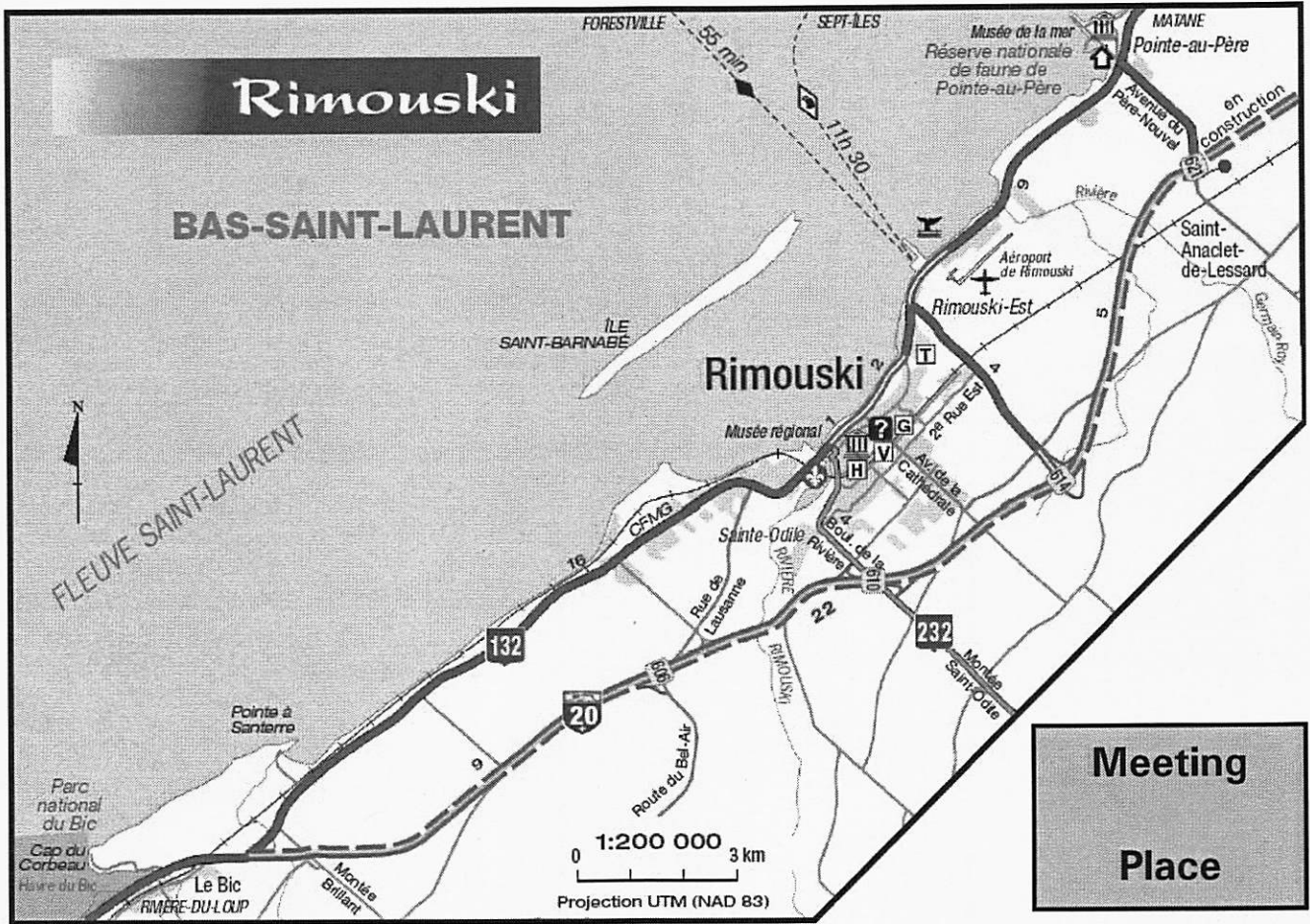




Le Mercien

The Voice of the Merciers of North America



Service de la géomatique
 © Gouvernement du Québec



**Annual General Meeting
 August 25, 2007**

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 President 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	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

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	Benoît Mercier (#222), Charlesbourg	Tél.: (418) 623-0833	E-mail: « benoitmercier@hotmail.com »
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

At the last meeting of the board of directors held on May 5, it was agreed to accept the resignation of Jean-Louis both as president and as a member of the board. The members of the board accepted Jean-Louis's resignation with regret. Having served for one and a half year, Jean-Louis had indicated for some time his intention to withdraw from the board.

