1921),  
mayor of Jonquière from 1885 to 1889;

LOUIS-AMÉDÉE KÉROUACK (1849-1938),  
mayor of the Parish of Saint-Eugène-de-L'Islet during four mandates at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century<sup>2</sup>;

WILFRID KIROUAC (1876-1952),  
mayor of the adjoining municipality, Saint-Cyrille-de-Lessard, in 1915 and 1916;

LEO KYROUAC (1899-1977),  
mayor of Bourbonnais, Illinois from 1937 to 1941 and again from 1945 to 1949;

LIONEL KIROUAC<sup>3</sup> (1902-1980),  
mayor of Warwick, in the Bois-Francs region of Quebec, from 1941 to 1947;

GABRIEL KEROUAC (1909-1974),  
mayor of Bourbonnais, Illinois in 1953 and 1954;

HUBERT KÉROACK (1893-1974),  
mayor of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville in 1956 and 1957;

JOSEPH-ALCIDE LANOUE (1897-1969)  
son of Sara Keroack, mayor of Saint-Sébastien from 1961 to 1969;

VINCENT KEROUAC (1925-2003),  
mayor of Great Falls, Montana in 1973;

GÉRALD KÉROUAC (1950-2002),  
elected mayor of Saint-Eugène-de-L'Islet in 1989.

Richard Kirouac kindly accepted to talk to us about his career path that brought him to Saint-Edmond-de-Grantham and becoming mayor.

Great-great-grandson of the Chevalier François, Richard was born in



Richard Kirouac,  
new mayor of  
Saint-Edmond-de-Grantham.  
(Photo: Denise Métivier)

October 1956 in Quebec City. He is the third of the seven children of André and Pauline (Mercier) Kirouac: one daughter amid six brothers! He grew up in the Sacré-Cœur-de-Jésus Parish in Quebec City, next to his ancestor's parish, where Chevalier François was mayor. The family moved to Charlesbourg, Quebec suburb when Richard was eight.

Richard studied administration at the Limoilou CÉGEP (College of general & professional education)

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<sup>1</sup> See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, special issue number 5, Spring 2018 at: <https://familleskirouac.com/genealogie/Hors%20serie%205%20Chevalier%20Francois%20Kirouac%20biographie.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See *L'Album, Pensées des descendants de Maurice-Louis-Alexandre Le Brice de Keroack depuis 1730*, Raymonde Kérouac-Harvey, 1980, pp 89-95.

<sup>3</sup> See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 106, Winter 2011, p 34 and see *L'Album, Pensées des descendants de Maurice-Louis-Alexandre Le Brice de Keroack depuis 1730*, Raymonde Kérouac-Harvey, François Kirouac, 1980, p 61.



# Ancestry of Richard Kirouac

## Generation 1

Alexandre de Kervoach  
Circa 1702-1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)  
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier  
(1712-1802)  
(Jean + Geneviève Caron)

## Generation 2

Louis Keroack  
dit le Breton  
(1735-1779)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)  
11 January 1737

Catherine Miot  
(1739-1813)  
(Joseph +  
Hélène Le Normand dit Jorien)

## Generation 3

Pierre Keroack  
(1777-1866)

Montmagny (Quebec)  
17 October 1797

Marie-Anne Joneas  
(1775-1816)  
(Charles +  
Magdeleine Baillargon)

## Generation 4

Louis-Grégoire Kérouac  
(1801- 1890)

St-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (Qc)  
10 January 1825

Catherine Picard  
(1803-1878)  
(Louis +  
François Harnois)

## Generation 5

François Kirouac  
(1826 - 1896)

L'Ancestrerie-Longue (Quebec)  
6 June 1848

Marie-Julie Hamel  
(1830-1915)  
(Joseph + Angélique Morneau)

## Generation 6

Francis Kirouac  
(1849 - 1925)

Quebec (Quebec)  
10 January 1877

Victoria Brunet  
(1858-1920)  
(Jean-Olivier + Cécile Laporte)

## Generation 7

Charles-Édouard Kirouac  
(1882- 1965)

Quebec (Quebec)  
30 May 1910

Béatrice Marezau  
(1888-1979)  
(Ovide + Marie-Louise Clapin)

## Generation 8

André Kirouac  
(1924 - 2008)

Quebec (Quebec)  
20 August 1947

Pauline Mèreiz  
(Elzéar + Marie Lapointe)

## Generation 9

Richard Kirouac

Quebec (Quebec)  
25 February 1989

Denis Métévier  
(Raymond + Madeleine Robitaille)

from 1974 and 1978. With his partner, Denise Métivier, daughter of Raymond and Madeleine (Robitaille) Métivier, they had three children, Sébastien, Dominik and Claude. In 1989, at Quebec City, Richard and Denise were officially married and went to live at Roberval in the Lake-Saint-Jean region.

### Professional Career

Upon leaving the Limoilou CÉGEP, Richard first went to work as a buyer at Centre François Charon (Rehabilitation centre in Quebec City) from 1978 to 1987. Afterwards, he did the same work at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Quebec City until 1989. At 32, he was promoted to procurement manager at the Roberval Hospital, now called the CSSS Domaine-du-Roy, and worked there until retiring in 2011.

In the spring of 2013, Richard and Denise left Roberval and came back to live near Quebec City, where they were from originally, settling at St-Raymond-de-Portneuf. Then in December 2015, in order to live closer to the children, they moved to Saint-Edmond-de-Grantham, in the Quebec region called Centre-du-Québec.

After two years socialising in the municipality and retired six years, he felt the need to meet new challenges. So, he became a city councilor as well as being deputy mayor. During his mandate, he had the chance to discuss with mayors from other municipalities which most likely helped him to apply for the position this autumn. However, there may be another reason. Recently he discovered an article written by Monique Duval and published many years ago in *Le Soleil*, Quebec City's daily, about his ancestor François Kirouac. He says that reading this article most likely influenced his decision to stand for election as mayor of his town.

### Social Involvement

Everyone knows that busy people are the best



During our Return to the Sources trip to Brittany in July 2000, the KFA Delegation met Richard's niece, **VANESSA KIROUAC**, daughter of his brother Daniel. It was a surprise for Vanessa and the 32 members of the KFA delegation in the hamlet of de Kervoac at Lanmeur on 8 July 2000 at the unveiling of the plaque in honour of "our cousin" Jack Kerouac.

(Photo: KFA collection)

volunteers. And Richard is the living proof. From 1984 until 1989, he was the soccer coach at Cap-Rouge for the six- to eight-year-olds. At Roberval, during four years, he was the scout leader of the Beavers (7- & 8-year-olds). During twelve years, he was secretary of the Association de gestion des approvisionnements des établissements de santé du Québec (AGAESQ) Board, Quebec's health services procurement managers association, and for ten years, he was a member of organizing committee for the annual golf tournament raising money for the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital Foundation in Roberval.

Richard writes that he loves the contact with people. Therefore, it is no surprise that he accepted new responsibilities as mayor. At the end of his email, he notes that 125 years after his great-great-grandfather, he will do his best to perpetuate the good work he did in Saint-Sauveur during the 19th century.

We wish him the very best during his mandate as mayor of Saint-Germain-de-Grantham.

Greg Kyrrouac, our genealogist cousin from Illinois, knows of de Kervoach descendants who were either mayors or the equivalent in the USA, and is searching for others. So, there will be more to read about this subject in a future *Trésor*.





# De Kervoach Descendant Through The Female Line Henri Poitras (1896-1971)

by André St-Arnaud

In 2018, André St-Arnaud started introducing us to descendants of our de Kervoach ancestor linked through the female line.

Today, we meet Henri Poitras, very well known in Quebec under his nickname: *Jambe-de-bois*, meaning "wooden-leg" the name of a favourite character in a very popular TV series entitled: *Les belles histoires des Pays d'en haut*, written by Claude-Henri Grignon. Stories taking place in the Laurentians, known as *Pays d'en haut*, because located north, that is above Montreal on the map.

Comparing the ancestry of various descendants, we find that Henri Poitras is descended from Françoise-Ursule Kuerouac (1768-1846), a granddaughter of our ancestor, like four others: Pascal Bérubé (*Trésor* 135, pp 24-25), Gabriel Lamarre (*Trésor* 134, pp 43-44), Nathan Christopher Fillion (*Trésor* 132, pp 40-41) and Valérie Plante (*Trésor* 28, pp 40-41).

Henri Poitras, was born in Faubourg Québec, a former district of Montreal, on 11 June 1896 and baptised Joseph Alphonse Hospice Poitras. On 22 May 1918, he was conscripted by the Canadian army for WWI. When the war ended, he was a sergeant at Valcartier, the Canadian military base north-west of Quebec City.

In 1919, after completing his studies at Sainte-Marie College, in Montreal, he began acting at the Chanteclerc Theatre<sup>1</sup> under the direction of Palmiéri<sup>2</sup>. His career took off soon after when he played at the Arcade Theatre in Montreal. He studied drama at Conservatoire Lassalle where he was trained by the Conservatory founder Eugène Lassalle and his wife Louise Darcey.

