

Volume 22

Number 1

Spring 2006



Le Mercien

The Voice of the Merciers of North America

Two major events

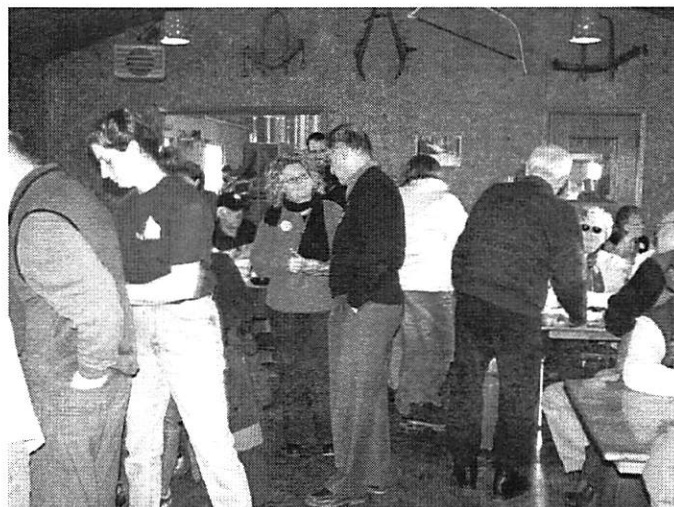


Place Laurier, Québec
February 2006

Ancestral
Families fair

Sugar party

Saint-Henri de Lévis
April 8, 2006



The Newsletter of the Association of the Merciers of North America



Coat of arms of the Merciers of North America registered by Mgr Jean-Paul Gelinus in 1986



Coat of arms of the Merciers of England in the 15th century published in the Burke Armorial of London



Coat of arms of Ernest Mercier registered by the Drouin Genealogical Institute in 1954

Honour roll - Governors of A.M.A.N.

Name	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier	Founding	Président of A.M.A.N.	1999
Pierre-Paul Mercier	Administration	Saint-Lambert, Qué.	2000
Alain Mercier	Communications	Sillery, Qué.	2000
Charles Mercier	Engineering	Québec, Qué.	2000
Christine Mercier	Teaching	Québec, Qué.	2000
Louis Mercier	Actuarial	Saint-Bruno, Qué.	2000
Pierre Mercier	Engineering	Saint-Bruno, Qué.	2000
Suzanne Mercier	Commerce	Montréal, Qué.	2000
Lucienne M-Croteau	Teaching	Bonnyville, Alta	2001

Board of Directors for 2005-2006 and services of AMAN

Executive			
President:	Jean-Louis Mercier, (#894) Lévis	Tél.: (418) 837-8410	E-mail: « jeanmon@videotron.ca »
1st V.-Pres:	Pierre-Paul Mercier, (#19) Saint-Lambert	Tél.: (450) 671-9051 Fax: (450) 671-6038	E-mailCourriel: « ppmercier@videotron.ca »
2nd V.-Pres:	Raynald Mercier, (# 1462) Sainte-Marie de Beauce	Tél.: (418) 806-6006	E-mail: « raynaldmercier@globetrotter.net »
Secretary:	Suzanne Mercier, (#1126) Saint-Damien,	Tél.: (418) 789-2976	E-mail: « geobegin@gloetrotter.net »
Members Directors			
	Benoît Mercier (#222), Charlesbourg	Tél.: (418) 623-0833	E-mail: « benoitmercier@hotmail.com »
	Diane Mercier (#1465), Anjou	Tél.: (514) 352-3363	
	Isabelle Mercier (#269), Sainte-Foy	Tél.: (418) 651-3839	
	Jean-Guy Mercier (#1417), Sainte-Foy	Tél.: (418) 650-3874	E-mail: « claudette@fortin.com »
	Johanne Mercier (# 1450), Charlesbourg	Tél.: (418) 623-7880	E-mail: « gilbert.gl@videotron.ca »
	Lucie Mercier (#819), Plessisville	Tél.: (819) 362-2856	E-mail: « lmerferd@hotmail.com »
	Thérèse Mercier (#455), Montmagny	Tél.: (418) 248-4504	
Services			
Treasurer:	Jean Mercier (#1), Québec	Tél.: (418) 688-3092	E-mail: « jean_mercier@sympatico.ca »
Records:	André Mercier (#189), Québec	Tél.: (418) 683-3959	E-mail: « and.mercier@videotron.ca »

This newsletter is named after the kingdom of Mercia which existed from the 7th to the 10th century. It was one of the seven original kingdoms constituting England. The inhabitants of that territory must have been called Mercians (or Mercien in French). We are proud to perpetuate that name today

Membership dues

Annually: \$25.

