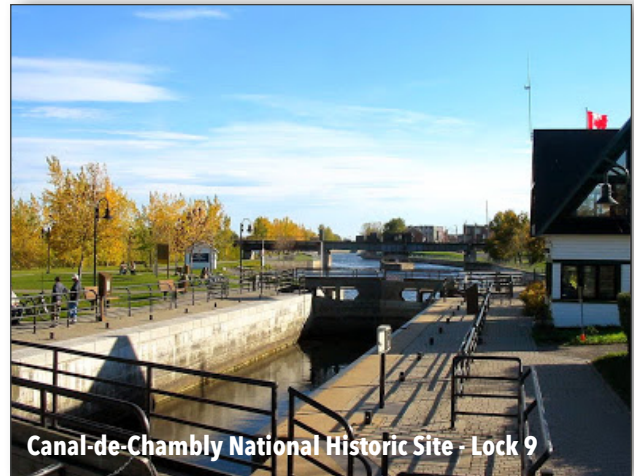




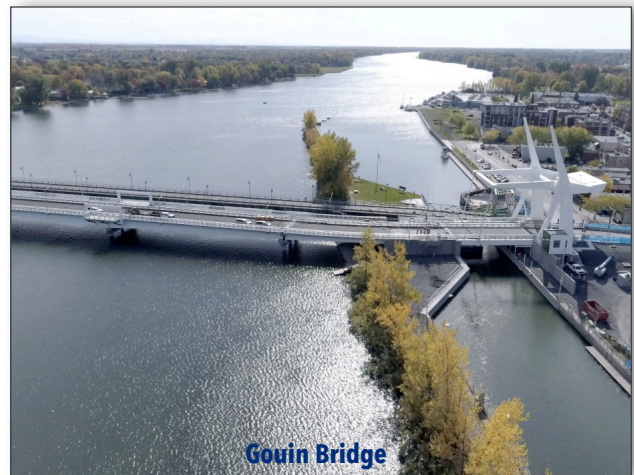
# Le Mercien

*The Voice of the Merciers of North America*



**35<sup>th</sup> GATHERING OF THE MERCIERS**  
**At Auberge Harris**  
**SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU**  
**August 22nd & 23rd, 2020**

Source : Photos Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu



## HONOUR ROLL - GOVERNORS OF THE MERCIER ASSOCIATION

Name	Member No.	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier * Président fondateur AMAN	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 2019-2020 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
	Gaëtan 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
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Audit:	210	Denise Mercier		denisemercier@videotron.qc.ca

### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2019-2020

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

<b>Annually :</b>	<b>\$35/year</b>	<b>\$65/2 years</b>
<b>Annually + spouse(s) :</b>	<b>\$40/year</b>	<b>\$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 - 2020  
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

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Greetings to all!

As previously announced, we will celebrate this year the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Association. To do this, your Board has decided to mark the event in a special way, by holding our next meeting over a two-day period: Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Here is the outline of our activities: on Saturday afternoon, we will welcome you at the Musée Honoré-Mercier in Sainte-Anne-de-Sabrevois in the Montérégie. At this time, your Association will host a small reception with the participation of Municipal representatives. Later in the afternoon, we will go and check into our hotel rooms at Auberge Harris in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. At 7:30 p.m., dinner has been scheduled for the group at the restaurant "Au Vieux Duluth".

On Sunday, breakfast will be at Auberge Harris, followed by the Annual Meeting



and then lunch. In the afternoon, around 1:30p.m., a cruise on the Richelieu River is planned with delightful surprises, that is if Mother Nature cooperates.

Please make a note of the dates of our Gathering and, please, do not miss the deadlines that will be set. Additional information will be provided in the Spring issue of Le Mercien.

We intend to make this 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary Gathering a happy and memorable event, so we really hope you will come in great numbers.

