



Le Mercien

La voix des Mercier d'Amérique

www.famillesmercier.org



Lévis

Champion of the Quality of Life

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

Name	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier *	Founding President of the 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
Ralph Mercier		Québec City (Charbesbourg), QC	2012

(*) décédé

Board of Directors for 2013-2014 and services of A.M.A.N.

Executive

President:	Jean Mercier (1524), St-Jérôme, tel.: (450) 432-3223	Email: « jean.mercier6@videotron.ca »
Vice-Pres:	Germain Nappert (1480), Boisbriand, tel.: (450) 437-1220	Email: « nappert@videotron.ca »
Secretary:	Jean Mercier (1), Québec, tel.: (418) 688-3092	Email: « jean_mercier@sympatico.ca »
Treasurer:	Suzanne Mercier (1126), St-Damien, tel.: (418) 789-2976	Email: « smercier2002@hotmail.ca »

Administrators

Archivist:	Gilmond Mercier (28), Sainte-Sabine, tel.: (418) 383-3441	Email: « gilmondm@sogetel.net »
	Jacques Mercier (341), St-Georges, tel.: (418) 228-5426	Email: « studiocimai@gmail.com »
	Laurent Mercier (1520), St-Hubert, tel.: (450) 678 5054	Email: « laurentmercier@ymail.com »

Services

Archives, Web site and Facebook :	Gilmond Mercier (28)
Webmaster :	Pascal Mercier (1568) Email: « pmercier@ubeo.ca »
Le Mercien :	Jean Mercier (1)
Genealogy :	Benoît Mercier (222) Email: « benoitbmercier@hotmail.com »
Translation :	Louis Bibeau, Jane Buskirk
Accounting verification :	Dyane Mercier (1611)

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 7th to the 10th 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.

Summary

The Word of the President.....	3
Message from the Mayor of Lévis.....	5
Lévis.....	6
A Return to the Chemin de la Ligne-Mercier.....	8
The Story of Grandmother's Apron.....	10
Pascal Mercier.....	11
The History of Anselme Prosper Mercier and Rose Bolduc.....	12
Members.....	13
Real Mercier.....	14
Let's encourage our sponsors!.....	16

Contact us: C.P. 10090, Québec, QC, G1V 4C6, Canada.

Email: mercier.aman@hotmail.com. Website: www.famillesmercier.org

A.M.A.N. is a member of the Fédération des associations de familles du Québec



The Word of the President

By Jean Mercier (1524), president

Greetings to all,
As mentioned in our previous newsletter **Le Mercien**, we are ready to welcome you to our General Assembly which will be held on next September 13 at Hôtel l'Oiselière of Lévis.

I mentioned at the time the importance of this assembly due to the financial losses accumulated over the past years. I would like to give you an idea of what could happen if we do not take this situation seriously. I mentioned in our newsletter **Le Mercien**, spring 2014, that:

- The number of members is decreasing.
- The members who have subscribed as Members for life at the beginning of our Association are in a losing situation since interest rates are very low.
- The cost of printing and shipping our newsletter **Le Mercien** increases continuously.

Here are the details of our financial losses, according to the financial statements of the past five years:

2008-2009	Deficit	▼	(516.00)
2009-2010	Profit	▲	917.00
2010-2011	Deficit	▼	(725.00)
2011-2012	Deficit	▼	(874.00)
2012-2013	Profit	▲	1125.00*



THE DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP EQUALS A LOSS OF REVENUE

In February 2014, we had 232 members in the following categories: 175 members paying an individual or family membership fee; 75 members with a life membership. For three (3) years now, we have been obliged to take money from the fund of our lifetime members and at this pace, in 6 or 7 years, we will be obliged to close the books and it will be the end of our association... unless we find ways of paying our operating costs. Do we have the means of continuing at this pace for long? Should we envisage an increase of our membership fees?

