



# *Le Mercien*

**La voix des Mercier d'Amérique**

*The voice of the Merciers of North America*

## ***A word from the president***

At the suggestion of the founding President, Ernest Mercier, the administrators of AMAN have decided to hold the annual meeting of the Merciers and their relatives in Montmagny on September 25, 1999.

You will find the program of the meeting on the back cover (page 12) of this bulletin. The convocation for the annual assembly and further details about the event are inside. The coordinators of the program for the annual meeting — nurses (and sisters) Thérèse Mercier and Marcelle Mercier/Fournier of Montmagny — as well as their ever-present colleague, Ernest Mercier, assure us that the program for the day will be most enjoyable for AMAN members, their relatives, and their friends. This is a meeting that shouldn't be missed. We hope to see you all in Montmagny. Why Montmagny? See page 4.

***Michel Mercier, President***

The Manoir Dénéchaud in Berthier-sur-Mer — recently demolished — was the property of the couple Jean-Baptiste Mercier and Caroline Bilodeau and of their descendants from 1879 to 1993, a period of 114 years. Jean-Baptiste Mercier was descended from the ancestral couple Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain in the seventh North American generation. He belongs to the line of Paschal Mercier and Anne Cloutier. (See the article on page 5 of this issue.)



**Le Manoir Dénéchaud**  
Fonds (Office du film du Québec)  
Photographe : S. Brassard  
Archives nationales du Québec à Québec

## Info - AMAN

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## Messages

Afin de hâter la correspondance avec la direction, veuillez communiquer directement avec les membre préposés aux divers services de l'AMAN.

*In order to hasten communications with the management, please contact directly the members in charge of the AMAN's Services.*

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Si vous déménagez, veuillez avertir le trésorier au moins six semaines à l'avance.

*If you plan to move, please inform the treasurer at least six weeks ahead of time.*

### Cotisation / Membership :

Annuelle / Yearly : 20 \$

À vie / Life (65 ans et +/65 years and over): 125 \$

À vie / Life (moins de 65 ans/less than 65 ans): 250 \$

Veuillez faire parvenir vos commentaires et suggestions à l'une des adresses indiquées en bas de page.

*Please send your comments and suggestions to either address listed below.*

### Le Mercien - Dates de tombée saisonnières Seasonal deadlines

Numéro Number	Saison Season	Date limite Deadline
1	Printemps / Spring	1er mars / March 1st
2	Été / Summer	1er juin / June 1st
3	Automne / Autumn	1er septembre / September 1st
4	Hiver / Winter	1er décembre / December 1st

### Comité du bulletin : Le Mercien

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## Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord

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Adresse du site/ Site address : [genealogie.org/famille/Mercier](http://genealogie.org/famille/Mercier)

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## *Editorial*

**AMAN's VISION 2000 Consolidation Campaign is slowly getting off the ground. While the results to date are less than extraordinary, they are nonetheless appreciable.**

### **1. Regular Members**

Treasurer Jean Mercier sums up the increase in membership to May 31, 1999, as follows:

- Seven former members have rejoined the ranks of AMAN.
- Seventeen new members have joined our young family association.
- Two Merciers and their relatives have opted to become life members.
- Two have paid their dues for a period of five years.

This increase in membership is hardly spectacular, but it is still significant. We should be encouraged by it and continue our recruitment of new members.

### **2. Objective**

The two copresidents of AMAN's VISION 2000 Consolidation Campaign together with the current administrators ask each regular member to recruit one new member during the fiscal year from June 30, 1999, to June 30, 2000.

Each of us should get in touch with the Merciers and Mercier relatives in our neighbourhood and invite them to become members of AMAN.

### **3. AMAN Commanders**

As at May 31, 1999, a few members — both old and new — had made inquiries of the administrators regarding the benefits accruing to the title of AMAN Commander.

The benefits are summed up in the letter of invitation you received in February or March 1999 and in the winter 1998 issue of *Le Mercien* (volume 14, number 4, winter 1999, page 3).