We are grateful for Jean-Louis's interest and devotion to the affairs of AMAN, and he continues to take part in the activities of our association.

The next annual meeting of our association will take place in Rimouski on August 25. The notice of convocation the agenda are published in this issue as well as the tentative program for the day. The registration form and suggested places to stay are also available. A very interesting program has been assembled for the day and we hope that many of you will take part in it.

Those of you who have not yet sent in your annual membership due for the coming year are urged to do it now and use the return envelope at your disposal to do so. May 31 is the deadline for renewal for all members.

In the current issue we acknowledge the skills of Jean-Pierre Mercier who became famous in his line of activity. We are pleased to highlight his accomplishments. We are always on the lookout for stories like Jean-Pierre's. Please, do not hesitate to inform us of achievements, both important and ordinary by members of the large Mercier family.

A monument will be unveiled in memory of Louis Mercier on July 21, 2007. Gilmond sends an invitation to this ceremony and his letter is published on page 12 of the current issue. We encourage all members to attend this important event aimed at honouring one of our ancestors who has influenced his time and his living circle.

As we promised recently, we publish another article on genetics analysis used in tracing the origin of human beings. New technologies are evolving rapidly and their application will lead to astounding conclusions on the origin of our ancestors and even the origin of the first human being to populate our planet.

Pierre-Paul Mercier

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Annual Meeting of AMAN (2006) Notice of convocation

The members of The Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord Inc. are invited to attend the twenty-third annual general meeting which will be held on August 25, 2007 at The Rimouski Convention Center, 225, René-Lepage Blvd., Rimouski, Québec.

Agenda

- 1- Opening remarks
- 2- Order of business
- 3- Minutes of the last meeting
- 4- Report by the president
- 5- Report by the treasurer
- 6- Appointment of an auditor
- 7- Ratification of actions by
the board of directors
- 8- Election of directors
- 9- Other business
- 10- Adjournment

Preliminary program

Saturday, August 25, 2007

- 09:30 hrs Reception
- Registration
Possibility of genealogical research
Sale of promotional material
Meeting of old friends
Coffee and pastries
- 10:30 hrs Annual meeting of members
In Mgr Langevin Hall
- 12:00 hrs Luncheon and presentation
In Mgr Ouellet Hall
Speaker: Mr Paul Larocque
- 14:00 hrs Departure to the lighthouse (individually)
- 14:15 hrs Guided tour of the Pointe-au-Père lighthouse
in groups of 15
- 15:45 hrs Departure to the museum (individually)
- 16:00 hrs Guided tour of the Rimouski Regional Museum
in groups of 30
- 17:15 hrs Departure to the City Hall
- 17:30 hrs Official reception at the Rimouski City Hall
-

Cost not covered by the registration fee:

- 18:45 hrs Departure to St-Hubert BBQ
- 19:00 hrs Dinner at St-Hubert BBQ
Advance reservations required
Dinner at each member's expense



