



Le Mercien

The Voice of the Merciers of North America



The Gathering of the Merciers and the Annual Meeting scheduled for August 22-23, 2020 at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu have been postponed to 2021.

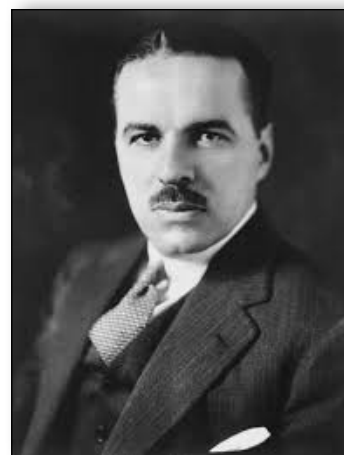
A FAMILY OF POLITICIANS AND EXPERTS IN LAW



Honoré Mercier
(1840-1894)



Lomer Gouin
(1816-1929)



Paul Gouin
(1898-1976)



Héva Mercier
(1873-1932)



Thomas Mulcair
(né en 1954)



Gérald Fauteux
(1900-1980)

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 2020-2021 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

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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
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Audit:	210	Denise Mercier		denisemercier@videotron.qc.ca

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2020-2021

Annual fees are due before May 31st of each year

Annually :	\$35/year	\$65/2 years
Annually + spouse(s) :	\$40/year	\$75/2 years
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 Mercien. We are proud to perpetuate that name today.

Legal deposit - 2020-2021
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 - Website : 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!

Just as we thought, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our Annual Gathering and General Meeting scheduled for August 22 and 23, 2020 **"have been postponed"**. We hope to organize these events at the same locations, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Sabrevoie, on 21 and 22 of August 2021. That will of course be dependent upon the re-opening of the accommodations, restaurants and tourism facilities. We are thus fully complying with the measures announced by our governments concerning the postponement of gatherings. Distancing is the "key to winning this war" and of course, our age group being 70-plus and using the very name of "Gathering" did not give us a choice in the matter.

I waited as long as I could to confirm the decision made by your Board of Directors, hoping that the re-opening measures would be allowed for sooner, but it was not to be. We are relying on you to abide by the guidelines set to counter this infamous virus and we hope to see you all again next year.



We remain available through virtual meetings and on social media networks such as Facebook, and on our own internet website: www.famillesmercier.org

Membership renewal is due for some of you on June 1st, and we invite you to use the "Interac" service if you find that convenient. Follow the procedure set out on page 6. Please keep in touch with us via e-mail at: famillesmercier1985@gmail.com

It's going to be fine!

Until next time!

Jacques Mercier, no. 341
President



RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FEES - NEW MEMBERS AND DONATIONS [as of May 24, 2020]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Member N°	Name	City - Province/State	Fees	Donations	Expiry May 31
35	Claudine Mercier	Québec, QC	35 \$		2021
180	Guy Dubé	Saint-Pacôme, QC	35 \$		2021
208	Gaston Mercier	St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC	65 \$		2022
284	Louissette Mercier & Jacques Dupras	Québec, QC	40 \$		2021
625	Dary Mercier	Gaspé, QC	65 \$	15 \$	2021
861	Robert Mercier & Anne-Marie Boudreau	L'Étang-du-Nord, QC	40 \$		2021
871	Jacques Mercier	St-Charles-de-Bellechasse, QC	35 \$	10 \$	2021
881	Gaétan Mercier & Odette Sylvain	Sherbrooke, QC	40 \$		2021
1306	Anne Mercier (Août 2019 - Janv. 2020)	Saint-Sauveur, QC	70 \$		2021
1306	Anne Mercier (Avril 2020)	Saint-Sauveur, QC	35 \$		2022
1465	Diane Mercier Lécuyer	Anjou, QC	Tirage	25 \$	2021
1553	Jocelyn Mercier & Mona Ouellet	Longueuil, Qc	75 \$		2022
1563	Maurice Mercier	New Hampshire, É.U.	Tirage		2021
1624	Simon Brouard	Québec, QC	35 \$		2021
1656	J.-Raymond Roy	East-Angus, QC	65 \$		2022
1658	Margaret Baillio	Maine, É.U.	35 \$		2021