Looking forward to seeing you!  
Jacques Mercier, #341  
President

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### RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FEES - NEW MEMBERS AND DONATIONS [as of March 18, 2020]

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Member N°	Name	City - Province/State	Fees	Donations	Expiry Date May 31
29	Jean-Rock Mercier	Lac-Mégantic, QC	65,00 \$		2020
419	Amandine Mercier Bouchard	Saint-Henri-de-Lévis, QC	35,00 \$		2020
1561	Alain Mercier (Julienne)	Saint-Esprit, QC	75,00 \$		2020
1610	Liliane Sr. Mercier	Edmonton, AB	40,00 \$		2021
1638	Patricia Hubbard	Maine, É.-U.	35,00 \$		2020
1657	Claudette Mercier & Gérald Nadeau	Québec, QC	75,00 \$		2022

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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# Detailed Schedule for August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 Cost for the Package :75\$

## 35<sup>th</sup> GATHERING of the Association des MERCIER de l'Amérique du Nord *at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu*

- For participants who will be present on at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu the Sunday only the cost will be \$55

Time	SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020		Location
2:00 p.m.	<b>Welcoming event at Honoré Mercier's birthplace</b>		Museum
3:15 p.m.	927, Route 133, Sainte-Anne-de-Sabrevois, QC J0J 2G0 A Word from the Mayor and from the President, unveiling of a plaque, a "Toast"		Unveiling Group photo
4:00 p.m.	<b>Auberge Harris - Rooms available from 3pm</b> 576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1		Auberge Harris Check-in
7:30 p.m.	<b>Restaurant Au Vieux Duluth - included with the \$75</b>		Resto
9:00 p.m.	365 Rue Normand, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3A 1T6 10 min. from the Inn)		Au Vieux Duluth
Heures	SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020		Location
7:00 a.m.	<b>Déjeuner Continental à Continental Breakfast at Auberge Harris</b> 576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1		Included with room Auberge Harris
8:30 a.m.	<b>Registration in the Jean-Yves Théberge Room</b> 576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1 <b>Information package to be handed out</b>		Auberge Harris Salle Jean-Yves Théberge
9:30 a.m.	<b>Annual General Meeting (AGM)</b>		Auberge Harris
11:15 a.m.	576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1		Salle Chambly
11:30 p.m.	<b>Luncheon - included with both packages (\$55 and \$75)</b>		Resto
1:15 p.m.	576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1		Auberge Harris
1:30 p.m.	<b>Cruise on the Richelieu and/or Visit to the Armoury</b>		Duration : 2h
3:30 p.m.	Le Nautique Marina at 55 rue Richelieu à St-Jean (10 min from the Inn)		Le Nautique
3:45 p.m.	<b>Farewell Wine Reception</b>		Marina - boat
4:15 p.m.	<b>End of the Gathering and see you Next Year!</b>		Marina

*Have a good Gathering 2020!*



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

## REGISTRATION FORM

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

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

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

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

Postal Code : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ X **75\$\*** **AUGUST 22 - 23, 2020**

No. of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ X **55\$\*** **AUGUST 23, 2020**

### SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2020 – AU VIEUX DULUTH

**You may bring your own wine**

#### • I WILL BE PRESENT AT THE DINNER:

YES  No. of Persons \* \_\_\_\_\_

NO

#### • CHOICE OF MENU:

\*member Spouse

(1) Pork Souvlakis with tzatziki



(2) Chicken Souvlakis



(3) Ground steak



(4) Caesar or Greek salad



### SUNDAY AUGUST 23, 2020 – AUBERGE HARRIS

#### • I WILL BE PRESENT AT THE CRUISE ON THE RICHELIEU :

YES  No. of Persons \* \_\_\_\_\_

NO

#### • I WILL BE PRESENT AT THE LUNCHEON:

YES  No. of Persons \* \_\_\_\_\_

NO

#### • CHOICE OF THE MAIN COURSE

\*member Spouse

*Including soup, a choice of salad, dessert and drink*

(1) Chicken Breast with tarragon sauce



(2) Pork Filet with clover and honey sauce



### SUNDAY AUGUST 23, 2020 – MEETING PLACE :

Location : Auberge Harris

Address : 576 Champlain Street, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC.