Life membership, 65 years and older: \$250.

Life membership, less than 65 years of age : \$400.

Governor: \$1,000.

Those amounts are in U.S. currency for U.S. residents and in euros for European residents

AMAN,
P.O. Box 10090, Sainte-Foy Branch,
Québec, (Québec), Canada, G1V 4C6

Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord
Internet: « genealogie.org/famille/mercier »
E-mail: « mercier.aman@hotmail.com »

Editor's page

Your association is very active.

The last two major events must be highlighted, and we are proud to give our readers a taste of what has been going on.

The Ancestral Family Fair organised annually by the Federation of Ancestral Families in the Place Laurier Commercial Centre in Sainte-Foy is always a great occasion for making our association known to the public at large. We were present for this four day event thanks to the involvement of many members who volunteered to man our booth. Jean-Guy of Sainte-Foy, under the direction of our president, Jean-Louis, has planned our participation and made it a success. Thank you to all the volunteers who agreed to share the responsibility of greeting visitors throughout the four days.

On April 8, we gathered at Saint-Henri de Lévis for a sugar outing. Slightly over sixty members, their families and friends joined for a very pleasant lunch. Georges came from Sept-Îles to join with his brother Antoine of Montreal and his sister Jeanne-D'Arc of Lévis. Georges was accompanied by two of his sons, and together they visited his father's farm in Saint-Henri. They undoubtedly shared many memories.

Now is the time to send in your annual dues for the coming year. Memberships now run from June to May, and everyone must send in their payment in the return envelope provided, along with the renewal form. Of course, life members and governors are exempted of this payment.

The next annual general meeting will take place on **August 19**, at the **Fort of Chambly**, on the Richelieu River. We offer an historical review on the origin of this fortification going back to 1603, when Samuel de Champlain first visited the site. Details of our gathering will be published in the net issue.

We introduce a new series of articles under the heading: "Le Coin de la France" or France's corner, aimed at publishing information from our French correspondents. This time, we follow-up on a story about Bréville and information on the Tourouvre Museum soon to open its doors.

Ernest's book published in 1987, "Mercier Depuis des Siècles", available in French only, is now available free of charge other than handling and postage, to all public libraries and senior residences that have a library. See page 11 for more information.

Drop us a line on stories and events that could be of interest to our readers.

Table of contents

2-	The Association	12-	Genealogy Fair
5-	Changes: the annual dues	13-	Sugarbush party
6-	The French Corner	14-	Annual general meeting
7-	The Tourouvre Museum	15-	New Member
8-	The Fort of Chambly	15-	Condolences
11-	Mercier Depuis des Siècles	16-	Our sponsors



A word from the president

On behalf of the members of the board of directors and on behalf of all the members of A.M.A.N, I wish to express my deep gratitude to M. Pierre-Paul Mercier for having made a significant contribution to the affairs of A.M.A.N and to highlight his deep interest and involvement during the last six years as president and chairmen of the board of directors of our association. We are pleased that he has agreed to sit on the board and serve as vice-president.

We also thank Jacques Mercier of Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka for having served as secretary of the board of directors.

In my capacity as president, I wish to thank all the members for their support to the activities of our association. You are the association and, together, we will continue to achieve our goals and our mission !

Thank you for your support and your commitment for the rest of this year.

Jean-Louis Mercier

Chairman of the board of directors
Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord



Important changes

The annual dues

The first time, the annual dues are payable at the same time for all the members, which is June 1st. In the last issue of Le Mercien, we explained all the details pertaining to the period of transition. Now, all the members have the same renewal date.

We would appreciate receiving your annual dues as soon as possible, since our fiscal year ends on June 30, and we invoiced lesser amounts throughout the year in order to bring everyone to the same renewal date.

