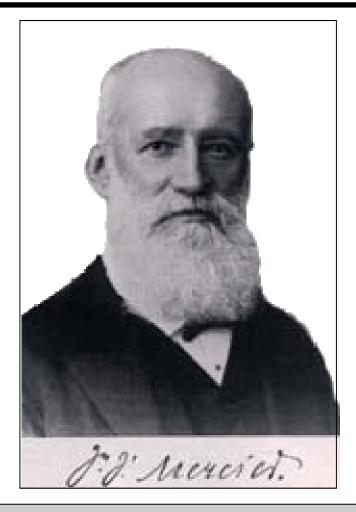


Le Mercien

The Voice of the Merciers of North America



Jean-Jacques Mercier

The exceptional businessman to whom Lausanne owes its metro system, the creation of the Flon district fronting on the river and two of the city's architectural gems:

Château d'Ouchy and Maison Mercier.

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 Gelinas 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 o	Founding Président of A.M.A.N.	
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	Actuariat	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 2006-2007 and services of AMAN			
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President:	Jean-Louis Mercier, (#894) Lévis	Tél.: (418) 837-8410	E-mail: « jeanmon@videotron.ca »
1st VPres	Pierre-Paul Mercier, (#19) Saint-Lambert	Tél.: (450) 671-9051 Fax: (450) 671-6038	E-mailCourriel: « ppmercier@videotron.ca »
2nd VPre	Raynald Mercier, (# 1462) Sainte-Marie de Beauce	Tél.: (418) 806-6006	E-mail: « raynaldmercier@globetrotter.net »
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Lucie Mercier (#819), Plessisville		Tél.: (819) 362-2856	E-mail: « lmerferd@hotmail.com »
The	érèse Mercier (#455), Montmagny	Tél.: (418) 248-4504	
Services			
Treasurer:	Jean Mercier (#1), Québec	Tél.: (418) 688-3092	E-mail: « jean_mercier@sympatico.ca »
	Benoît Mercier (#222), Charlesbe	ourg Tél.: (418) 623-0833	E-mail: « benoitbmercier@hotmail.com »
I			

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 Mercian in French). We are proud to perpetuate that name today

Tél.: (418) 683-3959

Membership dues

Annually: \$25.

Records:

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

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

André Mercier (#189), Québec

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 »

E-mail: « and.mercier@videotron.ca »

Editor's page

The annual general members' meeting took place on the shores of the Chambly Bassin on August 19 and was a great success as in prior years, due to the efficient organisation but especially because to the active participation of a good number of members who came from various parts of Québec and even from the United States and Ontario.

At the opening of the meeting we heard our own official theme song which really moved the members. In fact, many made sure to secure a copy of the cassette. AMAN still has some in stock, but the words are in French only for the time being. It is a vibrant homage to the Mercier pioneers who came from France to settle in Québec in the 17th century and spread our name throughout America.

We enjoyed a warm reception at the restaurant and the subsequent visit of the Chambly Fort was most informative. The weatherman cooperated, so, what else could we wish for? So, make it a point to join us next year, on August 25 2007. Details will be posted in Le Mercien as plans develop.

We publish the report delivered by the president at the annual meeting, as well as our financial statements for the year ended June 30 2006. We recorded a sizable surplus this year, due to the change in our billing method. A few members have forgotten to send in their annual due which was supposed to be paid for May 31st. Unfortunately, this issue will be their last, if we do not receive their dues shortly.

Our surfing of the web has been fruitful as we came across a short biography of Jean-Jacques Mercier, an exceptional businessman who had a major impact on the development of the city of Lausanne. Many Merciers have been notorious in Switzerland, and we are happy to make one of them better known to you.

This month, we welcome two new members and recognize two members who qualified as life members. Details are on page 15

Pierre-Paul Mercier

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3-	Editor' page	8- Photos of the annual meeting
4-	Editor' page Report by the president	10- Jean-Jacques Mercier
5-	Annual financial statements	15- News of the members
	Life members	16- Our sponsors



The president's report To the annual meeting of the members

he board of directors met on three occasions during the year.

