



# Le Mercien

*The Voice of the Merciers of North America*

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*For the first time, l'Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord will go to the town of Thetford Mines. Please come in large numbers and discover this beautiful Quebec region.*



Source : Photothèque Le Soleil

**THE LAC D'AMIANTE MINE AT  
SAINT-JOSEPH-DE-COLERAINE**

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## HONOUR ROLL – GOVERNORS OF THE MERCIER ASSOCIATION

Name	Member no.	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier *	32	Founding President of the A.M.A.N	Québec, QC	1997
Pierre-Paul Mercier *	19	Administration	St-Lambert, QC	2000
Louis Mercier	52	Actuary	St-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC	2000
Pierre Mercier	73	Engineering	St-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC	2000
Suzanne Mercier	74	Commerce	Montréal, QC	2000
Christine Mercier	75	Teaching	Québec, QC	2000
Charles Mercier	76	Engineering	Québec, QC	2000
Alain Mercier *	77	Communications	Québec, QC	2000
Lucienne Mercier-Croteau *	988	Teaching	Bonnyville, AB	2001
Ralph Mercier	1151	Administration	Québec (Charlesbourg), QC	2012

(\*) décédé(e)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2016-2017 AND SERVICES OF THE MERCIER ASSOCIATION

Board Members	Name	Member no.	Residence	Telephone	Email
President:	Jacques Mercier	341	St-Georges	(418) 228-5426	studiocimai@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Germain Nappert	1480	Boisbriand	(450) 437-1220	nappert@videotron.ca
Secretary:	Aurèle Mercier	1573	Ste-Marie	(418) 387-5079	andreegm007@outlook.com
Treasurer:	Lise St-André	1572	Ste-Madeleine	(450) 795-3853	famillesmercier1985@gmail.com
Administrators	Gilmond Mercier	28	Ste-Sabine	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
	Jean Mercier	1524	St-Jérôme	(450) 432-3223	jean.mercier6@videotron.ca
	Mario Mercier	1544	Québec	(418) 903-4752	mario.mercier@bell.net
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Archives, Web site and Facebook:		28	Gilmond Mercier	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
Webmaster:		1568	Pascal Mercier	(418) 221-7688	pmercier@ubeo.ca
Newsletter Le Mercien:		28	Gilmond Mercier	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
Newsletter Le Mercien:		1572	Lise St-André	(450) 795-3853	STAL12@yahoo.ca
Genealogy:		222	Benoît Mercier	(418) 623-0833	benoitbmercier@hotmail.com
Proofreading:		28	Céline Chabot	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
Translation:		337	Lucie Mercier		merccamp@gmail.com
Audit:		210	Denise Mercier		denisemercier@videotron.qc.ca

### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017-2018

**Annual fees are due before May 31st of each year**

<b>Annually :</b>	<b>\$35/1 Year \$65/2 Years</b>
<b>Annually + spouse(s) :</b>	<b>\$40/1 Year \$75/2 Years</b>
<b>Governor</b>	<b>\$1 000</b>

*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 Mercien. We are proud to perpetuate that name today.

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Opinions expressed in the published articles belong exclusively to their authors. The fact that they are published in this newsletter does not mean that the Association agrees with or supports them.

**Email : [famillesmercier1985@gmail.com](mailto:famillesmercier1985@gmail.com) - Website : [www.famillesmercier.org](http://www.famillesmercier.org)**  
**L'Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord is a member of the Fédération Histoire Québec**

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Greetings to you all!

It is now membership renewal time for our association for the year 2017-2018. I hope that you will respond well to this invitation. It is also time for you to register for our annual gathering, scheduled for September 9 and 10 in Thetford Mines. The Board is working hard to make this event a huge success.

Our gathering will take place over two days and we have negotiated a special rate of \$141.59 per night, taxes and breakfast included, with the Comfort Inn of Thetford Mines. One block of 20 rooms is at our disposal, but reservations must be made **before JULY 20, 2017**. You must mention that you are part of the Mercier family group and give the group reservation number: 2944212. The hotel's telephone number is 418-338-0171.

