



# Le Mercien

*The Voice of the Merciers of North America*

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## 2019 Gathering at Lac-Mégantic



Source: <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lac-Mégantic>

*Downtown Lac-Mégantic in the centre, Lake Mégantic to the left and Mount Sainte-Cécile in the background.*

***Lac-Mégantic, sometimes called just Mégantic, is a town in Québec, located in the Granit Regional County Municipality in the Eastern Township administrative region. The population is around 6,000, but it goes up to almost 10,000 if one includes the small surrounding towns of Frontenac, Marston and Nantes.***

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## HONOUR ROLL - GOVERNORS OF THE MERCIER ASSOCIATION

Name	Member No.	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier * Founding President	32	Agronomy	Québec, QC	1985
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	Communication	Québec, QC	2000
Lucienne Mercier-Croteau *	988	Teaching	Bonnyville, AB	2001
Ralph Mercier	1151	Administration	Québec (Charlesbourg), QC	2012

(\*) deceased

## BOARD TO DIRECTORS FOR 2018-2019 AND SERVICES OF THE MERCIER ASSOCIATION

Board Members	Name	Member no.	Residence	Phone	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
	Mario Mercier	1544	Québec	(418) 903-4752	mario.mercier@bell.net
	Gaétan Mercier	881	Sherbrooke	(819) 346-6160	gamerc62@hotmail.ca

### Services:

Archives and Facebook:	28	Gilmond Mercier	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
Webmaster:	1568	Pascal Mercier	(418) 221-7688	pmercier@ubeo.ca
Newsletter Le Mercien: Search	28	Gilmond Mercier	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
Newsletter Le Mercien: Layout	1572	Lise St-André	(450) 795-3853	famillesmercier1985@gmail.com
Genealogy:	222	Benoît Mercier	(418) 623-0833	benoitbmercier@hotmail.com
Genealogy:	1544	Mario Mercier	(418) 903-4752	mario.mercier@bell.net
Proofreading:	28	Céline Chabot	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
Translation, revision and research:	337	Lucie Mercier		merccamp@gmail.com
Audit:	210	Denise Mercier		denisemercier@videotron.qc.ca

### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2018-2019

**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>\$40/1year \$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.

Legal deposit - 2019  
Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec - BAnQ's  
Library and Archives Canada - LAC

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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**

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all!

After such a seemingly unending winter, here is some heartwarming news from your association - the schedule for our 2019 Gathering to be held at Lac-Mégantic.

In this issue of Le Mercien, you will read about Mercier men and women who were remarkable in various fields of endeavour. We will introduce our new Board Member Gaétan as well as pay tribute to a great member recently departed, our friend Laurent from Saint-Hubert. In July 2018, we celebrated the 70th wedding anniversary of my parents, Gérard and Angèle Vachon, as well as the 72nd wedding anniversary of his brother Laurent and Thérèse Dubuc, all of them from the Asbestos region.



There will also be a few words about the little history of Lac-Mégantic.

Please read the Registration Form carefully, and then fill it out for the 2019 Gathering as well as follow the instructions concerning membership renewal in May. I am also asking you to please check our website regularly at: [famillesmercier.org](http://famillesmercier.org).

Bye for now,  
Jacques Mercier no. 341  
President

### **REMINDER: Do not forget to renew your Annual Membership for the year 2019-2020**

*Membership fees and donations are our only resources to pay for the costs of Le Mercien, and the costs for the administration and the organization of our Association's activities. The Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord is a non-profit organization and is managed by its members, who are all volunteers.*

### **RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FEES - NEW MEMBERS AND DONATIONS [as of April 19, 2019]**

Member N°	Name	City - Province/State	Fees	Donations	Expiry Date May 31
1	Jean Mercier	Québec		35,00 \$	À VIE
151	Gérard Mercier	Longueuil	35,00 \$		2020
210	Denise Mercier	St-Lin-Laurentides	65,00 \$		2023
871	Jacques Mercier	St-Charles-de-Bellechasse	35,00 \$	5,00 \$	2020
1260	Jacques Mercier	St-Stanislas-de-Kostka	65,00 \$	5,00 \$	2021
1321	Huguette Desfossés	Gatineau	65,00 \$		2021
1461	Sylvie Mercier	St-Damien	35,00 \$	10,00 \$	2020
1465	Diane Mercier-Lécuyer	Anjou	Tirage-2018	25,00 \$	2020
1490	Renée Laurent-Mercier	Montréal	65,00 \$		2022
1572	Lise St-André & Claude-Marie Duval	Sainte-Madeleine	75,00 \$		2021
1632	Monique Mercier	Yamachiche	65,00 \$		2021

**MERCI POUR VOTRE SOUTIEN!**

**Schedule for the  
24th and 25th of August 2019**  
**Cost for the Package: \$75**

- For those who will be present only on Sunday  
the cost will be \$55.