One of the major changes to take place this year was the change in billing date which became the same for all members: May 31st. The details have been explained in Le Mercien.

In addition, the rebate for multi-year prepayments has been abolished.

The estate of Ernest Mercier of Québec City, our founding president, has transferred to us 17 cases of his book "Mercier depuis des siècles" (in french only). This represents almost 400 copies, and we are short of storage space. Therefore, in agreement with representatives of the estate, we have decided to donate a copy of the book to every new member joining AMAN. We also offer copies free of charge to genealogical and historical societies, public libraries and old age residences. So far, the reaction has been most positive. If you know of any such organizations in your area interested in acquiring Ernest's book, they can send in their request, and we will mail it to them.

The rates for genealogical services have been revised. A simple line of ancestry is now \$75. and an extended one is \$200.

We have acquired a portable computer to assist our volunteers manning our booth at genealogical fairs. It is much easier to answer visitors' questions as to whether we have their family members in our database. Many family associations have portable data banks, and we have also modernized our operation.

Our coat of arms has also come under review. Changes currently contemplated are as follows" the chevron will be in white rather than silver and the two pawnsees will be replaced with two fleur-delys, which will be closer to the description of our coat of arms. We will publish the new version as soon at it is approved by the board.

We participated in the Ste-Foy family fair and Jean-Guy of Québec City took full responsibility. There will be a similar fair in Laval (North of Montreal) on October 13, 14 and 15 of October and Pierre-Paul will be responsible for manning our booth along with Suzanne and Dianne.

Our traditional sugar outing took place in St-Henri-de-Lévis and it was a great success, thanks to Jean-Guy who usually does a great job at organizing. More than 80 participated in the event.

Jean-Guy Mercier

Translated from French by Pierre-Paul Mercier

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* Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord Inc. (AMAN)

Financial Statements INCOME	June 30 2 006	June 30 2005
Membership fees	4 467 \$	3 819 \$
Grants and donations	247	105
Exchange on foreign currency	-	103
Lotomatic (Loto-Québec)	652	604
Advertising	100	200
Genealogical income	200	50
Annual meeting	285	535
Bank interest	329	67
Profit from the sale of souvenirs	333	192
Total of income	6 613 \$	5 675 \$
EXPENSES	THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP	AND THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE
Liability insurance	179 \$	385 \$
F.F.S.Q Services fees	535	269
Genealogical service	119	58
Internet	45	45
Le Mercien	3 202	3 466
Advertising - promotion	235	175
Rent	168	154
Office expenses	627	754
Total of expenses	5 110 \$	5 306 \$
Surplus (deficit) for the period	1 503 \$	369 \$
BALANCE SHEET		
ASSETS		
Cash on hand	4 224 \$	3 099 \$
Inventory of souvenirs (at cost)	1 081	311
Deferred expenses	100	200
Term deposit	13 236	13 079
Furniture	854	404
Total of assets	19 495 \$	17 093 \$
LIABILITIES		THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE
Payables	165 \$	130 \$
Reserve - Development Fund	5 799	4 535
Advance by the directors	1 719	2 019
Total of liabilities	7 683 \$	6 684 \$
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		The College and device above and device and
Opening surplus (deficit)	(5 366 \$)	(5 735 \$)
Surplus (deficit) for the period	1 503	369
At the end of the period	(3 863 \$)	(5 366 \$)
Reserve- Life membership	7 875 \$	7 975 \$
Reserve- Governor memberhip	7 800	7 800
Surplus (deficit) at the end	11 812 \$	10 409 \$
Total liabilities & accumulated funds	19 495 \$	17 093 \$

For the Board of directors

President	Treasurer
Jean-Louis Mercier	Jean Mercier

I have examined the statements of income and expenses as well as the balance sheet as at June 30th 2006. In my opinion these statements represent accurately the financial position of AMAN according to accounting principles generally recognized. The recording of income and expenses has been on a cash basic since the founding of the Association. The billing to members has changed during the year so that all annual dues became payable on May 31st of each year, and this change has resulted in a substential increase in income and a surplus for the year.

