



## A Word from the President

I should like to welcome you to the sixth annual meeting of the Merciers, which is taking place this August 17 and 18, 1991, in the charming Old Port of Québec city. These two days of meetings, discussions and reunions will enable the Merciers and their relatives to get to know each other better,

understand each other better and become more mutually committed. The activities for the meeting I am now opening were all planned and will be carried out with a view to accomplishing the main objectives of AMAN.

As is customary, our family association holds its general assembly during an annual regional meeting of the Merciers. Your participation in large numbers is always much appreciated by the directors, for it encourages them to continue the work of those who pioneered this dynamic and progressive family association. The members of the Board of Directors of AMAN have contributed to organizing the meeting of the Merciers this weekend, and they invite as many of you as possible to participate in this family celebration.

In 1991, the **Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord** pays special homage to a member who has been faithful to our family association since its birth. I shall ask our Second Vice-President, my colleague Isabelle Mercier Dufour, to present to you the first recipient of the distinction of Honorary Life Member of AMAN.

(continued on page 7)



Monique Mercier, first Honorary Life Member of AMAN



## President's report

### Fiscal year 1990-1991

The following summary of the activities which marked the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1991, is presented on behalf of the Board of Directors of AMAN, more specifically: Alain, André, Benoit, Céline, Claudine, Ernest, Isabelle, Jacques, Jean, Léon and Paul H. All these members of your Board of Directors have worked diligently throughout the year in an effort to achieve the immediate and long term objectives of AMAN, viz., to foster an develop, in every Mercier family in North America, interest in, and respect for, family origins, history and traditions, and to increase our collective knowledge of our ancestors, their lives and their achievements.

#### **Regional structures**

Efforts have been pursued towards the development and strengthening of AMAN's regional administrative and informational structures. It is to be hoped that, as a result of these efforts, a number of regional committees will be formed during the present gathering.

#### **Liaison bulletin Le Mercien**

Again, this year, **Le Mercien** has been published four times, as a result of the excellent work done by Ernest, ably seconded by Isabelle. You will surely have noticed the increasingly high quality of each issue's contents, particularly the well documented genealogical exposés.

**Le Mercien** continues to be published in English in answer to the request of the many English speaking members of our Association. Congratulations are in order for the members of the editing committee.

By the way, Ernest has recently become a member of the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. His portrait will hang among the 141 citizens, -- 14 of whom are from the Province of Québec --, who have been the recipients

of this distinction since the early 1960's. It is an honor which can be shared by all the Merciers in North America and particularly by members of AMAN. Our heartfelt congratulations to Ernest.

#### **Planned activities and 1990-1991 budget**

As was done in previous years, your Board of Directors has carried on its operations according to a well prepared program of activities and has made an effort to keep within its budget allocations.

#### **1991 Annual Congress of the F.F.S.Q.**

The president, André, attended the Annual Congress of the **Fédération of Québec Pioneer Families** which took place in **Rivière-du-Loup** during the latter part of the month of May. He took an active part in a number of workshops and brought back useful information and documentation. Liliane and Gérard Mercier played the roles of our ancestors Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain in a publicity sketch presented by the **Lambert Travel Agency** to promote the Mercier tour planned for next September. Their performance was apparently outstanding.

#### **Rendez-vous in Montréal - 1992**

Letters have been exchanged between the **Fédération of Québec Pioneer Families** and AMAN regarding the latter's participation in a gathering of the Mercier's planned for Montréal in 1992 in conjunction with the festivities marking the 350th anniversary of the founding of the city. All the information required, before a final decision is taken, will be made available to you in the course of the present meeting.

#### **Trip to France - 1991**

A number of persons have already decided to make the trip to France in September 1991. There is still room for more. This project has

been advertised by your Association by means of several press releases. Ghislaine Lambert and Liliane Mercier will give you all the details concerning this projected trip at some later time during this meeting.

### **Recruiting new members**

The recruiting of new members and membership renewals have been among the major concerns of your Board of Directors during the past year. Through personal contacts, press releases and renewal notices from our Secretary-treasurer, Benoit, we have done our utmost to increase the number of members in our Association. Unfortunately, we have not been able to attain our objective of 1,000 paid-up members.

### **Federation of Québec Pioneer Families**

We are pleased to announce that the **Fédération of Québec Pioneer Families** has been successful in overcoming its financial difficulties. AMAN has been able to be of some assistance through an advance of funds which was discussed, you will remember, at our last Annual Meeting.