We provide you with a **form** and a **return envelope** for your convenience.

You are also invited to make a contribution to our Development Fund. Our financial position is relatively tight and we always need money for special projects such as the 20th anniversary celebrations or the coming publication of our dictionary. Such expenses cannot easily be funded out of current revenue. Therefore, we count on your support and we are grateful for your generosity.

Life Members

Life members, honorary life members and governors are not subject to the annual dues.

However, use the form to inform us of a change in your postal address or to let us know your e-mail address. AMAN's address has changed as a result of mergers and de-mergers in Québec. The post office box, the city and the postal code have changed, even if we have not moved physically. The revised information is published on pages 2 and 16.

While you are at it, **why not include your contribution to our Development Fund?** We always like to hear from you.

AMAN's E-mail

Our web site is always at the same address, but our E-mail has changed. It is now:

“mercier.aman@hotmail.com”





Le coin de la France

Under a new series, « Le coin de la France » or « France's corner » we hope to bring you periodically news and events from France, which, we hope, will be of interest to our readers.

This time, we have an update on the new museum being built in Tourouvre, but first, we bring you a message from the Mayor of Bréville, **Jean-Loup Mercier**, who made headlines in our last issue.

We asked him some information about his community, and here is the English translation of his reply sent to us in early February:

Hello,

Sorry for having delayed my reply until now, but my life as a mayor is not exactly like a lazy river. I offer you my best wishes for the New Year.

In reply to some of your questions, the name of Bréville goes back to the 6th century. There used to exist a very large estate and the landlord was named BERO. Therefore, the place came to be known as BEROVILLA.

Over many years and gradually, the O and the A were dropped from the name, and it became BERVILLE and ultimately BRÉVILLE.

There are now 524 inhabitants. We are one of the 14 communities of the Cognac region. The city of Cognac is 12 kilometres away and has a population of 25,000.

I have been the mayor of Bréville since 1995.

I hope that the temperature is not too cold in Québec. Here the weather is mainly nice and we would even appreciate more rain.

Kind regards,
Jean-Loup Mercier



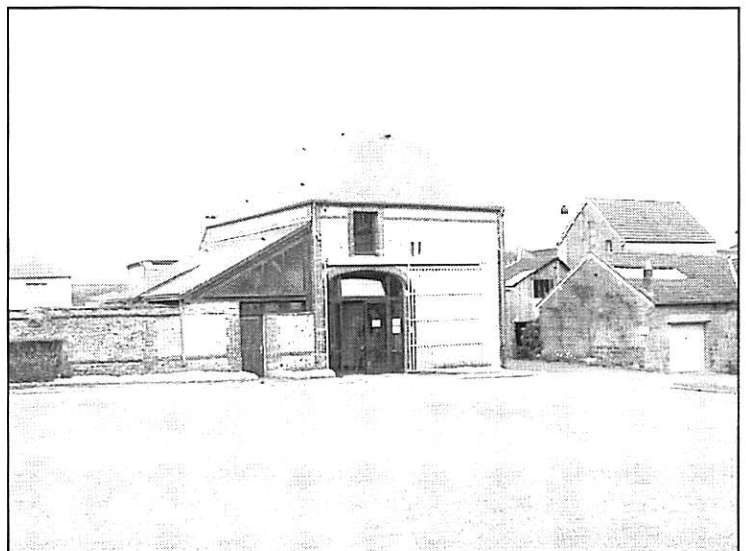


Here is the splendid new building which will house the new emigration museum in Tourouvre, France, as it appeared just a few weeks ago. It will replace the Musée de l'Émigration located next to the Tourouvre City Hall and the church of Saint-Aubin. The museum is devoted to residents of the Perche community who came to Canada in the XVIIth century. The opening is scheduled for late 2006 or early 2007.

Le Mercien has already reported on that project on many occasions and especially in the Spring 2003 issue, Vol. 19, no. 1

We are grateful to a resident of Tourouvre for this picture.

Those who have visited the old Musée de l'Émigration Percheronne in Tourouvre will surely remember the more modest structure as it appeared then.