Under the Palmtrees



Genealogy fair

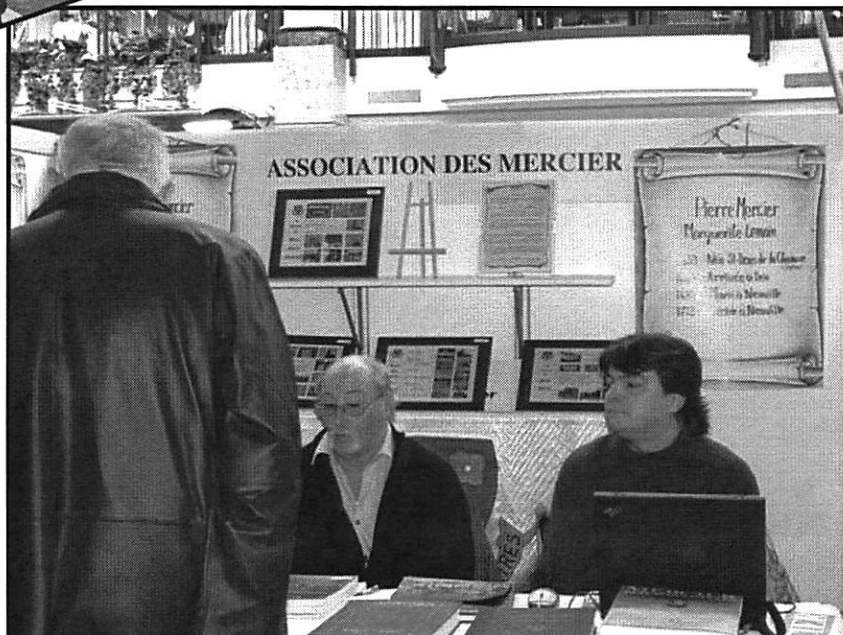
Place Laurier

Quebec City

February 2007



Roger and Raynald
greeting a visitor
at the
AMAN booth



Jean-Pierre Mercier a man of Great skills

Today I want to tell you about the achievements of a Mercier from the village of Dosquet, who became national two-man saw champion at a competition held in Vancouver and then world champion in competitions held in Canada and the United States.

How did Jean-Pierre become a CHAMPION? Let us go back almost sixty years. Jean-Pierre's father, Napoleon Mercier from Dosquet (subject of another article in the next issue of *Le Mercien*), worked in logging camps during the 1940s and the 1950s like several of his uncles and cousins from Ste-Agathe de Lotbinière, and this brought him to the Timmins and Kapuskasing area of Ontario. Summer being a quiet time in the forests, Napoleon started a business selling small motors and chain saws. In the early sixties, the Quebec City Carnival organized handsaw competitions in which his father, uncles and cousins competed; the competitions were sponsored by the Dow and Molson breweries. These competitions involved some 15 to 20 of the best handsaw, two-man saw, axe-cutting champions, etc., from the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario. During Expo 67, at the British Columbia Pavillion, there were demonstrations of various types of wood cutting methods. After that the city of Hull organized a North American championship, which was later held in the small village of St-Vianney de Matane, thanks to the initiative of the local priest Jean-Guy Roy. These competitions, in which Jean-Pierre's relatives and friends competed, were held over two weekends - the first being a national championship and the second involving international competitors.

In the early seventies, his uncles, cousins and friends, most of whom were from Ste-Agathe de Lotbinière, organized handsaw, two-man saw, axe-cutting and chainsaw competitions -

in short, numerous competitions related to the various aspects of the lumberjack trade: log loading, log stacking, etc.. In those days, Jean-Pierre, then about fifteen years of age, sometimes accompanied his father Napoleon and his uncles Philius and Paul Mercier, to contests or competitions; but he often had to stay in Dosquet to look after his father's shop.