Lauréat Mercier coa



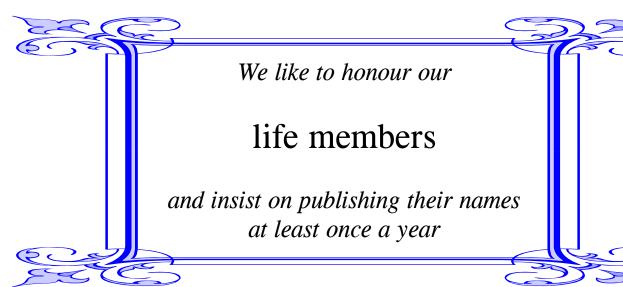
Life members

Name	Residence	Member no.
Cloutier, André	Mont-St-Hilaire, QC	13
Mercier, André	Mascouche, QC	476
Mercier, André	Québec, QC	189
Mercier, Antoine	Montréal, QC	488
Mercier, Benoît	Mississauga, ON	1376
Mercier, Benoît	Charlesbourg, QC	222
Mercier, Bernard	Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, QC	179
Mercier-Nadeau, Cécile	Plessisville, QC	385
Royer, Cécile	Ste-Foy, QC	47
Mercier-Chabot, Cécilia	Lac-Beauport, QC 1	342
Mercier-Rousseau, Céline	Bécancour, QC	64
Mercier, Charles-Eugene	South Burlington, VT	1420
Mercier, Claire	Terrebonne, QC	1387
Mercier, Claude	Montréal, QC	1459
Mercier, Claude	St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, QC	46
Mercier, Eric R.	Charlesbourg, QC	1152
Mercier, Estelle	Hull, QC	1402
Mercier, Eugene A.	Somers, CT	1361
Mercier, François	Nicolet, QC	63
Mercier-Bélanger, Françoise	Charlesbourg, QC	737
Laurence, George S.	North Palm Beach, FL	1430
Mercier, Georges	Sept-Iles, QC	219
Mercier, Georgette	Rockville, MD	1308
Mercier, Germain	Ste-Sabine (Bellechasse) QC	615
Mercier, Jean		1008
Mercier, Jean	Québec, QC	1
Mercier, Jean	Frelighsburg, QC	951
Mercier, Jean-Charles	St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, QC	43
Mercier-Bédard, Jeanne	Ottawa, ON	204
Rioux, Jeanne	Québec, QC	1366
Mercier-Pitt, Jeannine	Crestview, FL	1311
Mercier, Jules	Beauport, QC	1406
Mercier-Brouillette, Julienne	St-Esprit-de-Montcalm, QC	481
Mercier, Lauréat	Ste-Sabine, QC	164
Mercier, Laurent	St-Esprit-de-Montcalm, QC	580
Mercier, Léonce	Orford, QC	1385
Mercier, Lise	Hull, QC	1403

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Mercier, Luc	Longueuil, QC	152
Mercier, Lucie	Montréal, QC	1347
Mercier, Lucie	Plessisville, QC	126
Mercier-Campbell, Lucie	Ottawa, ON	1374
Larose, Lucien	Wallingford, CT	314
Mercier, Marc	Trois-Rivières, QC	83
Mercier, Marcel	Montmagny, QC	452
Mercier-Famula, Marguerite	Lancaster, ON	202
Mercier-Morin, Marie-Reine	Ste-Agathe (Lotbinière) QC	1132
Mercier, Marie	Sherbrooke, QC	107
Mercier, Maurice	Boucherville, QC	306
Mercier, Michel	Charlesbourg, QC	332
Mercier, Michel	Valleyfield, QC	34
Mercier, Monique	Bécancour, QC	49
Mercier-Majewski, Olga	Milford, CT	1253
Cauchon, Paul	Ste-Foy, QC	1365
Mercier, Paul-D.	Antrim, NH	718
Mercier, Philippe	Wahnapitae, ON	1121
Mercier, Pierre	Ville-St-Michel, QC	639
Mercier, Ralph	Charlesbourg, QC	1151
Mercier, Raymond	Tracy, QC	911
Mercier, Raymond T.	Canterbury, CT	961
Mercier, Rhéo	Disraéli, QC	4
Mercier, Robert	St-Henri (Lévis) QC	250
Mercier, Robert	Valleyfield, QC	646
Mercier, Roger	Naples, FL	2016
Mercier, Roland	La Pocatière, QC	61
Mercier, Simone	St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC	1196
Mercier, William Arthur	Danvers, MA	1010