The Fort of Chambly

Our meeting place for August 19 2006

Natural Wonders & Cultural Treasures

Short History Lesson About Fort Chambly

In 1603, Samuel de Champlain made his first trip to New France. Accompanied by St. Malo merchant Gravé du Pont, he visited the Tadoussac fur-trading post that had been set up in 1600. Once they had concluded their trade, the two Frenchmen headed up the St. Lawrence River to the rapids at Lachine and explored down the Iroquois River, later to become the Richelieu River.

This expedition convinced Champlain that France had to have a permanent base in the St. Lawrence Valley, since the river led to the heart of the country and would open the way to new lands to supply the fur trade. In 1608, Champlain founded Quebec, marking the beginning of a new era of trade and colonization.

To run the fur trade, the French first of all needed traders and also intermediaries from the Montagnais, Algonquin and Huron Indian nations. They had to gain the confidence of the Indians and weave ties of trade with them. In 1609, Champlain consolidated his alliances when he participated in a raid against the Iroquois. He paddled up the Iroquois River and left a very interesting description of the rapids at Chambly:

"The approach to the rapids is a sort of lake into which the water flows down, and it is about three leagues in circumference. Near by are meadows where no Indians live, by reason of the wars. At the rapids there is very little water, but it flows with great swiftness, and there are many rocks and boulders, so that the Indians cannot go up by water; but on the way back they run them very nicely. All this region is very level and full of forests, vines and butternut trees. No Christian has ever visited this land and we had all the misery of the world trying to paddle the river upstream."

On July 14, Champlain arrived at a huge lake to which he gave his name: Lake Champlain. His first encounter with the Iroquois was to the south of the lake. It was the superiority of the Europeans' arms that enabled the French and their allies to come out victorious from this, the first battle in what was to become a long series of conflicts with the Iroquois.

Champlain had just opened the way for the man who would later establish the first military post at the foot of the rapids at Chambly: Jacques de Chambly, captain of a detachment of the Carignan-Salières Regiment

Three Wooden Fort and One Stone Fort

Why a fort at Chambly? The first wooden fort was built as a defence post in the wars between the French and the Iroquois in New France in the second half of the 17th century. A stone fort was later built during the English-French conflict that was to follow.

First Fort (1665-1690)

In 1665, after pleas from the inhabitants of the colony, Louis XIV sent out the Carignan-Salières Regiment to launch a huge offensive against the Iroquois. One of the captains, Jacques de Chambly, was to direct the construction of the first wooden fort to be built on the Iroquois River (later called the Richelieu River), at the foot of the rapids at Chambly. It was built during the week of August 25 which also marks the day of the patron saint, Saint Louis, whose name was thus given to the fort.



Fort Saint-Louis was built in a square shape with 144 feet to a side. There was a crowstep on three of the sides and on the fourth there was a door protected by a drum. The palisades measured between 15 and 20 feet in height. Inside was a simple habitation surrounded by small buildings to house the soldiers. This first fort was one in a series of five built along the Richelieu River up to Lake Champlain. It served as a supply base for the raids against the Iroquois.

The Carignan-Salières Regiment carried out two expeditions against the Iroquois. The first, in the winter of 1666, was a failure. In the second, in the fall of the same year, they sacked the Iroquois villages and burned their crops. In 1667, peace was then signed and two-thirds of the soldiers were ordered back to France. However, the peace was a fragile one at best.

Hostilities between the French and the Iroquois started up again toward the middle of the 1680s. Troops from the Compagnies franches de la Marine were sent out to protect the colony. The first detachment was garrisoned at Fort Chambly in 1685. The Chambly Militia also was called in. At this time the role of the fort was more defensive than offensive.

Second Fort (1690-1702)

Towards 1690, a second wooden fort was built to replace the first fort that had deteriorated with age. However, in the winter of 1702, an accidental fire burned it to the ground. It had to be rebuilt all over again!

Third Fort (1702-1709)

The following spring, the French built a third wooden fort, despite the fact that the Iroquois had no longer been considered a threat since the Montreal signing of a definitive peace treaty (Traité de la Grande Paix de Montréal) in 1701. The problem was not the Iroquois but rather that an old enemy had stepped ashore in New France: the English.

The Spanish War of Succession (1702-1713), that set France against England, forced the French to prepare for an eventual attack, as the conflict was expected to spread to America.