On Saturday afternoon, September 9, there will be a bus tour of the region of Saint-Adrien-d'Irlande, Vimy Ridge and the Lac d'Amiante mine (site of the highway 112 collapse). Back in Black Lake, we will unveil a historical interpretation plaque at Mon-Oncle-Antoine Park, on Lac-Noir street. We will then visit streets where some Mercier ancestors lived in that town and in Thetford Mines. By around 5.00pm, we will be back at the Comfort Inn and everybody will be FREE to have dinner where they wish.

On Sunday September 10, the annual general meeting will be held in downtown Thetford Mines, at the Parish Centre, which has become the St-Alphonse Seniors' Hall. The meeting will be followed by a short talk of about 30 minutes on the following theme: "The Lac-Noir Great Fire - 40 Years Ago Already". Following the talk, an excellent lunch will be served. In the afternoon, a guide from the Musée minéralogique et minier will take us on a visit to the Bell and King-Beaver mines



aboard the "LABMOBILE" bus. Afterwards, we will go to Black Lake for a most interesting exploration. Our visit will end at the top of the new KB3 tower, where we will have a glass of wine together.

Please complete the registration form carefully. Tell us exactly which of the various activities you will attend and your choice for the main course at lunch. The \$55 cost per person covers the various activities, the Sunday lunch and bus rides. We thank you in advance for indicating your choices clearly.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge our volunteers who support the Board Members in their work. Thanks to their involvement, we can function efficiently. I wish to mention first the great availability of our translator Ms. Lucie Mercier and her husband Mr. Ian Campbell, as well as Ms. Denise Mercier, who audits our books. We must not forget the support we get for the management of our website from Pascal Mercier, Co-Owner of *Ubéo solutions web* from Saint-Georges. Finally, our special thanks also go to Mr. Louis Bibeau, a great friend of your association, who translated *Le Mercien* for several years.

We will be very happy to welcome you to our annual general meeting in September and to our association, and particularly if you are new members. Enjoy reading this issue of *Le Mercien* and please pass on a paper or digital version of it to your relatives.

Jacques Mercier n° 341, President

# Schedule For the 2 Days

SEPTEMBER 9 and 10, 2017

**32<sup>nd</sup> GATHERING**  
of l'Association des MERCIER  
de l'Amérique du Nord  
*Thetford Mines*

Hours	SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9	Mode of transport	Place
1:00 PM	<b>Arrival at Musée minéralogique et minier</b> 711, boul. Frontenac Ouest (Highway 112)		Museum
2:00 PM	<b>Museum Visit</b>		Museum
3:00 PM	<b>Mercier Historic Sites Tour</b>	<b>Bus</b>	Tour
5:00 PM	<b>Dinner (not included)</b>		Any place
Hours	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10	Mode of transport	Place
7:00 AM	<b>Breakfast (included with the hotel room)</b> 123 Boul. Frontenac Ouest (Highway 112)		Hotel
8:30 AM	<b>Arrival at Parish Centre - Thetford Mines</b> 44, rue Saint-Alphonse Sud (Highway 267)	<b>By car</b>	Parish Centre
9:30 AM	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>		Parish Centre
10:45 AM	<b>Mini-Conference</b>		Parish Centre
11:30 AM	<b>Lunch (included in the \$55 package)</b>		Parish Centre
13:30 PM	<b>Visit to the King Mine Historical Centre</b>	<b>LABMOBILE BUS</b>	Tour
15:45 PM	<b>Cocktail at the top of the KB3</b>		The observatory
16:15 PM	<b>Return to the hotel</b>	<b>On foot / By car</b>	Hotel