### **Expression of sympathy to Mercier families**

AMAN wishes to express its gratitude to Isabelle who has been faithful in extending the sympathies of all members to the Mercier families afflicted by the death of a loved one. Information gathered on these occasions is often published in **Le Mercien**. Thank you, Isabelle.

### **Secretariat of the Association**

As Benoit, our Secretary-Treasurer will explain in his report, he can now count on the services of a part-time secretary. You have had an opportunity to meet her at the opening session of this meeting. We are entirely satisfied with the work she has performed. Re-organization of our secretariat will be completed in the course of the next few months.

### **Computerized genealogical information**

Steps are currently being taken to computerize the vast sum of genealogical information gathered by Ernest during many years of laborious and systematic research. Measures have also been taken to ensure that all genealogical information forwarded to AMAN by members from all over North America will also be entered into the computer. Our own Benoit is ready to undertake this tremendous task and negotiations are already under way for the purpose of getting this data bank project going within the next few months.

### **Promotion of our Association**

AMAN is grateful to all the Québec information media for their co-operation in transmitting faithfully to the public through the press, radio and television, all releases and communiques issued by the Association.

### **Acknowledgements**

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you, and particularly to the members of our Board of Directors, to all you Merciers and your friends and relatives for your presence here in the historic City of Québec. And finally to all those who, in any way, have contributed to the success of this gathering as also those who are already involved in the preparation of our next get together and the 1991 Annual Meeting.

André Mercier  
President 1990-1991

Results on workshops held on August 17, 1991, will appear in the January issue of **Le Mercien**.

## **Report of the Secretary-Treasurer (fiscal 1990-1991)**

In the fiscal year 1990-1991, your Board of Directors (B.D.) met five times and the Management Committee met twice.

During this period, the register of our members' names, addresses and phone numbers was updated. Thus, as at July 31, our association comprised 332 members in good standing, including one life member. As well, we have in our files the names and addresses of persons who were at one time members of AMAN but who are no longer members owing to the nonpayment of their annual membership fees, as well as the names of those who participated in the meeting of the Merciers in mid-August 1987.

Between July 1, 1990, and June 30, 1991, **Le Mercien** was published four times in both French and English.

During the same period, your B.D. retained the services of a part-time executive secretary, who performs a variety of secretarial duties and attends meetings. Without her, the Secretary-Treasurer could not have completed all the work that an association such as ours requires. I should also like to thank Odette Côté for her assistance.

I know that one of the priorities of our President and our Board of Directors is to seek out persons who are willing and able to contribute to advancing and perpetuating our association in the future. I should like to point out that yours truly has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1988: for four of these years as Treasurer and one year as Secretary-Treasurer. Last year I agreed to return to the Board of Directors for two years; I thus have one more year to go to fulfil my commitment. Let me take this opportunity to inform you that I shall not renew my term in 1992, although I might return at a later time.

I believe our association needs new blood, new ideas and new energy in various areas such as genealogy, communications and marketing, just to name the most important ones. For my part, I should like to work in areas other than our family association.

Thank you for your attention. Have a good meeting!

Benoit Mercier

### **Benevolent Merciers at work**

at registration

at recruiting



Jeannine M. Roy, Lucille L. Mercier, Isabelle M. Dufour -- Béatrice Mercier and Bernard Lacroix



**Statement of Revenue and Expenditures**  
**July 1, 1989, to June 30, 1991**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
Membership fees	4 764	4 585
Miscellaneous and gifts		
Interest earned		
Profits from the sale of souvenirs	<u>184</u>	<u>76</u>
	<u>6 093</u>	<u>5 404</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Cost of meetings	504	701
Secretariat services	1 218	1 979
<u>Le Mercien</u>	1 965	2 965
Travel expenses	53	- -
Fédération (F.F.S.Q.) services	510	188
Mercier monument	- -	1 026
Banking charges	25	- -
Miscellaneous expenses	<u>25</u>	<u>158</u>
	<u>4 300</u>	<u>7 017</u>
Surplus or (deficit)	<u>1 793</u>	<u>(1 613)</u>

