



# *Le Mercien*

*Voice of the Mercier of North America*

<http://www.famillesmercier.org/>

## **Saint-Jérôme...** *It worth the detour!*



**Annual General Assembly  
of the Mercier**

**Invitation to everyone**

Source : Société d'histoire de la Rivière du Nord.



**Saint-Jérôme,  
August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**We will be there !**

**We're waiting for you !**

Source : Société d'histoire de la Rivière du Nord.

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

Name	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier	Founding President of l'A.M.A.N.		1999
Pierre-Paul Mercier	Administration	Saint-Lambert, QC	2000
Alain Mercier	Communications	Québec City, QC	2000
Charles Mercier	Engineering	Québec City, QC	2000
Christine Mercier	Teaching	Québec City, QC	2000
Louis Mercier	Actuary	Saint-Bruno, QC	2000
Pierre Mercier	Engineering	Saint-Bruno, QC	2000
Suzanne Mercier	Commerce	Montréal, QC	2000
Lucienne M.-Croteau	Teaching	Bonnyville, AB	2001

## Board of Directors for 2010-2011 and services of AMAN

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<b>President:</b>	Benoît Mercier (#222), Québec City	Tel.: (418) 623-0833	Email : « benoitmercier@hotmail.com »
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jean Mercier (#1), Québec City	Tel.: (418) 688-3092	Email : « jean_mercier@sympatico.ca »

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#### Administrators

Gilmond Mercier (#28), Sainte-Sabine	Tel. : (418) 383-3441	Email : « gilmondm@sogetel.net »
Jean Mercier (#1524), St-Jérôme	Tel.: (450) 432-3223	Email : « jean.mercier6@videotron.ca »

### Services

<b>Archives:</b>	Gilmond Mercier (#28) Sainte-Sabine	Tel.: (418) 383-3441	Email : « gilmondm@sogetel.net »
<b>Accounting:</b>	Benoît Mercier (#222), Québec City	Tel.: (418) 623-0833	Email : « benoitmercier@hotmail.com »

### 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.*

This newsletter is named after the kingdom of Mercia which existed from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was one of the seven original kingdoms constituting England. The inhabitants of that territory must have been called Merciens (or Mercien in French).

We are proud to perpetuate that name today.

**A.M.A.N. is a member of  
the Québec Federation of First Families**

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# Presentation

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*By Jean Mercier (1)*

Not much time have time have passed between the delivery of the present number of our newsletter and the precedent. The reason is that contrary to what was made some years ago, *The Mercien* became the almost exclusive tool which uses the Mercier to communicate with their members and it to decrease as much as possible the expenses of administration, The same motive prevailed in the adjustment in a unique date of the annual renewal of the membership to your association. These measures, without being as well effective maybe as the use of the post office, however allowed substantial savings, limiting of this fact of the increases of contribution.

If our financial year, that take place from July 1<sup>st</sup> till June 30<sup>th</sup>, the contribution of the members cover the period from June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> of the next year. The present newsletter thus owed appear to a convenient date to remind this duty crowned to every good *Amaniste*. Here is which who is made. We include the material necessary to carry out the duty of state. Thanks in advance.

Already, by the invitation accompanying *The Mercien* of winter, 2010, you know the place where will be held the next annual assembly and the person in charge its organization is Jean Mercier, the other Jean Mercier, the 1524. The one that you have in hand, not Jean but

bulletin, will convince you I am certain about it that the choice of the city of St-Jérôme is very sensible, an inescapable for the former listeners of “*Un homme et son péché, une autre des belles histoires des pays d’en haut*” and a golden opportunity for the others to enrich their knowledge.

As wants the tradition, our association participated even this year in the Salon of the Québec foundries at Laurier Quebec. Some pictures show of it. Benoît, Monique and Jean 1524, Monique and Bernard 179, Huguette Gingras, Céline and Gilmond 28, Roger and Jean 1 were at their post.