Basing ourselves on the 2012-2013 financial statement, which shows a revenue of 8434.00\$, and if we subtract the contribution of Loto Québec to the amount of 2664.00\$, we should have had a loss of (1539.00\$). **This represents a deficit of 9.80\$ per member.**

Below you will find the statement in detail:

Working document to calculate our membership fees

Total revenues as of June 30 2013	8434.00\$
Less the revenues from Loto Quebec (Lotomatique)	2664.00\$*
Net revenues for 2013	5770.00\$
Expenses for 2013	7309.00\$
Deficit for the year 2012-2013	(1539.99\$)
Total members as of February 2014	232
Number of Members for life and Commanders	75
Contributing members	157
Deficit of 1539.00\$ divided amongst 157 members	9.80\$

*Loto Quebec, in cancelling its Lotomatique program, paid us an inclusive amount of 2660.00\$, based on the amounts perceived over the past years. Ex.: In 2012, we had received 694.00\$. From now on, we can no longer count on this income to round up our budget.

Please note that the cost for the actual version of our Newsletter **Le Mercien** amounts to \$16.00 per year, per member, for the French version, and to \$45.00 for the English version. The costs for the layout, the printing, the translation of the English version and the shipping explains the high amounts disbursed for the production of our newsletter **Le Mercien**.

AMAN will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2015. If we wish to maintain the quality of **Le Mercien**

with 4 annual publications, the members will have to make a minimal financial effort.

I therefore suggest that the individual and family membership fees be increased by 10.00\$ for the coming year 2015-2016, passing respectively to 35.00\$ and 40.00\$. As far as concerns the members for life, a voluntary contribution would be greatly appreciated.

All this will be discussed at the general assembly, and if you have better alternatives, we are more than willing to listen to all propositions.

Jean Mercier 1524

President

Message from the Mayor of Lévis



I would like to wish a sincere welcome to the Association of the Mercier of North America which has chosen the City of Lévis to hold its 30th General Assembly.

The link between the Mercier and Lévis is engraved in the Lévis history since many years. In fact, in 1891, Napoléon Mercier founded the Manufacture de Scies de Lévis specialised in the manufacturing of saws and knives of all types. With the passing of time, the Saw factory became a leader in its field thanks to its products reputed across the nation.

In 1987, the company was sold under the name *Les Scies Mercier Inc*, thus leaving the name Mercier associated to the Old-Lévis since a little more than 100 years.

I wish you a good general assembly and a pleasant stay in our City.

The Mayor of Lévis,

Gilles Lehouillier

Lévis

The Association of the Mercier of North America will hold its annual assembly on next September 13 in one of the most dynamic cities of Quebec and Canada. Following is an article written by Ms. Christine Paré, published in the Immo section of the Journal de Québec in its November 30 2013 Saturday edition. She describes the milieu de vie of some 140 000 residents of this locality situated on the South Shore of Quebec City.

Lévis, a milieu to live Lévis, Champion of the Quality of Life



In many compilations and honours list, Lévis marks some points. Economic vitality, low unemployment rate, quality of life... so many factors that allow her to figure amongst the champions of cities where it is good to live.

In the course of the past years, Lévis has received the honours in many respects as regards the advantages she offers her residents. When one considers that employment is a dominant factor in the decision to establish oneself in a city, one understands straightaway why Lévis seduces. «In 2011, Lévis arrived as a good first as far as employment in Canada is concerned, with an unemployment rate of 4%, lower still than Quebec City, who was already showing a good stance with a rate of 4.7%», affirms Philippe Meurant, Director of the Direction du développement of the City of Lévis. Moreover, the population is composed of 70% of working citizens. This explains in part the vitality of the property market.

REPUTED INSTITUTIONS

The proximity of schooling establishments figures also on top of the list of priorities of the population. Lévis has what is needed to answer the demand.

«The Lévis campus of the Université du Québec à Rimouski figures amongst the most highly regarded learning establishments. The University notably forms accountants of a high calibre. To the UQAR can be added a CEGEP, private establishments of secondary education such as the Marcelle-Mallet School and the Collège de Lévis whose reputation is well established, and the great School Commission of the Navigateurs, reminds Mr. Meurant. Lévis can also count on the Hôtel-Dieu de Lévis which covers the entire sector of the Chaudière-Appalaches and all of Quebec for certain specialties. For exemple, it has at its disposition a hyperbaric chamber and is capable of receiving patients from the four corners of the province.