Jean-Pierre was about 16 when, after a few prac-



Jean-Pierre Mercier, as he appears on his website:
www.clic.net/~jpmercier

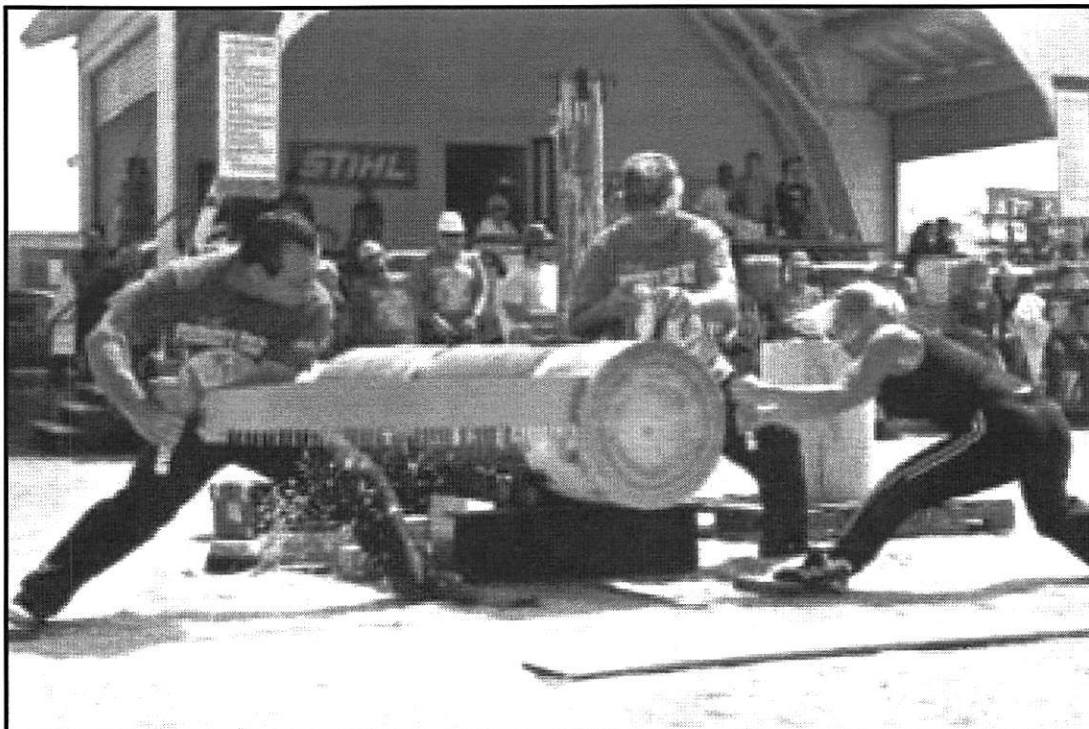


tices, he took part in his first competitions in 1973-1974 with Tom Noonan from Ste-Agathe and then with his cousin Donald Lambert, also from Ste-Agathe, and he did that until the early 1990s. In 1985, 1986 and 1987, they won the international championship at the Forestry Worker Festival in St-Pamphile de l'Islet, and did very well in competitions in the United States and in other Canadian provinces. In 1984 he was at the Alberta championship, and in 1988 he was in Prince George BC, and in 1990 he placed third with Donald Lambert in the two-man saw international competition where he was competing against Australian, European, New Zealander and American competitors and he repeated the feat in 1992, again with Donald Lambert. Then in 1993 Jean-Pierre teamed up with his father Napoleon and they placed fifth in a competition in Virginia; in 1994, teaming up with Brian Hurley from New Zealand, he finished third, and in the mixed competition for which his teammate was his wife Sylvie Paquin, they won the world championship.

World recognition came in 1995, when teamed up with his 63 year old father Napoleon, he won the semi-final two-man saw contest, cutting a 1987 record of 13.47 seconds to 11.47 seconds. There was scepticism and incredulity! How could two rela-

tively short men at 5'8" beat the perennial champions who were 6 foot giants weighing over 200 lbs. The secret of their success was the tools that Jean-Pierre had made and sharpened with very great care. Of course at the final the next day, all eyes were on the Mercier team, Jean-Pierre and Napoleon, and against all expectations they set another record in a time of 11.18 seconds which still holds for a log 24 inches in diameter. To top it off, Jean-Pierre and Sylvie placed second in the mixed championship. In 1996, still with his father, he won again the world championship in the two-man saw contest. The same year, at the Pacific National Exhibition in British Columbia, Jean-Pierre won the world handsaw championship, the world two-man saw championship, and took third place with Sylvie in the mixed two-man saw competition. Coincidentally, the British television Channel Four organized a competition in Squamish BC two weeks later and Jean-Pierre was invited to compete, which got him known in Europe and allowed him to sell his various saws, including the handsaw and the two-man saw. And then in 1997, he teamed up with Dennis Daun and in a competition held in Hayward Wisconsin they cut the record for a 20 inch log down to 5.56 seconds.