The tribute which we had to return in the present number to Pierre-Paul is put back to the fellow man.

Finally, we are anxious to thank André 189 who gives up his function of archivist after several years of dedication and the happy successor is none other than Gilmond who already accumulates some responsibility within the Mercier. We shall also return on this subject in the next newsletter.

Good reading

*Jean 1*

## **Hello to all the Merciers' families**

The next general assembly will take place to Saint Jérôme on August 27<sup>th</sup> of this year, on Place of the Station. In the next Mercien, you will learn about the progress of the assembly as well as a complete description conducted tours proposed by Saint-Jérôme.

Visit the site of the town of Saint-Jérôme [www.vsj.ca](http://www.vsj.ca)

Organizing committee : Jean Mercier 1524 Tel. (450) 432-3223 [jean.mercier6@vidéotron.ca](mailto:jean.mercier6@vidéotron.ca)

Laurent Mercier and Germain Nappert



# 14<sup>th</sup> Exposition of the founding families at Laurier Québec

Here are some photos taken during the exposition of the founding families at the shopping center Laurier Québec in Quebec, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



The press conference



General view



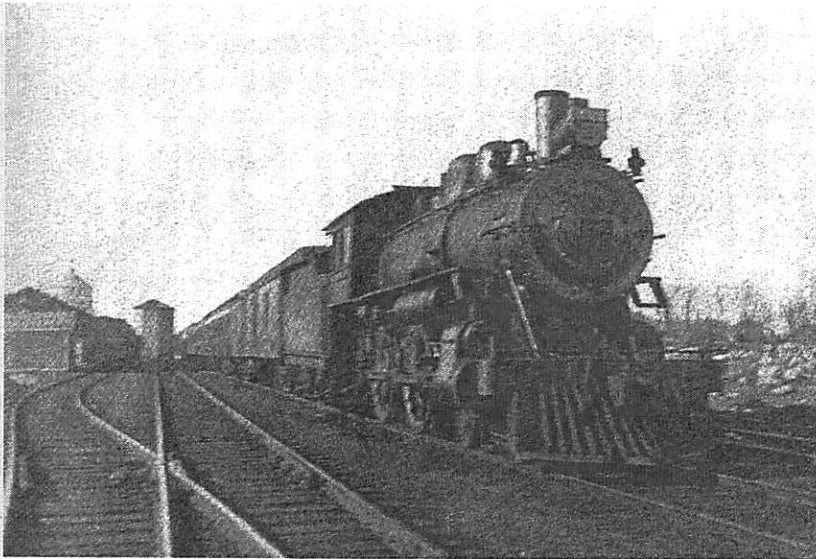
Jean (#1524) and Monique Dupras



Jean (#1), Monique and Bernard (#179)

# Saint-Jérôme... *It worth the detour!*

## Train station of St-Jérôme, around 1915.



## The train of the North, around 1920

On September 1876, the first train arrive à St-Jérôme. On the following October 9<sup>th</sup>, a big banquet was given to celebrate this event. The priest Labelle finally saw realizing his dream. Two trains a day s'arrêtaient to St-Jérôme from Montreal. The railroad contributed to the development of St-Jérôme. The industry and the tourism set. The last passenger train stopped to St-Jérôme, on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1981, whereas that of the goods stopped its activities in 1989. The railroad was dismantled in 1991 then converted in cycle track in 1996.

Source:012-07-020.  
Collection société d'histoire de la rivière du nord.

## The arrival of the train

The buggy wait for the customers. They were the cabs of old time. Hotels had their own cars to accommodate their tourist clientele.

In 1881, there were carters of excess. The municipal administration required carter's licence to exercise their job business.

We see the priest who returns to the presbytery.

Source:029-04-042. Collection société d'histoire de la rivière du nord.