The first to undertake to acquire this title is Roland Mercier of La Pocatière. He has agreed to help AMAN preserve the humble monument it erected in 1989 on the land of his ancestor Pierre Mercier dit Caudebec in Saint-Pierre-de-la-rivière-du-Sud, in Montmagny county.

If a modest retired federal public servant is ready to conquer, step by step, the title of AMAN Commander, why would Mercier business people and their relatives not do likewise? Step forward; we await you. Our vice-president in charge of the followup to AMAN's VISION 2000 campaign, Cécilia Mercier, will write to the heads of the regional committees of AMAN. They in turn will call upon the members in their sector to get in touch with every Mercier and Mercier relative eligible to become a benefactor of AMAN.

The directors of AMAN are convinced that no family association can survive in North America unless it has a sufficiently large number of active members able to support their efforts to render it financially viable.

In short, we all need to become involved in AMAN's VISION 2000 Consolidation Campaign. We should contact Mercier business people and their relatives in our neighbourhood and persuade them to become members of our young family association.

At their meeting on April 17 the administrators decided de remit 20% (twenty per cent) of each subscription of \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) received during AMAN's VISION 2000 Consolidation Campaign to the local organizations. This financial contribution from the central office will help the regional committees to pursue their activities.

***Ernest Mercier,  
Coprésident of VISION 2000***

#### **Message to the Regional Representatives**

Let's phone the Mercier business people and their relatives in our neighbourhood and invite them to:

- join AMAN;
- purchase advertising in *Le Mercien*;
- become AMAN Commanders.

***Cécilia Mercier***

## Why Montmagny?

«*Montmagny! my favourite destination, bar none*»

If you live in the Québec city region, you have probably seen and heard an advertisement on the RDI network (channel 19) whose headline proclaims: «Montmagny ! de toutes les destinations, la préférée» (Montmagny! my favourite destination, bar none).

The administrators of AMAN have decided to hold the 1999 annual meeting of the Merciers and their relatives in Montmagny and to offer participants in the event a choice between two guided tours:

- a visit of the city of Montmagny; or
- an excursion through the forgotten corridor between Lac Frontière and Pohénégamouke south of Montmagny and Rivière-du-Loup.

Delimited by the Saint Lawrence River on the north and by the Canadian-American border, this corridor was the subject of acrimonious counterclaims between the British and the Americans for some 80 years (from 1763 to 1842). The Webster-Ashburton Treaty settled the matter of the border between the United States of America and New Brunswick in 1842. This treaty was until recently so disparaged by biased teachers of Canadian history that the corridor remains unknown to most Quebeckers.

These teachers have repeatedly alleged that «the British gave part of Maine to the Americans.» What they fail to realize is that Québec inherited some 900 square miles (about 1,200 square kilometers) of land under the Webster-Ashburton Treaty. In accordance with the arbitration of the conflict that the King of the Low Countries carried out between the British and the Americans in 1831, the border between Québec and Maine was to follow the high ground between Montmagny and Rivière-du-Loup, that is to say the dividing line of the waters between the tributaries of the Saint Lawrence River and the Saint John River. The Webster-Ashburton Treaty established the border at a point situated at least seven (7) miles, but not more than ten (10) miles, from the dividing line of the waters mentioned above.

The choice of the site allowed Great Britain to float wood cut on lands in Québec to the north and in

New Brunswick to the northwest of the Saint John River up to the mouth of this river in the Bay of Fundy (Atlantic Ocean) and to open the townships of the Côte-du-Sud to colonization.

It is through this **forgotten corridor** that the founding President, Ernest Mercier, proposes to guide those members of AMAN, their relatives, and their friends who would care to make the trip by bus from Québec city to Montmagny to attend the 1999 meeting of the Merciers in this city, on Saturday, September 25, 1999.

The group will traverse the Côte-du-Sud on highway 132 from Lévis to Montmagny in the morning and will return through Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire and Saint-Paul-du-Buton (highways 283 and 216) to Buckland in order to reach highway 20 by way of highway 279 (St-Damien, St-Lazare, Saint-Charles-de-Bellechasse, and Beaumont) in the afternoon. Ernest Mercier has published four works on the **forgotten corridor**:

- *Monographie de Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire et de Sainte-Euphémie* (monograph on Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire and Sainte-Euphémie), in 1979;
- *Le Cahier d'histoire numéro 16 sur l'influence du traité Webster-Ashburton sur la colonisation* (historical study number 16 on the influence of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty on colonization), in 1981;
- *Le Chemin des Anglais* (the route of the English), in 1982;
- *L'Histoire de la paroisse de Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire* (the history of the Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire parish), in 1983.