The year 1998 marked a turning point in Jean-



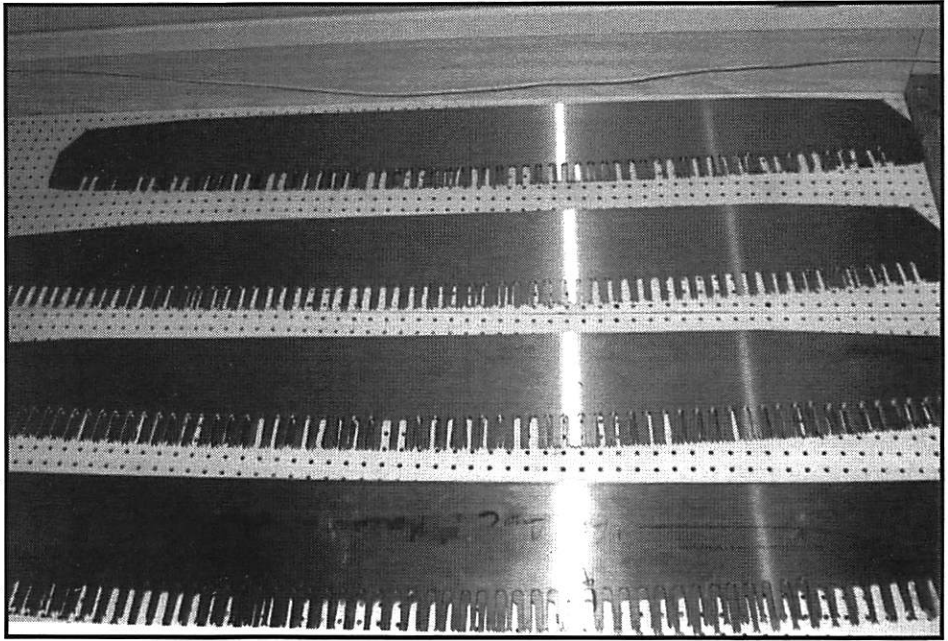
To the left:
Jean-Pierre during a competition

To the right, next page:
Some of the products of Mercier Racing Saws

and at bottom:
Some of the Trophies Earned by Jean-Pierre



Pierre's life. The numerous competitions amounting to 20 to 30 a year forced him to miss more and more work at his electronic technician's job. The increasing number of orders for his handsaws and two-man saws as well as the time used for his training disturbed his work, so that after almost 20 years of loyal service, Jean-Pierre decided to devote his time to competitions and to the making of saws. Orders kept increasing because there were only 2 competitors in the making of blades, one based in California and the other in New Zealand.



In 1999 he teamed up with American Dave Jewett and the very next year in 2000, they claimed the world two-man saw title. They lost it in 2005, as Jean-Pierre had supplied his opponents with a Mercier saw! But in 2006, this valiant Mercier created a better blade and still with Dave Jewett recaptured the championship title. This made his saw blades very much sought after on the international market.

business and all the competitions he has been in, you are invited to visit his website: www.clic.net/~jpmercier, and you will find that this father of three and member of a choral society never remains idle, and that we have every reason to be proud of him.

To learn a little more about Jean-Pierre Mercier's

Translation and adaptation by Lucie Mercier and Ian Campbell, of Ottawa, of a story written in French by Dolorès Morin, of St-Étienne, for *Le Mercien*



National Geographic and IBM launch landmark project to map how humankind populated planet

Five-Year Genographic Project Allows Individuals to Trace Own Migratory History

The National Geographic Society and IBM today launched a groundbreaking research initiative that will trace the migratory history of the human species.