(1ère rangée) 1. A. Edge; 2. Dr G. Leclerc; 3. Hon. Col. Rhodes; 4. Hon. Mercier ; 5. Curé Labelle ; 6. J. Boivin ; 7. H.-A. Turgeon; (2ème rangée) 8. J. Ray; 9. O. Demers; 10. J.-B. Hébert; 11. Guilbault; 12. Deschambault; 13. E.-A. Bernard ; 14. J.-P. Plamondon; 15. S. Sylvestre; (3ème rangée) 16. Hearn; 17. Rinfret; 18. Bilodeau; 19. Savary; 20. Lebel ; 21. Oscar Prévost; 22. Sheean; 23. Lamb.  
 Personnel du Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Colonisation (1er septembre 1889)  
 Ministère Mercier (1887-1892)



## History of the Curé Labelle

Antoine Labelle, son of Antoine Labelle and Angélique Mayer was born, on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1833, to Ste-Rose of Laval. He was ordered priest, on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1856, Ste-Rose by Mgr. Pinsonnault. Then from 1868 till 1891, he was cleaned out by St-Jérôme.

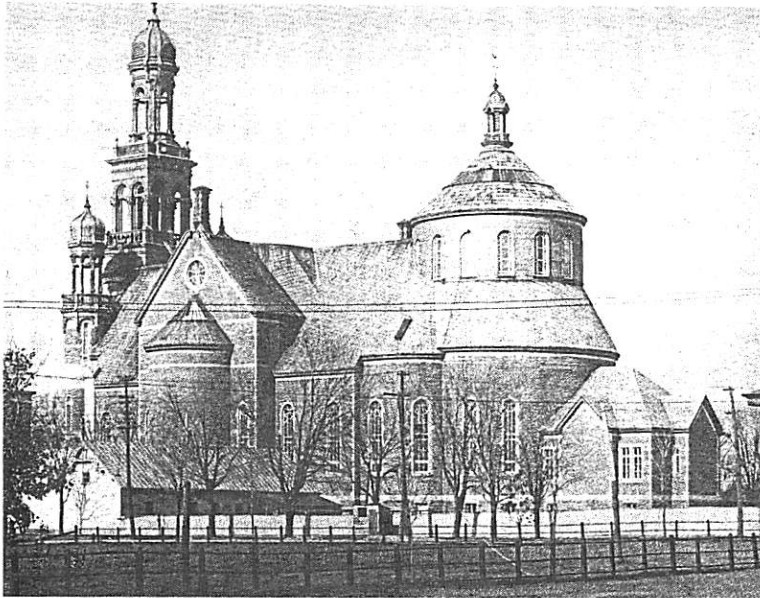
In May, 1888, Honoré Mercier, Prime Minister of Quebec named him a Minister of l'agriculture and of the colonization.

In July, 1889, pope Léon XIII gave him the title of Monseigneur.

In 1878, the priest Labelle was 6 feet and weighed 333 (pounds). He had in is heart the development of the North of the province of Quebec. His presence was noticed to the federal and provincial parliaments by farm and industrial subsidies.

In the basilica of Quebec, on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1891, Mgr. Faguy recommended in the prayers Mgr.. Antoine Labelle, priest of St-Jérôme, in the diocese of Montreal.

Source; L'abbé Élie-J. Auclair, Société Royale



## St-Jérôme's Cathedral

The construction of the cathedral began in 1897 and was spread out over three years. The churchwardens had granted 13 000 \$ for its construction. The conception was confided to Casimir St-Jean, an architect of Montreal.

The church will be inaugurated, on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1900. The blessing was made by Mgr. Bruchési, archbishop of Montreal. She will be opened to the worship, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1900.

The priest of the time was Louis-Joseph Lafortune (1891-1901).

Source: Collection Jean-Pierre Bourbeau.

## Canadien Pacifique Railway Station

Photo of the station taken in 1914. This station was built in 1897. It possessed a restaurant and two waiting halls.

We can see a left, a water silo to feed steam engines. This station replaced that built in 1877.

Source: J. W. Heckman, cote : A.21190, collection archives du Chemin de fer Canadien Pacifique.