Fourth Fort (1709)

The French feared an attack by the English coming from the south of Lake Champlain. Knowing the English would be heavily armed, Philippe de Rigaud, Marquis of Vaudreuil, and Governor General of New France, ordered the construction of a new fort at Chambly in November 1709. This time the fort was to be built of stone.

Josue Dubois Berthelot de Beaucours, officer of the Compagnies franches de la Marine and chief engineer in Canada, directed the construction, which took place from 1709 to 1711. The imposing structure was designed along the lines of fortifications in France built by the famous architect Vauban. The fort was named Fort Pontchartrain after the French naval minister and was manned by soldiers of the Compagnies franches de la Marine.

This fort was to become the largest fortification along the Hudson River - Lake Champlain - Richelieu River waterway. However, it was only able to resist light artillery. The French counted on the rapids to prevent the English from transporting large canons for their attack.

Was fort Chambly invincible? For the whole of the French reign it was never attacked, thus its honour was spared. However, it was later to fall into the hands of the British on September 1, 1760, during the Seven Years' War.



Soldiers and Militia

The Carignan-Salières Regiment

Since 1641, New France had lived continually under the threat of the Iroquois. In 1665, King Louis XIV sent out 1200 soldiers of the Carignan-Salières Regiment to crush the Iroquois.

This regiment set about building a chain of forts along the Richelieu River to head off invasion by the Iroquois. It launched two attacks against the Iroquois. Peace was finally re-established in 1667.

Once the mission was accomplished, the king had hoped to retain some of his troops in New France to start up a colony. He allocated enough supplies for the soldiers for one year, as well as a bonus according to rank. More than 400 decided to stay.

Captain Jacques de Chambly was one of the officers. In 1672, he was granted the Chambly Seignury in recognition of his service to the crown. The following year he, in turn, conveyed 29 parcels of this land, 15 to former soldiers.

Most of the soldiers were single and of marrying age. Between 1663 and 1673, shiploads of des filles du roi or King's maidens were sent out from France to re-establish the fragile demographics of the colony.

These were the young people who would lay down the roots of this new French colony.

The Compagnies Franches de la Marine

In 1680, the Iroquois once again started showing signs of agitation. Faced with imminent conflict, Governor Lefebvre de La Barre and Intendant Demeulles pressured the king into sending troops out to the colony.

Their response arrived in 1683 with an initial contingency of 150 soldiers from the Compagnies franches de la Marine, who landed in Quebec. Their mission: to force peace on the Iroquois.

In 1685, these soldiers were stationed at fort Chambly and launched several raids against the Iroquois. A final peace treaty (La Grande Paix de Montréal) was signed in 1701, putting an end to the Iroquois threat.

The Marine troops remained in the French colony until the British Conquest of 1760.

The Canadian Militia

In the forest, there was a man who could run silently through the trees. His breechcloth and leggings protected him as he lunged through the branches and underbrush. His moccasins silenced his step, he could take his prey by surprise. Armed with a hatchet, a gun and knife, this man was able to meet the challenge of surviving in the forest, for the love of his country.

Who was this man? All indications would lead one to believe that he was an Indian. But no, not at all. He was a militiaman, a member of the Canadian Militia, a man especially adapted to the harsh environment of New France.

The Militia was set up by Louis XIV in 1669, to respond to the need created by the departure of the Carignan-Salières Regiment in 1667. Any man between the ages of 16 and 60 who could bear arms automatically belonged to the company representing his parish. Each company was made up of some fifty militiamen who trained each Sunday after mass. The Canadian Militia quickly became an indispensable force in the defence of the colony. It was also largely due to their presence that New France managed to stay on the world map.