**34<sup>th</sup> GATHERING**  
of the Association des MERCIER  
de l'Amérique du Nord  
**at Lac-Mégantic**

Time	Saturday AUGUST 24th	Transportation	Location
3:00 pm	<b>Arrival at Mégantic</b> Welcoming at Hôtel Le Quiet		Hôtel - Le Quiet
4:00 pm	<b>Hôtel Le Quiet - Rooms available from 3 pm</b> 3284 Laval Street, Lac-Mégantic, QC G6B		Hôtel - Le Quiet
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm	<b>Dinner - Included in the \$75 package</b> 3423 Laval Street, Lac-Mégantic QC G6B		Resto Le Rénato
Time	Sunday AUGUST 25th	Transportation	Location
7:00 am	<b>Breakfast at the "Kaline" in the Hotel - \$9.00/person</b> Hôtel Le Quiet - 3284 Laval Street, Lac-Mégantic, QC G6B 1A4		Hôtel - Le Quiet «Le Kaline»
8:30 am	<b>Welcome at Pavillon Fernand-Grenier</b> 3293 Victoria Street, Lac-Mégantic, QC G6B 1R8 <b>Distribution of Information Package</b>	<b>By car</b> 	Mégantic Playground
9:30 am to 11:15 am	<b>Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b> 3293 Victoria Street, Lac-Mégantic, QC G6B 1R8	<b>AGM</b>	Mégantic Playground
11:30 am to 1:15 am	<b>Lunch - included for all in attendance at the Gathering</b> 3293 Victoria Street, Lac-Mégantic, QC G6B 1R8		Mégantic Playground
1:30 am to 3:30 am	<b>Guided Tour of the City of Mégantic</b> Departure from and Return to the Pavillon Fernand-Grenier	<b>By bus</b> <b>+ Snack</b> 	Departure from Mégantic Playground
3:45 am	<b>Farewell Wine Reception</b>		Mégantic Playground
4:15 am	<b>End of the Gathering - See you next year!</b>		Mégantic Playground

*Hoping to see you at the 2019 Gathering!*



**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 : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adult(s) \_\_\_\_\_ X **\$75\*** **August 24-25, 2019**

Number of adult(s) \_\_\_\_\_ X **\$55\*** **Sunday August 25, 2019**

### SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2019 - RESTO RÉNATO **\$20**

• I WILL BE PRESENT AT THE DINNER : *3423 Rue Laval, Lac-Mégantic*

YES  Number of adult(s)\* \_\_\_\_\_ NO

• CHOICE OF THE MENU: **\*one or 2 pers.**

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Brochette de poulet, riz et haricots                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Fish and chips d'aiglefin, frites et salade de chou | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Braisé de boeuf (bourguignon), grelot et légumes    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (4) Général tao au tofu                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### SUNDAY AUGUST 25, 2019 - PLAYGROUND - LUNCH **\$55**

• JE SERAI PRÉSENT(E) À LA VISITE GUIDÉE EN AUTOBUS :

YES  Number of adult(s)\* \_\_\_\_\_ NO

• I WILL BE PRESENT AT DINNER :

YES  Nbre de personne(s)\* \_\_\_\_\_ NO

• CHOICE OF THE MENU: **\*one or 2 pers.**

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Saumon à la fumée de pommier/aneth fraîche | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Lasagne maison                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Poulet à l'érable et dijon                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### SUNDAY AUGUST 25, 2019 - LIEU DE RENCONTRE :

Place : **Pavillon Fernand-Grenier (OTJ) de Lac Mégantic**  
Address : **3293 Rue Victoria, Lac-Mégantic, QC G6B 1R8**

### ACCOMMODATION: **HÔTEL - LE QUIET**

**2000 Motel-sur-le-Lac Road, Frontenac (QC) G6B 2S1**  
Tel.: (819) 583-6666 or 1 888 778-7018

Our gathering is scheduled for one day, but because of the distance to be travelled, one block of 20 Saturday Night rooms has been set aside for us. However, reservations must be made **prior to June 15, 2019**. You should mention at booking time that you are part of the **FAMILLES MERCIER** group.