*Hoping to see you all!*

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## IN “WHITE GOLD” COUNTRY

*As we have chosen the Thetford Mines region for our 2017 Gathering, allow me the pleasure of introducing you to this area where I was born. The word “ASBESTOS” scares people nowadays because it is synonymous with cancer and death. Since 1975, medical studies, including from Mount Sinai in the United States, have shown that prolonged exposure to asbestos was deadly for hundreds of workers. The history of asbestos goes back a little more than 125 years, from 1882 to 2012.*

### A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

The discovery of asbestos occurred in the same period as that of “DES PAYS D'EN HAUT” (North of Montreal), that most of us are rediscovering in the new broadcast of Claude-Henri Grignon’s story about a life full of hardship, an uneducated people left to their own devices and as always, with some people exploiting others and using any means available to profit from them. Following the conquest, French-Canadians were used as good workers, good labourers, not educated or rich enough to become BOSSES. In Sainte-Adèle, we talk about the English and the Americans as owning the best lands, but in Mégantic County, it was the Irish and the Scottish, as well as some Craig militia men who eventually spread out to other townships named as: Ireland, Leeds, Inverness, Nelson, Somerset and Thetford.

Until 1807, Mégantic County remained a vast hunting and fishing territory for the Abénakis from Bécancour and Saint-François-du-Lac, as well as for Americans, and Quebecers from Beauce and elsewhere in the province. Several villages were then teeming with activities and were prosperous. Saint-Ferdinand (Halifax), founded in 1832, had a hospital since 1872; St-

Adrien (Irlande) had a good-sized population and its priest, Father d'Auteuil, used to perform religious services once a month in Kingsville (Thetford-Mines), founded in 1878. St-Julien (Wolfetown) was prosperous, and Coleraine, Disraeli and Garthby were well known. Maple Grove, near Saint-Ferdinand, was at the crossroads to significant towns, such as Craig, Arthabaska, Gosford, Mégantic and Dudswell. In the other direction, through Beauce, the Kennebec road has linked Quebec City with Boston since 1831.

In Quebec City, the Parliament Building was under construction (1876), Timothy Eaton, an Irishman, had founded the T. Eaton stores (1869), the Canadian National Bank had just got its charter in 1873 and that same year, Prince-Edward-Island had joined our Confederation, which was already 6 years old.

From 1873 to 1896, the world suffered a serious economic crisis. Salaries in Quebec City dropped from \$1.50 to 50c. a day in 1876. Free trade between the United States and Canada ended in 1879, when customs tariffs were imposed. The United States even passed protectionist measures, which explains why asbestos producers from our area were finding it difficult to sell their products and had to turn toward England during their first years of operation. President Trump was not in power in 1879, but history seems to be repeating itself.

In 1882, when the first asbestos mine opened in Desjardins (Black Lake), practically the whole territory between St-Ferdinand and the present site of Black Lake was settled along the roads labelled Rang IV, V, VI, and VII. A few French-Canadian families were starting to venture into Anglo-Saxon areas.

There were for example amongst others the Proulx, Croteau, Grégoire, Boisvert and Simoneau families. After the opening of the Irwin and Hopper mine, several citizens from St-Ferdinand d'Halifax, as well as from St-Frédéric de Beauce, Kingsville (Thetford) and St-Adrien d'Irlande, came and founded a village which would become the city of Black Lake, now called Thetford Mines.

Robert Grant Ward claimed the honour of discovering “cotton rock” on his lot 27 in Rang V in Thetford township in 1876. However, tradition assigns that honour to Joseph Fecteau, who is said to have found it on Mr. Ward’s property.

Mr. Ward first consulted academics from Quebec City who did not see “any commercial value” for asbestos, but he remained skeptical and unsatisfied. He obtained from Boston a much more positive response and he rushed from then on to acquire the mining concessions on his lot.