## The Church of the Curé Labelle

The construction began in 1837. The first mass was celebrated in June, 1839, after 2 years of works. This church was demolished in 1901, today the Labelle Park.

The land for the construction of this church was given by Lord Dumont. The contract of the skeleton was assigned to Moïse de Ste-Anne of Plains and masonry to Louis Pelletier of L'Assomption.

Source: Joseph Bélanger, St-Jérôme, Cote : 012-61-005, collection Société d'histoire de la rivière du nord.





## The Curé Labelle wood donation

Winter 1871-1872 had begun very early and was rigorous; the Montrealers missed firewood. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1871, City officials of Montreal appeared at St - Jérôme's City Council to ask if they could supply them with some wood for the people of Montreal.

The Curé Labelle organized a wood chore. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1872, 80 cars loaded with wood crossed the streets of Montreal. While making the charity to the Montrealers, the priest of St-Jérôme took advantage of the occasion to speak about the train of the North which would be very useful for the Montrealers in the future.

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1876, City Council of Montreal granted a 1 million dollar gift for the construction of the train of the North.

Source; Yves Thibault; Marcel Laporte. Cote; P012-03, collection de la Société d'histoire de la rivière du nord, fonds Mgr. Labelle.

## A fire extinguisher pump, 1873

The City Council, bought this water pump from the \$325.00 cost. On the photo, there is the mayor Godefroy Laviolette, near pump and in the center of the pump Régis Guénette, is the employee in the manipulations of the pump, as well as fifteen fire brigades of the city.

Source : Jos. Bélanger, St-Jérôme, Cote : 012-01-004. Collection Société d'histoire de la Rivière du Nord.







## Lavolette Residence in 1897

Sévère Lavolette and Françoise Mackay arrive in 1887 at St-Jérôme. The construction of their house cost \$5 000.00 in 1897. He was an owner of a foundry and of an ironworks. Also, he occupied the function of mayor of St-Jérôme from 1909 till 1913. In 2011, the center of the youth sits in this place.

Source; Cote P7, S13, D09, P20. Collection et archives national du Québec, centre Montréal.

## J.D.Guay Residence in 1910

Joseph Delphis Guay and Marie-Elmire Richard married on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1884 to St-Jérôme. He possessed a business. He was very active to St-Jérôme's City Council.

Source; Cote : 003-01-001. Collection, Société d'histoire de la Rivière du Nord.



## St-Jérôme Prettiest in 1896

Every Sunday in the afternoon, in this time period, people proudly wore their most beautiful dresses and clothes.

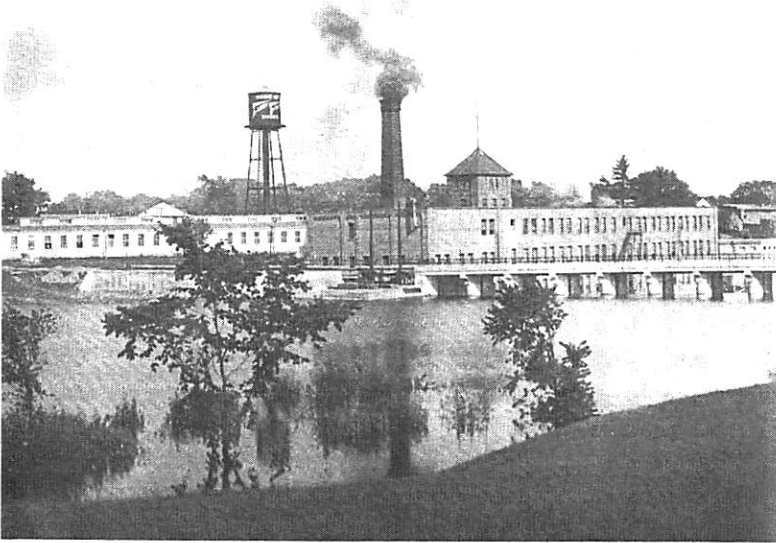
Jules-Edouard Prévost jr. rests in the hammock. He married Ermine Smith on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1912.