Detailed Schedule for August 22nd and 23rd 2020 Cost for the Package :75\$

35th 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.	Welcoming event at Honoré Mercier's birthplace		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.	Auberge Harris - Rooms available from 3pm 576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1		Auberge Harris Check-in
7:30 p.m.	Restaurant Au Vieux Duluth - included with the \$75		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.	Déjeuner Continental à Continental Breakfast at Auberge Harris 576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1		Included with room Auberge Harris
8:30 a.m.	Registration in the Jean-Yves Théberge Room 576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1 Information package to be handed out		Auberge Harris Salle Jean-Yves Théberge
9:30 a.m.	Annual General Meeting (AGM)		Auberge Harris
11:15 a.m.	576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1		Salle Chambly
11:30 p.m.	Luncheon - included with both packages (\$55 and \$75)		Resto
1:15 p.m.	576 Rue Champlain, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC J3B 6X1		Auberge Harris
1:30 p.m.	Cruise on the Richelieu and/or Visit to the Armoury		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.	Farewell Wine Reception		Marina - boat
4:15 p.m.	End of the Gathering and see you Next Year!		Marina

Have a good Gathering 2020!



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

REGISTRATION FORM

Nom: _____

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

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

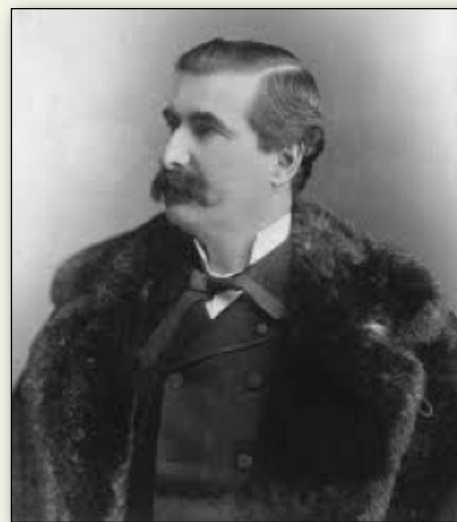
5- The Reason for payment: **Membership Fee, Gathering 2020, Donation or Promo.**

Jacques Mercier, President

A FAMILY OF POLITICIANS AND EXPERTS IN LAW

In the family of Honoré Mercier and his descendants, we find members who have stood out in politics and in the judiciary. There were two Quebec Premiers, Honoré Mercier and his son-in-law Lomer Gouin. His grandsons Gaspard and Gérard Fauteux were appointed, respectively, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. One of his sons, Honoré II and two of his grandsons, Honoré III and Paul Gouin, were members of the Legislative Assembly. Thomas Mulcair, a great-grandson, was Leader of the Official Opposition in Ottawa's Parliament from 2012 to 2015.

Honoré Mercier (1840-1894), a descendant from the line of ancestor Julien, was the son of a farmer, Jean-Baptiste Mercier and of Marie-Catherine Timineur (Kememeur). A lawyer and a journalist, he married Léopoldine Boivin, who gave a him daughter, Éлиза. Five years after becoming a widower, he married Virginie St-Denis, who gave birth to Héva, Honoré and Paul-Émile. His political career started in Ottawa's House of Commons in 1872 and culminated in 1887 when he became Premier of Quebec, serving until 1892. An ardent defender of provincial autonomy, he encouraged the development and expansion of agriculture, and of education. He opened roads and railroads to developing regions and he made Quebec known in Europe and in the United States.



**Honoré Mercier
(1840-1894)**

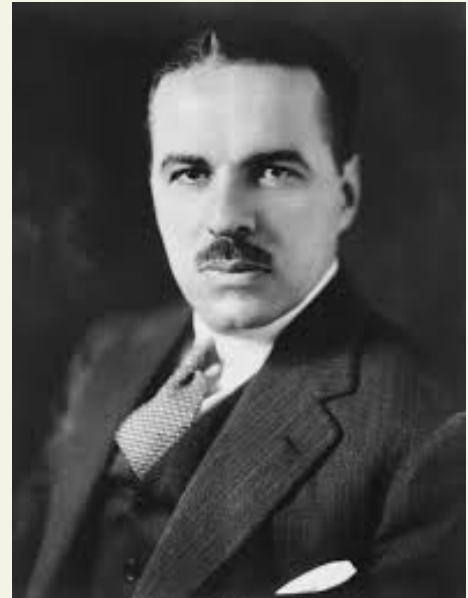
Lomer Gouin (1861-1929), was son-in-law of the former Premier of Quebec Honoré Mercier, whose daughter Éлиза he married in 1888. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1900. As Premier of Quebec from 1905 to 1920, he continued the liberal tradition through encouraging the development of natural resources by foreign capital. Gouin also served in Ottawa's Parliament as Justice Minister. He concluded his long political career as Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec. He continued to occupy this position until he died in March 1929. His sons Paul Gouin and Léon-Mercier Gouin became respectively a member of the Legislative Assembly and a Senator.