After that, he played with Jeanne Demons company<sup>3</sup> at the Imperial Theatre and at the Family Theatre. He was also an excellent baritone and a great dancer. Hence, he played at the Société canadienne d'opérette (Canadian Operetta Society), and at Variétés lyriques, a theatre producing musical shows; as well as playing

various roles on the emerging radio stations.

He played at Quebec City as well as Montreal and during regular tours in New-England. In the highly popular *Fridolinades* written by Gratien Gélinas<sup>4</sup>, he was known for making people laugh.

He was very much in demand and played in most of the first films produced in Quebec. In 1940, he was part of the distribution of *Docteur Louise*, a French film shot in France. He managed his own performance art agency in the 1940s before founding the Théâtre du Rire in 1950 (laughing theatre) where he presented his own creations. He produced some fifty skits (one act plays); but, unfortunately, were never published.

While he taught at the Conservatoire Lassalle, he was also played the part of Pantaléon Veilleux in the very popular TV series *Le petit monde du Père Gédéon*<sup>5</sup>.

Henri Poitras is also well remembered for his role as the beggar *Jambe-de-bois* (wooden-leg), in another popular TV series *Les belles histoires des pays d'En Haut* (Stories from the Laurentians) created after Claude-Henri Grignon's popular novel *Un homme et son péché*, (One man's sin). Radio-Canada, French speaking CBC aired it from October 1956 till June 1970. His great talent and popularity was finally rewarded by a Méritas trophy in 1965. He died on first August 1971.

<sup>1</sup> The Chanteclerc Theatre opened in 1912 in Montreal, followed by the Saint-Denis Theatre in 1916 and the Arcade Theatre in 1918. The Chanteclerc was very successful because actors were given support and good working conditions. During the "Dirty Thirties" everything slowed down but not at the Chanteclerc; eventually it became the Théâtre Stella, and still exists. After many important renovations, it became the Théâtre du Rideau Vert (green curtain), on the same lot where the Chanteclerc had been; the pillar of Quebec French-speaking theatre tradition was created over a century ago.



Henri Poitras

(photo: from his obituary published in *La Presse* on Tuesday August 3, 1971)

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Sergius Archambault was born in 1871 at Terrebonne (off-island suburb of Montreal, on the north side) borrowed his professional name, *Palmiéri*, from the first character he played when playing in a mixed company in 1896 at the Monument National Theatre in Montreal. He studied at the Terrebonne College and at Saint-Laurent College; afterwards at Université Laval in Montréal from 1893 to 1896. He died on 30 April 1950 at Montréal. (Source: Artus, répertoire des artistes du Québec: <https://artus.ca/palmieri/>)

<sup>3</sup> Jeanne Demons, Quebec comedian born in Agen in France in 1886, she died at Montreal in November 1958. She worked mainly as a stage actress in various theatres but she was also heard on radio, and seen on television and in films. (Source: Wikipedia)

<sup>4</sup> Gratien Gélinas, born in December 1909 in Saint-Tite, Quebec village, died in March 1999 at Montreal. Author, playwright, actor, director, producer and theatre administrator, he is recognized as one of the founders of contemporary theatre and cinema in Québec. (Source: Wikipedia)

<sup>5</sup> *Le petit monde du père Gédéon*, (Father Gedeon's familiar world) TV series aired on Radio-Canada (French-speaking CBC), between October 1962 to June 1963 with Doris Lussier playing the leading rôle.

# Ancestry of Henri Poitras

## Generation 1

Alexandre de Kervoach  
Circa 1702-1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)  
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier  
(1712-1802)  
(Jean-Baptiste and  
Geneviève Caron)

## Generation 2

Simon-Alexandre Kervoach  
dit le Breton  
(1732-1812)

L'Islet (Quebec)  
15 June 1758

Élisabeth Chalifour  
(1739-1814)  
(François & Élisabeth Gamache)

## Generation 3

François-Ursule Kervouach  
(1768 - 1846)

L'Islet (Quebec)  
1<sup>st</sup> April 1788

Joseph-Gabriel Lamarre  
(1763 - 1853)  
(Joseph and  
Marie-Louise Rousseau)

## Generation 4

Marie-Françoise Lamarre  
(1793 - 1840)

L'Islet (Quebec)  
3 November 1812

Michel Poitras  
(1791 - 1881)  
(Jean-Baptiste  
and Marguerite Bernier)

## Generation 5

François Poitras  
(1823 - 1888)

L'Islet (Quebec)  
29 January 1856

Agnès Bélanger  
(1832-1901)  
(Christophe  
and Marguerite Normand)

## Generation 6

Joseph Poitras  
(1859- 1926)

Montreal (Quebec)  
4 February 1895

Marie Cloutier  
(1869- 1899)  
(Octave and Delvina Bernier)

## Generation 7

Henri Poitras\*  
(1896- 1971)

Montreal (Quebec)  
9 June 1925

Lucie Plante\*\*  
(1902- 1967)  
(Jean-Baptiste & Émilie Vincent)

André St-Arnaud, October 2021

\* Henri Poitras also married for a second time to Philomène Gilbert (1905-1991) on July 6, 1968 in Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot.

\*\* Born Marie-Lucienne-Antoinette Plante, she was also known by her artist names Lucie Poitras in Canada and Lucie Arlette in New England.



# De Kervoach Descendant Through The Female Line

## ABBE IVANHOÉ CARON (1875-1941)

(English translation: Marie Lussier Timperley)

*In this series of articles started by André St-Arnaud, we must add one about Abbe Ivanhoé Caron, whom you read about in **Le Trésor** number 136, page 18, as a complement to the story of Alfred Grégoire told on pages 9 to 17. Not only was Abbe Ivanhoé Caron an extremely important character in the history of the colonisation of the Abitibi region, but he is also a Kirouac on his mother's side and was the uncle of one of the founders of the Kirouac Family Association and its first treasurer, Sarto Kirouac (1918-2008).*

Ivanhoé Caron, born on 12 October 1875 at L'Islet-sur-Mer, was the son of William Caron, sea captain and of Apolline Withburge Gagné. His sister, Marie-Anna Caron (1880-1955) married Wilfrid Kirouac (1876-1952) and they had a son, Sarto (1918-2008) therefore Sarto was Ivanhoé Caron's nephew.

After studying at the Grand Séminaire in Quebec City, Ivanhoé taught history in this superior college while pursuing his theological studies. He was ordained to the priesthood in Saint-Ferdinand Parish on 25 July 1900. He was posted as a Catholic Vicar at Saint-Joseph-de-Lévis Parish in 1901, but was soon sent to Rome and lived at the Canadian College from 1901 until 1904 to study philosophy and theology, also enabling him to travel in Europe.

Once back in Canada, he was named Vicar at Saint-Jean-Baptiste Parish in Quebec City. From 1909 to 1911, he worked as immigration officer for the Canadian government. From 1912 to 1926, he was a missionary colonizer. During those years, he proved to be an indefatigable traveler covering long distances by train, by canoe and even on foot. Being a master communicator, he gave talks, lectures, published brochures, pamphlets, and organized dozens of group tours of Abitibi for future settlers as well as for religious and political personalities so they get to know and appreciate the region. After 1924, he kept on writing, publishing and travelling abroad.

Much has been written about him and how he promoted the agricultural merits of Abitibi. It is said that within ten years he helped some 12,000 people settle in Abitibi. He published ninety works and 313 articles written in both official languages, and over 1000 newspaper articles on a multitude of subjects.

As early as 1921, he was a historian and archivist for the Province of Quebec. He wrote and published many books about Abitibi; in particular: *Le Témiscamingue, l'Abitibi: section desservie par le chemin de fer Grand Tronc Pacifique* (1912); how the development of the railroad opened up Abitibi-Témiscamingue region; *La colonisation de la province de Québec* (1923-1927), two volumes about the rural development of the province of Quebec. He died at Quebec City in 1941.

*In 2014, to mark the centennial of the City of Amos, the local historical society mounted an important exhibition especially underlining the major contribution of Abbe Ivanhoé Caron, Catholic priest, missionary, colonizer, historian and archivist. The project came to be when the researchers found so many invaluable documents in Ivanhoé Caron's Fonds d'Archives at the Quebec Library & National Archives (BanQ). It was such a treasure trove of information about the development of the Abitibi region clearly showing the challenges, the strategic issues and the balance of power at play when opening up Abitibi to colonisation. Abbe Ivanhoé Caron was one of the main actors and a direct witness of the events. (Notes taken from an article published in September 2014, in a magazine entitled *L'Indice bohémien*, journal culturel de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue.)*



Abbé Ivanhoé Caron (1875-1941)



Sarto Kirouac (1918-2008)  
Treasurer of the KFA from 1978 to 1990.