Source; Cote : 001-01-010. Collection, Société d'histoire de la Rivière du Nord.

## Dominion Rubber

The company was established in 1866. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the company hired 1300 employees. From 1911, she made shoes, boots and other products. Then she made some war material during the Second World war.

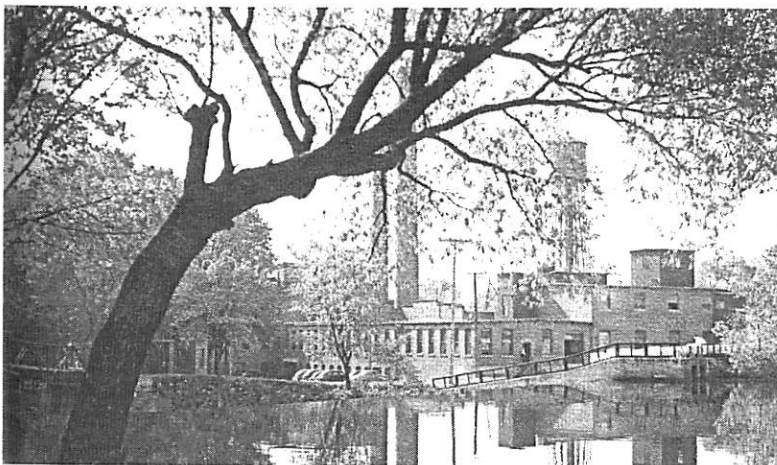
Source : Jos. Bélanger, St-Jérôme. Cote : 024-01-005. Collection Ville de St-Jérôme.



## Regent Spinners

The factory was built in 1916. L'usine made jumpers, dresses and other clothing products. In 1929, it counted 700 employees and, in 1945, the number of employee increased in 1300.

Source : Cote : 005-05-001. Collection Ville de St-Jérôme.



## Rolland factory around 1929

The factory was inaugurated on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1882. From 1885, it took away the gold medal in Antwerp in Belgium, for the quality of her products. Then in 1900, she took away a Grand Prize for the beauty and the quality of its product of paper in Paris in France.

Source : Ludger Charpentier, Montréal, Collection Jean-Pierre Bourbeau



## The season of hays in St-Jérôme

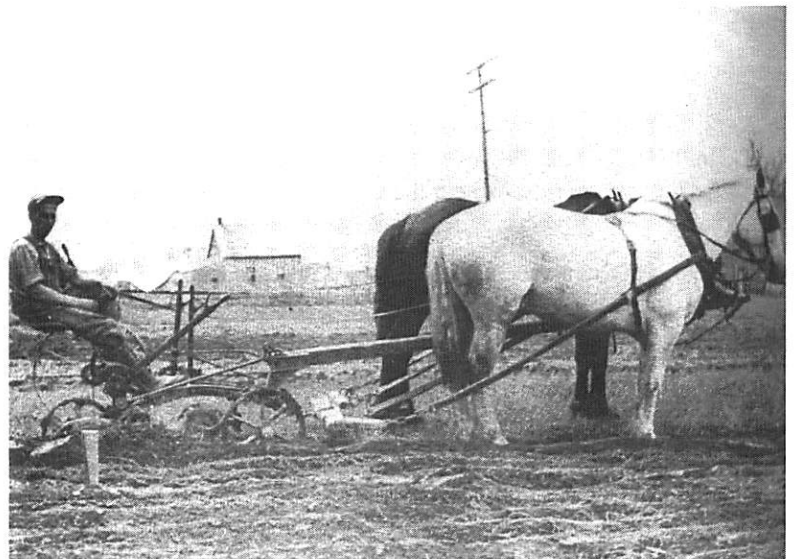
The chore of hays gathered the family, the uncles, the aunts, the cousins and the cousins of the village or the city. They carried their big straw hats. Photo taken by 1940.