### ACCOMMODATION: AUBERGE HARRIS

576 Champlain Street, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1

Tél.: (450) 348-3821

Our meeting is scheduled for one day. Given the distance, a block of 23 rooms is available. However, reservations must be made by **July 15, 2020**. Just mention that you are part of the **MERCIER FAMILY** group.

#### Cost of Saturday Night per Room:

For 1 bedroom - 2 Queen-size beds \$129.99/room/day plus taxes – breakfast included

For 1 bedroom - 1 Queen-size bed \$120.99/room/day plus taxes – breakfast included

For 1 suite – 1 bed \$154.99/room/day plus taxes – breakfast included

For 1 suite - 3 Queen-size beds \$174.99/room/day plus taxes – breakfast included

**GATHERING OF  
THE MERCIERS  
IN ST-JEAN  
August 22-23, 2020**

**COST**  
**75 \$/PERS. AUGUST 22 - 23**  
**55 \$/PERS. AUGUST 23**

#### \*THE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

*Museum Fee and Wine for the Toast  
Saturday Dinner, tax and gratuities incl.  
Sunday Lunch, tax and gratuities incl.  
Cruise on the Richelieu and/or Armoury  
visit, duration 2 hours  
Farewell Wine Reception and Draw*





# Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord

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

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

## NEW SERVICE

We offer you the opportunity to pay your dues, your registration fee for the annual Mercier Gathering, a promotional product, a directory, and/or to make a donation to the Mercier Association through your financial institution via **INTERAC TRANSFER**.

**Payments by cheque are still an option.**

### You will need the following information:

1- To use the Interac Transfer service, you need to create your Interac profile:

#### **Association Mercier**

The Interac Transfer

- A simple and secure way to transfer funds to a recipient at Desjardins or another financial institution.
- All the recipient needs is to have a bank account in Canada, as well as an email address or mobile phone number.

#### **Advantages**

- You don't have to know the account number or the name of the recipient's financial institution.
- Funds are available as soon as the transfer is accepted.
- You receive notifications of money transfers by email or text message.
- You can track your Interac transfer history in Operations Tracking.
- There are No fees between Desjardins members.

2- The transfer is made using the association's email address:

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

3- The common question for all members and the Account Administrator is:

**What's the president's first name?**

4- The answer or password is:

**Write the answer in lower case**

5- The Reason for payment: **Membership Fee, Gathering 2020, Donation or Promo.**

Jacques Mercier, President

## THE ANCESTRAL COUPLE

### PIERRE-SIMON MERCIER AND MARIE-RENÉE PINEAU

The Parisian Pierre-Simon Mercier arrived in New France before 1725. The date of his marriage to Marie-Renée Pineau, July 30 of that year, is the first proof of his presence on American land. It is estimated that he was born around 1693 in Saint-Jean-en-Grève in the present-day city of Paris, Île-de-France. He was the son of Pierre and Catherine Baudo.



Crédit photo: Daniel Roussel

*Pierre-Simon was a Church Sexton in the Parish of Saint-François-Xavier in Verchères, built between 1725 and 1730. This is the current Parish Church.*

While Simon-Pierre stood out for the place of his birth, he was also distinguished by his job. He was one of the few Mercier ancestors in New France who came before 1765 and did not settle on a piece of land. He was a sexton in the parish of Saint-François-Xavier in Verchères.

His wife Marie-Renée Pineau was born in 1707 in Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade. She had ten siblings and her parents were Michel Pineau and Simone Beaudet. From her union with Pierre-Simon, she gave birth to two sons and five daughters: Joseph, Pierre-Simon Jr, Marie, Marie-Renée, Marie-Thérèse and two Marie-Louise.

The couple seem to have lived an uncomplicated life. Simon-Pierre died in Verchères at the age of 47. Seven years later, his widow entered into a marriage with Daniel Tétrault. Marie-Renée's death was recorded on 13 July 1789 in Verchères.

Today we find many descendants of Joseph and Pierre-Simon Jr in the United States, especially in Michigan and the Midwestern states. In Quebec, they live mainly in the Montérégie region.