FEWER TAXES, AS MANY SERVICES

The City is very much determined to preserve its place of choice on the national checkerboard on the

economic plan and continues to encourage initiatives that allow her to offer an attractive milieu. On the fiscal plan, Lévis tries by all means to juggle the increases in taxes, sometimes necessary, with the maintaining of the quality of services offered to its citizens. And she meets her objectives, because one of the elements that tips the balance in her favor on the side of buyers is without doubt her low rate of taxes. «It is precisely due to her fiscal policies that Lévis is considered by many analysts as one of the better administered cities», says Mr. Meurant.

FOLLOWING THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION

«Lévis has attracted many new families over the past few years. It is good news, but the City is somewhat victim of her success, in the sense that the living areas are accompanied by an increase in road traffic. We must therefore support the housing sector by improving our infrastructures and by aiming to develop more durable means of mobility, such as the public transport system», admits Mr. Meurant. The City has therefore immediately implicated the Société de Transport de Lévis to create new circuits capable of responding in all points to the needs in transportation of the population. The City is challenged with the necessity to improve its sports and cultural installations to answer the needs of families. It is within this option that a two rink arena has been built in the sector of Saint-Romuald, that an inside soccer stadium is planned for Charny and that Saint-Étienne has given itself an Olympic skating rink.

HIGH QUALITY INSTALLATIONS, NO INCREASE IN TAXES

To offer as many new services and to invest such major sums in these types of infrastructures, one needs the financial means. «We did not wish to pass the bill to our citizens. We have therefore opened the door to strategic alliances with the private sector and created OSBLs for the administration of some of our installations. This innovative model has allowed us to propose to the population installations of high quality whose costs have finally not brought about any increase in taxes», reminds with pride Mr. Meurant.

ON TOP OF THE HONOURS LISTS



Over the past three years, Lévis has received many honours in various recognized Honours lists.

- 5th rank in 2013 as the **best place in Canada to raise a family**. (*Canada's Best Places to Live, Money Sense, 2013*)
- 1st rank in Canada in 2006 and in 2011 for the **lowest rate of unemployment** amongst the 50 largest cities in Canada. (*Enquête nationale auprès des ménages 2011, Statistique Canada, et Étude du Conference Board sur l'attractivité des villes, 2010*): the creation of jobs is there (some 1500 to 1750 jobs per year).
- 5th rank for the **highest rate of working population** in Canada amongst the 50 largest cities of Canada. (*Enquête nationale auprès des ménages 2011, Statistique Canada*)
- 2nd rank in Quebec and 13th rank in Canada for the **quality of life** of 180 Canadian cities studied (*Canada's Best Places to Live, Money Sense, 2011*)
- 1st rank for the **facility of access to property in proportion to family revenue** (*Étude du Conference Board sur l'attractivité des villes, 2010*)
- 3rd rank amongst the **most secure cities** of 100 other cities in Canada (*The Most Dangerous Cities in Canada, Money Sense, 2010*)



A Return to the Chemin de la Ligne-Mercier

We have already published a few articles concerning the above subject. The present newsletter informs us that faced with the refusal of the Municipality of St-Roch-de-l'Achigan to maintain the actual name of the road in question, the matter will be further studied by the Commission de toponymie du Québec and a decision will be rendered in September. Robert Mercier, one of our members (#660), in a letter addressed to the Mayor of St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, restates the importance of maintaining the actual road name.



Terrebonne, June 2 2014

Mr. Georges Locas, Mayor
Municipality of Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan
2 rue du Docteur-Wilfrid-Locat
Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan QC J0K 3H0

Mister Mayor,

My name is Robert Mercier. Unable to be present at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on June 2 2014, I forward to you this letter which translates my point of view on the file entitled *Chemin de la Ligne-Mercier*.

I was born in the Rang-Rivière-Sud, in Saint-Roch-Ouest, and was baptized in the parish church of Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan. My mother gave birth at home, as it was done in those days, assisted by Doctor Wilfrid Locat. I lived my childhood and attended my primary school at School #1 in Saint-Roch-Ouest. In order to pursue my studies, I had to physically leave Saint-Roch but my heart remained attached to the locality since all the members of my family lived there. My grand-father, Gélas Mercier, having established his five sons on Rang-Rivière-Sud and my mother bearing the name of Gariépy, of Ruisseau-des-Anges, I felt somewhat related with the whole of Saint-Roch. Add to those family members the families of the two sisters of my father, the Racette family, equally established in Rang-Rivière-Sud, and the Gagnon family of Ruisseau-des-Anges. All these families count hundreds of descendants who today live in Saint-Roch or its surroundings.