Source : Collection Annette Desbrien-Bertrand

## Louis-Philippe Bélanger Farm

Hard labour in the Fall for the farmers on their ancestral land. Today, this field is converted in parking.

Source : Cote : B-11, Collection Réjean Paquin.



## Cabane à sucre Bouvrette

Several personalities have spend time in the famous sugar shack house: Maurice Richard, almost every year, the wrestler Jos and Paul Leduc, Big Antonio. In any intimacy, on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1995, Céline Dion celebrated her 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary there.

Source : Collection François Bouvrette.



## The Old Hall of Justice

It was built in 1923. Inaugurated in 1924. In 1985, the city buy it for the symbolic sum of \$1.00. A subsidy of the provincial \$2 000 000 government allows to renew it and to enlarge it to make the municipal library.

Source : Ludger Charpentier, Montréal, Collection Jean-Pierre Bourbeau.

## City Hall

The first session of City Council took place on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1856 in a class. Then the subsequent sessions took place: in 1873, in the room of the market, in 1875, to the law court, in 1918, at Jean Prévost. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1924, the city buys the law court to make it the City Hall.

Source : Cote : 012-01-002. Collection, Société d'histoire de la Rivière du Nord



## Police and Firemen Station

In the continuation of a referendum held in 1929, the City Council adopts a regulation of payments of 55 000 \$ for the construction d'un new station of police and fireman as well as the market.

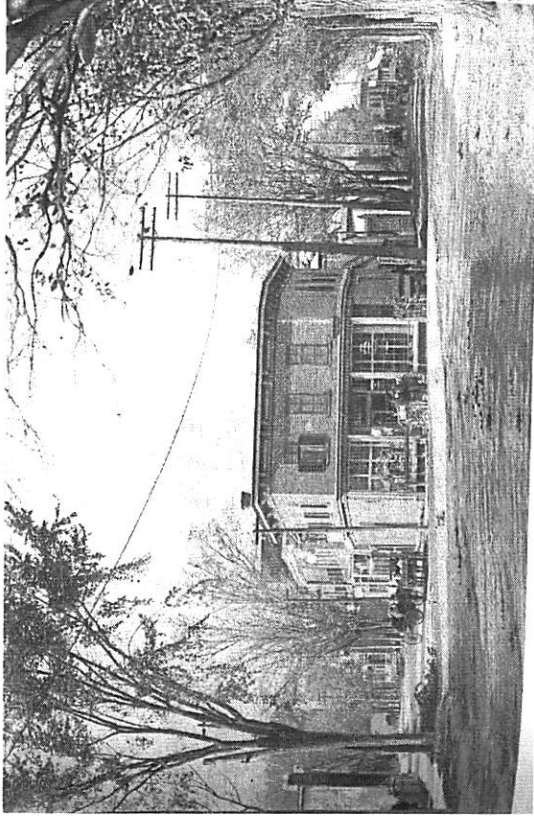
It was the third building since 1863 on the same place. The new station account seven permanent policemen and six fire brigades to owe it, day and night.

A car with fire including 1200 feet of intestines, another car with a 65 foot ladder pulled by 4 horses.

In 1989, the policemen and the fire brigades leave the building for s'installer on the street Trudel.

Source; Ludger Charpentier, Montréal. Cote : 134-01-005, Société d'histoire de la rivière du nord.





## General Store of Eusèbe Gibeault

Built in 1893, after the fire which ravaged the city. He sold food, the ironworks, grain, alcoholic drink and other products. Sold to Charlemagne Taillon, in 1905.