He paid \$218 for 218 acres of land on lot 27 and that same year, he resold half of that to Boston Asbestos, which would become Bell Asbestos in Thetford Mines, for the sum of

\$4000. The Ward brothers had neighbours, the Johnson brothers and the King brothers, who used to be lumber merchants, but they decided to start investing in the mining sector. That is how a new industry was born and from 1880 to 1929 and again from 1946 to 1963, asbestos became the most important mineral substance in Quebec for its commercial value, the number of jobs created and the salaries paid.

In conclusion, around the end of the economic crisis of 1896, there was an exodus to the United States, the North of Montreal and the Abitibi region for a good number of Quebecers in search of a better life. The discovery of asbestos launched a RUSH to the Eastern Townships. Around the same time in Quebec City, the Premier for a short period was HONORÉ MERCIER, a descendant from the ancestor JULIEN, through his son JEAN.

***Jacques Mercier***  
**2017**

*Excerpts adapted from Dr Clément Fortier’s books, Black Lake Lac d’amiante 1882-1982, tome 1 and tome 2, 1986.*



Andréanne Boucher 2014 - Creative Commons 4.0 (by-nc-nd)

**Lac d'amiante Mine**  
**Conveyor Belt**  
**Musée minéralogique et**  
**minier de Thetford**  
**Mines.**

**Municipality of**  
**Saint-Joseph-de-**  
**Coleraine**

**Date of construction**  
**1955 – 1958**

**Dates of production**  
**1958 – 2012**

*Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord*  
560, rue Desbiens, Sainte-Madeleine (Québec) J0H 1S0

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal (Zip) code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Member N<sup>o</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of adult(s) **\$55\*** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*The package covers: the 2 guided bus tours, a brief talk, a social drink with the group, a raffle ticket as well as Sunday lunch, taxes and gratuities included.*



**• I WILL TAKE PART IN THE GUIDED BUS TOUR ON:**

**Saturday September 9** YES  No. of person(s) \_\_\_\_\_ NO   
*Mercier Historic Sites Tour*

**Sunday September 10** YES  No. of person(s) \_\_\_\_\_ NO   
*King Mine Historical Centre*

**• I WILL ATTEND THE LUNCHEON:**



**Sunday September 10** YES  No. of person(s) \_\_\_\_\_ NO

- MENU CHOICE:**
- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Penne with vegetables and rosée sauce  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fish fillet with rice and vegetables   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chicken kebab with rice and vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### MEETING PLACES:

**Saturday September 9 at 1:00pm**

**Place:** Musée minéralogique et minier  
**Address:** 711 Boul. Frontenac Ouest (Highway 112), Thetford Mines (QC)

**Sunday September 10 at 8:30am**

**Place:** Parish Centre  
**Address:** 44, rue Saint-Alphonse Sud (Highway 267), Thetford Mines, (QC)

Our gathering will take place over two days and we have negotiated a special rate of \$141.59 per night, taxes and breakfast included, with the Comfort Inn of Thetford Mines. One block of 20 rooms is at our disposal, but reservations must be made **before JULY 20, 2017**. You must mention that you are part of the Mercier family group and give the group reservation number: **2944212**.

**Place:** HOTEL COMFORT INN THETFORD MINES  
**Address:** 123, Boul. Frontenac Ouest (Highway 112), Thetford Mines, (QC)  
**Telephone:** (418) 338-0171

## GATHERING

### OF THE MERCIERS In

### Thetford Mines

**On September 9-10,**

**2017**

**COST : \$55 / ADULT**



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jacques Mercier, President  
at (418) 228-5426  
(Saint -Georges)  
or write to  
[studiocimai@gmail.com](mailto:studiocimai@gmail.com)



# Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord

560, rue Desbiens, Sainte-Madeleine (Québec) J0H 1S0 - Tel.: 450-795-3853

Email : famillesmercier1985@gmail.com

## ANNUAL FEES

**For all members, annual fees are due on May 31 of each year.**

Regular fee as an individual:

\$ 35 / 1 Year

or

\$ 65 / 2 Years

Regular fee with spouse:

\$ 40 / 1 Year

or

\$ 75 / 2 Years



**For all members, annual fees are due on May 31 of each year.**

Please make your cheque payable to: Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord and forward it with this completed form to the following address:

**ASSOCIATION DES MERCIER DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD  
560, RUE DESBIENS, SAINTE-MADELEINE (QUÉBEC) J0H 1S0 CANADA**

\_\_\_\_\_ \* Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST AND LAST NAME

\_\_\_\_\_ \* Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST AND LAST NAME OF SPOUSE

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal (Zip) code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Member N<sup>o</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal                       New member                       Voluntary contribution                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose my fee as an individual:                      \$ 35/1 Year                       \$ 65/2 Years                       \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose my fee as a member with spouse:                      \$ 40/1 Year                       \$ 75/2 Years                       \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to receive the newsletter "**Le Mercien**":                      by mail                       **by Email**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\* To improve our genealogical database.



## Renewal of membership fees - Donations - Life Memberships [as of June 19, 2017]

Member no.	Name	City - Province/State	Fees	Donations	Expiry Date May 31
93	Lionel Mercier & Alice Béland	Victoriaville QC	\$40.00	\$10.00	2018
180	Guy Dubé	Saint-Pacôme QC	\$35.00		2018
317	Jacques Mercier	Nicolet QC	\$35.00		2018
341	Jacques Mercier & Carole Morin	Sainte-Georges QC	\$40.00		2018
530	Jacinthe Mercier	Québec QC	\$35.00		2018
578	Émilie Mercier	Rivière-aux-Renards - Gaspé QC	\$35.00		2018
618	Thérèse Mercier	Edmonton AB	\$65.00		2019
900	Lise Mercier	Québec QC	\$35.00		2018
935	J.-Norbert Mercier	California USA	\$35.00		2018
945	Georges-Clément Mercier	Sainte-Marie - Beauce QC	\$65.00	\$15.00	2019
1306	Anne-Marie Mercier	Saint-Sauveur QC	\$35.00		2019
1321	Huguette Desfossé	Gatineau QC	\$65.00		2019
1460	Gisèle Mercier	Montréal QC	\$35.00		2018
1461	Sylvie Mercier	Saint-Damien QC	\$35.00		2018
1465	Diane Mercier-Lécuyer	Anjou QC	\$35.00	\$15.00	2018
1480	Germain Nappert	Boisbriand QC	\$35.00		2018
1563	Maurice Mercier	New Hampshire USA	\$35.00		2018
1614	Claude et Annette Dupuis	Pabos Mills QC	\$40.00		2018
1623	Roger Mercier	Lévis QC	\$65.00		2019



### Répertoire généalogique des **MERCIER** (The genealogical record of the Merciers)

**\$90/volume**

(postage and handling not included)



Please make your cheque payable to: Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord  
and forward it with this completed form to the following address:

**ASSOCIATION DES MERCIER DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD**  
**560, RUE DESBIENS, SAINTE-MADELEINE (QUÉBEC) J0H 1S0 CANADA**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership N°: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tome 1** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tome 2** \_\_\_\_\_

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# “L'ASSOCIATION DES MERCIER DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD”

## A 30 YEAR JOURNEY

### 1985-2015 (CONTINUED)

*Research and presentation  
Gilmond Mercier n° 28*

#### 2009

- ☒ February: Salon des familles-souches du Québec at Place Laurier, Québec.
- ☒ April: Sugar Bush party in Saint-Henri-de-Lévis.
- ☒ September: Annual general meeting in Drummondville
- ☒ Complete redesign of our website: [www.famillesmercier.org](http://www.famillesmercier.org)

#### 2010

- ☒ February: Salon des familles-souches du Québec at Place Laurier, Québec.
- ☒ April: Sugar Bush party in Saint-Henri de Lévis.
- ☒ The Association has 250 active members.
- ☒ Gilmond #28, sets up a Facebook Group: Association des Mercier.
- ☒ August: Annual general meeting in Wendake, Québec.
- ☒ Pierre-Paul Mercier #19 introduces a video of his own creation entitled: “*L'arrivée des Mercier en Amérique*”.