Members of the board reported to the members on the year's activities, during the annual meeting of August 19th.

While the members in attendance listened carefully



Subsequently, all gathered around a festive table to enjoy the occasion



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In the afternoon, we were treated to lessons in history through visiting the museum at Chambly Fort





We were given lessons on military life of yesteryears



Jean-Jacques Mercier (1826-1903) Swiss industrialist and ourstanding businessman

A short biography

ean-Jacques Mercier was a businessman unlike any other, who left a strong mark on the urban architecture of Lausanne. The Micheloud & Cie offices are located on the top floor of one of his most stunning accomplishments: the Maison Mercier

Born into a **family of tanners** established in Lausanne since 1740, Jean-Jacques Mercier (the third) began his career in the family business. Through marriage, this ambitious man with a strong character entered into the circle of old Lausanne families at a time when the mixing of milieus was rare. Heavily involved in politics, he was a **member of the Lausanne town council** between 1866 and 1879 and took part in elaborating the **Vaud canton constitution.**

This exceptional businessman's career stands out from the others' through the diversity of his activities and by the mark he left on the city of Lausanne. His clear-minded, entrepreneurial approach was above all conveyed through the family business in the **leather industry**. A tanner for 43 years, Jean-Jacques Mercier was equally skilled in sales and manufacturing: under his direction, the family tannery that began in 1740 expanded to became one of the **flagship industries of the Vaud** during the second half of the 19th century.

Jean-Jacques quickly understood the importance of the booming **American market**, on which he was able to establish himself and turn a considerable profit on the family business. With the wealth acquired in the tanning industry, he was then able to diversify his activity and throw himself wholeheartedly into another sector: the **urban development** of Lausanne, where he became **one of the city's most significant landowners**.

Principal developer of the metro that connected the Lausanne station to the Ouchy harbor in 1877, he took advantage of the ground excavated during the construction to fill in the **Flon valley** (at the heart of the city) and create an enormous lot for new buildings. He was thus quickly able to build a train station and set up a warehouse business. In 1884, he bought the state-owned **Château d'Ouchy**, an ancient residence for bishops of which there remained only a tower in ruins. After redeveloping the property, he had architect Francis Isoz transform the castle into a hotel, which was completed in 1893 and still exists today under the name of **Château d'Ouchy**

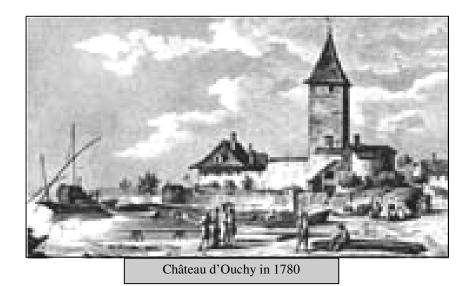
By 1893, Jean-Jacques Mercier was well-established in the realty sector and purchased the property at <u>8 Rue du Grand-Chêne</u>. Once again, he called upon architect Francis Isoz to design a building unlike any other in Lausanne and which remains to this day **the city's most striking monument**: the <u>Maison Mercier</u>.