#### References:

- 1- Mercier, Ernest. *Mercier depuis des siècles*, Sherbrooke 1987.
- 2- Mercier, Ernest. *Genealogy and Places, The Mercien, The Voice of the Merciers of America*, Volume 10, Number 2. 1994.
- 3- Quebec and Acadian genealogy: <https://www.nosorigines.qc.ca/>

## ANCESTRAL MERCIER HOME IN SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BEAUPRÉ

A pin representing a house located in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré offered by the Mercier Association and photos of the same house circulating on social media raise a question. Was it the home of Julien Mercier and Marie Poulin, the ancestral couple of 90% of the Merciers of North America? To clarify the question, here is a text that briefly retraces the life of the ancestor Julien.



*House located in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré*

The son of François Mercier and Roberte Cornilleau, he was baptized on 27 February 1621 in the Church of Saint-Aubin de Tourouvre in Perche, France. Orphaned at the age of 6, he was raised by his brother Jean in a place called "La Grandinière". It was from there that Julien left for New France in 1647.

Why did Julien leave France, Europe's most populous and powerful country? One can suppose, the increase in the tax burden to pay for the Thirty Years' War, the years of scarcity, as well as popular revolts probably contributed to his decision. At the age of 26, he accepted a three-year contract to work in New France as an agricultural labourer.

When Julien arrived in New France, Quebec City, according to the Jesuit Ragueneau, "was a miserable village of about thirty houses scattered haphazardly" near the newly built Notre-Dame church. The colony was under-populated and lived under constant threat from the Iroquois and from famine. Living conditions were hardly better than in the land of Louis XIV, but no doubt he enjoyed greater freedom and could hope for a better future.



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After working for two years as an agricultural and domestic labourer in Quebec City, in 1651 he obtained a grant of land on the coast of Beaupré in Sainte-Anne-du-Petit-Cap. The land was located near the present-day basilica. It was 320 yards wide by just over 4 miles deep. He undoubtedly built a temporary dwelling, a simple cabin made of logs chopped with an axe, while beginning to clear his new land.

The following year, Julien signed a marriage contract with Marie Poulin, the young daughter of Claude and Jeanne Mercier, his neighbours. The contract provided that the future father-in-law, a carpenter by trade, would undertake to build him a barn 40 feet long, 20 feet wide and 8 feet high under the beams. The bride-to-be was only 11 years old and as a result, the marriage was not celebrated before 1654.

The 1667 census confirms that the couple was well established. It had five head of cattle and 14 acres of land under cultivation. They lived in a proper house with their five sons. The couple would go on to have 10 children in all. Julien died at the age of 55. After six years of widowhood, Marie decided to marry Charles Montmigny. The inventory of her property showed an improvement in their standard of living: the livestock included four draft oxen, four cows, one calf and eight pigs. There were 150 minots (bushels) of wheat and 14 minots (bushels) of peas in the granaries. The land and buildings were valued at 2,000 pounds, which was 30 times the average annual income of a settler.

Upon Marie's death, Pierre (one of her sons) and his wife Catherine Chamberland, became the owner of the property. By 1729, he had built a stone house 20 feet by 18 feet covered with planks. Mr. Ernest Mercier, in his volume *Mercier depuis des siècles*, concluded that this house was the first section of three that would culminate in the current house located at 413 Côte-Sainte-Anne. Their son Joseph (representing the 3rd generation) and his second wife, Marguerite Boucher, expanded the first section between 1765 and 1779. Then Étienne (representing the 4th generation), son of Pierre II and Marie-Joseph Caron, and his wife Marie Lefrançois built the third section before 1806. The house remained the property of Julien's descendants until 1924. Located on a terrace above the grounds where the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré stands, the house is a private property to be respected by visitors.

A monument, erected in 1987, stands near the house at 413 Côte-Sainte-Anne to celebrate the presence of the Merciers in the land of America since the beginning of New France.