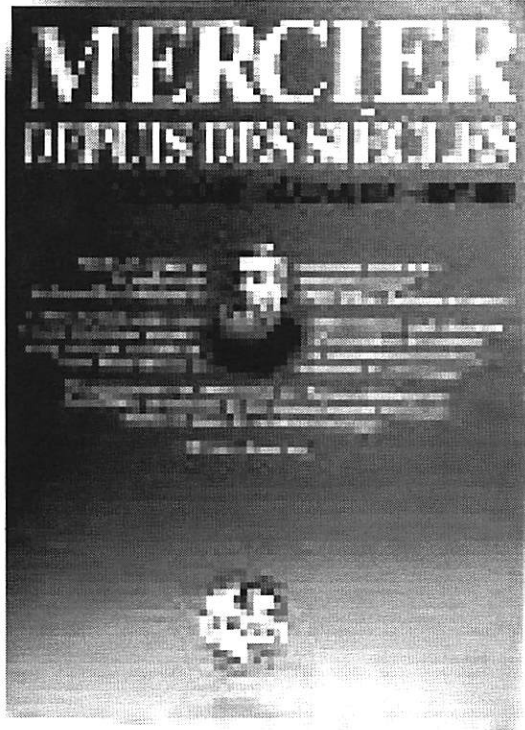
(To be continued in the next issue)

*Editor's note: The preceding document has been extracted from the web site of Parks Canada:
« www.pc.ca/lhn-nhs/qc/fortchambly/index »*



Mercier Depuis des Siècles

As our association came into being, Ernest Mercier, our founding president, published a 500 page book (in French only) devoted to Mercier ancestors, their origin and settling in New-France. If you do not have it yet, it is available at a reduced price of \$20. plus \$8. for handling and postage.



Ernest's estate has recently made available to us over 300 copies of the book which we would like to place at the disposal of as many readers as possible. In agreement with the estate, we offer the book free to all public libraries and to seniors' residences equipped with a library.

If you live in such a residence or if you know of one in your neighbourhood, the management only has to contact us in writing or by e-mail and it will cost them only \$8. for handling and postage.

We also offer the same condition to historical or genealogical societies.

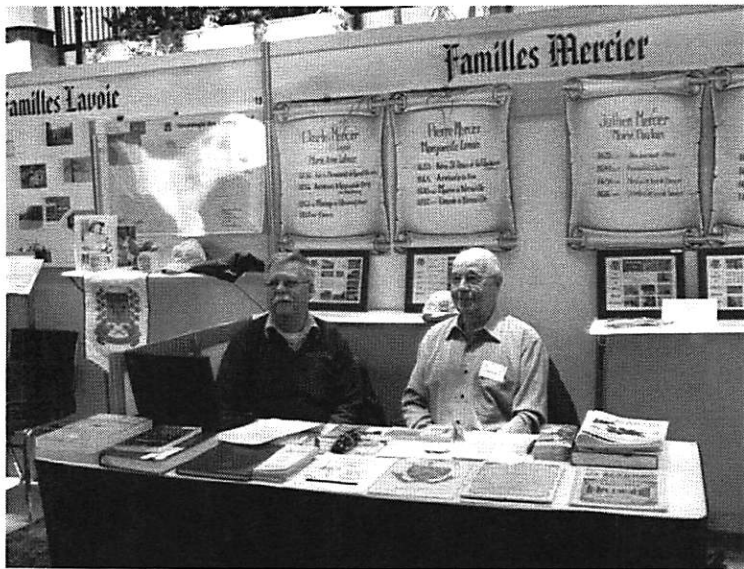
Our postal address;

**Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord
C.P. 10090, Succ. Sainte-Foy
Québec Québec) G1V 4C6**

Our e-mail is:

mercier.aman@hotmail.com





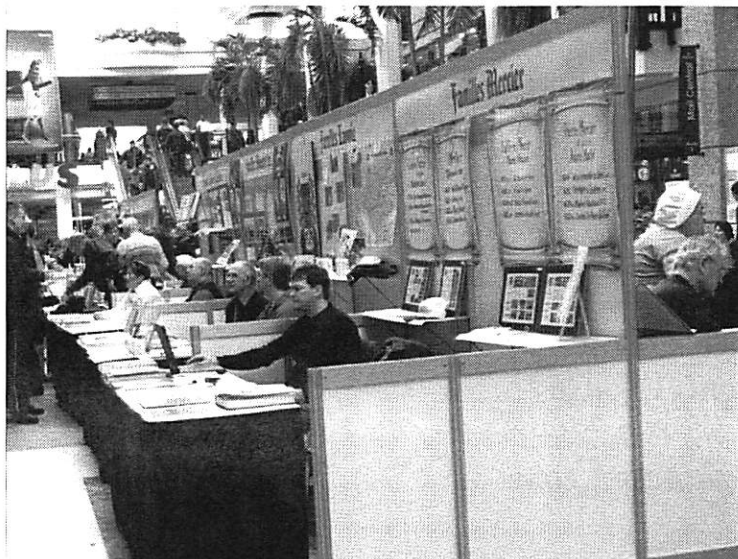
**Ancestral Families' Fair
Laurier Shopping
Complex, Québec
February 2006**

The front page offers a view of the crowd at the Laurier Shopping Complex. Our booth was located at the bottom right hand corner.