**AMAN Balance Sheet**

<b>ASSETS</b>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1990</u>
Cash on hand and in the bank	2 269	1 475
Advance to the " <b>Fédération des familles souches</b> "	500	
Inventory of souvenirs (at cost)	679	769
Certificate of deposit	8 168	7 000
Furniture	<u>229</u>	<u>229</u>
	<u>11 845</u>	<u>9 973</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	336	157
Advanced by administrators	<u>700</u>	<u>800</u>
	<u>1 036</u>	<u>957</u>
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>(at June 30, 1991 and 1990)</b>		
Surplus at the close of previous fiscal years	9 016	10 629
Surplus or (deficit) for the last two fiscal years	1 793	<u>(1 613)</u>
Bank balance as at June 30, 1991, and 1990	<u>10 819</u>	<u>9 016</u>
Balance at the close of the last two fiscal years	<u>11 845</u>	<u>9 973</u>

Approved

André Mercier, President

Benoit Mercier, Treasurer

*I have examined the statement of revenue and expenditures for the period ended June 30, 1991, as well as the balance sheet as at this date. In my opinion, these financial statements fairly represent the association's financial situation in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices applied in the same manner as during the preceding year.*

Lauréat Mercier, c.g.a.

## ***Nouvelles et potins -- News and Gossip***

At their last Annual Meeting, held in Drummondville, Québec, during the last weekend of September, the members of the **Québec Board of Trade** elected Denis Mercier as their President.



Denis Mercier is one of the vice-presidents of **Northern Telecom**. During the first budgetary year he will be responsible for implementing the program of activities of the Board that claims to be a non political organization. The delegates wish the **decentralization of powers** toward provinces, the **financial reorganization of some 6,500 small and middle-size Quebec firms**, **fewer interventions by the Welfare State**, the **more proper training of manpower** as well as the **renewal of a quiet revolution** oriented toward high technology and new battlements of economic activities.

Congratulations and good luck Denis.

### **Tribute to our President, André**

At the colloquium "Vers une nouvelle décennie de l'information dans l'est du Québec" (Towards a new information decade in Eastern Québec), held in Rivière-du-Loup last September 28, communicators from the Cercle de presse de la Côte-du-Sud and the Club de presse de Rimouski paid tribute to André Mercier for his contribution to the development of the communications industry. For more than 22 years, from 1954 to 1976, André worked in the radio industry in Montmagny as the manager of radio station CKBM and as the president of the company that held the radio broadcasting licence. During these years, André worked arduously to develop radio communications in the region of Montmagny, L'Islet, Bellechasse and Côte-de-Beaupré and was active in a variety of fields of activity. Congratulations!



André Mercier

### **Hélène Mercier was on vedette duty**

The pianist Hélène Mercier participated to the **International Program** presented by the **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation** on Monday October 14th, 1991. The program was organized in the frame of the **Third Summit of the Large Cities of the World** coinciding with the **350th anniversary of the Montréal foundation**.

Congratulations to Hélène!

## ***A Word from the Vice-President Homage to Monique Mercier***

The **Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord** (AMAN) wishes to pay special tribute to someone who, with 38 years of artistic life behind her, has established herself as a major artist in Québec. Numerous exhibitions have made her known in Canada as well as over the border. I am speaking here of one of our very own, the renowned Québec painter Monique Mercier.

At our first major meeting in 1987, at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, not only did she authorize the reproduction of her paintings in a volume entitled "**Mercier depuis des siècles**" but she also donated a large number of her works to be awarded as door prizes. In honour of our meeting here in the Old Port of Québec city today she has graciously bestowed five more of her works on us. Her filial attachment and generous contribution have moved us to confer upon her, with great joy, the title of **Honorary Life Member** of the **Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord**. She is the first person to receive this honorary distinction from our family association. It would be difficult, in the space of just a few minutes, to recount so long and illustrious a career. However, a brief glance at the path our distinguished member has travelled leaves absolutely no doubt that we are in the presence of an energetic, determined and committed woman animated by a deep passion for spiritual and human values and in whose heart love, friendship and tenderness predominate.

In 1980, she became the first woman painter to be published in a volume of the **Collection Signatures** (1). The commentaries on her expression and the 80 works reproduced in this volume, devoted exclusively to her art, testify to her artistic life over the years and speak of what she believes, what she lives and what she loves.

One discovers that her professional life goes hand in hand with her profoundest convictions.

In its latest issue (July-August), the **Gazette des femmes** states that, for the last ten years, the most dynamic and interesting artistic creation in Québec has been that of women. In our opinion, the works of Monique paved the way for and anticipated this recent current of thought. The international renown and credibility her works enjoy bring her a recognition that many generations of women have never known.