He is well equipped to guide a group through a territory in which he was born and grew up and throughout which he has travelled extensively.

If you are interested in making the Québec/Montmagny return trip by bus on September 25, please reserve before September 20. First come, first served.

You will find the itinerary for the trip and the registration form in *Le Mercien*.

# Family Patrimony

*Merciers owned the Manoir Dénéchaud in Berthier-sur-Mer*

The couple Jean-Baptiste Mercier and Caroline Bilodeau, as well as their descendants and relatives, lived at the Manoir Dénéchaud(1) in Berthier-sur-Mer for 114 years, from 1879 to 1993. The municipality expropriated the building in 1993 in order to restore it but subsequently had to have it demolished.

## 1. The Mercier Brothers at Berthier-sur-Mer

In 1724 three grandsons of the ancestral couple Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain are to be found established on lands near the seignorial manor, which has been continuously inhabited beginning in 1720 by the seignorial couple Blaise des Bergères de Rigauville and Marie-Françoise Vianney-Pachaud, along the riverfront road in the Berthier-Bellechasse seignory. These Mercier pioneers<sup>2</sup> are, from east to west: Pierre, Jean, and J. Pascal, son of Paschal (second generation) and Anne Cloutier, farmers from the Saint-Joachim-de-Beaupré parish, who took up the invitation of the De Rigauville seigneurs in 1705 and abandoned the extended hilly lands of the Côte-de-Beaupré for the flatlands of the Côte-du-Sud.

## 2. Site of the Manoir Dénéchaud

Located east of the present wharf, the site on which the Manoir Dénéchaud stands measures six arpents(3) wide on the Saint Lawrence by 60 arpents

deep toward the south (Bellechasse seignory). In 1724, six years after the definitive arrival of the seignorial couple in Berthier in 1718, one finds 30 square arpents of arable land and three arpents of cleared meadowland on the manor site.

There are seven farm buildings: two houses, a bakery, a barn, a stable, a cowshed with a dovecote on the second floor, and a chicken coop.

In 1724 there are 40 pioneers along the riverfront road (first road) and 33 along the second road, the Côte-Saint-Blaise (Bellechasse-Saint-François seignory).

## 3. Second Royal Road

In 1860 Charles Prud'Homme Faguy, owner of the seignorial domain, donates a strip of land on the west side, adjacent to the land of Jean Mercier, for the construction of a road linking the second Royal Road — now highway 132 — to the Berthier wharf. This new road allows access to the wharf without going to the first presbytery via the current J. Pascal Mercier road, passing before the first church, circumventing the «Trou de Berthier» (Berthier hole), returning to the wharf, or continuing on toward the cove while passing before the Berthier-sur-Mer manor.



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## *Claude Dénéchau* 1768-1836

A Member of Parliament for the Upper City of Québec for more than 30 years, His Majesty's justice of the peace, and a friend of the Duke of Kent, who asks him to become grand master of the masonic lodges of Canada. In 1813 he leases the Bellechasse seignory for 29 years, and he also purchases the domain and the manor that will henceforth bear his name.

# *Historical Patrimony*

## *Town of Mercier – Today*

In the second of a two-articles serie, Pierre-Paul Mercier tells us how the prosperous rural parish of Sainte-Philomène-de-Châteauguay was transformed into a young dynamic town since the beginning of the Quiet Revolution (1968) to this day.

Dans le dernier numéro du Mercien, nous avons vu la naissance de la ville de Sainte-Philomène.

Cependant, cette municipalité a changé de nom dans la période de la Révolution tranquille des années 1960.