The Genographic Project, a five-year research partnership, will use sophisticated laboratory and computer analysis of DNA contributed by hundreds of thousands of people, including indigenous peoples and members of the general public, to map how the Earth was populated. Led by National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Spencer Wells, Ph.D., a team of international scientists and IBM researchers will collect genetic samples, analyze results and report on the genetic roots of modern humans.

With funding from the Waitt Family Foundation, the scientists will establish 10 centers around the world and will study more than 100,000 DNA samples from indigenous populations. The project is expected to reveal rich details about global human migratory history and to drive new understanding about the connections and differences that make up the human species.

"We see this as the 'moon shot' of anthropology, using genetics to fill in the gaps in our knowledge of human history," said project leader Spencer Wells. "Our DNA carries a story that is shared by everyone. Over the next five years we'll be deciphering that story, which is now in danger of being lost as people migrate and mix to a much greater extent than they have in the past."

The resulting public database will house one of the largest collections of human population genetic information ever assembled and will serve as an unprecedented resource for geneticists, historians and anthropologists.

Members of the general public are able to participate in the Genographic Project by purchasing a kit and allowing their own results to be included in the database. Individuals will be able to follow the progress of their own migratory history as well as the global research by logging on to nationalgeographic.com.

"National Geographic has been exploring and mapping the world for 117 years," said John Fahey, President and CEO of the National Geographic Society. "Now, as a result of our remarkable partnership with IBM and Spencer Wells, we are deploying state-of-the-art science and technology to map our journey across the planet. We hope this ambitious and important project will increase our understanding and appreciation of our shared history. The field science work, so generously supported by the Waitt Family Foundation, will go into a virtual museum of human history." "IBM and National Geographic are embarking on a historic expedition into our collective past," said Samuel J. Palmisano, chairman and CEO of IBM. "Our two organizations have long contributed to scientific exploration and achievement, extending in different ways the boundaries of human knowledge and understanding. We continue this tradition of innovation that matters for the world and welcome the participation of the hun-



dreds of thousands of people who will join in this amazing journey."

Scientists from IBM's Computational Biology Center, one of the world's foremost life sciences research facilities, use advanced analytical technologies and data sorting techniques to interpret the samples and to discover new patterns and connections within the data they contain. IBM is also providing the core computational knowledge and infrastructure that will manage the hundreds of thousands of genotype codes being analyzed by the Genographic Project.

"The more we can improve our understanding of the common origin and journey of humankind, the greater the possibility for all of us to see each other as members of the same family," said Ted Waitt, founder of the Waitt Family Foundation. "And with that awareness, we can find ways to live and work together on a global basis."

The Genographic Project has three core components:

- **Field Research** - Collecting DNA samples and field research with indigenous populations are central to the project. Blood samples from indigenous populations, whose DNA contains key genetic markers that have remained relatively unaltered over hundreds of generations, are reliable indicators of ancient migratory patterns. Wells and a consortium of scientists from prominent international institutions will conduct the field and laboratory research. An international advisory board will oversee the selection of indigenous populations for testing as well as adhering to strict sampling and research protocols.
- **Public Participation and Awareness Campaign** - The public can take part by purchasing a Participation Kit, (U.S. \$99.95 plus shipping and handling), and submitting their own cheek

swab samples, allowing them to track the overall progress of the project as well as learn their own migratory history. These personal results will be stored securely and anonymously to ensure the privacy of participants. National Geographic and IBM will regularly update the public and the scientific community on project findings, by such means as the Web site (www.nationalgeographic.com/genographic) and National Geographic's many other media platforms worldwide. A television program, "The Search for Adam," will air in the U.S. on the National Geographic Channel Explorer series and around the world on the National Geographic Channel. Public participation may be restricted in some countries, such as China and India, where the export of genetic materials requires government approval. The Genographic Project will work with relevant authorities to achieve the broadest level of public participation possible.