Since my early childhood, I always knew that there was a road called Ligne-Mercier without knowing exactly where it started nor where it finished. I had kept in my memory that it was a road particularly borrowed by the owners of woodlands who would go out to cut wood in the winter. This road was sleeping peacefully in my unconsciousness until the beginning of the year 2014 when I was informed that it was about to disappear. I was invited to sign a petition requesting that the name not be changed... I signed a little mechanically. I must say however that since that time, the various communications received, those of the Association of the Mercier of North America, of the Commission de toponymie du Québec, the communications received from the Committee to maintain the name Chemin de la Ligne-Mercier and a few ar-



articles published in various newspapers have entirely convinced me that this is a noble cause which merits to be defended to its very end.

For me, the major argument remains that the name exists since 1864, without doubt one of the most ancient rang and road names of Saint-Roch. This name translates an important page of history that cannot be erased under a pretext of modernity or uniformity. This situation reminds me of a similar event which happened a few years ago in the city of Terrebonne where I now live. I relate from memory the events that follow without any historical precision. The main artery which crosses the city from north to south carries many names: Boulevard Moody, Chemin Gascon, Boulevard Laurier and also Route 337. One day, the city's Municipal Council wanted to standardize and modernize this commercial artery by voting a resolution to give it a sole and unique name. The Moody family, who were losing their name on the smallest section of this artery, protested vividly and the council abandoned the idea. The names remained as before and this reconsideration was not catastrophic for the team in place since the Robitaille team was re-elected in full at the following elections. End of the anecdote.

Mr. Mayor, I dare to insist and ask you to reconsider your decision to change the name of *Chemin de la Ligne-Mercier*. You and the members of your council have the opportunity to correct as of now an historical mistake on the verge of being committed and which sooner or later will have to be corrected. You will have the merit of having contributed to the respect of a page of our history which has a value superior to all the other things that take away the soul and the human values in a municipality. We all have a duty to remember.

When I was young, my father and his brothers were giants for me. Henry, Téléphore, Gélas, Joseph and Alfred proudly carried their name MERCIER. These proud people, all very active in their community, rest in the cemetery of Saint-Roch with my grand-father Gélas Mercier. I have the firm conviction that they would support without reserve the course of action undertaken by the committee. It is because I recognize the value of this action that I officially support it. I express the wish that you and your council will be challenged by this request and that the committee will not give up until it has attained its fixed objective.

Please accept, Mr. Mayor, my respectful greetings.

Robert Mercier

1000 rue Saint-Antoine
Terrebonne QC J6W 1P3
Tel. 450-471-7079

Email address: robert.mercier@videotron.ca

c. c.
Mr. Alain Lafortune
Mr. Luc Hamelin
Mr. Normand Lecavalier
Ms. Carole Brisebois Vendette
Mr. Normand Renaud
Mr. Serge Villemaire
Mr. Philippe Riopelle

The Story of Grandmother's Apron



The main purpose of Grandmother's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but besides that, it served as a glove to withdraw a burning-hot frying pan from the oven; it was marvellous to wipe the tears of children, and on certain occasions, to wipe dirty little faces.

From the chicken coop, the apron served to carry the eggs, the little chicks to reanimate, and sometimes, the cracked eggs that ended up in the oven.

When visitors arrived, the apron served as a hideout for timid children; and, when the temperature was cool, Grandmother used it to wrap her arms.

This good old apron was used as a bellow to agitate over the wood fire. It is he who would transport the potatoes and the dry wood up to the kitchen.

From the garden, it served as a basket for numerous vegetables.

After the picking of the little green peas, it was the turn of the cabbages. At the end of the season, it was used to pick up the apples fallen from the tree.

When visitors arrived unannounced, it was surprising to see with what speed the old apron could make the dust disappear.

When it was time to serve the meals, Grandmother would go on the porch to shake her apron, and the men in the field immediately knew that it was time to come to the table.

Grandmother also used it to place the apple pie, just out of the oven, on the window sill so that it could cool off; while in our days, her granddaughter places it there to unfreeze.