Tout a commencé avec la naissance de la Chambre de Commerce incorporée le 18 avril 1966. Dès le début, un comité d'étude fut formé en vue de proposer un nouveau nom de ville de Sainte-Philomène. Dès le début, quatre noms furent retenus : Beauchâteau, Comtois, Léger et **Mercier**.

Le 16 novembre 1966, le comité sollicite l'assentiment de la Commission de géographie du Québec en faveur du nom de **Mercier**. Sur réception de l'assentiment de la commission, la Chambre de Commerce soumet alors une recommandation sous forme de mémoire aux autorités municipales, le 13 décembre 1966. Parmi les raisons soulevées, une était à l'effet que le nom de Sainte-Philomène était phonétiquement déplaisant en langue anglaise, et que le nom de **Mercier** était plus facilement « commercialisable » et plus facilement recevable par les anglophones. Le nouveau nom aiderait à la promotion et au développement domiciliaire, commercial et industriel.

Le conseil municipal accepta la recommandation de la Chambre de Commerce et décida d'entreprendre les démarches nécessaires.

Le 20 février 1967, une assemblée des électeurs approuve le changement de nom, mais ce n'est qu'au début de 1968 que la ville aura complété toutes les formalités requises au changement de son nom en celui de **Mercier**.

Le nom de **Mercier** rappelle Honoré (I) ce politicien qui fut premier ministre du Québec de 1887 à 1891

et aussi de ses descendants qui ont occupé des postes importants. Honoré (II) fut député du comté de Châteauguay de 1907 à 1936. Il fut aussi ministre dans les cabinets Gouin et Taschereau. Honoré (III) fut député du comté de Châteauguay de 1944 à 1948, maire de Léry de 1948 à 1950.

La ville de **Mercier** est bornée à l'ouest par la rivière Châteauguay, au nord par la ville de Châteauguay, à l'est par la municipalité de Saint-Isidore et au sud par Sainte-Martine.

Aujourd'hui, la Ville de **Mercier** est une ville moderne et jeune qui couvre une superficie de 46 kilomètres carrés dont la majorité conserve encore son caractère rural. On y dénombre une trentaine d'exploitants agricoles et de nombreuses terres sont louées à de grands producteurs. L'activité commerciale se concentre sur le boulevard Saint-Jean-Baptiste, au cœur de l'ancien village et près des limites de Châteauguay.

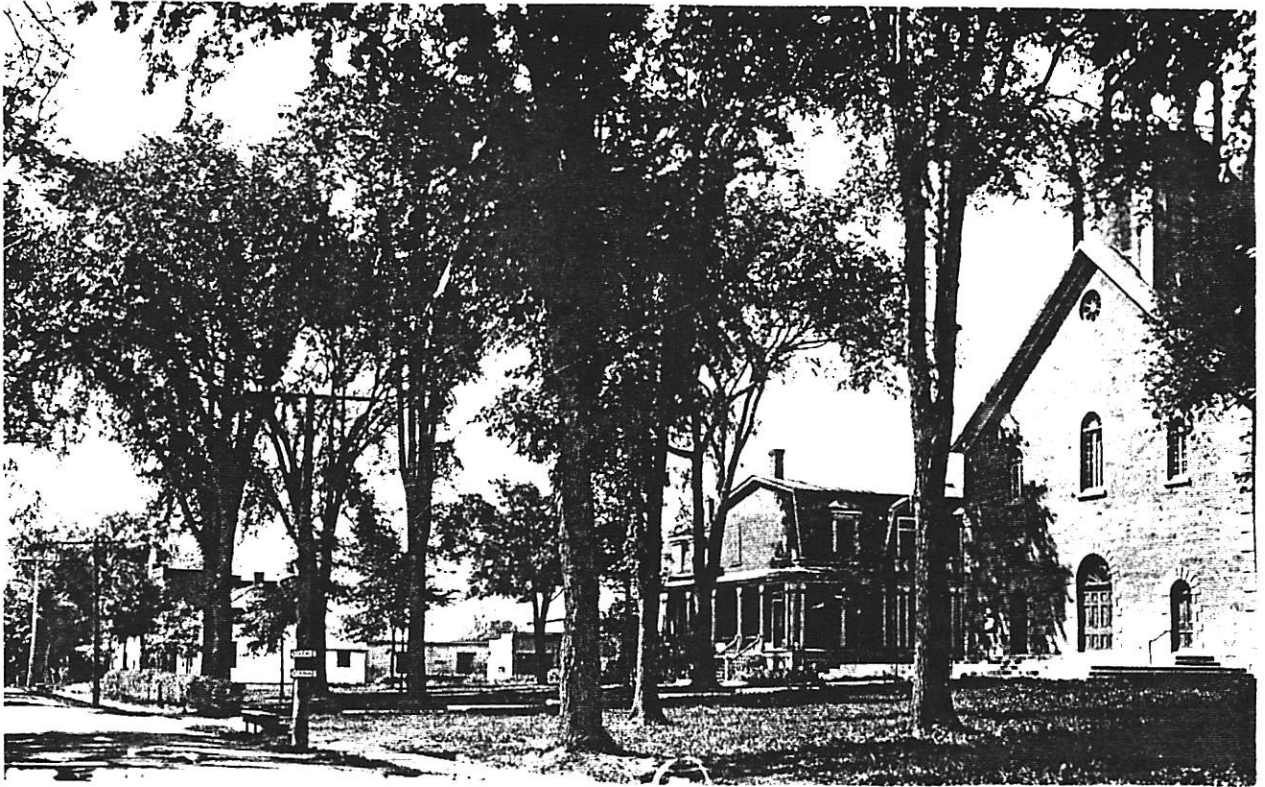
La population est d'environ 8 200 habitants, dont plus de la moitié ont moins de 35 ans. Seulement 6 % ont plus de 65 ans.