*Sources:*

- *Mercier, Ernest, Mercier depuis des siècles, Sherbrooke 1987.*
- *Mercier, Ernest, Sur les pas de Jullien et de ses descendants sur la Côte-de-Beaupré, (In the footsteps of Jullien and his descendants on the Côte-de-Beaupré), Le Mercien volume 17, number 3.*
- *Provencher, Jean, Chronologie du Québec, les Éditions du Boréal, 1991.*

## BRIGADIER-GENERAL CHRISTIAN MERCIER RETIRES

*Here is an excerpt from an article written by journalist Marilyn Demers in the Drummondville Express on November 10, 2019.*

For Brigadier-General Christian Mercier, this date will remain marked on the calendar. The 52-year-old was wearing the uniform for the last time. He officially retires tomorrow, Remembrance Day, after 33 years of service.

"I have a sense of mission accomplished. Today I was surrounded by my family. I was happy to have my children and my wife by my side because they were part of it all in a way. We moved 11 times to different provinces. It allowed us to forge very close family ties," says the man who has been based in Drummondville since 2016.

Originally from Quebec City, he enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces at the age of 19. "I had a taste for adventure. For me, it was a childhood dream to become a soldier" says the Brigadier-General, who was present during the Oka crisis in 1990 and the ice storm crisis in 1998.



*Crédit photo: Marilyn Demers - Drummondville se souvient*

*Christian Mercier  
Picture taken on November 10, 2019 in Drummondville*

A recipient of the Order of Military Merit and the Medal for Meritorious Service, Christian Mercier took part in a few operational deployments. He was part of the United Nations' mission to Haiti in 1997. The father of three says their youngest child was born while he was away on a mission.

---

Over the course of his career, he has held various positions. Among other things, he was appointed Deputy Commander of the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, before being promoted to Commander. "This was the defining moment of my career. I had the privilege of training military personnel for five years. I really enjoyed the experience," he says.

For just over a year, he has been Deputy Commander 2nd Canadian Division and Joint Task Force (East). "This division includes 15,000 military personnel. For me, it's a great way to finish my military service."

Although he is retiring, the next few months will be very busy for the CEO of UV Mutuelle. "I have a very busy civilian professional life. It was getting harder and harder to play both roles together and that's why I decided to retire," he says.

Christian Mercier has no intention of setting aside his second family. "From today on, I'm putting away my uniform, but I'm going to continue to contribute to military and civilian activities," he concludes, serenely.

## A BIT OF SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU HISTORY

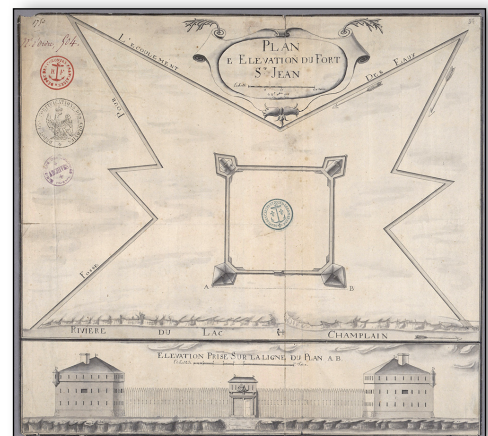
*With the construction of Fort Saint-Jean going back to 1666, it means that 2016 marked the 350th anniversary of the occupation of the territory surrounding Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.*

### ***The Richelieu River - History flows through it***

*At the beginning of the colony, the French pioneers boarded boats to travel through the vast blue of the Iroquois River (as it was then called) to reach the fertile lands of the Richelieu Valley and Lake Champlain. The repeated assaults of the Iroquois people jeopardized the existence of the French colony of America. It was at this time that the first military posts, including Fort Saint Jean, appeared along the new war route. Later, with the opening of the Chambly Canal, the smoothing of the path away from hostilities would leave the way open for trade.*

### **Construction of Fort Saint-Jean**

*The first Fort Saint-Jean was erected around 1666 by French soldiers - mainly those of the famous Carignan-Salières regiment. Abandoned later, it was rebuilt in 1748 and then burned in 1760 during the British conquest. Having become a redoubt, the fort enjoyed its greatest glory days in 1775, when its occupants endured a 45-day siege that delayed the American march towards Quebec City.*



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## ASSOCIATIONS THAT ARE MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS OLD