**Lomer Gouin
(1861-1929)**

Paul Gouin (1898-1976) married Gabrielle Garneau in 1922. He was Lieutenant of a tank regiment during the First World War. He became a lawyer, like his father and his grandfather before him, he co-founded *Action libérale nationale* during the great economic crisis of the 1930s and he also cofounded the *Bloc populaire* during the Second World War. After a brief stint in politics, he became an important player in the cultural life of Quebec.

Léon-Mercier Gouin (1891-1983) was a jurist, a university professor and a politician, and he married actress Yvette Ollivier in 1917. He participated in the founding of HEC Montreal. At the time, he played a leading intellectual role in society. He sat in the Canadian Senate for 36 years. Their daughter, **Thérèse Gouin Décarie**, born in 1923, was a pioneer in the research on child development. She was the first French-speaking woman to become a member of the National Research Council of Canada.



**Paul Gouin
(1898-1976)**

Héva Mercier (1873-1932) was born during the second marriage of Honoré Mercier and she married Homère Fauteux, a dentist. They were the parents of Gaspard, Gérald and Héva.

Gaspard Fauteux (1898-1963) was Governor of the College of Dental Surgeons of the Province of Quebec in the early 1930s. He was involved in many economic, social and cultural enterprises and he received Honorary Doctorates from Laval, Montreal and McGill universities. After being a Member of Parliament and Speaker of the House of Commons in Ottawa, he was Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec from 1950 to 1958. He married in New York, Marguerite Barré, daughter of director Raoul Barré. Their daughter, Marie Fauteux, married **Claude Castonguay**, Minister of Health and Social Affairs in the National Assembly in the early 1970s and later a Senator from 1990 to 1992.



**Héva Mercier
(1873-1932)**

Gérald Fauteux (1900-1980) became Chief Crown Prosecutor for the Province of Quebec in 1939. He also taught criminal law as a lecturer at McGill University and became Dean of the Faculty of Law. He was appointed to the Superior Court of Quebec in 1947 and to the Supreme Court of Canada two years later. He was one of the founders of the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa, serving as dean for several years. In 1970, he became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. He retired three years later. Chief Justice Fauteux died on September 14, 1980, at the age of 79.

Honoré Mercier (fils) (1875-1937) was a lawyer, and he was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1907 to 1936. During that period, he was Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, as well as Minister of Lands and Forests in the Cabinet of his brother-in-law Lomer Gouin and afterwards, under Alexandre Taschereau. He was awarded the Order of St. Gregory the Great and then received the Legion of Honour from France. He married Jeanne Fréchette, daughter of the lawyer and poet Louis Fréchette and Emma Beaudry. Their son, Honoré III (1908-1988) was also a lawyer and he served one term as a member of the Legislative Assembly.

The youngest child of Premier Honoré Mercier and Virginie St-Denis, **Paul-Émile Mercier (1877-1926)** married Marie-Louise Taché. Their granddaughter, Jeanne Hurtubise, is the mother of **Thomas Mulcair (born in 1954)**, Member of the National Assembly of Quebec from 1994 to 2007, and then Member of the House of Commons from 2007 to 2018. He was Leader of the New Democratic Party and Leader of the Official Opposition.

Sources

Dictionary of Canadian Biography

The following Internet sites:

*Wikipédia (see Mercier Family and the names of all the politicians mentioned in the text).

* Assemblée nationale du Québec (see the names of all the politicians mentioned in the text).



**Gérald Fauteux
(1900-1980)**



**Thomas Mulcair
(né en 1954)**

Prepared by :
Gilmond Mercier n° 28

MAJOR EPIDEMICS IN THE HISTORY OF QUEBEC

The Covid-19 pandemic which is spreading around the world reminds us of the various epidemics that have hit the territory of New-France and Quebec. The measures to counter them were quite often inefficient. Today, science and medicine replace the shamans, the quacks and improvised remedies such as smoke, tar, vinegar ...