In the picture above, our president, Jean-Louis, is ready to greet visitors in the company of Jean-Guy, our coordinator for the event.



On the right-hand side, Marcelle of Montmagny came with her sister Thérèse to man our booth.



On the left-hand side, Raynald, our vice-president, is manning the booth, waiting for visitors.

Thanks to our many volunteers

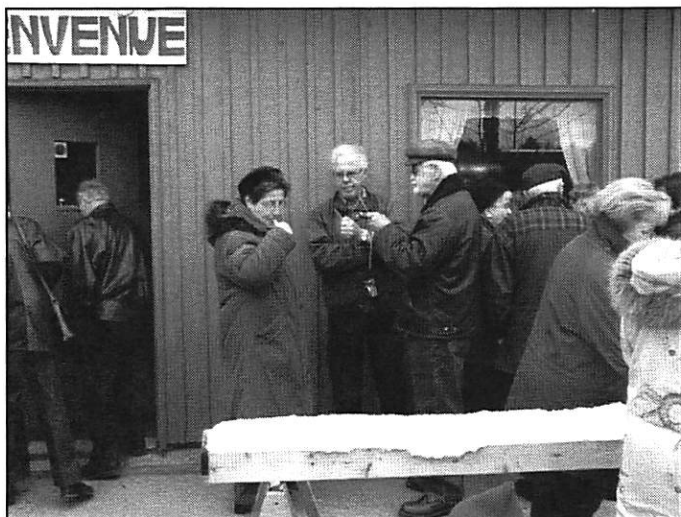


**Sugar outing
Saint-Henri de Lévis
April 8, 2006**

The front page shows Johanne of Charlesbourg, one of our board members having a serious conversation with another board member, Pierre-Paul.



In the picture above, meal service gets underway.

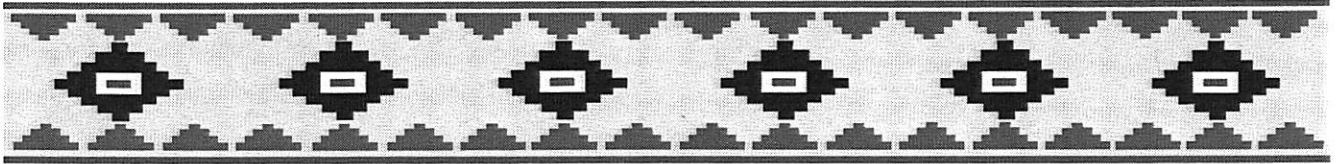


On the left-hand side, Benoît of Charlesbourg has a serious sampling of the maple taffy, after the generous meal.

The right-hand side, Pierre-Paul and Thérèse seem to have a serious discussion on the quality and merit of the taffy after the lunch.

Thank to all those present





Samedi

August 19 2006

We have have a date at

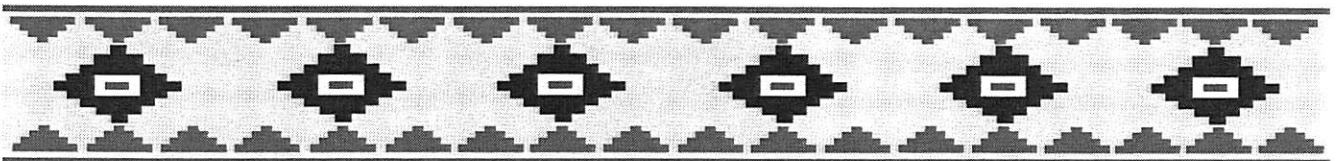
Chambly Fort

**on the Richelieu River
in Montérégie**

**For the next
annual meeting of the members**

All pertinent details and registration form
Will be in the next issue.