**Cost of the room for Saturday night:**

*For 1 room with 1 bed \$102 - (1 or 2 per bed - same price) + 9\$/person breakfast*  
*For 1 room with 2 beds \$140 - (1 or 2 per bed - same price) + 9\$/person breakfast*  
*Dinner on August 24th is included with the \$75 Mercier package: see menu choices above.*

## Gathering of the MERCIER at Mégantic August 24-25th 2019

**Cost: \$75/adult (\$55 for those  
present on Sunday only)**

### \*THE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Saturday Dinner incl. tax & tip;
- Sunday Lunch incl. tax & tip;
- Guided 2-hour Bus Tour;
- Farewell Wine Reception and Raffle.





## *Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord*

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**A Word from  
Gaétan Mercier no. 881  
Board Member Elected on  
August 19, 2018 at L'Isle-aux-  
Coudres.  
He replaces  
Jean Mercier no. 1524**

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Source : Gaétan Mercier n°881

*I am the eldest in a family of five children - three boys and two girls. I was born in the parish of Saint-Noël-Chabanel in Thetford Mines, in the Asbestos region.*

*I am the son of Paul Émile Mercier and Thérèse Deslongchamps, and the grandson of Anselme Mercier and Georgianna Martineau, from the line of Jean, son of Julien Mercier and Marie Poulain.*

*I went to elementary school in Black Lake, to high school in Thetford Mines, and then did a year in administration at the CÉGEP (Junior College) in Thetford Mines. I went to work for Lac d'amiante du Québec. After working for about thirty years, I decided to go to Chicoutimi to get a degree in tinsmithing. All in all I worked 40 years for the Lac d'amiante du Québec Company.*

*I have two children: Alexandre and Amélie, who were born from a first union. At present, Odette is my dear life companion.*

*I love nature and water, and that is probably why I was the co-owner of a campsite for five years at Saint-Pierre-Baptiste in the Maple Region, a few kilometres from Plessisville.*

*As I love being active, I have practiced various sports: hockey, baseball, bowling, billiards, workouts at the gym - a little bit of everything.*

*I recently discovered the genealogy of the Merciers, and I was instantly hooked. Last year, I ran for a position on the Board of AMAN. I am proud of my MERCIER roots. For the Spring of 2020, I am working on travel plans with my companion Odette, to go visit the places where my Mercier ancestors originated from in Normandy, in Brittany, as well as a side trip to La Rochelle.*

*In 1985, AMAN was founded by Ernest Mercier from Québec City, and I believe that we must continue with the marvelous work done by our founder.*

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## “LA RÉVOLUTION TRANQUILLE D’UNE FEMME” (THE QUIET REVOLUTION OF A WOMAN)



Lucie Mercier (*descended from Joseph-Albert, Antonio, Louis, Jean-Louis, Charles also known as Lajoie*), PhD in sociology, member no. 896 of the Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord, recently published her autobiography: **“La révolution tranquille d'une femme”**. Here is how she introduced her book: *“I realize that I grew up in a traditional environment and as I was about to turn twenty, Quebec society was entering the Modern Age and I had to embrace this new society and revise my vision of things. Being torn between the old and the modern way, I charted for myself a course that merged both worlds and allowed me to take my place as a woman”*.

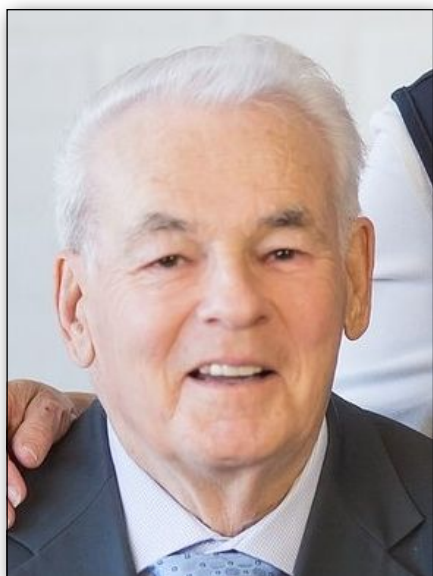
She has co-authored a book entitled *“Les femmes au tournant du siècle (1880-1940)”* (*Women at the Turn of the Century (1880-1940)*). She has also written *“Âges de la vie, maternité et quotidien”* (*The Ages of Life, Maternity and Everyday Life*). She has also published a study *“À la retraite, re-traiter sa vie, pratiques d'interventions biographiques auprès de personnes de 50-65 ans”* (*In retirement, re-tire one's life, exercises for life story interventions in 50-65 year-olds*) and in collaboration with Jacques Rhéaume, *“Récits de vie et sociologie Clinique”* (*Accounts of Life and Sociology Clinic*).