Sources: Ministère de la Culture et des communications du Québec.

# Ancestry of Abbé Ivanhoé Caron

## Generation 1

Alexandre de Kervoach  
Circa 1702-1736

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)  
22 October 1732

Louise Bernier  
(1712-1802)  
(Jean-Baptiste and  
Geneviève Caron)

## Generation 2

Louis Keroack  
dit le Breton  
(1735-1779)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)  
11 January 1757

Catherine Metot  
(1739-1813)  
(Joseph and Hélène Lenormand)

## Generation 3

Victoire Keroack  
(1766 - 1823)

Cap-Saint-Ignace (Quebec)  
7 November 1785

Joseph Caron  
(1759 - 1815)  
(Bonaventur and  
Marie-Claire Langelier)

## Generation 4

Joseph Caron  
(1787 - 1842)

St-Pierre-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud (QC)  
20 February 1816

Adélaïde Chartier  
(1791 - 1851)  
(Jean-Baptiste  
and Marie-Geneviève Picard)

## Generation 5

Louis Caron  
(1821 - 1895)

L'Islet (Quebec)  
9 January 1844

Zoé Derooy  
(1823-1913)  
(François  
and Marie-Claire Fournier)

## Generation 6

William Caron  
(1848- 1906)

L'Islet (Quebec)  
12 January 1875

Withburge Gagné  
(1852- 1927)  
(Calixte and Appoline Chiasson)

## Generation 7

Ivanhoé Caron  
(1875- 1941)

François Kirouac, October 2021



# Homage to Rose-Aimée Kirouac Sirois

by Réjeanne Sirois and Marc Villeneuve

Mrs. Rose-Aimée Kirouac-Sirois celebrated her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday on 27 July 2021. Her children made sure to highlight their mother's very special anniversary. Their mother is a real force of nature, as they love to say, and her great courage never ceased to impress them.

Rose-Aimée was born on 27 July 1916 at St-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, on the Saint-Laurence River south shore. Her parents were Marie-Louise Castonguay and Ludger Kirouac. Life was often very difficult in those days; she had to quit school very young to help her mother at home.

On 13 April 1936 at Saint-Clément Parish (a few miles from St-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup) she married Ignace Sirois. They settled in Saint-François-Xavier-de-Viger, another nearby village. They lived on a farm so it meant lots of hard work. Her children all agree that their mother was an excellent cook; she also loved sewing and knitting besides being a very keen gardener. In spite of hard times, the family always had the essentials.

Rose-Aimée and Ignace had ten children: Clairette, Marielle, Réjean, Réjeanne and Gaétane; the other five unfortunately died very young.

When she was about seventy years old, Rose-Aimée moved to Quebec City to be nearer three of her children who already lived there. It cannot have been easy but she adapted very well to her new life. Her children enjoyed very much showing her the city and taking her on outings in the



Rose-Aimée Kirouac with her three children on 27 July celebrating their mother's 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. From left to right: Réjeanne, Réjean and Gaétane. (Photo: family collection)

area so she could appreciate its beauty and did many other activities, too.

At 99, she had an unfortunate fall and went to live in the Loretteville residence and has been living there since. She is a nice and kind lady and no one can resist her winning smile. She is loved and appreciated by all the personnel in the residence.



50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 1986, Rose-Aimée Kirouac and her husband, Ignace Sirois and their five children: from left to right: Clairette, Marielle, Réjean, Réjeanne and Gaétane. (Photo: family collection)

# CAROLINE KIROUAC,

from *La Rose des sables* to Naval Lieutenant Commander<sup>1</sup>

Here is an outline of my short academic and fairly new professional life. First I would like to mention that, in 2009, I took part in the *Roses des sables Contest*, a gruelling car race for women only in the Moroccan desert, my partner and I finished second<sup>2</sup>.

In the Kirouac family tree, I am the tenth generation in the branch of Simon-Alexandre. I am the daughter of Suzanne St-Pierre and Conrad Kirouac. My grandparents were Lydia Cloutier and Louis-Georges K  rouac. Among my aunts and uncles, I want to mention Jean-Louis K  rouac, a KFA Board member, and Raymonde K  rouac-Harvey, one of the Kirouac Family Association founding members.

I joined the Canadian Armed Forces' Naval Reserve in 2002 while I was studying for my BA degree for teaching high school, with majors in science and technology, at UQAR, i.e., University of Quebec at Rimouski. I spent half my time studying to become a high school teacher and half studying to become a surface & submarine maritime operations officer, training at Esquimalt (near Victoria) British Columbia, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 2006, I received my certification as a Reservist on Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels (MCDV) and, in 2007, my certification in science education.

With both degrees in hand, I carried on working part time enjoying both career teaching and as military personnel. I really loved both, I taught at high school level during the school year and I went to British Columbia during the summer to sail on the Pacific Ocean as well as teaching sailing to young officers from the Canadian Armed Forces



Naval Lieutenant Commander Caroline Kirouac at the Remembrance Day parade at Quebec City in 2014, when the personnel was inspected by Lieutenant-gouverneur, Pierre Duchesne. Behind them, the then Canadian Minister of Public Safety and Civil Protection, Mr. Steven Blaney, Deputy of Bellechasse-Les Etchemins-L  vis County.

(CAF). In 2012, I quit my high school teaching job to work full time in the military, teaching sailing.

I always pursued my general formation while in a professional job. In 2013, I obtained my DESS diploma in specialized superior studies in school administration. Followed by studies for a master's degree and discovered a special interest in techno-pedagogy.

In 2014, I decided to become an officer of instruction development (OID). My main function there was expert in training, educational and professional improvement programmes for CAF members. In 2015, I was assigned to the Canadian Defence Academy, as coordinator for CAF modelization and simulation which perfectly suited my particular field of interest.

In 2018, I was assigned to the assistant deputy minister's group (Material) at Ottawa, where I had the chance to take part in developing and establishing simulation centres for the Canadian Army, in particular, training programmes for armoured personnel carriers operating armoured combat vehicles.

This position enabled me to travel the length and breadth of Canada to assess the needs in training the personnel of the armoured vehicles on the five Canadian major military bases, Gagetown (New Brunswick), Valcartier

<sup>1</sup>In the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), the rank of **lieutenant commander** (LCdr) (in French: *capitaine de corvette* or *capc*) is the naval rank equal to major in the army or air force and is the first rank of senior officer. Lieutenant commanders are senior to Lieutenants (Naval) and to army and air force captains, and are junior to commanders and lieutenant colonels.

<sup>2</sup> See *Le Tr  sor des Kirouac*, winter 2008-2009, number 94, pp. 6-11.



(Quebec), Petawawa (Ontario), Edmonton (Alberta) and Shilo (Manitoba). During that same year, I finished my Master of Education.

In 2019, as I still wanted to pursue my various apprenticeships, I embarked on a doctorate in education, but this time at UQAM, University of Quebec at Montreal. As I visited the various CAF training centres, I quickly noted a problem with the use of the simulation systems. Hence, the subject of my doctoral thesis is about the auto-efficacy of the ODI<sup>3</sup> and the instructors using the techno-pedagogy within the CAF training programs.

In July 2021, I was promoted to Lieutenant Commander, the equivalent of Major in the Armed Forces, and I was posted to the RCAF Training and Simulator Head Quarters, where I am the technical authority on simulators for military Chinook helicopters (CH147F) at Petawawa (Ontario) and simulators for the military transport planes Hercules (C130J) at Trenton (Ontario).

A recruiting video for ODI on the FAC website will soon be available and I am the French-speaking spokesperson.

My husband, Sébastien Pelletier, is also a military man, Health Administrative Officer. He served in Afghanistan and recently in Kuwait. While deployed there he was responsible for the Health Care Service Unit during Operation Impact. We have two wonderful boys, six-year-old Éloi and four-year-old Milan.

<sup>3</sup> ODI = Offensive/Defensive Integration.



Caroline Kirouac and her husband, Sébastien Pelletier, with their two children, Milan and Éloi during Caroline's promotion to Lieutenant Commander on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

(Photo: Caroline Kirouac collection)



Caroline's parents, Conrad Kirouac and Suzanne St-Pierre.



Parade Commander Caroline Kirouac on the graduation of a recruit company in Quebec City in 2014. (Photo: Caroline Kirouac collection)



# FIRST MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL IN MONTPELLIER

by Marie Lussier Timperley

A little girl's heart still beats in this grandmother who never forgot the stories of princesses captured by a dragon and saved by a brave knight. As for men, young or old, heroic victories are always attractive.

In the Kirouac clan, when talking of knight, automatically one name comes to mind, that of François Kirouac of Quebec City, Chevalier de cape et d'épée, the prestigious papal Catholic Knighthood. Closer to us, one of his many descendents, with a passion for horses and knights, loves to bring back to life a long gone but very fascinating era. I am talking about Vincent-Gabriel Kirouac who lives in Montpellier, in the Outaouais region of Quebec. You may well remember reading about his adventures in ***Le Trésor des Kirouac***<sup>1</sup>.