*Reference: Chez Nous News: Newsletter of the Federation of Quebec Family Associations. - Vol. 8, No.9, October 2019. By Michel Bérubé, FAFQ President.*

At the end of August, I received an email from Mr. Denis Ouimet asking me how many Family Associations were now (in 2019) more than thirty years old and celebrating an anniversary this year. We needed to go back to 1989 and before to determine this. I have identified, with the aid of an old list of Associations dating back to 1992, those that still exist and the year that they became members of the Federation. I should point out that these are the ones that are still members of the Federation. Associations that still exist, but which are no longer members of the Federation include, for example, the Merciers (who had joined in 1985), the Miville/Miville-Deschênes (1987) and the Tremblays (1984).

*Within the Federation there are several thirty-something year old Associations: the Asselin (1983), the Bernier (1987), the Bérubé (1984), the Caron (1984), the Chouinard (1983), Cliche (1986), Cloutier (1983), Corriveau (1987), Dubois (1988), Dion (1983), Gagné-Bellavance (1984), Gagnon (1985), Gautreau (1985), Héroux (1986), Kirouac (1983), Laroche-Rochette (1989), Leblond (1989), Leduc (1989), Lehoux (1988), Lemieux (1983), Levasseur (1988), Michaud (1987), Morin (1989), Ouellet (1984), Ouimet (1989), Pinard (1984), Rioux (1985), Robitaille (1988), St-Amand (1989), and St-Pierre-Dessaint (1989) Associations. There are also those that have almost reached the age of 30, including the Dionne (1986), the Pelletier (1986), the Boisvert (1988) and the Veilleux (1990) Associations (perhaps because they were not members in good standing in every year).*

Of the 108 Associations that are currently in good standing within the FAFQ, there are 30 that have been members for 30 years. (Since the Beaudets have just announced their return and will celebrate their thirtieth Anniversary in 2020, we can say there are currently 31 associations out of 109). In the 1992 list I used, there were 125 Associations, 3 of which are no longer members and 5 that will celebrate their 30th anniversary between 2020 and 2022. Of these 125, 87 have ceased operations. While we are now at 108 or 109 or 110 in 2018, the other associations that are currently members have replaced the majority of those that have disappeared. There are also a number that were started after 1989 and have disappeared or simply put an end to their membership since then. I met last year, as an example, a couple by the name of Vézina who said they were members of the Vézina Association, which I thought was gone, but which would simply be too small now to publicly display its existence. This is probably not a unique case.

The lifespan of an Association varies greatly. It often depends on the goals set by the founding members. For some, it does not go much further than holding a large gathering of people who share the same surname. Having said that, there are, as we see today, some associations that last longer than others. This can be explained by tenacity, but also by a certain ability to renew the most active leaders and volunteers. I also hope I have made no mistake. If I have forgotten a thirty-year-old Association in this text, I hope that someone will point it out to us.

## FORMER CHARLESBOURG MAYOR RALPH MERCIER DIES

Ralph Mercier (no. 1151), a leading figure in municipal politics for 25 years, passed away on February 13 at the Hôtel-Dieu in Quebec City on his 83rd birthday.

Mayor of the former city of Charlesbourg from 1984 to 2001, he was also a City Councilor for the merged Quebec City from 2002 to 2009, including Leader of the Official Opposition from 2002 to 2005 during the time of Mayor Jean-Paul L'Allier and President of the borough of Charlesbourg from 2002 to 2005.

Vice-president of the Executive Committee of Quebec City from 2005 to 2007, he was also President of the Association of Quebec municipalities from 1991 to 1993 and a member of the board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. He retired from political life in 2009.



Source: Phototèque Le Soleil

**Ralph Mercier: 1937 - 2020**  
**February 13, 2020 - Quebec City**

### **From Upper Town to Charlesbourg**

Mr. Mercier kept his printing company, founded in 1896 by his grandfather Joseph, until he made the leap into politics in 1984. "He was from the Montcalm district. He grew up on Moncton Avenue. By marrying my mother (Doris Tweddell), whose family was rooted in Charlesbourg, he adopted the city. They bought a house in what was then called Orsainville, and never moved away from there," said his son Eric.