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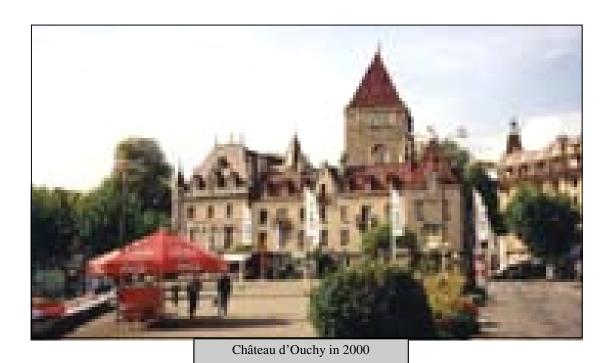


The Château d'Ouchy

The lakeside companion to the Maison Mercier, the Château d'Ouchy was built by the **same architect** and **the same developer**.



The renovations initiated by **Mr. Mercier** in the late 19th century integrated the **14th-century tower** within an architectural ensemble that was to become a hotel.



The Château d'Ouchy hosted the Lausanne Conference (June 16 - July 9, 1932), better known as the **Reparations Conference**. The aim was to find a solution to the serious economic and financial difficulties that had shaken the global economy ever since **Black Thursday in 1929**.

In the early summer of 1932, Germany was beginning to worry the Western powers once again, and all eyes were on the German representatives, Baron **Konstantin von Neurath** and Chancellor **Franz von Papen**. The conference set an amount of three billion marks to cover the **reparations owed by Germany after the First World War**, a reduction of over 93 million from the German war debt. Once this sum was paid, which should have occurred before 1935, Germany would have been definitively free of its debts.

But Hitler's arrival to power in 1933 meant that the balance of reparations owing was never paid.

The history behind the Maison Mercier in Lausanne

The Maison Mercier is located at the heart of the **Lausanne business district**. Plans were drawn up in 1895, and the building was erected using the most innovative concepts of the time. The construction of reinforced concrete foundations, patented by a Belgian engineer, could support **dimensions that were unheard of in Lausanne**: 11 levels and some 6,000 sq.m of surface area, for which the Maison Mercier was often compared to the sky scrapers of Chicago!



Place Bel-Air
At the turn of the century

Maison Mercier under construction in 1899



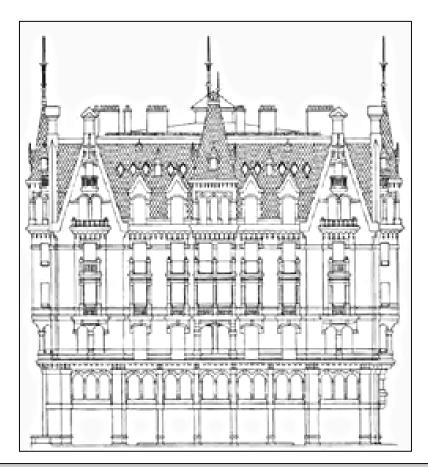
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Built between 1898 and 1900, the original building consisted of stores with mezzanines, and three floors of magnificent apartments fitted with **marble fireplaces**. With the meticulous design of its facades in **Viollet-le-Duc Gothic Revival**, the terrace and the roof angles topped with gables, the Maison Mercier was acclaimed one of the most beautiful buildings in the city.

The **diversity of the renters and the activities** in the Maison Mercier since the turn of the century attest to its owner's open-mindedness: the business name registry office, and several religious communities such as the synagogue, the Greek Orthodox and the Seventh-Day Adventists. The building also housed the French-language radio station Société Romande de Radiophonie (which has become Radio Suisse Romande), a fencing club and even a puppet theater! The professional activities practiced in the premises were just as varied: doctors, teachers, bankers, civil servants and tradesmen all worked under the same roof.

Over the last 60 years, the Maison Mercier has undergone regular restoration and **modernization** work in order to fully meet the demands of modern technology. Its stately size and original style have made it a true **gem of Lausanne's architectural heritage**.