Le dernier relevé de la Commission de toponymie du Québec faisait état qu'il y avait au Québec 63 rues qui portaient le nom de **Mercier**, mais il n'y a qu'une seule ville, et nous sommes fiers d'y avoir été accueillis chaleureusement en septembre dernier.

La bibliothèque municipale est maintenant dépositaire de la collection complète des numéros du Mercien que la population peut consulter.

*Pierre-Paul Mercier*

(1) (La majeure partie du matériel pour cet article provient de documents publiés par la ville de Mercier, dont l'album paru à l'occasion de son 150<sup>e</sup> anniversaire.)



***Le village de Sainte-Philomène***

***Avec son église paroissiale***

***Vers 1930***



# 1999 AMAN Annual Assembly

## Notice of Convocation

The directors hereby convene the members of the Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord Inc. (AMAN) to its fifteenth annual general assembly, which will be held on Saturday, September 25, 1999, at the Centre sportif *Le Bûcheron* in Montmagny.

Lionel Mercier, Secretary

### Order of Business

1. Opening of the assembly and welcoming remarks
2. Reading and adoption of the order of business
3. Reading and adoption of the minutes of the previous assembly (September 26, 1998)
4. Report from the president
5. Report from the treasurer and tabling of the report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999
6. Report from the secretary
7. Ratification of the acts of the administrators
8. Nomination of the accountant
9. Report from the regional committees
10. Election of the administrators
11. Presentation of the newly elected administrators
12. Other matters  
(a) presentation of life membership certificates
13. Meeting for the year 2000
14. Adjournment of the assembly

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### (Following of the page 5)

#### 4. Purchase of the Manor by Merciers

In 1879 the manor and the seignorial domain become the property of the couple Jean-Baptiste Mercier and Caroline Bilodeau, who had been married in Berthier on January 7, 1862. Husband Jean-Baptiste is descended from the ancestral couple Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain, married in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré on January 18, 1654, in the seventh North American generation.

From 1879 until 1993, the year in which the manor was expropriated by the local municipality to allow its restoration, the seignorial house in Berthier belonged to Merciers and their relatives. In 1941 the Manoir Dénéchaud was acquired by Clara Mercier, wife of Vincent Buckley of Chicago, U.S.A. After attempts by local organizations to restore it during the period from 1971 to 1982 with the help of grants from the Québec Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the municipality of Berthier-sur-Mer expropriated the building in 1993 in order to protect it from adverse climatic conditions.