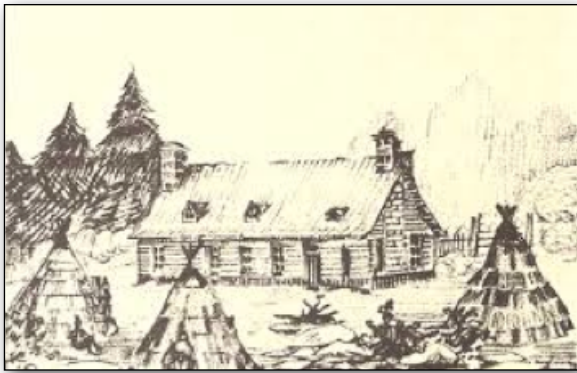
Horacio Arruda. Source : Le soleil

The measures taken by the Quebec government, under the advice of the Director General of Public Health, Dr. Horacio Arruda, should mitigate the severity of the pandemic. By the way, Dr. Arruda's wife is **Dr. Nicole Mercier** (her line of ancestry: Fernand Arthur, Joseph Arthur, Adolphe Jacques, Adolphe, Augustin, Louis, Louis, Alexandre and Pierre "Caudebec" Mercier). She is a family physician.

Earlier epidemics often originated in Europe. The crossing of the Atlantic under precarious sanitary conditions was ideal for spreading bacteria and contagious viruses. Fishermen, sailors, soldiers, missionaries, *coureurs des bois* ... put local populations at risk.

At the beginning of colonization, indigenous peoples were victims of epidemics which decimated a significant part of their population. Jacques Cartier visited the villages of Stadacona (Quebec City) and Hochelaga (Montreal) populated by many Iroquoians. About 70 years later, Champlain found Stadacona to be deserted. The population had undoubtedly been decimated by smallpox and, under the pressure of nomadic tribes, forced to move to other locations. Various contagious diseases such as smallpox, influenza, typhus, cholera, the mumps, measles, tuberculosis ... drastically reduced the aboriginal population, who fell gravely ill because its immune system was not able to ward off infection. Illness, wars and famine eventually reduced the Amerindian population from two million to 150 000 in the Canadian area between 1500 and 1850.

In 1639, the city of Quebec, with barely 300 inhabitants, was struck by an epidemic of *smallpox*. The Augustine nuns then founded Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, the oldest hospital North of Mexico, to care for the French as well as members of the First Nations.



Hôtel-Dieu at Sillery in 1639.
Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia.

In 1757, the ancestor **Charles Mercier** also known as Lajoie arrived with the Berry Regiment. During the crossing, smallpox spread amongst the soldiers. On arriving in Quebec City, they contaminated the inhabitants, who had just suffered two years earlier, *the year of the smallpox* (La Grande Picote).

In order to quell Chief Pontiac's Native American revolt in the early 1760s, English troops distributed to their enemy, blankets deliberately infected with smallpox, a form of biological weapon. In 1775, this terrible disease probably played a role in the failed attempt by American troops to invade the Province of Quebec.

Smallpox regularly struck our ancestors and there were thousands of victims until the beginning of the 20th century, despite improved health measures and the invention of an effective vaccine in 1796. One of the last epidemics, in 1885, showed the opposition to vaccination amongst part of the population. Many French Canadians saw it as a conspiracy against them.

In 1659, a new disease appeared: **typhus** which resulted from contamination caused by lice bites or droppings. That year, two hundred people embarked at La Rochelle to go to New-France. That was the most important effort to date to populate the colony. One third died during the crossing and upon arrival in Quebec City, the sick disembarked and soon spread the typhus infection. At that time, **Julien Mercier** and Marie Poulin were the only ancestral couple present in New-France. We cannot find any source mentioning that their family had been contaminated by the disease.

In the 19th century, cholera and typhus epidemics hit Quebec. They often coincided with the massive arrival of Irish immigrants. During the **choléra** epidemic of 1832, 52,000 of them landed in Quebec City at a time when the population did not exceed 30,000 inhabitants. Cholera broke out on the ship and then spread among the city's population. Some writers estimate that 15 percent of the inhabitants died from it.

Emigrants from England and Ireland suffering from these diseases were disembarked at the Grosse-Île Quarantine Station. However, not all immigrants were put in isolation and some of them passed the controls while they were still incubating the disease. It then spread to Montreal and to Upper Canada (Ontario).

In 1847, 100,000 immigrants fleeing famine came to the new world. Almost a fifth of them died during the crossing or upon arrival. Canadian families took in many orphans. When the pandemic began to subside, one sixth of the population was



*Quarantine Station at Grosse-Île near Quebec City.
Source: Parks Canada*

affected and 50,000 Canadians, mostly young adults, had died, including Canon **François-Xavier Mercier** Archdeacon of the Diocese of Montreal (See Le Mercien volume 35, number 2).

Despite the major epidemics that hit the future Provinces of Canada, the Fathers of Confederation paid little attention to public health when the new country was created in 1867.