It will take many long years before someone invents some object which will be able to replace this good old apron which served for so many purposes.

*Author : Francine ANDREOLETTI, L'Echo d'Oranie
Creation "Bibiane Grenier" legrenierdebibiane.com*

Pascal Mercier

A greatly appreciated volunteer



The administrators of the Association of the Mercier of North America wish to underline in a particular manner the work accomplished by **Pascal Mercier** #1568, programmer, who since a few years, voluntarily takes care of our association's Internet site: www.famillesmercier.org

The site was opened in November 2009 by Benoît Mercier #222 and René Morissette. In computer science, technologies rapidly become outdated. Thus, in the last year, our blog has become vulnerable to attacks by computer hackers who would insert malware files on our server. Thanks to the competence of **Pascal**, the situation has been corrected without the association having to invest hundreds of dollars to create a new site.

Pascal is director and co-owner of **UBÉO Solutions Web Company** which offers «a key in hand service responding to the new realities of the world of communications Web 2.0, plus a service of matchless quality. New technologies, mobile applications, social media and optimization of search engines are some of the services offered by the team in order to improve the performance of their customers in communication-marketing on the web. With a special emphasis on listening to the needs of its customers and aiming to insure the friendly navigation of the internaut, UBÉO distinguishes itself by its efficient and totally personalized interfaces.» www.ubeo.ca

*Thank you, **Pascal**, for supporting the Association of the Mercier of North America in spite of your numerous family and professional responsibilities.*

The History of Anselme Prosper Mercier and Rose Bolduc

My great-grandmother Rose Bolduc sits on the left, in the centre my great aunt Joséphine and then my great uncle Charles.



My great aunt Joséphine was pregnant with Sébastien and Eusèbe. She died on December 30 1906. Sébastien died on the 31 of December 1906 in Ste-Agathe. Both were buried on January 2 1907 in Ste-Agathe.

Eusèbe died in Germany during the Second World War. He was with the American army.

My great-grandfather Anselme Prosper Mercier died on August 29 1903 at the age of 62. My great-grandmother Rose stayed with my grandfather Joseph Marcellin Mercier in Rang 12 in Ste-Agathe until her death on December 23 1922, at the age of 83.

Aunty Rita told me that in spite of her advanced age of 89, her grandmother Rose used to rock her in the rocking chair every day. She also told me that her grandmother was a very soft person; Rita was 4 years old when her grandmother died.

My great-grandparents are both buried in the Cemetery of Ste-Agathe, behind the church, next to the fence. My great-grandmother Rose Bolduc poses with my grandmother Virginie Naud and my grandfather Joseph Marcellin Mercier.

My grandfather had 15 children. 2 children with Olivine Lamontagne, and 13 with my grandmother. The little boy standing next to grandfather is my father Antoine Mercier. Grandfather and grandmother both died and were buried in Ste-Agathe.

Laurent Mercier



Welcome to the new members!

NO	NAME	DATE	ADDRESS
1609	Claude Mercier	2014	Saint-Hyacinthe
1610	Liliane Mercier	2014	Edmonton, ALB
1611	Dyane Mercier	2014	Buckland
1612	Jean-Pierre Mercier	2014	St-Étienne-de-Lauzon