#### 5. Demolition of the Manoir Dénéchaud

Given the advanced state of deterioration of the Manoir Dénéchaud and the danger it represented to the public, the building was recently demolished.

#### *Ernest Mercier*

**Note:** The interested reader will find information on the Bellechasse-Berthier seignory on pages 15 to 52 of the volume entitled *Petite histoire de Berthier-sur-Mer (1672-1997)* (a short history of Berthier-sur-Mer), by Robert Lavallée and Yves Hébert.

- (1) The manor received the name Dénéchaud in honour of Claude in 1812.
- (2) See *Le Mercien*, volume 6, number 2, April 1990.
- (3) An arpent was about 180 French feet.

***The site of the Manoir Dénéchaud — east of the «Trou de Berthier» (Berthier hole) and of the Berthier wharf — is today the property of the Berthier-sur-Mer marina, at the beginning of the highway that links the sporting complex to highway 132, to the east of the parish church.***



# Carrière / Career

## ***Hail to the chief***

On March 1, 1999, Ernest Mercier, founder of A.M.A.N. reached the honorable age of 85 years and the board of directors of your association could not let such an anniversary go by unnoticed. Therefore, at their board meeting of April 17, the directors celebrated not only his birthday but especially the precious work and effort which Ernest has demonstrated over the years, which he still maintains today.

About fifty guests made up of the founders who accompanied Ernest in 1985, 1986 and 1987, as well as the presidents of the association over the years. Ernest's family was also invited; his wife Marcelle, some of his children and grand-children were in attendance.

Francoise Mercier addressed the gathering and pointed out highlights of Ernest's professional career and public life, addressing the many talents which were already obvious. A period of 85 years gives plenty of opportunity for accomplishments, but Ernest has lived each of those years very intensely. Therefore, many honours have been bestowed on him:

- Officer of the Order of Canada in 1989,
- Hall of Fame of Canadian Agriculture in 1991,
- Hall of fame of Quebec agriculture in 1992,
- Life membership in many Canadian organisations.

In April 1985, with a handful of associates, he undertakes to set up an association devoted to stimulate pride in the Mercier family name throughout North America. His continuous efforts and support have contributed to establish A.M.A.N. as the lively association it is today. He still sits on the board of directors and we are indebted to him for keeping Le Mercien alive and well as we have it is today.

For the occasion, Vice-president Cecilia Mercier and her husband were responsible for the bar and buffet service and deserve our deep appreciation. Benoit Mercier made all the practical arrangements and coordinated all the efforts of everyone involved. André Mercier captured on video the whole proceedings as a memento to be offered to Ernest. I was honored to serve as coordinator for the event.

Best wishes and long live our founding president.

***Pierre-Paul Mercier, Vice-président.***

## ***Acknowledgements From a Family Unifier***

It is with considerable gratitude that I offer my sincerest thanks to all those who have contributed, in whatever way, to the organization of this event to mark my 85th birthday.

With your permission, I would first like to recall to everyone's memory our colleagues from the earliest days:

- **those who have departed us:** Colette Mercier-Dallaire, Rachel Mercier Doyer, Claude L. Mercier, Paul H. Mercier, and Moïse H. Mercier;
- **those who could not be present at this meeting:** Isabelle Mercier/Dufour, Judges Yvon and Luc Mercier, Claude Mercier, Roland Mercier, Noël Mercier, François Mercier et Amédée Mercier;
- **those who addressed me written greetings:** Sister Marie Mercier and Lucienne Mercier;
- **those who offered me verbal greetings:** a number of nieces, nephews, and old friends.

Both to all those Merciers and Mercier relatives who were unable to be with us and to those of you who are present here today, I reiterate my sincere thanks for your generosity toward our young family association. A special thank you is due to the organizers of this meeting, whom our vice-president, Pierre-Paul, mentioned a moment ago in his presentation.