Is it surprising then to learn that on Saturday, 25 September 2021, at Montpellier, there was a first MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL?



Vincent-Gabriel Kirouac and his wife, Katrine Connolly during the great medieval festival in Montpellier (Quebec) on September 25, 2021.



On Wednesday, 29 September 2021, the weekly ***Le Journal Les 2 Vallées***, no. 135, page 22, published an article by Isabelle Yde about this very successful festival. To find out more, the curious grandmother bombarded Vincent-Gabriel with questions. He generously obliged; read his answers in italics.

## Whose idea was it?

*Stéphane Séguin, mayor of Montpellier, had promised to organize a special garden party to mark the end of the confinements. As autumn is a particularly nice season for such an outdoor gathering, the mayor decided that it would be the right time.*

*In Montpellier everybody knows that a knight lives on Chemin du Crique-à-la-Roche Road, one councilor suggested the medieval theme and to involve the local youth in the organization of the feste. Thus, after a council meeting mayor Séguin came to see me to launch the project. I immediately started to look for partners to organize the festival.*

<sup>1</sup> See number 100, summer 2010, pp. 30-33 and number 108, summer 2012, p. 30.



### **Is this a first in Montpellier?**

*On the internet, one discovers that annual medieval festivals are popular in Quebec, but it was a first in Montpellier and in the Outaouais region (across from the Ottawa region, on the other side of the Outaouais/Ottawa river! It gives us new visibility and is another occasion for those who like that historical period. For example, in Saint-Marcellin (east of Rimouski), a medieval festival has been celebrated for at least eighteen years and welcomes over 15,000 visitors every year.*

### **What inspired you to be a knight?**

*It is a Christian calling I always felt deep in my heart. Chivalry is foremost abnegation, selflessness and to empathize with others. Empathy is essential to live in any society and be able to understand other people. When looking at the world from a knight's point of view, it helps one to better resist the modern world's volatile temptation. Then one can work at creating a better world.*

### **Do you belong to a medieval association?**

*I do not belong to any medieval association, but I have been knighted in 2012 by Monseigneur Yvon-Joseph Moreau, when he was the bishop of the diocese of Sainte Anne-de-la-Pocatière. I am a knight at the service of the Catholic church, a servant of the Sacred-Heart of Jesus and go wherever the Lord leads me.*

### **Participants? Groups?**

#### **Associations? Volunteers?**

*Only two weeks before the festival, the Notre-Dame-de-la-Consolation's church wardens accepted to take on the canteen, the profits going to the parish.*



Vincent-Gabriel Kirouac (Photo: V.G. Kirouac collection)

*-The village volunteers, wearing medieval garbs welcomed over 500 visitors many of them wearing period costumes and in many cases, very proud of wearing their very elegant and colourful own medieval creations. Many young and not so young also carried period armor.*

*-The local chapter of the Knights of Columbus prepared and served a "méchoui", a whole beef roasted on a spit.*

*-Mathieu Lacombe, member of the National Assembly of Quebec representing Papineau, and minister for families, contributed generously.*

*-Stéphane Lauzon, our federal member of parliament (Argenteuil-La Petite-Nation), contributed too.*

*-Many private donors including Metro Chénéville Market and our village grocer, Faubert market.*

*-The municipality supplied most of the funds needed through the provincial grant programme to boost activities after the pandemic.*

*-Some fifteen exhibitors, including artisans wearing medieval style clothes including a blacksmith working the old fashioned way, with an anvil and open fire.*

### **Online photos and videos show a large set up.**

#### **Can you tell us about the preparation?**

*Everything happened very quickly, from the mayor and councilors' idea, on to creating a citizens committee and the*

day itself it took less than two months. We were seven on the committee and we shared the various tasks. The strong involvement of some forty volunteers made the day. Let's add that Divine Providence played its part in orchestrating the coming together of the different groups and medieval associations and providing us with the ideal temperature.

### **On the internet, I found 16 historical re-enactment groups in Quebec. Which ones were at Montpellier?**

**La Ligue des chevaliers et les Camps légendaires**, knights League and legendary camps is specialized in demonstration and training of future knights for all age groups. In Montpellier they demonstrated their art and trained even the youngest, little children loved learning fencing with a Styrofoam sword.

**Hird Hafn Hallsborg**, a Viking re-enactment group, erected a historical Viking camp. Historical Viking arms were on display and members of the group were on hand to explain the daily life of their Scandinavian ancestors. A wooden palissade (fence) surrounded the site located at the edge of a forest. A large area was reserved for the equestrian jousts and Viking combats demonstrations.

**The AMQ Quebec Medieval Association** took part in this back-in-time special occasion by organizing the medieval tournaments. It is difficult to

combine skill and balance on horseback. The AMQ also brought fire-eaters, knights, horses and palfreys\* accompanied by their distinct court. To have all that at the end of the summer season and at the beginning of the autumn, was a great endeavour and success in itself. (\*A palfrey is a type of horse, highly valued as a riding horse in the Middle Ages. A lighter-weight horse, usually a smooth gaited one suitable for riding over long distances. Palfreys were not a specific breed as horse breeds are understood today. Wikipedia.)

**Musical Contribution – Tambours du Patrimoine.** I did not expect the precision drumming corps. Normally they play in Quebec City during the Renaissance Festival and the Nouvelle-France Festival, but due to Covid19, they had to reconsider their summer plans as so many festivals were cancelled. They had time on their hands and wanted to join us, so, they contacted us and they want to come back. Their group also includes a brass quintet which might come with them in the future.

**L'Harfang (owl)** is a duet interpreting ancient and gracious music from medieval time: Alison Gowan plays the "vielle-à-roue", hurdy-gurdy, and Éric Pichette plays the "musette", old French bagpipes.

### **What about September 2022?**

The population's response was way beyond our expectations so the mayor\* and the organizers are already planning a second edition for 2022. A first in Montpellier and Outaouais brought magic to young and old and everyone found a valiant knight in their heart. (\*Mr. Séguin won the November election by one vote so, his opponent asked for a recount and won by three votes. The new mayor, Denis Massé, is also very much in favor of the Festival). Weekly planning meetings have started. Some people are already working on their costumes. In 2021, mayor Stéphane Séguin and his wife opened the festivities by leading a parade in full costume. In 2022, and this is exclusive to the readers of **Le Trésor des Kirouac**, there could be a wedding with outdoor Mass to open the second edition. Remember, it is a rendez-vous at Montpellier in the duchy of Cornouillyak in 2022!

Duchesse Katrine Connelly and husband, Chevalier Vincent-Gabriel Kirouac, and their adorable Princess Elena, born on 19 October 2021, are very much looking forward to welcoming all the Kirouacs who will honour them by attending the Montpellier Medieval Festival in September 2022!





# FRENCH HERITAGE CELEBRATED AT DETROIT'S 2021 RENDEZ-VOUS

BY ELIZABETH BOURNE-NIDO, RENDEZ-VOUS CHAIR

Traditional French-Canadian music and folk dance, food and cultural exhibits were key attractions in this year's *Le Rendez-vous du Détroit*, held for the first time at historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, Michigan on July 31 and August 1, 2021.

With event volunteers and entertainers dressed in their 18th century attire, attendees experienced what it was like to take a step back in time to Detroit in the 1700s when the French ruled the city. With bilingual signage and narration during the entertainment, the French language was once again heard and spoken in Detroit. French was the primary language in Detroit until the 1840s and continued to be used in business transactions and newspaper advertising until the beginning of the 1900s.

Michigan-based *La Compagnie Dance Troupe* performed traditional French-Canadian music and demonstrated traditional folk dancing. *Le Rendez-vous du Détroit* also featured **First Nation** dancers and traditional drum; an 18th century Fashion Show; genealogy exhibits and display boards of the most common French-Canadian surnames in North America; and presentations about the Detroit French Jesuit Pears, designated a heritage food.<sup>1</sup>



Marie Catherine Kirouac-Robinson, one of the original members of the organizing committee of LE RENDEZ-VOUS DU DÉTROIT, Michigan.



First Nations people performing traditional dances.  
(Photo courtesy of *Rendez-vous du Détroit*)

Over 100 re-enactors participated in *Le Rendez-vous du Détroit*, setting up tents and exhibits within the expansive grounds of Historic Fort Wayne. Some of the re-enactors portrayed 18th century French habitants and demonstrated living skills of that era. *Les Compagnies du Détroit*, a military reenactment group dressed as 18th century French soldiers, impressed attendees with their French Inspection of Arms & Drill and a French Artillery Demonstration using an authentic 18th century cannon.