Thanks to our members for their loyalty and generosity

NO	NOM	ADDRESS	DON.
1596	Julien Mercier	St-Jacques de Leeds, QC	
1563	Maurice Mercier	Plainfield, N.-H	25 \$
151	Gérard J. Mercier	Longueuil, QC	
1482	Madeline Ernest	Warren, R.I.	
1522	Doris Ferrara	Warren, R.I.	
1465	Diane Mercier Lécuyer	Anjou, QC	25 \$
93	Lionel Mercier & Alice Béland	Victoriaville, QC	
945	Georges Clément Mercier & Rita Doyon	Sainte-Marie, QC	10 \$
1525	Nicole Mercier	Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, QC	
317	Jacques Mercier	Nicolet, QC	
1480	Germain Nappert	Boisbriand, QC	
1571	Rollande Mercier	Victoriaville, QC	
1321	Huguette Desfossés	Gatineau, QC	
1469	Raymond Mercier	Laval, QC	
935	J. Norbert Mercier	Clendora, CA	
	Aline Malenfant	Saint-Alexandre-de-Kamouraska, QC	
	Jean-Rock Mercier	Lac-Mégantic, QC	
1573	Aurèle Mercier	Sainte-Marie, QC	
706	Yves Mercier & Nicole Morin	Sainte-Sabine, QC	
208	Gaston Mercier	Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC	
	Germain & Nancy Marcoux	Floride	
861	Robert Mercier	Étang-du-Nord, QC	
	Yvon Mercier	Montmagny, QC	
	Napoléon Mercier	Louisville, USA	
1391	Jean-Charles Mercier & Réjeanne Létourneau	Saint-Hyacinthe, QC	50 \$
618	Thérèse Mercier	Edmonton, ALB	
156	Napoléon Mercier (Paul)	Dosquet, QC	
9	Madeleine Mercier Talbot	Québec, QC	
1271	Carmelle Mercier	Notre-Dame-de-Montauban, QC	
321	Guy Mercier	Cap-Saint-Ignace, QC	10 \$
625	Dary Mercier	Gaspé, QC	15 \$
261	Rosélia Mercier Laliberté	Brossard, QC	
29	Jean-Rock Mercier	Lac-Mégantic, QC	
1573	Aurèle Mercier	Sainte-Marie, QC	
23	Raymond Mercier	Montmagny, QC	
473	Maurice Mercier	Montréal, QC	
35	Claudine Mercier	Québec, QC	

1921-2014



At the Saint-Sacrement Hospital on May 31 2014, at the age of 93 and 4 months, **R al Mercier** beloved husband of No lla Lalibert  passed away. He was the son of the late Alcide Mercier and the late Diana Valli re. R al was the brother of Beno t, a permanent member of AMAN. Numerous other members of this family **were or are** equally members of our association:

Brothers/Sisters: Beno t, Armandine 419, Julien 536, Rodrigue 1425, Ros lia 361.

Nephews/Nieces: Claude 302, Dorys 87, Ga tan 679, Nicole 608.

Cousins : Paul 109, Jean-Marc 128, Marguerite 333, Rita 289, Ulric 356, Viateur 1542.

As for the deceased : his **brothers** Roger, R al, Ulric and Estelle Dion, spouse of the late Paul-Eug ne as well as **cousins** Jean-Paul and Yvette.

Although not frequent, other families are equally well represented in the midst of AMAN. It is however a little aberrant that we use this notice of death to underline such a point.

R al, during his lifetime, was honored by the Governor General of Canada who awarded him the **Prix d'entraide**. You will find at the end of the obituary the text written by Alain Bouchard which appeared in the Le Soleil newspaper on this occasion and which was published in our newsletter Le Mercien some years ago.

Article from Le Mercien, vol.19, no 4 :

This is the story of a volunteer decorated by the Governor General of Canada for his many years of devoted community work and also the story of a young girl's love for her grandfather.

This text has been written in English by E.A.N. Mercier of Somers, Ct., USA. It is inspired by an article published last September by Alain Bouchard in the Quebec City daily Le Soleil.

Catherine Cantin, a professor of English, is a twenty-six year old member of the Canada Naval Reserve, Real Mercier, is her 82-year-old grandfather.

Doris, the oldest of four children of Real, is Catherine's' mother and she herself is a social worker who gives much of her time as a hospice worker to those terminally ill at Maison Michel-Sarrazin, what we know as a nursing home for terminal patients.

Last spring, Catherine secretly undertook the long process of enrolling her grandfather as a candidate for the Mutual Aide Award from the Governor General of Canada and provided details, authentications

and commendations from various organizations.

Here is his story.

Real Mercier, from Saint-Henri-de-L vis, began his charitable work at about the time he moved to Saint-Sauveur in Quebec to become a meat cutter (butcher) at age 22... «The Butcher Shop» as he tells it, «was located in the Halles Saint-Pierre and later became Centre Durocher after a fire destroyed the Halles. Poor people used to come for scraps. We soon organized a system for an emergency food supply, thanks to our very understanding boss».