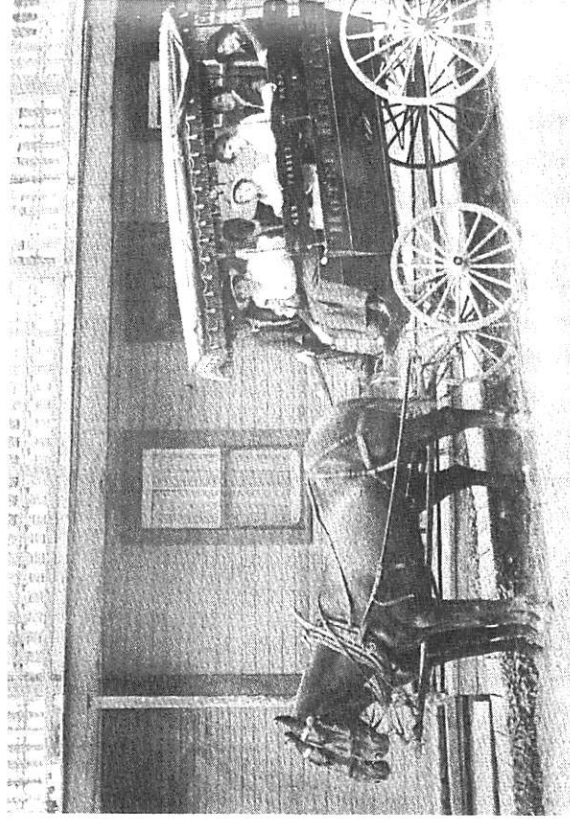
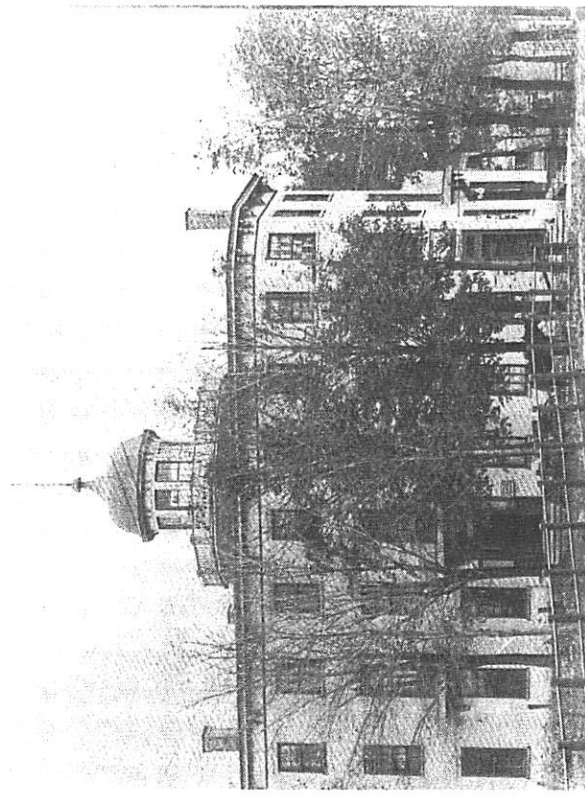
One of the most beautiful ancestral photos.

Source : Collection Marcel Paquet

## Beaulieu Hotel

Louis Beaulieu, build this hotel in 1877 on a suggestion of the Curé Labelle. It was right by the station of the peaceful Canadian Railway. Sold to Théophile Larose in 1913, it became the castle Larose.

Source : Cote;011-03-037. Collection de la Société D'Histoire de la Rivière du Nord



## Chartre of the Bellevue Hotel

Pierre Lapointe's property, used this type of vehicle to transport the customers at the station.

Source : Cote : NT 012. Collection de la Société D'histoire de la Rivière du Nord

## *Renewal of the annual contribution*

The contribution becomes due on May 31<sup>st</sup> of every year.

We take advantage of sending this bulletin, to invite those who are not exempted from this obligation (paid for several years, member for life, etc.) to make it as soon as possible.

You will find to facilitate the payment, a form as well as an envelope of return. You can take the opportunity to rise the Fund of development.

The names of those who will have acquitted their contribution shall appear in our next number.