<sup>1</sup> In 2001, the committee integrated the Jesuit pear tree into its logo for the 300th anniversary celebrations commemorating the founding of Detroit. According to tradition, this majestic tree was introduced into the region by the Jesuits at the beginning of the 18th century. They have become rare and their future is uncertain. Now they are recognised as the living symbol of the Detroit region's French-speaking community. By creating a symbolic link between their fate and that of the Jesuit pear tree, the Detroit Francophone community has made a commitment to protecting their own heritage, as well as their historical and cultural value, all the while reaffirming their characteristic vitality. On either side of the border, only a few dozen trees are known and found from Lake Erie to Lake St. Clair. On the Canadian side, some are in Essex County and around Windsor. On the American side, a few large ones are in Grosse Pointe, north of Detroit, and in Monroe, south of Detroit. See:

[http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-317/Jesuit\\_Pear\\_Trees.html](http://www.ameriquefrancaise.org/en/article-317/Jesuit_Pear_Trees.html)



*Le Rendez-vous du Détroit* was honored to have Mrs. Bérangère Travard, Consul Général of France at Chicago, as a special guest. Mrs. Travard toured the entire event and even lit the cannon for the artillery demonstration!

Almost all of the event organizers are of French-Canadian descent, and many are descendants of the early French settlers of Detroit. In its fourth year, *Le Rendez-vous du Détroit* has become a much-anticipated event in the community, creating enthusiasm and awareness of Detroit's French roots.

To address the challenges of Covid-19 this year, event organizers arranged to have *Le Rendez-vous du Détroit* live-streamed on August 1, 2021. Tickets were \$10 and available for purchase on EventBrite.

For our Canadian friends and family, it was hoped that they could participate and enjoy Detroit's celebration of French-Canadian heritage from the comfort of their homes. The video is available to view on *Le Rendez-vous du Détroit*'s Facebook page.



Photo: courtesy Rendez-vous du Détroit

*Les Compagnies du Détroit*, a group specializing in military reenactments.



Thank you from *Rendez-vous du Détroit* for the contribution from the Kirouac Family Association. (Photo: courtesy *Rendez-vous du Détroit*)

The Planning Committee for *Le Rendez-vous du Détroit* is very grateful for the financial support from the **Kirouac Family Association**.

Thank you so much for supporting our efforts in continuing the traditions of our French-Canadian heritage. Please try and join us for future *Rendez-vous*! Detroit is a beautiful city with many hidden treasures. We have been told *Le Rendez-vous* is one of them. Please join us in our celebration and find out for yourself.

Planning for *Le Rendez-vous du Détroit 2022* is in progress. More information will be available by December 1, 2021. For inquiries, please email: [lerendezvousdudetroit@gmail.com](mailto:lerendezvousdudetroit@gmail.com)



Photo : courtoisie du Rendez-vous du

Sean O'Connell playing traditional French-Canadian music.



## CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

# Lieutenant Nancy Kyrrouac Estensen

*Lt. Estensen retires exactly 28 years from start date.*

Published in the *Kankakee (Illinois) Journal* on Saturday, 9 October 2021, page A7.

After high school, Nancy Estensen was waiting tables at The Homestead Restaurant in Kankakee and attending classes at Kankakee Community College.

She freely admits that, upon her 1989 graduation from Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School, she was more than somewhat lost when it came to what her career path may be.

Packing her course schedule with general education classes until she figured out what she may ultimately study, a friend asked her to take a paramedic class with her.

*"I figured why not. I always wanted to do something in health care,"* she said.

Kankakee firefighter Jeff Bruno also played a role in her decision. A regular diner at The Homestead, Bruno would see Estensen taking orders and waiting tables. He repeatedly encouraged her to look toward fire protection service as a career option.

Figuring she had little to lose and she had yet to find any other inspiring career path, she decided to go through the testing.

Fast-forward to Sept. 3, 2021, Lt. Nancy Estensen, 50, worked her final shift as a member of the Kankakee Fire Department. The department's first woman paramedic/firefighter and its first woman lieutenant was ending her career - 28 years to the exact date she started it - Sept. 3, 1993.



Kankakee Fire Department Lieutenant Nancy Kyrrouac Estensen.

### Trailblazing her path

Though she had proven herself to be a trailblazer, the somewhat quiet Estensen would rather deflect attention than receive it. She would prefer to be just a cog in the fire service's engine.

She knows, however, that is not always as easy as it would seem.

Recently honored by the Kankakee City Council upon her retirement, Estensen said she could not have imagined a more rewarding or fulfilling career than the one she had.

Being the department's first woman was, of course, something she had never put any thought to at that time.

*"I was just testing for a job. Being the first woman on the department was not my mission or my goal. Actually, if I knew, that could have scared me off,"* she acknowledged.

Testing included physical drills, psychological exams and knowledge of internal processes.

*"It was all scary,"* she said. *"I was a waitress."*

<sup>1</sup> LK Bottle Gas company was founded by Nancy Kyrrouac's grandfather, Leo Kyrrouac (1899-1977).

The youngest of the six children of the late Arthur and Alice Kyrourac, part owners of LK Bottle Gas<sup>1</sup>, fire service was never a part of the Kyrourac family.

Their youngest daughter, thanks to much encouragement from Bruno, changed all of that.

So what was it Bruno saw in the waitress?

*"I just saw a true, genuine, sincere person. I didn't think she was happy with what she was doing," he said. "I thought she would make a great firefighter."*

He couldn't have been more spot-on.

*"She did remarkable things in her career. I just saw a side of a young lady who could do what was asked of her. And she always gave it her all on the job."*

### A mentor

Count Jen Riordan, now a 20-year Kankakee firefighter, as one who has looked up to Estensen throughout her entire career.

Riordan served with a variety of small-town departments before being hired on with the Kankakee department eight years after Estensen had broken through the barrier.

*"She really made it a whole lot easier. She smoothed out the way for us," Riordan said regarding women firefighters. "I've been so appreciative of what she has done to help me along the way. I could ask her about anything."*

The two rarely worked the same firehouse, but they always stayed in contact. Whenever Riordan had a question, concern or simply a rough shift, she could always find Estensen on the other end of the telephone helping her make sense of the concerns.

*"She always had a simple message: Never give up. Always finish your assignment," she said.*

While Estensen has only been retired for a little more than a month, Riordan freely admits she already misses her co-worker.

*"It's certainly different with her gone," she said. "This department is going to figure out real soon all the things Lt. Estensen did."*

And Riordan knows it will fall to her to lend an ear or voice to other women firefighters finding their way. She will be happy to provide both, just as Estensen did for her.

*"I hope I can be Nancy," she said.*



Kankakee Fire Department Lieutenant Nancy Estensen stands with Chief Bryan LaRoche and Deputy Chief Adam Heid on the morning of her last shift.

### Advice from Nancy Kyrourac Estensen

*"Since I've been involved, I've seen so many changes. You will be welcomed in," Nancy Estensen said to women seeking a career in firefighting.*

Her advice to the younger generation is that they shouldn't overlook the benefits of becoming a firefighter.

*"It's a great, rewarding career," she said.*

To all, she says, *"Set your mind to it and go do it. Don't be intimidated. You can do this if you want."*



## A lasting impact

Chief Bryan LaRoche noted there was more to Lt. Estensen than paving a path for women on the city force. She also paved the path for women in departments throughout the region.

Her success, he said, made it easier for others to follow.

*“There are not a lot of role models out there like her,”* he said.

Like Riordan, LaRoche said it is difficult to watch Estensen walk away.

*“She has been a staple with this department,”* the chief said.

Being the first woman in the department brought more attention than the then-22-year-old would have liked. Her hiring even made front-page news in the Daily Journal.

*“I could have done without the attention. I’m not a spotlight-type of person,”* she said.

She did believe that when she was hired under then-Chief David St. John, this was likely her career and not just a brief adventure.



Photo: Nancy Kyroutac Estensen collection

*Nancy Kyroutac Estensen stands by a firetruck last October (2020) wearing a shirt in support of breast cancer awareness.*

*“I admit I didn’t know anything. I always hoped there would be [other women who] would test,”* she said. *“I just didn’t know others who might be interested. I always hoped there would be others who would join me.”*

Asked if she would label herself a trailblazer, she said she would not.

*“It feels good to hear that,”* she said. *“I just didn’t see myself in that role.”*

She may not have, but others certainly did.

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*Written by: Lee Provost, an award-winning reporter, has been writing local news stories for The Daily Journal since 1988. He is a lifelong resident of the region. Provost can be reached at [lprovost@daily-journal.com](mailto:lprovost@daily-journal.com).*



*Kankakee Fire Department Lieutenant Nancy Estensen after fighting one of her last fires.*

Photo: Nancy Kyroutac Estensen collection

# THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE LIT IN NORTH AMERICA

by Marie Lussier Timperley

For Christmas 1981, The Canadian government marked the bicentennial of the very first Christmas tree lit up in North America with three stamps. The launching took place at the Governors Mansion at Sorel, Quebec. Present were Mr. André Ouellet, then minister responsible for Canada Post, Mrs. Hélène Schoettle, German Consul, Mr. Aksel Rink, president of the German-Canadian Council for the Arts, the stamp designer and many other guests including my mother, Mrs. Françoise Gougeon-Lussier, and myself.