A lot of knowledge

In some ways this could be considered the forerunner of the mobile soup kitchen of today where Real has been the delivery man for its products for the last eighteen years. Not only does he provide his vehicle but he also pays for the fuel used. In other words he pays to be charitable.

«What I find extraordinary about this man is that he

is so knowledgeable with so little formal schooling », says his granddaughter. Perhaps his knowledge comes from the School of Hard Knocks as the old folks say, has made this son of a farmer successful in spite of not having completed his seventh year of schooling nor any High School. At that time, where he lived out in the country, that was not so bad. «However» says Real, «even if I had little formal education, I have a lot of common sense. My parents taught me right from wrong and to love my neighbor. They taught the same thing to my nine siblings.»

Real Mercier is one of the drivers of these mobile soup kitchens, which is operated by Sister Lise Bouchard of the Sisters of Notre Dame. We know them as Meals on Wheels. There are fifteen drivers who deliver fifteen to twenty meals, which take two hours to deliver.

The week is not yet over for our silent hero. He is also involved with the Golden Agers Association of Saint-Malo, which he helped to organize. He is also treasurer of the Old Timers' Bowling league in the section where he has his own house.

All of this after having been a member of committees at the school and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

He was also on the administration council for the Bank of Saint-Malo. When asked how many community organizations he is involved with he says, «I don't have enough fingers to count them all.»

Real Mercier began working at fifteen years of age. He was a meat cutter (butcher), north of Mistassini a few years later. «With the little education I had I was obligated to accept any job I was offered.» Says he, «But I can't envision having been something other than what I was. I had confidence that life would take me where I should be.»

Words of a happy man, a man at peace with himself he assures us, but also the words of a churchgoer. He says, «I offer my opinions if they ask and I have confidence in destiny, but before making a judgment I listen attentively.»

Real Mercier says he has been lucky in life without any grave problems in his family. His parents both deceased, at almost the same age, of eighty and a half which was very rare at that time.


The man says that social injustice is a disgrace, but he is not ready to condemn the system. He has found through the years that help is available everywhere and probably sufficient everywhere. «However,» he says. «Unfortunately, many who need help are too disorganized to take advantage of the help which is available. That's the problem. The inability to search for assistance for themselves. Help is out there but they are not aware of it, or they can not do it by themselves. Understand it's not their fault.»

When we contacted Real Mercier for the interview he said that the media coverage following the award was more than he expected and, he explains, «I have seen enough people in need in my life that I have learned modesty. There are many people like myself, but they are simple not know»

«Even without a lot of education, I have learned much.» says Real Mercier. «My parents taught me how to live life and to love my neighbor.»

Translation by E.A.N. Mercier Somers, Ct.

Let's encourage our sponsors!



RE/MAX
RE/MAX CAPITALE
 Courtier immobilier agréé
 Franchisé indépendant et autonome
 de REMAX QUÉBEC INC.

Éric Mercier
 Agent immobilier affilié
 7385, boul. Henri-Bourrassa
 Québec, (Qc) G1H 3E5
Bur.: 418 627-3120
Cell.: 418 955-7555
Fax : 418 627-3222
 Courriel : ericmercier1@yahoo.ca



L'oiseleire
 HÔTELS

Exotisme et raffinement

Montmagny	Lévis	Saint-Nicolas
1 418 248-1640	1 418 830-0878	1 418 831-1331
1 800 540-1640	1 866 830-0878	1 877 431-1331

www.oiseleire.com

AVAILABLE PUBLICITY SPACE

AVAILABLE PUBLICITY SPACE

Pascal Mercier
 Copropriétaire
 Directeur web

pmercier@ubeo.ca
 T. 418 221-7688 poste 232
 F. 418-227-7801



355, 138^e Rue, St-Georges
 (Québec) G5Y 2M8 www.ubeo.ca



**RALPH
 MERCIER**
 Vice-Président
 DÉVELOPPEMENT

805, de Nemours, Charlesbourg
 Québec (Qc) G1H 6Z5

Bureau : 418 - 622-7537 www.royal-lepage.qc.ca



Les Résidences
Chambertin

Sylvain Mercier, *propriétaire*

819 293-4369
 chambertin@sogetel.net

242, boul. Louis-Fréchette
 NICOLET, Québec
 J3T 1V5

AVAILABLE PUBLICITY SPACE