Genographic Legacy Project - Proceeds from the sale of the Genographic Participation Kits will help fund future field research and a legacy project, which will build on National Geographic's focus on world cultures. The legacy project will support education and cultural preservation projects among participating indigenous groups.

(See page 12 for more information about the three partners in the Genographic project.)

The preceding text is a news release by National Geographic issued on April 13, 2005 in Washington, D.C. and published on their website: "nationalgeographic.com/news"



Gathering of the descendants of Louis Mercier and Adèle Audet

The descendants of Captain Louis Mercier and Adèle Audet who married on January 7, 1867 in Sainte-Justine-de-Dorchester are invited to express their pride of their ancestors by attending a gathering which is scheduled for Saturday July 21, 2007.

This will be the occasion to highlight the 160th birthday of Louis Mercier, the 140th anniversary of his marriage with Adèle Audet and the 100th anniversary of his death. A funeral monument will be unveiled at 15:00 hours at the Sainte-Justine cemetery . Mass will take place at 16:00 hours in the church of Sainte-Sabine. There will be a buffet followed by an evening of festivities at the J.-Ernest Hall of the community centre of Sainte-Sabine.

Captain Louis Mercier is known in regional history for his social commitments , his strong personality, his integrity and his impressive personality. Moreover, he is considered one of the founders of the Dorchester and Beauce Regiment, which will later become the Régiment de la Chaudière.

You are invited to that first gathering of the descendants of Louis Mercier and Adèle Audet.

For more information, contact Gilmond Mercier by phone at (418) 383-3441 or by e-mail at: "gilmondm@sogetel.net"

Gilmond Mercier

(Continued from page 11 about the Genographic project)

About National Geographic

Founded in 1888, National Geographic is one of the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organizations. Its mission is to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge while promoting the conservation of the world's cultural, historical and natural resources. National Geographic reflects the world through its five magazines, cable television channels and programs, films, radio, books, videos, maps, interactive media and merchandise, reaching as many as 300 million people each month.

About IBM

IBM is the world's largest information technology company, with more than 80 years of leadership in helping businesses innovate. It has a long history of innovating on behalf of society, and in recent years has launched a series of major research initiatives designed to overcome many of the remaining "grand challenges" of science, including the Deep Blue chess-playing computer and unraveling the mysteries of protein folding with BlueGene, the world's fastest supercomputer. IBM Research is the world's largest information technology research organization, with more than 3,000 scientists and engineers at eight labs in six countries. For more information about IBM, visit www.ibm.com.

About the Waitt Family Foundation

Established in 1993 by Gateway Computer founder and now Chairman Ted Waitt and his wife, Joan, the Waitt Family Foundation focuses on humankind's past, present and future. Specifically, the foundation funds projects aimed at making discoveries about our past that will help inform the way we are today and reveal untapped possibilities for the future. For more information about the Waitt Family Foundation, visit www.waittfoundation.org.