Brief history: As the British won the war over France (1763) they inherited a great deal of North America but fifteen years later their thirteen colonies were up in arms. Britain had no more soldiers to fight that war so they turned to their German relatives, and raised many regiments from four provinces: Brunswick, Hanau, Hesse and Anahlt-Zerbst to fight in North America between 1776 and 1783. Some 30,000 German mercenaries<sup>1</sup> crossed the Atlantic; for Quebecers, the most important is to know that of the 2,000 who remained in Canada, most stayed in Quebec, as many had fallen in love with the French-Canadian women they had met very soon after landing here.

Their German leader was General Friedrich Adolphus von Riedesel<sup>2</sup>, born at the ancestral family castle in Lauterbach in Rhine-Hesse in 1738. He joined the Duke of Brunswick regiment, was sent to England where he was quickly promoted due to his remarkable strategic talents.



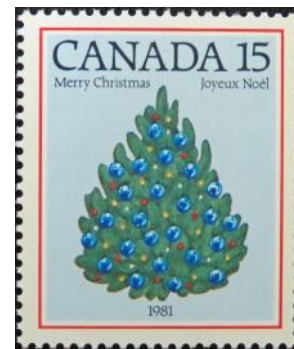
Besides learning French, a language he mastered much better than English, and proved very useful on this side of the Atlantic.

On 21 December 1762, at 24, he married the very pretty and intelligent 16-year-old Baronness Frederika von Massow. In 1776, the General left for Québec and, in the Spring of 1777, his wife and their three young daughters followed. They accompanied the General in the war against the North American insurgents. By early Autumn they were made prisoners and endured three hard years in captivity before being released and able to come back to Canada, to Sorel<sup>3</sup> exactly.

In 1781, while the General was overseeing the winter billeting of 3,000 soldiers at Sorel, his wife supervised the completion of their residence to celebrate Christmas and this is how, thanks to Frederika, the very first Christmas tree was lit up according to the tradition well established in Germany since 1700. All this we learn from Frederika's extensive correspondence<sup>4</sup>. There were books written in English about German mercenaries, but Jean-Pierre Wilhelmy<sup>1</sup> was the first one to write in French about his ancestors. Of course he talks about the first Christmas tree lit up at the Governor's Mansion in Sorel and quotes Frederika about Christmas 1781, when the Riedesel invited their friends and the British officers for whom the very special plum-pudding was served. However, the great surprise for all their guests was the beautifully lit Christmas tree in the living room, giving a true German note to the

decor. In July 1783, the General was called back to London with his family, to whom we owe a luminous heritage. And 240 years later, if you go to Sorel during the holiday season, you will see a traditional Christmas tree lit up in front of the Governor's mansion an inside as well.

In England, Queen Victoria (1819-1901) imported the tradition dear to her husband Prince Albert (1819-1861). That was in 1841, sixty years after Sorel, Quebec, Canada. In his book, Jean-Pierre Wilhelmy talks about the German roots of many French-Canadians going back to the mercenaries<sup>1</sup>. He gives a long list of German names that were modified to make them sound French. If among your ancestors you come across one of the following names: Caux, Bessette, Besré, Hamel, Jacobi, Jomphe, Payeur, Roussel, Tresler, Wagner and Wilhelmy, etc., perhaps you have alemanic roots . . .



REFERENCES- French books and bilingual websites

<sup>1</sup> *Les mercenaires allemands au Québec du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle et leur apport à la population*, by Jean-Pierre Wilhelmy, preface by Marcel Trudel. 1984 - Maison des Mots. pp. 230-232 ; new edition published in 2009, by Septentrion.

<sup>2</sup> *Un Général allemand au Canada, Le Baron Friedrich Adolphus von Riedesel*, by Georges Monarque, second édition, Montréal 1946. (First edition 1927)

<sup>3</sup> *La Maison des Gouverneurs*, by Walter White, Beaudry & Frappier editor, Sorel, 1980, published for the bicentennial of the First lit up Christmas tree in Canada 1781-1981.

<sup>4</sup> Frederika von Massow and General von Riedesel- much more on the web.



# IN MEMORIAM

## **BOILY-LABERGE, MARGUERITE (1929-2021)**

On 22 April 2021, aged 91 years and 7 months, died at the Good-Shepherd Sisters's Infirmary in Chicoutimi, Marguerite, widow of Dominique Laberge (son of Émilie Kérouack (**GFK 02442**) and François Laberge. Daughter of Lydia Gagné and Henry Boily. She leaves to mourn her children: Sister Ghislaine Laberge (Congregation of the Good-Shepherd), Paul (Isabelle Villeneuve), Nicole, Bernard (Christiane Turcotte), Marcel (Chantal Levasseur), Jean-Marc (Marie-Josée Tremblay), Lucie (Luc Lepage); 11 grandchildren: Sonia, Anne-Marie, Jean-François, Stéphane, Mathieu, Cédric, Julie, Frédéric, Mélissa, Mélanie, Émilie; 18 great-grandchildren; one brother, André Boily (Huguette Bouchard), she was predeceased by her siblings: Yvonne, Anatole, Aimé, Jacqueline, Roland, René, Jeanne-d'Arc, Laurette. Sister-in-law of François-Xavier Laberge, Béatrice, the late Mariette, the late Jean-Charles, the late Rose-Aline, the late Gertrude, the late Abbé Léon.

## **BUCKMAN, ROBERT F. (1951-2021)**

Robert F. Buckman died on 2 October 2021 in Kankakee, where he was born on 12 September 1951. He was the son of Ferdinand and Geneva (née Wilson) Buckman. Bob married Kathyeen Burton (great-granddaughter of Philip Kerouac (**GFK 02732**) and Anna Olson. on 23 September 1972, at the Bonfield Lutheran Church. In addition to his wife, he leaves to mourn a son, Daniel Buckman, and grandchildren Hayden, Khylee, Emma, and Gabriel; a daughter and son-in-law, Stacey & Steve Granzow, and grandchildren Isabella, Lillian, Eve, Eleanor. His siblings: Jeanne Brown, and Linda & Ron Nelson; David & Chris Sargent, Mike & Regiena Sargent, Paul & Laura Sargent. Preceding him in death were his parents;

stepmother, Ethel; sister, Sandy; and nephew, Ron. A celebration of life was held on 17 October, at Jensen's Funeral Home, in Kankakee.

## **CURWICK, GLORIA JULLETT MAY SPICER (1933-2021)**

Gloria Juliett Mae (Spicer) Curwick died at Three Links Care Center on 31 August 2021. Born on 24 August 1933, in Faribault, Minn. Gloria was one of the four daughters of Ida (Helland) Spicer and Cecil Spicer. Gloria met and married Donald, after he finished his Navy service, through a neighbor and mutual friend, Marlin Knutson. Gloria is survived by her husband, Donald Curwick; eight children Victoria (Robert) Staupe; Donald (Carol) Curwick Jr.; Daniel Curwick; Kenneth (Natalie) Curwick; Keith (Rosanna) Curwick; Douglas (Paula Bonelli) Curwick; Linda (Ronald) McCalmont; Susan Curwick; 18 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; a sister Rita (Dennis) Sibbet. She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters and brothers-in-law, Delores (Marlin) Knutson, Juanita (Roger) Knutson. A private service was held on 9 October 2021. Interment in Farmington Lutheran Cemetery.

## **CURWICK, JOSEPH E. (1966-2021)**

Joseph E. "Joe" Curwick, age 55, died on 10 October 2021 at in Urbana. Born on 3 October 1966 in Kankakee, he was the son of Delbert & Diana (Huffman) Curwick. Surviving are two sons, Trevor Curwick and Nathan Curwick; three daughters, Jaqualyn Rexroad, Stephanie Rasmussen and Alexandria McRoberts; two grandchildren, Jhordi and Tristan; his mother and stepfather, Diana & Dennis Kunz; his father, Delbert "Butch" Curwick; four sisters, Julie Franke, Jamie Boswell-Galant (Robert Galant), Jill Boswell, and Kristin Thomas; one brother, Jeffrey (Brandi) Curwick. Joe was preceded in death by one nephew, Drew Jones; and two brothers-in-law, Kurt Franke and

Gary Cassady. Memorial service was on 18 October at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

## **DAIGNEAULT, MADELEINE (1925-2021)**

At Sherbrooke, on 2 September 2021, at 96, died Madeleine Daigneault-Lambert, widow of Fernand Lambert. She was the daughter of Élise Kéroack (**GFK 00090**) and Pierre E. Daigneault. Funeral was on 25 September 2021 at St-Jean Baptiste Church in Sherbrooke. Her ashes were interred in St-Michel Cemetery. She leaves to mourn her children: Pierre (Gaétane Laprise), Jean (Carmen Lafrance), Josée (Jean-Pierre Grégoire), Diane (Dave Sundborg) and Claude; grandchildren: Martin (Mélanie), Julie (Sébastien), Jonathan (Geneviève), Christian (Jennie), Elyse (Louis-Philippe), Louis-Pierre (Christine), Vincent (Alice), and Maude (Louis), great-grandchildren: William, Louis, Gabrielle, Noémie, Zachary, Chloé, Raphaëlle, Jade, Nolan and Alixe. She was preceded in death by her brother Gérard Daigneault and his wife Martha Elock, her sister Edith Daigneault & Albert Guay, her brother Robert Daigneault & Louise Précourt; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law (Donaldo Gagné) of the Lambert family. She was a WWII veteran.