**Thank you in advance**

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### *New members*

<b>NO</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Ending date</b>
1544	Mario Mercier	Pintendre	2012
1545	Fernande Mercier	Québec	2012
1546	Peggy Mercier-Picard	Québec	2012
1547	Donald Mercier	Québec	2012
1548	Denise Gagné	Québec	2012
1549	Huguette Gingras	Québec	2012

*Welcome to the new members*

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### **The Mercien 26-4...**

On the page 9 of this number, under the chronicle: good piece of news we made some errors; 1) Danaé, you noticed it at once is obviously a girl and not a boy, 2) in the case of Julien it is not the sex which is in question, but the name because his name is Julien Ouellette, the name of his father is undoubtedly Robert Ouellette. 3) furthermore we forgot Émile, son of Marie-Eve Robert and Nicolas Cantin (Dorys) born on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2011-04-09 and which the photo accompanies this text.



One thousand excuses

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### **Thanks to those who have renewed their annual suscription**

The following list contains the numbers and the names of the members the renewal of the contribution of which reached us between February 1<sup>st</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Ending date</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funds</b>
618	Thérèse Mercier	2011	25	
1252	Yvonne Nadeau	2011	25	
1361	Eugene Mercier			25
1498	Paul J. Mercier	2012	50	
704	Josette Mercier	2011	25	
Pub 5	Garage Clark	31-10 2011	50	
8	Pierre Mercier	2012	25	
Pub 4	Éric Mercier	2010	50	
1029	George H. Marshall	2012	25	25

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MERCIER OF NORTH AMERICA

## PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 27, 2011

- 9:00 to 10:00 am Welcoming and inscription
- 10:00 to 11:00 am Annual assembly
- 11:00 to 12:00 pm Subjet of discussion and presentation of the program of the afternoon
- 12:00 to 13:30 pm Dîner at the Vieux Shack (downtown)
- 13:30 to 16:00 pm Patrimonial visit guided with Serge Laliberté, historian
- 1) The cathedral and the house of culture of the *Vieux Palais*
  - 2) Claude Henri Grignon museum « histoire d'un homme et son péché » Séraphin
  - 3) Downtown ancestral house

\*\*\*\*\*

Cycling road of 200 km that start from the train station and available at no cost.

If some persons wish to visit the regional park of the river of the North with its falls and the old pulperie, the park offers to his visitors 34 km of paths, 20 km of cycle track

\*\*\*\*\*

All the opportunities are offered to those who want to prolong their stay (supper, to sleep etc.)

Hôtel Comfort Inn & Suite  
Tel. 450 438 8000, toll 1-800-438-8001  
258-8 de Martigny Ouest  
Saint-Jérôme, J7Y 2G4 Exit of autoroute 43 est.

Price for the rooms start at \$89.00 plus taxes for the night including a continental breakfast. Please, mention the code LMERC to obtain that price. HAVE A GOOD STAY.

### FOR THE CAMPERS

Lac Lafontaine Saint-Jérôme  
1100 Boul. du Grand-Héron  
Saint-Jérôme J5L 1G2  
tel. 450 431 7373 [www.laclafontaine.qc.ca](http://www.laclafontaine.qc.ca)

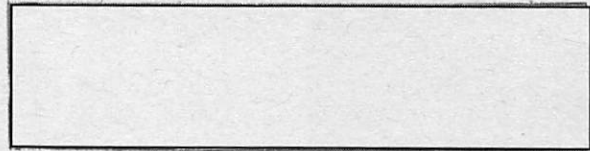
### How to get to Place de la Gare.

By the Laurentien Highway 1) direction north, highway 15, take out the 43, then continue 3 lights, cross the river of the North and right after that, turn to the right on the Labelle Street, in the fourth light, turn to the left on the Latour Street. Continue approximately 500 meters, you will find to the left a big public parking, free of charge on Saturdays. You are on Place de la Gare for the general assembly and the patrimonial visit.



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Numéro de la convention 40069967  
de la Poste-publication  
Retourner les blocs adresses à l'adresse suivante :  
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