In closing, we should like to reveal to you a few little secrets from the daily life of Monique, who considers herself a very private person. She and her husband have the same tastes and live happily in Nicolet in a new residence whose decor is warm and romantic. Her interests tend towards decoration, fashion, antiques and collections of all sorts. On Monique's agenda are theatre, concerts, travel and reading. Golf, swimming and cooking also delight her.

Madame Mercier, we are very honoured to have you among us today, and we warmly salute you.

Please accept from AMAN this bouquet of flowers, as a symbol of our gratitude for our joy at being about to count you as a member of our great family, the MERCIERS.

August 17, 1991     Isabelle Mercier Dufour

(1) Pierre H. Savignac. **Monique Mercier**, Collection Signatures, Laprairie, Marcel Broquet, Éditeur, 1980. 104 p.

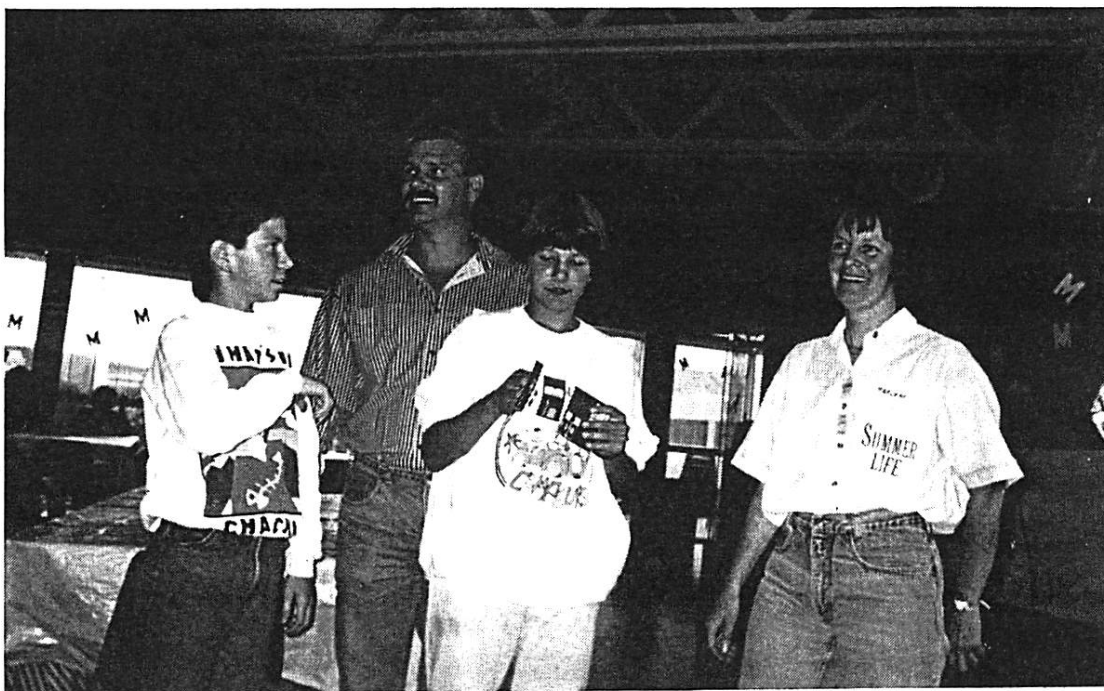
## *A Thank You from Monique*

First let me warmly thank AMAN for these lovely flowers, which I accept on behalf of all the women of my country, for it is because of them that I take my place among the generations of MERCIERS. I signed my works "MERCIER" because I did not wish it to be known that I was a woman. It must not be forgotten that 30 years ago it was impossible for a woman to pursue an artistic career, this field of activity being then reserved exclusively for men. I would note that women were once prohibited, on pain of excommunication, from painting pictures in church choirs. At **Grosse-Île** (Île de la Quarantaine), a schoolmistress was threatened with excommunication for having painted a picture behind the high altar. This painting was later retouched and signed by an Italian painter.

The magnificent painting that hangs above the high altar of the parish church in Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire (Montmagny), where my father, Napoléon Mercier, grew up, is unsigned. It was in fact painted towards the end of the 1910s by the Lefèvre (Lefebvre) nuns from the Gaspésie.