## **DROWN, PAUL OWEN (1955-2021)**

Paul Owen Drown, 66, died suddenly on 22 April 2021. Paul was born 7 March 1955, in Marshall, to Joseph and Kathleen (Curwick) Drown. He served twelve years in the United States Air Force, many on the Air Force Red Horse team. After his honorable discharge, he worked 23 years with his uncle, Larry Curwick, at Curwick's Garage in Marshall. Paul enjoyed riding and rebuilding Harley Davidson motorcycles. He is survived by his mother Kathleen (Curwick) Drown, brothers

Matthew (Deb Spence) Drown, and Joseph (Judy) Drown Jr., and a sister Cecelia Pohlen. He was preceded in death by his father Joseph Drown, brother Michael Drown, brother-in-law Mike Pohlen, and niece Jennifer Pohlen.

#### **FLEMING-KIROUAC, JEANNE (1921-2021)**

Jeanne K. Kerouac, age 100, died 26 November 2021 at Bourbonnais, Ill. Born on 25 February 1921 in Kankakee, she was the daughter of Howard & Ruth (Keller) Fleming. Jeanne married Thomas A. Kerouac (**GFK 00189**) on 24 May 1947 at St. Patrick Catholic Church Rectory. He preceded her in death on 8 October 1998. Surviving are one daughter & son-in-law, Donna & Jay Karr; three grandchildren, Kristine (Jeff) Pelletier, Kelly (Tim) Faford, and Kimberly (Randy) Blume; and six great-grandchildren, Tayler (Brian) Phillips, Peyton Pelletier, Makenna Faford, Sydney Faford, Ethan Blume, and Chase Blume. Jeanne was preceded in death by one brother, James Fleming. Funeral was on 29 November at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Interment in Evergreen Cemetery in Chebanse.

#### **KEROUAC-GIARD, LUCIE (1954-2021)**

Lucie A. (Kerouac) Giard (**GFK 01534**), age 67, died on 11 April 2021, in Tyngsborough, Mass. She leaves her husband of 46 years, Raymond E. Giard (Girard). Born in Nashua, New Hampshire, on 23 February 1954, she was the daughter of the late Alfred and Rachel (Soucy) Kerouac. She was predeceased by her daughter Lisa Giard. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her son, Brian Giard; four daughters and sons-in-law, Laurie & Brendan Cirillo; Marie & David Bennett, Aimee & Joshua Paradise, and Emily & Richard Bono; twelve grandchildren, Brandon, Madison, Hailey, Rachael, Allison, Mirabelle, Drew, Cecelia, Adam, Lucia,

Madeleine and Lilian; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard & Mona Kerouac; Jerry & Paula Kerouac. Funeral was at St. Mary Magdalen Church in Tyngsborough, followed by burial in Tyngsborough Memorial Cemetery.

#### **KÉROUACK, CLAIRE (1934-2021)**

On 7 July 2021, aged 86 years and 11 months, Claire Kérouack (**GFK 02440**) died at Jonquière. A memorial ceremony was held on 2 August 2021 at the Nault & Caron Funeral Home in Kénogami-Jonquière. She leaves to mourn her sisters: Émilienne Kérouack and Catherine Kérouack. She was preceded in death by her parents Marcelle Blouin and Joseph Kérouack, her brother Hubert & Rose-Hélène (Gaudreault) Kérouack and Gilles Kérouack. She leaves nephews and nieces: Sylvain (Françoise), Jean (Claire), Suzanne (Serge) and France.

#### **KÉROUACK, SUZANNE (1952-2021)**

Suzanne Kérouack (**GFK 01856**) died on 4 November 2021 at Lévis, Quebec. Funeral was held at Sainte-Hénédine Parish Church on 20 November 2021. Her ashes will be buried at a later date. She leaves to mourn her children: Patrick (Geneviève Benoit), Nicolas, Caroline Kelly (Eric Toussaint-Lévesque); her grandchildren: Magaly, Alexandra, Andréanne, Cédrick and Kyliane; her siblings: Rénald (Marie-France), Roger (Gisèle Sauvageau), Pierre, Hélène (Benoît Pérusse) and Alain; her godson Denis Kérouack.. She was predeceased by her husband, Jimmy Kelly, and her parents, Thérèse Loiselle and Lucien Kérouack.

#### **KIROUAC, ANDREW (1933-2021)**

At Verdun (Montreal) on 5 September 2021, aged 88, died Andrew Loynes Kirouac. He was the son of Frederick Kirouac (**GFK 02652**) and Laura Rail. Predeceased by his parents and his siblings, Della (John), Omer (Ernestine) and Phyllis (Bert). He was the loving

husband of the late Janice Leggo for 41 years. He was the proud father and stepfather to nine children: Andy (Vicki), Angel (Robin), Brian (Diane) Peter, Roslyn (Donnie), Anne (John), Carol (Lionel), Norman (Sharon) and Diane (Clyde), and a cherished uncle, grandfather and great-grandfather to many.

#### **KIROUAC, CAROLE (1936-2021)**

Carole Kirouac (**GFK 00868**) died on 30 September 2021. She was born on 14 March 1936 in Detroit, Michigan, to Jolicoeur and Bernadette (Leblanc) Kirouac. She earned degrees in education and taught in the South Redford School District. Carole is survived by her sister, Rolande Kirouac (Margaret Adams); her niece, Leslie Kirouac Stern (Barry); her nephew, Matthew Kirouac; and many great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jolicoeur and Bernie, her brother Roger Kirouac, her sister Dorothy Mayfield and nephew Jon Mayfield.

#### **KIROUAC, JEAN (1938-2021)**

On 6 November 2021, at the age of 83, in Quebec City, died Mr. Jean Kirouac (**GFK 02296**), widow of Lise Beaulieu-Kirouac. He was the son of Albert and Bernadette (née Rodrigue) Kirouac. He leaves to mourn his daughters, Francine (André Blais), Ginette (Marco Ledoux), Suzanne (Marco Lachance); his grandchildren, Tommy Ledoux, Aimeric and Zachary Lachance; his brother Paul-Henri Kirouac; his brothers- and sisters-in-law of the Beaulieu family, Huguette, Gilles, the late Guy; his nephews, Richard and Steve Perron. Funeral was held in the Lépine & Cloutier Funeral Home's chapel on 24 November 2021.

#### **KIROUAC, MARTIN (1973-2021)**

Suddenly at home in Saint-Wenceslas, on 5 September 2021 died Martin Kirouac (**GFK 00817**), son of Claudette Laroche and the



late Benoit Kirouac. He leaves to mourn his mother Claudette Laroche; his Laroche uncles and aunts: the late Gaétan Laroche, Madeleine Laroche, Huguette Laroche (the late Réal Béland), Marielle Ménard (the late Renaud Desrochers), Renald Ménard (Jeannette Desrochers); his friends David Rousseau and Nathalie Lajoie. A memorial ceremony was held on 13 September 2021 at Grégoire & Desrochers Funeral Home at Victoriaville, Quebec.

**KIROUAC, MAURICE G.  
(1957-2021)**

Maurice "Moe" Kirouac Jr., 64, of Enfield, Connecticut, died on 3 July 2021 at home. He was born on February 20, 1957 to the late Maurice Kirouac Sr. and to Elaine (Emery) Kirouac. He was the grandson of Donald Kirouac (GFK 00403) and Jeanne Thérberge. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Ayala, a son, Grayson Kirouac; a daughter, Megan Rose, his mother; Elaine (Emery) Kirouac, his grandchildren: Nate and Gabrielle Knowlton, his siblings, Jeffery, Doug, Laurie Rodriguez, extended family and friends. He was also predeceased by his sister Darlene Caswell. A service was held on 10 July 2021 at the Drozdal Funeral Home in Northampton. Burial was private.