The Lausanne Gazette, April 19, 1895
The front of Maison Mercier according to plans by Francis Isoz (S.I.M)



On Rue du Grand-Chêne

The far-end of Rue du Grand Chêne on the Montbenon side is going to change completely. A building that is sure to be the largest and undoubtedly the most beautiful in Lausanne, will soon be erected on the site of the old Dufour house and its adjoining stables.

Mr. Jean-Jacques Mercier is the man behind its construction, which is based on plans by Mr. Francis Isoz, architect of the Château d'Ouchy.

The new building will occupy not only the land of the two old houses to be demolished, but also the entire garden area to the west and the slope to the north, right up to the Gare du Flon. On that side, there will be no less than nine floors - almost the size of one of the famous Chicago sky scrapers! On the Rue du Grand-Chêne, however, even the tip of the cornice will not exceed the regulatory height of 18 meters. Large enough for spacious stores with mezzanines and for three floors of apartments, the Maison will be fully constructed out of cut stone - probably Arvel stone -, like the Château d'Ouchy. It will have great style and elegance. The meticulously designed facade on Rue du Grand-Chêne includes gables at both ends, and, at about a third of its length, a pointed bellturret. To the west, on the Montbenon side, and to the north, facing the Grand-Pont, the uniformity of the facades will be disrupted by architectural motifs that are suited to the general character of the building and that jut out from the walls and roofs.

This immense construction will not resemble to any extent an army barrack or any sort of rental property. It will have style, shape and relief.

Another original feature, in addition to street side stores, there will also be shops on the two other sides.

A terrace lined with a stone gallery will give access to the stores to the west and the north. Below the terrace, there will be another five floors of office space and various other premises.

A final point that touches the entire population of Lausanne, Mr. Mercier plans to build a large stairway in front of the building to the west, which will connect the Montbenon entrance to the funicular station. Negotiations to this effect have begun with the municipality. Let us hope that they arrive at an agreement.

It should be added that Mr. Mercier's building, which will be a significant embellishment to this part of the city, will be equipped with an elevator, a freight elevator, central steam heating and a small plant especially for the production of electric heating.

The presence of Merciers in Switzerland has been most obvious throughout the centuries, and the story of Jean-Jacques Mercier is only one of them.

(The text and illustrations for this article have been extracted from the website: "Switzerland.isyours.com/e/portrait/jean-jacques-mercier.html"

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News from our members

Two new Life Members

Claude Mercier of Brossard, Qué., # 51 Jeannine Mercier-Pitt of Crestview, Fla., # 1311

We are proud to acknowledge them as life members of A.M.A.N.

Two new members

Guy Labrecque, of Cap-Rouge, Qué., # 1479 Germain Nappert, of Boisbriand, Qué., # 1480

Welcome!

Sincere condolences to their families

Alfred Georges Mercier St-Marcel, L'Islet, Qué. June 19, 2006 Jacques Mercier Ouébec, Qué. June 22, 2006 Léon-Oscar Mercier (103years) Verdun, Qué., June 30, 2006 Thérèse Léger-Mercier Valleyfield, Qué., July 2, 2006 Denise Boulay-Mercier Québec, Qué. July 10, 2006 Béatrice Mercier-Fortier Québec, Qué. August 11, 2006 Paule Mercier-Dion Québec City, Qué., August 20, 2006 Estelle Dim-Mercier St-Gervais, Qué. August 27m 2006 Sr Thérèse Mercier September 8, 2006 Montréal, Qué., Lionel Mercier September 12, 2006 La Pocatière, Oué.

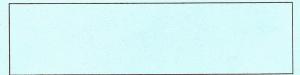
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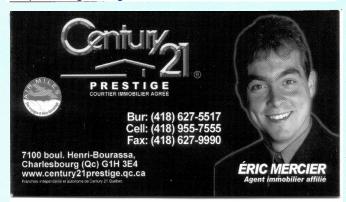
Prop.: Georges Bégin Adm.: Suzanne Mercier



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