We count on your presence.



A new member

1477 Mr Daniel Bienvenu of Sainte-Foy

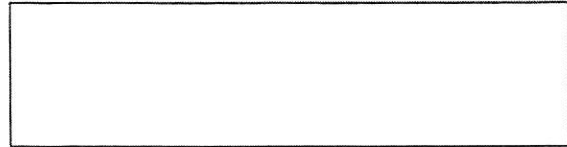
Welcome with us

Sincere condolences to their families

Carmelle Lefrançois Mercier	11 janvier 2006	Beauport
Cécile Mercier	13 janvier 2006	Saint-Magloire de Bellechasse
J. C. Gingras, époux de Denise Mercier	25 janvier 2006	Saint-Nicholas
Sœur Annette Mercier	5 février 2006	Saint-Damien
Valeda Mercier Boulianne	3 février 2006	Québec
Marie Rose Mercier	7 février 2006	Lotbinière
Joachim Mercier	17 février 2006	Sherbrooke
Évelyne Mercier Noël	24 février 2006	Québec
Carole Mercier	26 février 2006	Lévis
Alice Mercier Rosa	3 mars 2006	Québec
Yvon Mercier	11 mars 2006	Saint-Henri de Lévis
Léandre Mercier	2 avril 2006	
Pierre Mercier	26 février 2006	Québec
Thérèse Mercier	22 mars 2006	Québec
Monique Mercier	21 mars 2006	Sainte-Foy
Doris Mercier Simard	1er avril 2006	Sainte-Foy
Jean-Marc Mercier	14 mars 2006	Iquitos, Pérou
Bobby Mercier	31 mars 2006	Cowansville
Francis Mercier	12 avril 2006	Montmagny
Patrice Mercier	13 avril 2006	Montréal

Postes Canada
 Numéro de la convention 40069967
 de la Poste-publication
 Retourner les blocs adresses à l'adresse suivante :
 Fédération des familles-souches du Québec
 C. P. 10090, Succ. Sainte-Foy
 Québec (Québec) G1V 4C6

PRIÈRE DE LIVRER À -
 PLEASE DELIVER TO :



**GESTION
 IMMOBILIÈRE
 PRÉVILLE INC.**

**Pierre-Paul Mercier, C.A., Adm. A.,
 Président**

252, du Dauphiné,
 St-Lambert, Qué. J4S 1N5

Tél. : 671-9051
 Fax : 671-6038

JOAILLERIE



MERCIER



Vicky Mercier, prop.
 Pierre Mercier, M.H.B., joaillier-prop.
 418-847-1482 • 418-834-1977
 Fax: 418-834-1978

4605, Boul. de l'Anvergne
 Neufchâtel (QC) G2C 1H7
 Centre Commercial
 CARREFOUR NEUFCHATEL
 Tél. : (418) 847-1482

837, Rue Commerciale
 St-Jean Chrysostome (QC) G6Z 2E1
 Tél. : (418) 834-1977
 Fax : (418) 834-1978



TRANSPORT GEO INC.

77, Commerciale
 Saint-Damien, Bell., Qc
 G0R 2Y0

Tél.: (418) 789-2976
 Fax: (418) 789-3067

**Transport général
 General Transport
 Qc, Ont, U.S.**

Prop.: Georges Bégin

Adm.: Suzanne Mercier



**LÉVIS
 mazda**

DENIS MERCIER
 Directeur des ventes

5095, Louis-H.-Lafontaine, Lévis (Québec) G6V 8X4
 Tél. : (418) 837-8897 Sans frais : 1 (866) 337-8897
 levismazda@oricom.ca Téléc. : (418) 833-9660

Century 21

PRESTIGE
 COURTIER IMMOBILIER AGRÉÉ

Bur: (418) 627-5517
 Cell: (418) 955-7555
 Fax: (418) 627-9990

7100 boul. Henri-Bourassa,
 Charlesbourg (Qc) G1H 3E4
 www.century21prestige.qc.ca

ÉRIC MERCIER
 Agent immobilier affilié

**This space is
 available for a
 new sponsor**

Let's encourage our sponsors