**KIROUAC, ORIETTE  
(1944-2021)**

Oriette Kirouac (GFK 00305), aged 77, died on 10 September 2021 at Gatineau (Quebec). She was the daughter of Lisianne Marcil and Paul Kirouac. She leaves to mourn Benoit Fortin, the father of her children: Linda Fortin (Joseph Dorégo), Johanne Fortin (Mario Lévesque), Jocelyne Fortin (Marcel Carle) and Martin Fortin (Frédérique Gagné); her grandchildren: Francis, Gabriel (Massilia), Jimmy (Ashley), Frédéric, Claudia (Julien), Catherine (Simon), Véronique, Audrey-Ann (Tommy), Amélia and Charlie; her siblings: Jean-Paul (Denise), Louise, Gérald (Marie-Paule), Ginette, Adéline (the late Jean-Marc), Annie, Gilles and Francine (Gilles) and many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and relatives. She was pre-deceased by her parents and one son, Jocelyn Fortin. A commemorative service was held on 24 September 2021 at the Outaouais Funeral Cooperative at Gatineau.

**KIROUAC-BOUCHER, HÉLÈNE  
(1926-2021)**

On 22 October 2021, aged 95, died Hélène Kirouac (GFK 01133) at Enfant-Jésus Hospital in Quebec City. She was the wife of the late Roger Boucher. She was the daughter of Alexina Dubé and Édouard Kirouac. She leaves to mourn her children: Yvon & Céline (Jean-Claude Fillion); her grandchildren: Steve Fillion, Lidyann Fillion, Frédérique Giguère (Steven Morasse), Mégann Giguère (Éric Daigle) and Audrey Chavanel (Marc-André Vendette); her great-grandchildren: Charlie Kelly and Louis Morasse, Ludovic, Mathis and Liam. She was pre-deceased by her siblings: Armand, Thérèse, Yvette, Jeanne-d'Arc, Lucie, Robert, Léopold, Gonzague, Laurette and Charlotte.

**LARIVÉE KIROUAC, CINDY  
(1985-2021)**

On 10 November 2021, aged 36 years and eight months, died Cindy Larivée Kirouac, she was the daughter of Linda Larivée and the late Yves Kirouac, and the granddaughter of Hervé Kirouac and Anne-Marie Gignac and the great-granddaughter of Bruno Kirouac (GFK 01174) and Clara Patry. Besides her mother, she leaves to mourn her brother Alex Larivée (Julyanne St-Pierre), and Alex's father, Michel Trottier; her aunt Denise Bilodeau (the late Robert Larivée); her cousin Glen Larivée (Amel Ben Chaabane); her godparents Claire Larivée (the late François Dumais); Roland Kirouac (Sandra Poor), André Kirouac and Francine Dufour (the late Serge Kirouac).

**LUSSIER, LAURENT  
(1946-2021)**

At the Ste-Agathe Hospital, aged 75, on 10 September 2021, died Laurent Lussier, husband of the late Patricia Gobeille (1950-2018). He leaves to mourn his children, Alexandre, Patrick and Catherine and their spouses. His grandchildren: Mia-Catherine, Julianne, Emilie, Thomas, Ida and Sunniva; **his sister, Marie Lussier Timperley and her family** as well as many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law of the Gobeille family. As he loved outdoor sports, his life was celebrated by three nature walks.

**ST-AMANT-KIROUAC, SHIRLEY  
(1951-2021)**

Shirley Kirouac of Saint-Andre, New Brunswick, died on 21 June 2021. She was predeceased by her spouse Leandre Kirouac (son of Émile Kirouac and

Doria Michaud, and grandson of Alphonse Kirouac (GFK 01586) and Marie-Anne Bernier); and her parents, Denis St-Amand and Marie Pelletier. She is survived by: her daughters, Michelle, Marise (Yves Cote) and Amy (Marcel Girard), her siblings, George St-Amand (Debby), Clarence (Marie-Rose), Bobby (Tina), Yvon, Simon, Cecile (Camille Bosse), Edwina (Robert Rossignol), Isabelle Labonte, and Brenda St-Amand (Pierre Page).

**VILLENEUVE, CHRISTIAN  
(1940-2021)**

On 16 July 2021, aged 81, at the Chicoutimi Hospital died Christian Villeneuve, husband of Thérèse Tremblay. He was the son of the late Alcey Gagné and the late Léonce Villeneuve (son of Marie Kerouack (GFK 02480) and Wilfrid Villeneuve). Funeral was held on 25 July 2021 at the Renaissance Chapel in Chicoutimi; his ashes were placed in Serenity Columbarium. Besides his wife, Thérèse Tremblay-Villeneuve, he leaves his children: Alain Villeneuve (Guylaine Blackburn), Isabelle (Gaétan Tremblay) and Jean-François (Marie-Noëlle Fillion); grandchildren: Joëlle, Johannie, Hugo, Zachary, Xavier, one great-granddaughter, Anne-Julie; his siblings and spouses: Jeannine (the late Raymond Savard), Ghislaine (the late Laurent Gagnon), Magella (the late Huguette Cormier), Réal (Madeleine Létourneau), Camille, Christiane and Johanne (Ulric Houde). He was predeceased by his siblings, Simone & Philippe Tremblay, Lorenzo & Cécile Lavoie, Colette & Henri Lépine), Gérard, Bertrand, Charlotte & Joseph Bolduc, Cécilia & Laurent Boivin, Dollard, Jean-Yves. He was the brother-in-law of the late Lucie, the late Raymond, the late Rémi, Michelle (Floyd), the late Madeleine (the late Yvon Simard), the late Maurice and Jean-Pierre. **He was the uncle of Mercédès Bolduc-Villeneuve and her husband Marc Villeneuve, both KFA Board members.**

**Our Deepest Condolences  
to the  
Bereaved Families**

# 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. Answers to the following questions would enable us to complete our data. Feel free to consult previous issues of Le Trésor and forward us the relevant info.*

*With many thanks  
François Kirouac*

## Answers received

Much gratitude to Greg Kyrouac from Ashland, Illinois, who sent us the answers to some of the questions printed in *Le Trésor des Kirouac* number 135, published in Spring 2021.

### Question 728

*What are the names of the parents of Kenneth Morello, spouse of Pauline Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 7 October 1950 at Nashua, New Hampshire.*

Kenneth Morello's parents are Joseph Morello and Frances Blanchard.

### Question 729

*What are the names of the parents of Bruce Barnett, first married to Rita Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 24 September 1948. Where exactly were they married?*

Bruce Barnett's parents are Eura Barnett and Ruth Lapierre. Bruce Barnette and Rita Mercier were married at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague Church at Nashua, New Hampshire.

### Question 730

What are the names of the parents

of Raymond Vigneault, second spouse of Rita Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 5 April 1973. Where exactly were they married?

Raymond Vigneault's parents are Edmond Vigneault and Clara Langelier.

### Question 731

*What are the names of the parents of Frank Urban, first married to Theresa Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 3 January 1942 at Manchester, New Hampshire. Where exactly were they married.*

We were unable to find the names of Frank Urban's parents. However, according to their divorce's registration, they were married on 23 January 1942 at Tyngsborough, Massachusetts, and not at Manchester, New Hampshire.

### Question 732

*What are the names of the parents of Laurent Sévigny, second husband of Theresa Mercier, daughter of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were possibly married in 1950. What is the exact date of the wedding and where did it take place?*

Laurent Sévigny's parents are Peter Sévigny and Anna Routhier. Laurernt Sévigny and Theresa Mercier were married on 27 December 1950 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

### Question 733

*What are the names of the parents of Jeanne Rabeneau, wife of Robert Mercier, son of Arthur Mercier and Irène Kerouac? They were married on 11 May 1942. Where exactly*

*were they married?*

Jeanne Rabeneau's parents are William Rabeneau and Osha Lela Tate. Jeanne Rabeneau and Robert Mercier were married on 18 January 1943 in Multnomah County, Oregon.

### Question 734

*What are the names of the parents of Mary Jane Rodgers, wife of Henri Fraser, son of Henry Fraser and Eva Kerouac? They were married on 11 November 1956 at Bryan, Brazos County, Texas.*

Mary Jane Rodgers's parents are Julius Rodgers and Jennie Morello. Henry Fraser was known as Hank.

### Question 735

*What are the names of the parents of Marjorie McCauley, first wife of Edward Fraser, son of Henry Fraser and Eva Kerouac? They were married on 3 August 1952 at Rochester, Strafford County in New Hampshire.*

Margaret Therese (not Marjorie) McCauley's parents are Charles McCauley and Margaret Murdoch. Margaret McCauley and Edward Fraser were married on 4 August 1951 and not on 3 August 1952.

### Question 736

*What are the names of the parents of Laura Beausoleil, second wife of Edward Fraser, son of Henry Fraser and Eva Kerouac? They were married on 4 July 1964. Where exactly were they married?*

Laura Beausoleil's parents are Antonio Beausoleil and Jeannette Martineau. Laura Beausoleil and Edward Fraser were married at St. Anthony Church at Manchester, New Hampshire.

Please send us your genealogical questions and we will try to find the answers. It will be a pleasure to print the answers in a future Trésor.

The Editor



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Marie Kirouac  
Greg Kyrourac  
Mark Pattison  
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**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022**

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