St-Henri-de-Lévis
April 14, 2007
at the Réal Bruneau
sugarbush

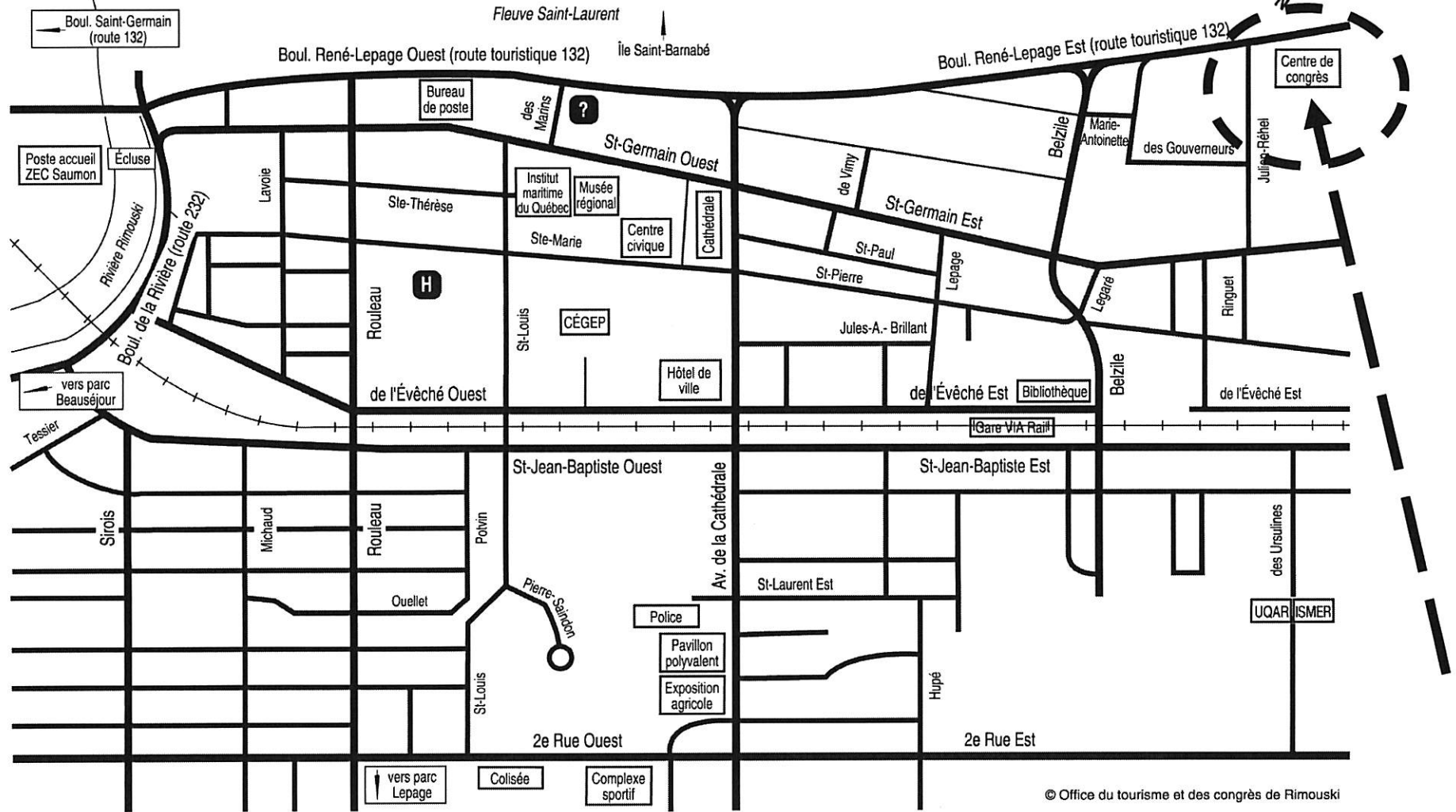


Another nice gathering
Thanks to
Jean-Guy Mercier
Of Ste-Foy
(In the photo above)



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? INFORMATION TOURISTIQUE
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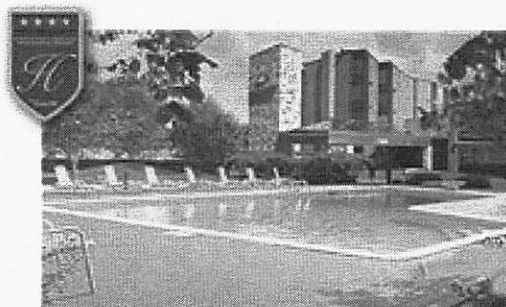
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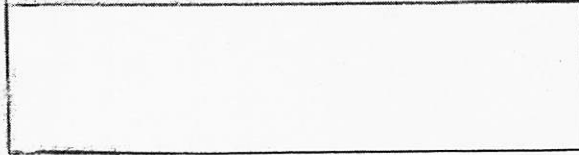
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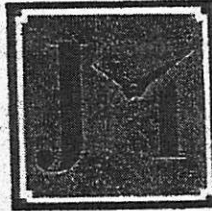
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