Times have changed, and women are increasingly being recognized for their physical, moral and intellectual values. If they are in the forefront, it is because they are being supported, encouraged and appreciated by men who understand their wives' point of view but who unfortunately give them the slip because they are eliminated from the human race at a younger age.

Thank you for your understanding.



At the annual meeting of the AMAN's members and gathering of the Merciers, at Québec City, the family door prize was won by Alain's family from Jonquièrre. In the usual order : Sébastien, Alain (father) Christine and Marlène Locas Mercier (Mother)



## *Histoire de famille – Family History*

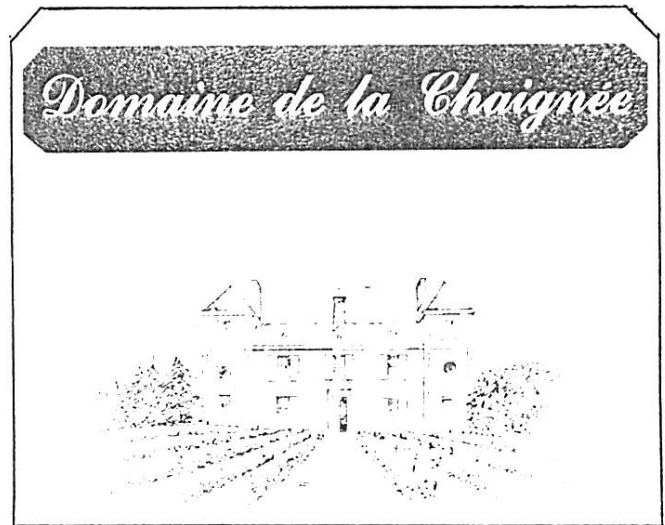
### The viticultural firm of the Mercier brothers at Vix, Vendée, France

The family of J.-P. Mercier and sons operates a large vine-growing firm in Vix, Vendée, France

The Mercier family operates the above mentioned firm since the end of the last century (before 1900).

The annual wine production of the "**Le Domaine de la Chaignée**" amounts to some 80 000 bottles of **White**, 30 000 bottles of **Rosé** and 60 000 bottles of **Red** wine. That production, derived from 25 hectares (33,75 acres) of Vineyard, is sold in the region and France.

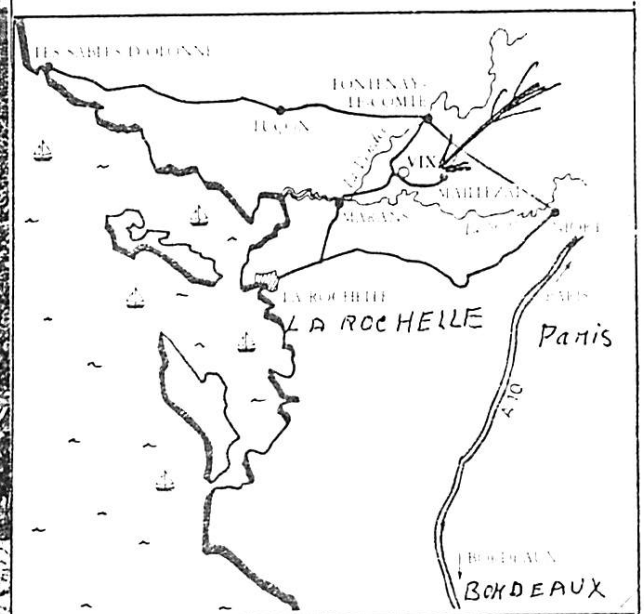
The Mercier brothers' nurseries produce annually several millions of grape seedlings that are either sold in France or exported in many countries of the world, including Japan and Australia. The company hires each year some 150 workers -- about 70 % of them are women -- who perform about 200,000 hours of work in greenhouses and fields.



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*Pépinières Viticoles*  
**MERCIER Frères**

## On nous écrit

## Correspondence

### Triple Jubilee for the Merciers in Estrie

Last July 20, in Magog, **Bruno Mercier**, c.s.s.r., **Marguerite Mercier**, f.c.s.c.j. and **Marie Mercier**, f.c.s.c.j., celebrated their ruby, gold and diamond jubilees, respectively.