*Now retired, Ms. Lucie Mercier obtained a doctorate in sociology in 1993. At some point during her career, she oversaw the TÉLUQ's (Université du Québec's distance learning program) program about meaning and life project, where she accompanied several cohorts of students writing and analyzing the history of their life.*



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## TRIBUTE TO OUR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND LAURENT UPON HIS DEATH



*Crédit photo : Famille Laurent Mercier n°1520*

*In Brossard, on January 8th, 2019,  
At the age of 77,  
died Mr. Laurent Mercier,  
Husband of  
Mrs. Réjeanne Laliberté.*

*We wish to thank Laurent's daughter Chantal, for giving us, on behalf of the family, a moment to pay tribute to her father. We offer our most sincere condolences to his wife Réjeanne, his daughters Sylvie and Chantal, as well as to their spouses, their children, and both the Mercier and Laliberté families, and to all the friends present here today.*

*On behalf of all the members of the Board of the Association of Mercier families, of my colleagues from the Québec region and also those from the Montréal region who are here today, we want to pay tribute to a hard working man, a precious collaborator who toiled within the Board for more than 6 years, and who brought us his positive view of genealogy.*

*Genealogical research rapidly became a passion for Laurent. Thanks to his perseverance, he managed to learn very quickly how to use a computer in order to overcome the difficulties inherent to genealogy software.*

During our Board meetings, we soon understood that our friend Laurent was "related" not only to the Merciers of this region, but also to almost everybody else. Laurent had a very outgoing personality, introducing himself readily and warmly. First a joke, a smile and then the usual question: WHAT WAS YOUR GRANDPARENTS' NAME? Whether the answer was Vachon or Lessard, Laurent would find some of his relatives among those families from the Beauce region.

The machine was launched... portable, with the Mercier Genealogy Directory Book open, our Laurent was always on the go. He was jovial, dynamic and above all AVAILABLE and always VOLUNTEERING. He was also eager to go to meetings or genealogy fairs in Québec City or Lévis... distance did not matter. At the fair held in February at Place Laurier in Québec City, Laurent took over on Friday evening to relieve Jacques and Carole. He would arrive late afternoon with Réjeanne, holding his hotel reservation in his hand, wearing his "coureur des bois" fur hat, and he would take his place at the Mercier booth until Saturday evening. With Laurent, one did not see the time pass, and one never ran out of subjects to discuss. During down times he would go visit the booths of other participating families and he "always" ended up meeting someone he was related to.

We have mentioned many times Laurent's exceptional contribution to the design and implementation of one of the great projects of the Association. He was the promoter, working closely with Benoît from Québec City and Jean from St-Jérôme, of the publication in two volumes of the genealogical directory of 80,000 Mercier names. Laurent arrived on the Board at an opportune time, restarting the work initiated by genealogists before him.



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A beautiful friendship developed with Benoît throughout their collaboration while implementing the project. Laurent and Jean, the President, worked diligently with a team of Board members to complete this more than 20-year research work.

Once the 150 volumes had been printed, they had to be sold. Who was the best seller for these books? It was Laurent. Who was the best seller of the placemats? It was Laurent. Who was the best seller of the decks of cards? It was Laurent. He had such a belief in these products, that he bought several of them, mostly to give away to family and friends. He even continued to sell the Mercier volumes while confined to a hospital bed. With his infectious laugh, he delighted in telling us how he had done so. He was very pleased to give away the volumes written by Ernest Mercier, our association's founder.

One of the missions of our Association is to preserve the memory of the Merciers who were among the builders of Québec. One can say that Laurent made a great contribution to this mission. He left the Board at the onset of his illness in 2015 and was named to the SAGES (the WISE ONES) team whose mandate was to advise the Board on its orientations, as needed. At each gathering since 2015, in Montmagny, then Thetford Mines and then L'Isle-aux-Coudres last year, we had a very special thought for our friend Laurent.

I wish to conclude by sharing with you an interesting yet little known fact. Even after retiring from the Board and despite having some bad days, our friend Laurent continued to search for Merciers who were not in the Directory. And he did find some, which prompted Mario, our genealogist from Lévis, to nickname him "*Castor travailleur incessant*" (*The Unstoppable Beaver*).