If I have resisted the ravages of time so well it is because of:

- first, the genes my Mercier ancestors and their relatives bequeathed me;
- second, the constant vigilance of my wife, Marcelle, who is a dietician;
- third, my faithfulness in performing regular limbering-up exercises and physical exercise; and

***(continued on page 11)***

In the May issue of the american magazine PREVENTION, one finds following the page 144 two tables indicating the 10 food products qualified as superhealing. Scientific workers are discovering new ones everyday. These so-called miracle foods number over 1450. In the following tables, these foods are classified according to the alphabetical order of their name and not necessarily their antioxidant power against free radicals; these malignant molecules that contribute to the breakdown of the healthy cells of the human body. For example, the blueberry which has the most antioxidant and best healing powers of the 10 comes in second place after beans.

E.M.

# Top 10 Super-Healing Foods

Live healthier and longer—simply by eating these nutritional miracle foods!

## BEANS



**Healing powers:** Beans contain a healthy dose of fiber and can help lower cholesterol, stabilize blood sugar, and reduce breast cancer risk.

**Best bets:** Black-eyed peas, chickpeas, kidney beans, and limas each pack 7 grams of fiber or more per half-cup. Rinse canned beans to reduce sodium.

## BERRIES



**Healing powers:** Berries contain fiber, vitamin C, and an antioxidant\* called ellagic acid, which is helpful for preventing cataracts, cancer, and constipation.

**Best bets:** To get the most nutrients, buy or pick berries at peak freshness and eat them raw. Cooking berries destroys some vitamin C, as does slicing them before storing.

## BROCCOLI



**Healing powers:** Broccoli contains two powerful cancer-fighting compounds, as well as fiber and beta-carotene, which ward off heart disease, certain cancers, and cataracts.

**Best bets:** Broccoli that's dark—almost purple—has the most beta-carotene. Lightly steaming it helps release healing compounds; overheating can destroy nutrients.

## CARROTS



**Healing powers:** Carrots contain rich stores of the antioxidant\* beta-carotene, which improves night vision and protects against heart disease, cancer, and macular degeneration (the leading cause of blindness in older adults).

**Best bets:** Trim greenery off carrots before storing to prevent leaves from leaching nutrients from roots. Juicing or lightly cooking carrots helps release the beta-carotene. Eat with a little fat to boost absorption.

## FISH



**Healing powers:** Fish contains omega-3 fatty acids—a type of fat that helps prevent heart disease, may fight colon and breast cancers, and may protect from depression.

**Best bets:** Try fresh or canned salmon (not smoked), mackerel, rainbow trout, tuna, whitefish (fresh, not smoked), sardines, and pickled Atlantic herring. Also choose canned white (albacore) tuna packed in water, but look for the most grams of fat per serving; the more total fat, the more omega-3 fats.

## MILK



**Healing powers:** Milk contains calcium, which helps strengthen bones, prevent osteoporosis, lower blood pressure and cholesterol, and may also protect against certain cancers.

**Best bets:** Buy nonfat milk (aka fat-free); for thicker consistency, add nonfat milk powder. And choose cartons; translucent plastic jugs admit light, which destroys some nutrients.

## NUTS



**Healing powers:** Nuts contain antioxidants\* called flavonoids and other compounds that protect against heart disease and help lower cholesterol. Ellagic acid and omega-3 fats in walnuts may help prevent cancer.

**Best bets:** Some good choices are peanuts, almonds, and walnuts, but don't exceed your desired daily fat intake. Sprinkling chopped, toasted nuts on cereals or salads is a good way to control portions.

## ONIONS



**Healing powers:** Onions contain compounds that help lower cholesterol, thin the blood, and prevent hardening of the arteries (all helping to prevent heart disease). These compounds may also help ward off cancers, especially those of the gastrointestinal tract.

**Best bets:** Red and yellow onions have the highest flavonoid content; white onions have the least.

## ORANGES



**Healing powers:** Oranges contain vitamin C, which aids healing, boosts immunity, and helps the body absorb iron; they also contain pectin, which helps lower cholesterol and control blood sugar.

**Tip:** Don't peel off the white spongy layer just beneath the skin; it contains half of the fruit's pectin. And stock up on juice concentrate; it's as nutritious as fresh juice.

## TOMATOES



**Healing powers:** Tomatoes contain two antioxidants\*—lycopene and vitamin C—which protect against heart disease and cancers of the prostate and lungs.