#### 2011

- ☒ February: Salon des familles-souches du Québec at Place Laurier, Québec.
- ☒ April: Sugar Bush party in Saint-Henri-de-Lévis.
- ☒ Representation of the Association at a Mercier Celebration in Lac-Mégantic.
- ☒ August: Annual general meeting in Saint-Jerôme.
- ☒ September: Jean Mercier #1524 elected president.



Source : Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord

*Céline and Gilmond at Salon des familles-souches du Québec at Place Laurier, Québec - 2011.*

Source : Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord



***Gathering at the Sugar Bush shack in Saint-Esprit in 2012***

## **2012**

- ☒ February: Salon du patrimoine familial at Place Laurier, Québec.
- ☒ March: Sugar Bush party in Saint-Esprit de Montcalm.
- ☒ April: Sugar Bush party in Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce.
- ☒ Le Mercien becomes available electronically.
- ☒ August: Annual general meeting in Saint-Georges-de-Beauce.
- ☒ Jacques Mercier #341, updates our theme song: “*À toi Mercier de l'Amérique*”.
- ☒ Jacques #341 and Pascal #1568 create a placemat picturing the six original Mercier families.
- ☒ The Association collaborates with the TVA network to create a podcast entitled “*Québec, une histoire de famille*” for television and the Internet.
- ☒ Pascal #1568 starts managing the website of l'Association des Mercier.
- ☒ September: Salon des familles-souches du Québec in Trois-Rivières.

Source : Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord



***Annual Gathering of l'Association des Mercier in Saint-Georges in 2012***

## 2013

- ☒ February: Salon du patrimoine familial at Place Laurier, Québec.
- ☒ August: Annual general meeting in Nicolet.
- ☒ Amendment to our general by-law no.1.



Source : Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord

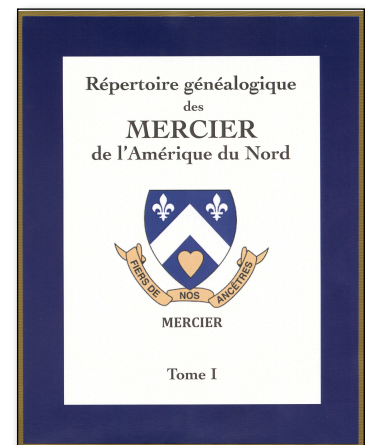
*Annual Gathering of l'Association des Mercier in Nicolet in 2013*

## 2014

- ☒ February: Salon du patrimoine familial at Place Laurier, Québec.
- ☒ March: Sugar Bush party in Saint-Esprit de Montcalm.
- ☒ April: Sugar Bush party in Saint-Henri de Lévis.
- ☒ September: Annual general meeting in Lévis.
- ☒ Support by the Association for retaining the toponym (place name) of “*Chemin de la Ligne Mercier*” in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan.
- ☒ The annual membership fee increases to \$35 for one year and \$65 for two years.

## 2015

- ☒ February: Salon du patrimoine familial at Place Laurier, Québec.
- ☒ March: Sugar Bush party in Saint-Esprit de Montcalm.
- ☒ September: Annual general meeting in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan.
- ☒ The Association's Facebook group reaches 300 members.
- ☒ Publication of the genealogical directory of the Merciers.
- ☒ September: Jacques Mercier #341 elected as 10th President.