This joyous occasion brought together 142 relatives: brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and cousins from the Mercier line, as well as a few friends of the jubilarians and some of Bruno's confreres. They came to share memories, give thanks and renew acquaintances between the young and the not so young. Many of their exchanges took place before the photographs of the descendants of **Léonidas Mercier** and **Rosalie Talbot** (parents of the jubilarians), which decorate the walls of the room. They were also introduced to one another by profession in an amusing fictional story.

Léonidas represents the eighth generation of Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain. He is the son of Octave Mercier and Marie Routhier, who were married in Broughton on February 14, 1881.

Bruno is currently a missionary in Port-au-Prince in Haiti. Marguerite, a nurse, is in charge of Accueil Notre-Dame in Magog. Marie is a retired teacher who is active in humanitarian services in Sherbrooke.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Mercier jubilarians.

(AMAN, of which the jubilarians are members, wishes a long life to the jubilarians and to the members of this wonderful family.)



The **bulletin Committee** would like to publish more condensed reports coming from families that have reunions of that kind. Why not cooperate in the success of **Le Mercien**?

## DÉCÈS

## DEATHS

Condoléances aux familles Mercier dont l'un des membres est décédé récemment.

Deepest sympathy to Mercier families that have lost a member recently.

Nom - Name	Inhumation - Burial	Endroit - Place
Arthur Houde (époux de Rose Mercier)	91-04-02	Ste-Agathe (Lotb.), Qc
Martin Mercier	91-05-21	Ste-Agathe (Lotb.), Qc
Pierre M. Hurtubise (1)	91-06-24	Montréal, Qc
Gustave Mercier	91-06-24	St-Damien (Bell.) Qc
Cyprien Mercier (2)	91-07-12	St-Agathe (Lotb.), Qc
Zélia Mercier (3)	91-07-18	Sherbrooke (Qc
Gracia Mercier, Sr	91-07-24	Montréal, Qc
Marie-Claire D. Mercier	91-08-06	Québec, Qc
Adrienne Mercier Ménard	91-08-19	St-Magloire (Bell.), Qc
Joseph Mercier	91-08-22	St-François, Laval, Qc
Juliette Mercier Caron	91-08-24	St-Cyrille, (L'Islet), Qc
(1) Fils de Jeanne Mercier Depocas (petite fille d'Honoré Mercier)		
(2) Frère de Reine Mercier Morin		
(3) Mère d'Isabelle Mercier, V.P. de l'AMAN		

## A Word of Thanks from the President

We now find ourselves at the close of another annual assembly of AMAN, which, for the sixth consecutive year, has allowed us to take stock of the life of our family association and to observe that it is in good health and ready to begin another year of fruitful activities.

On your behalf let me thank:

Claudine, who drafted the minutes of last year's assembly.

Paul H., who, once again this year, saw to the orderly conduct of the election of our administrators.

Benoit and his group, made up of Béatrice, Bernard, Marie, Jeannine and Lucille, who took care of the registration, the signing up of members and the payment of membership fees.

Jean, Claude and Françoise, who sold souvenirs and the volume **Mercier depuis des siècles**.

Isabelle, who assisted the President in organizing the meeting.

Ernest, who contributed to organizing the workshops of the meeting.

The caterer **Les Buffets Monchâteau**, for the excellent services they provided us - and let's not forget the bartender and those who husked and boiled the corn.

Thanks to Mr. Charles Bédard, "le Grand Charles", for entertaining you.

Thanks as well to the personnel of the Édifice du Havre, where we held our meeting, for the excellent service they gave us.

Finally, thanks to all those who contributed, in whatever way, to the success of these two days devoted to the development of the **Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord**.

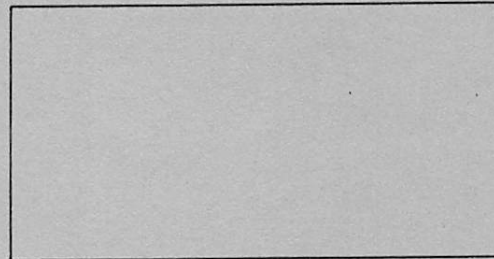


"Courrier de deuxième classe,  
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## Life Membership definitely in force

At their 1991 annual meetings members have endorsed the proposal of the AMAN's Board of Directors to create a life membership. For the 1991-1992 budgetary year, the life dues are as follows :

- 250 dollars for members below 65 years of age,
- 125 dollars for members over 65 years of age.

Paid-up members can benefit that change when they will renew their annual dues. The incoming members can enjoy that privilege at time of joining the family Association.

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