**Tip:** For maximum nutrition, buy ripe tomatoes, not pale ones. The best sources of lycopene are processed tomato products such as tomato paste and spaghetti sauce. To make the lycopene in fresh tomatoes more absorbable, cook them in a little oil.

\* Antioxidants are compounds that fight free radicals—molecules that contribute to the breakdown of healthy cells, leading to everything from wrinkles to heart disease.

† Décès

Deaths †

Condolances 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
Yvette Mercier-Veilleux	99-03-13	Coaticook, QC
Léa Mercier-Gaudreau	99-03-26	Québec, QC
Donald Mercier	99-04-15	Magog, QC
Anne-Marie Roy (épouse de Léopold Mercier)	99-04-24	Sainte-Foy, QC
Aimé Lacasse (époux de Rachelle Mercier)	99-05-15	La Durantay, QC
Émile Lacasse et famille Mercier	99-05-22	St-Agathe, Lobtinière, QC
Marie-Anne Mercier	99-05-22	St-Magloire, QC
Rose-Aubin Mercier	99-06-01	Buckland, QC
Émilia Mercier-Gagné	99-06-12	St-Henri, Lévis, QC
Thérèse Mercier-Rosa	99-07-05	Sherbrooke, QC
Marthe Mercier Lamontagne	99-07-14	Ste-Sabine, Bellechasse, QC
Claude Caron (époux de Murielle Lavallée-Mercier)	99-07-15	Beauport, QC
Gilbert Mercier-Gamache	99-07-21	Sainte-Foy, QC

*Isabelle Mercier-Dufour*

*(following of the page 9)*

· finally, my enjoyment of life or my optimism about the future of the family, including the extended family, the oldest of the three great secular institutions that have fashioned human history.

By the way, the spacious Mercier family home in Québec city has become the Mercier Inn, where family reunions take place in continuous succession, to the immense pleasure of parents, children, and grandchildren.

Our vice-president, Pierre-Paul, mentioned that my long career as an agrologist, despite the late start I got in my secondary studies at the age of 19, allowed me to reach the summit of American university studies and to accomplish things that have brought me honourable distinction in Québec, in Canada, and in Europe. I had no choice but to be intensely productive in order to compensate for my late start in the field in Canada.

At the outset of my active career as an agrologist in 1947 I set myself various goals: to change employers every ten years, to be ever ready to accept new challenges, never to take offence at my colleagues, and to contribute toward change.

Events have served me extremely well. My career brought me a life of enjoyment and a retirement that gives me much pleasure. Many thanks to my family and to my employers.

I must apologize for having been, and for still being, so demanding of results both from myself and from my professional colleagues; as well as for having occasionally been physically present though not always as friendly to the members of my family and to my colleagues at work as I would have wanted to be. I have always endeavoured to be a unifier rather than a director; and when one seeks to unify, one occasionally ruffles some feathers.

Once again, please accept my immense gratitude for the volunteer work you have done for AMAN and its directors as well as for this testament to your friendship on the occasion of my 85th birthday. Let us continue to strive together to maintain and develop family spirit both among the Merciers and their relatives and in our ecclesiastical and political societies.

Ernest Mercier

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**Annual Assembly of the Members of AMAN**

and

**REGIONAL GATHERING OF THE MERCIERS AND THEIR RELATIVES**

**In the Centre sportif «Le Bûcheron Inc.»**

**221 Saint-Louis Road**

**Montmagny**

**G5V 1N6**

**Tel.: (418) 248-1880**

**Saturday, September 25, 1999**

**Program for the Day**

**10.00 a.m. Registration**

**10.30 a.m. Assembly of the members and their guests**

**12.00 noon Lunch**

**1.30 p.m. City tour or excursion in the forgotten corridor**

**4.00 p.m. Departure**

- Refitted school bus leaving Québec city with a stop in Lévis if the numbers warrant.
- Outgoing trip via highway 132; return trip via highways 283, 216, 279, and 20.

**See the registration form inside this bulletin. Please register early. Your promptness will allow the organizers to make informed decisions.**

**Thank you for your collaboration**

**The Administrators**