*From then on, he signed each one of his emails "Laurent le Castor" (Laurent the Beaver). My dear Beaver, the time has come for you to rest, but knowing you so well, we are certain you will ask Saint Peter to check in his great book to make sure that it is up to date concerning the Merciers. Laurent, please give our best to our ancestor JULIEN and his wife Marie, as well as to your direct forebear, Premier Honoré Mercier. We also know that you will watch over your family. We are counting on you to be there to welcome us when our time comes.*

*Thank you for having been the "wonderful" person that you were. We were lucky to have had the privilege of knowing you. May you rest in peace!*

*Your friends and colleagues of the great Mercier family.*

*So long! Laurent!*

Jacques Mercier, President  
Saint-Hubert, January 19, 2019



*Picture taken at the 2015 Gathering,  
on September 10 at Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan*

*Crédit photo : Claude-Marie Duval n°1572*

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## THE LITTLE HISTORY OF LAC-MÉGANTIC

source : *Wikipedia*

The dates and facts relating to Mégantic's early development are not very well known.

The most likely theory about the discovery of the Mégantic site relates to the zeal of a catholic missionary by the name of Father Druillettes, of the Society of Jesus, in 1646. He had come to convert the Abenakis. It was however only two centuries later that the first settlers arrived in the region. The name Mégantic is thought to have come from the Abenaki word "namesokanjik" which means "place where fish are found".

The historical event that would be the starting point for the expansion of the urban centre of Mégantic was the inauguration of the international railroad by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mégantic was the meeting point of two railway companies of the time: the Canadian Pacific and the Québec Central (now property of the Quebec Ministry of Transport). The CP remains however the most important Company because of its adaptation to huge volumes of goods and travellers' traffic. The Lac-Mégantic railway station was listed in the *Registre du patrimoine culturel du Québec* (Quebec Heritage Site Registry) on February 19, 2001.

Lac-Mégantic was originally two villages: Agnès and Mégantic. There are two parishes, Sainte-Agnès and Notre-Dame-de-Fátima.

The industry of the region was then centred on wood because of the many forests surrounding the area. There were several sectors of activities such as sawing (the Nantais sawmill), the furniture industry as well as the pulp and paper industry. Mégantic Lake was used to float logs and a steamboat used to tow the logs to the sawmill. The first steamboat in the region, built by a man named Georges Flint in 1881, was called the Lena.



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During the industrial revolution, Mégantic's population was mostly rural and working-class people. In 1907, the daily wage for a journeyman was between \$1.00 and \$1.50 Canadian. Those workers were then living in the northern part of the town, while people in the liberal professions as well as store clerks and financial institutions' employees lived in the centre or downtown area.

The first mayor of the town of Lac-Mégantic (1885-1888) was Malcom McAuley, who became known because of the Donald Morrison Affair (*An article on this will be published in the next issue*).

One clergyman, a parish priest named Joseph Édouard Eugène Choquette, left his mark on this era. He was an amateur scientist during his leisure time and was responsible for creating an electric lighting system to light up the whole town on Christmas Eve 1898. As well he created an electric company. Father Choquette was also an amateur photographer.

The first bank to open a branch in the town was the People's Bank of Halifax, in December 1893. The first manager at that bank, which was subsequently acquired by the Bank of Montreal, was Mr. Aitkens from Cookshire. The original building, built in 1905, at the same time as the People's Bank of Halifax opened its branch, later housed a branch of the Bank of Montreal until its closure in 2001. The historic building located at 5193 Frontenac Street then housed the legal aid services until it was destroyed by the catastrophic fire caused by the derailment of a crude oil train in the town centre in 2013.

Another economic activity in the Mégantic region is tourism, which attracts a lot of people each year. The most popular activities for tourists are hunting and fishing.



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## A BEAUCE MAN SUMS UP HIS CAREER GROWING CHRISTMAS TREES

By Jérôme Blanchet-Gravel, Journalist, <https://www.enbeauce.com> Saint-Georges, Québec

Photo: Jérôme Blanchet-Gravel



*New type of fir tree: The Blue Dan. "Our goal was to create a new species of Christmas tree that would be more esthetic and longer lasting"*

**In 1976, Daniel Mercier took over the family business based in Saint-Honoré-de-Shenley. The aspiring entrepreneur already had a specific objective which was to break into the American market. Between 1980 and 2015, his business, Plantation J.D., exported more than a million Christmas trees to the United States. The businessman met at his home with a reporter from *EnBeauce.com* to sum up his career.**

Daniel Mercier's advice to would-be entrepreneurs is that *"In business you must always be able to anticipate and anticipate - again and again. That is the key to success."* The man has always taken his own advice to heart. That piece of advice seemed to bear fruit for himself. For about 40 years, Daniel Mercier has planted between 35,000 and 40,000 Christmas trees each season. Those trees, for the most part, were sold to the United States. The businessman even sold some all the way to Mexico City, the capital of Mexico, a country to which he will become linked as we will see.