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## LAC D'AMIANTE MINE



Source : Centre d'archives de la région de Thetford 1959

***Lac d'amiante Mine. The Fleur de Lys Dredger  
Collection of the Musée minéralogique et minier of Thetford Mines  
(Donor: Gérard Fortier)***

The former Lac d'amiante mine was located in the municipality of Thetford Mines, and more precisely in Saint-Joseph-de-Coleraine. A bird's eye view of this huge mine was quite different in 1947, because it was the natural site of a lake, called Black lake. The reflection of the densely forested mountains made the water look almost black, hence its name. After a series of drillings, the site's potential for asbestos was determined, with a sizable portion of the potential being under Black lake. That is why, from 1955 to 1959, the lake was dredged up and the Lake Asbestos Company of Quebec Ltd started production on June 22, 1958 with very modern installations. In less than twenty years, the new company became the second most important asbestos fibre producer in the western world.

The mine has been closed since 2012, but in 2014 the company still owned almost all of the buildings used during the production years. First, there is the mill, with the dryer attached to it. That is the largest installation on the site. It is covered with asbestos-cement panels. Conveyor belts link this complex to the loading docks. Another conveyor belt used to lead to the dried rock reserve, which was on a mound, behind the dryer, but these were dismantled in 2013. Inside the mill, one finds the carpentry shop, the machine shop and the plating shop. Adjacent to the building is the electrical shop. A large garage was built in 1970 to house the 100-ton trucks and the old garage is still located in front of it.

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To the North, there are two buildings housing the crushers. The first one produced 7-foot units while the second produced units 4 feet or less. The pieces larger than the volume of either crusher would be blasted one more time. The site also includes several smaller buildings containing shops: in the corer, covered with rectangular asbestos-cement shingles, core samples were analysed. There is also the office building, located at the entrance to the site.

A mine dump can also be found on the site, as well as several more mounds containing barren stone. They are named Kaiser, du Pont, 3 Monts and Épinettes. On the mine dump, there were two parallel conveyors, which were unfortunately dismantled and all that remain now are a few foundations. There is still however a third conveyor, that was used as an emergency back-up solution, in the event that one of the main conveyors broke down. The conveyors are covered with asbestos-cement panels.



*Andréanne Boucher 2014 - Creative Commons 4.0 (by-nc-nd)*

***Lac d'amiante Mine. Excavation  
Musée minéralogique et minier de Thetford Mines***

The site also contains a huge excavation, with two production pits. This unusual situation can be explained by the presence of a significant mass of barren rock between the two workable sites. Since the cessation of operations, both pits have filled up with water. The pits had been dug in 15-metre high tiers, in accordance with standards at the time. In 2014, the pits were partially filled with water. The largest pit measures approximately 1.5 by 1.3 km. Its 423.7- metre depth is exceptional. Its turquoise water colour comes from rain and groundwater.



Source: La Tribune - 17 juillet 2012

***Collapse of Road 112,  
two sections of the road slid to the bottom of the mine in 2012.***

The bottom being a pale colour, the water looks turquoise, because it reflects the sunlight's blue and pale green wavelength. The southern part of the excavation collapsed at the same time as the north-east part, causing the closure of Road 112. In 2009, the tourist lookout set up in this section of the road had to be closed following a partial collapse. The smallest pit measures about 625 by 550 metres and it is much less deep than the first one. The water comes from a waterfall. In 2015, a bypass route for Road 112 between Thetford Mines and Saint-Joseph-de-Coleraine over 10.3 kilometers was opened to the west of the installations, on land that was part of the mine. At the present time, a crushed granite quarry for the construction industry is in operation on the site. *Reference: Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec - Musée minéralogique et minier de Thetford Mines.*



Source: TVA Nouvelles - Publié le 30 octobre 2015

***Inauguration of the bypass route between Thetford Mines  
and Saint-Joseph-de-Coleraine in 2015.***

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**July 2017** - Le Mercien Summer Vol. 33 no.2

**September 2017** - **September 9-10** - **Gathering in Thetford Mines**

**November 2017** - Le Mercien Fall Vol. 33 no.3

**March 2018** - Le Mercien Winter Vol. 33 no.4

**Until next time!**



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