"The family was very important to him. That was what motivated him. My mother, my brother and I sometimes started celebrating his birthday without him. He'd come later and we'd have kept a piece of his birthday cake for him. For about 15 years, we spent some time in Maine in the summer. He would leave Quebec City on Friday to join us there and then leave us on Sunday to be back at work the next day."

Even after retiring from politics, Mr. Mercier did not abandon public service; quite the contrary. "He has always worked in the community. He was a member of just about every Association in Charlesbourg: the Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, as well as various community organizations in Quebec City. He remained involved until very recently," says his son Eric.

In a statement, the City of Quebec and Mayor Régis Labeaume offered their condolences to Mr. Mercier's family and other loved ones. "The passing of Ralph Mercier saddens us deeply. The Quebec City region is losing one of its builders, a politician who has always held the quality of life of the citizens of Charlesbourg at heart, said Régis Labeaume. Even after leaving politics, Ralph Mercier continued to engage in his community and with the elected representatives of the borough. He will have left his mark on the history of our city."

Source: Ici-Radio-Canada, Le Soleil and Le Journal de Québec.

## THEY LEFT US IN 2019



**Father Bernard Mercier,  
C.Ss.R.  
1922 - 2019  
Quebec City  
December 31, 2019**

*At the Hôtel-Dieu in Quebec City, on December 31, 2019, Father Bernard Mercier, a Redemptorist, died at the age of 97 (no. 179). Born on May 4, 1922, in Saint-Romuald, he was the son of the late Mr. Albert Mercier and the late Thérèse Labrecque. His father Albert worked at the Shrine of the Good Sainte-Anne as an artist-sculptor.*

*Father Bernard took his religious vows on August 15, 1943, in Sherbrooke. He studied philosophy and theology at the Redemptorist School in Aylmer, Quebec from 1943 to 1949. He was ordained a priest on June 26, 1949.*

*From 1949 to 1960, he was a professor and bursar at the School of the Redemptorists of Aylmer. From 1960 until his retirement, he practiced his talents in journalism and communication at the Journal Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré (annals), of which he was the Editor for more than 50 years. All the while, for 64 years, he was involved in parish ministry and ecological pastoral care.*

*Father Mercier leaves behind his fellow Redemptorists, as well as his sisters Jeanne Mercier-Dion from Quebec City, Sister Monique Mercier, SSA in Beauport and his brother André, an S.C. missionary in Chile, and several nephews and nieces, cousins and friends. His funeral was celebrated at the Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica on January 4, 2020.*

*In Magog, on December 27, 2019, at the age of 93, the Honourable Léonce Mercier (no. 1385) passed away. He was a Senator, and husband in a first marriage to the late Madame Hélène Maltais and to his second wife Madame Micheline Côté, who lives in Orford.*

*He was the son of the late Mr. Joseph Théodore Mercier and the late Mrs. Azilda Larouche. In addition to his wife Micheline Côté, Mr. Mercier is survived by his children: Pierre, Danielle (Bernard Renald), Louise (the late Paul Marcil), Andrée (Rick Burns), Jean; his grandchildren: Sébastien and Marie-Hélène Renald (Simon Legris), Matthew and Nicolas Burns, Stephanie-Pier Marcil; his great-grandchildren: Jacob and Félix Legris.*

*He also leaves behind his brothers and sisters, his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law as well as several nieces and nephews, other relatives and many friends.*



**MR. LÉONCE MERCIER  
1926 - 2019  
Magog  
December 27, 2019**



# Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord

560, rue Desbiens, Sainte-Madeleine (Québec) J0H 1S0  
Site Internet : <http://www.famillesmercier.org> - Courriel : [famillesmercier1985@gmail.com](mailto:famillesmercier1985@gmail.com)

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May-2	Le Mercien SPRING Vol. 36 n°1.
May-31	Annual Membership Renewal, May 31st
July-20	Le Mercien SUMMER Vol. 36 n°2.
July15	Deadline to book a room at Auberge Harris
August 22-23	Gathering in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu

**See you!**

**HOPE TO MEET YOU**

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