### **From Saint-Honoré to Mexico City**

Plantation J.D. obviously did not become a huge business overnight. Mr. Mercier did have ups and downs, like all entrepreneurs, but his balance sheet has showed a remarkable stability. When he was still young, he could have chosen to go into the milk industry, but he first opted to grow Christmas trees. He later diversified his business, adding peatlands as well as a maple products business.

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## **Creation of a New Variety of Fir Tree: The Blue Dan**

Among all his accomplishments, the one that Daniel Mercier is particularly proud of is the creation of a brand-new variety of fir tree: The Blue Dan. *"Our goal was to create a new species of fir tree that would be more attractive and longer lasting for people to get for Christmas",* explained Mr. Mercier.

In order to create the perfect species, Plantation J.D managed to cross different species of conifers, to yield a kind of hybrid. At some point, New Yorkers were rushing to get this new variety of Christmas tree. In December 2004, for example, the New York Daily News published an article about Mr. Mercier's plantation.



Photo: Jérôme Blanchet-Gravel

*Daniel Mercier, a beauceron pulls  
the results of his career.*

## **A Warm Relationship with Mexican Workers**

Daniel Mercier talked also about his experience with Mexican workers. Starting in the year 2010, the businessman realized that the shortage of manpower in the Beauce region would force him to hire foreign workers. This obligation turned out to be a good thing for him, since he very much appreciated his interactions with the Mexicans. Last fall, 18 workers from Mexico were toiling on his lands.

Mr. Mercier seems to have learned a lot about Mexican culture. It is a country where the relationship between employers and their employees is hierarchical. The Beauce entrepreneur told several funny anecdotes about his interactions with the Mexican workers since communication was sometimes quite difficult: *"First of all, there was the language barrier and also the Mexican workers are not very expressive, so that one has to learn to decipher what they are thinking and also to guess when they are not happy with a situation. That is something that one must learn - in the end, it is not a real problem",* said Daniel Mercier.

Here is another interesting fact, although somewhat surprising - Mexican workers think Quebecers are very rich economically compared to them. Coming to work in Quebec, Mexican workers can multiply their incomes by up to 15 times.

## **The Coming Sale of the Business**

Daniel Mercier announced recently that his Christmas tree plantation will soon be sold to the Beauce business *Arbres joyeux*. The new owner will thus be entrusted with a small entrepreneurial jewel of the region.



# Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord

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

Email : [famillesmercier1985@gmail.com](mailto:famillesmercier1985@gmail.com)

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

Regular fee as an individual:

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or

\$ 65 / 2 Years

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

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\* To improve our genealogical database.

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## DESCENDANTS FROM JULIEN MERCIER AND MARIE POULAIN



# 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

G rard Mercier and Ang le Vachon  
July 31, 1948-2018

They are the parents of our current president Jacques no. 341. Born in Black-Lake, G rard worked as an electrician in asbestos mines for more than 40 years. He and his wife Ang le had three children - Jacques, Julie and Marthe. Last July 28th, there was a gathering with all their descendants. Congratulations!



Source : Famille Jacques Mercier n  341

*At the family cottage at Petit-Lac-Saint-Fran ois near Coleraine*



# 72<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary

G rard's brother, Laurent and his wife Th r se Dubuc, celebrated their **72<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary** recently. They are the last two surviving persons from the couple Louis-Alonzo Mercier and D lina Gagnon honored by the Association des Mercier with the historical panel, at the 2017 Gathering in Thetford Mines (sector: Black-Lake).



## LET'S ENCOURAGE OUR SPONSORS!

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**CHECKLIST**

April-25	Le Mercien SPRING Vol. 35 n°1.
May-31	Annual Membership Renewal, May 31st
July-15	Le Mercien SUMMER Vol. 35 n°2.
Aug.-24-25	Gathering in Lac-Mégantic.
20-nov.	Le Mercien AUTUMN Vol. 35 n°3.
12-févr.	Le Mercien WINTER Vol. 35 n°4.

See you!

**Gathering  
2019  
Set for  
August 24-25, 2019  
at Lac-Mégantic**

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