At the end of the century, **tuberculosis** was the disease that caused the most deaths in the Quebec population. Outbreaks of infectious diseases such as diphtheria, smallpox, scarlet fever, typhoid fever and influenza were reported and contributed to very high mortality rates.



"A misfortune never happens alone", at the same time as the Sabinois (from Sainte-Sabine) were struck by the Spanish flu, their church was shaken by a tornado.

The **Spanish flu** pandemic struck Quebec in 1918-1919. It is estimated that more than half a million Quebecers were infected with the virus. Up to 15,000 people died in the province. Even remote regions were affected. In the small parish of Sainte-Sabine-de-Bellechasse, my father, **Georges Mercier**, then 11 years old, accompanied the parish priest in his visits to the sick. His parents, **Edmond Mercier** and Élise Brochu were worried about their young son. As a preventive measure, my grandfather would give him a swig of gin. He did not catch the flu, but he loved gin his whole life ... Doctors and health authorities were powerless, they could not isolate the germ at fault. Globally, the Spanish flu claimed more victims than the First World War of 1914-18.

After that tragedy, measures were taken to avoid deadly pandemics: the federal government created the Department of Health and Quebec established County Health Units where nurses played a major role in the prevention of infectious diseases.

International cooperation led to the creation of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. Research led to the discovery of some viruses and the advent of virology and immunology.

A major **poliomyelitis** epidemic peaked in 1953 in Canada. Nine hundred people got the disease and 500 died from it. Polio was a specially contagious human disease. It caused paralysis of the lower limbs and it could reach the lungs. Research by Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin led to the discovery of two effective vaccines.

Let us hope that in this year 2020, progress in medicine, public health improvements and scientific discoveries will be able to stop the coronavirus (**covid-19**) pandemic and reduce mortality to a minimum.

Sources:

- ï Public Health: a Canadian History: www.cpha.ca
- ï Les grandes épidémies qui ont frappé le Québec: www.quebecscience.qc.ca
- ï De la variole au coronavirus ... www.avenues.ca
- ï Epidemics in Canada: www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca
- ï Le Mercien, volume 35, number 2
- ï Provencher, Jean, Chronologie du Québec, Boréal, 1991

Gilmond Mercier #28



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR ALL

Anyone who has visited a public place must watch for symptoms and observe the following rules:

- Wash your hands often with warm running water and soap for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based disinfectant if you do not have access to water and soap.
- Observe hygiene rules when coughing or sneezing:
 - Cover your mouth and nose with your arm to reduce the spread of germs.
 - If you use a tissue, throw it out as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards.
- If you must go outside, maintain a distance of at least 2 metres (about 6 feet) from other people who do not live under your roof.

Everyone has a role to play in reducing the risk of spreading viruses.

Source: <https://www.quebec.ca/sante/problemes-de-sante/a-z/coronavirus-2019/>

CORONAVIRUS: IT WAS MARCH 2020



The Bauhinia blakeana was adopted as the emblem of Hong Kong in 1965. Since 1997, the flower has appeared on the flag of Hong Kong and on its currency (since 1993).

Did you know that the Bauhinia, a symbol de Hong Kong was named after the name of the Swiss French botanist Gaspard Bauhin?

It was March 2020 ...

The streets were empty, the shops were closed, the people couldn't get out. But spring didn't know anything, and the flowers continued to bloom and the sun shone, the birds were singing, the swallows would soon arrive back, the sky was blue, and morning came early.

It was March 2020 ...

Young people had to study online, and find occupations at home, people could no longer go shopping or go to the hairdresser. Soon there would be no more room in hospitals, and people continued to get sick. But spring didn't know, the time to go to the garden arrived, the grass greened.

It was March 2020 ...

People have been in lockdown to protect grandparents, families and children. No more meetings or meals, family celebrations. The fear became real and the days were therefore similar.

But Spring did not know.

Apple trees, cherry trees and others bloomed, the leaves grew. People started reading, playing with their families, learning a language, singing on the balcony inviting neighbours to do the same, being supportive and focussing on other values. People realized the importance of health, of suffering, of this world that had stopped, of the economy that had plummeted.

But Spring did not know.

The flowers gave way to the fruit, the birds made their nest, the swallows had arrived. Then the day of liberation came, people found out on TV, the virus had lost, people took to the streets, sang, cried, hugged their neighbours, without masks or gloves. And that's when summer came, because spring didn't know. He continued to be there despite everything, despite the virus, fear and death. Because spring didn't know, he taught people the power of life. Everything's gonna be fine, stay home, protect yourself, and enjoy life

Source: Anonymous poem: *Lepetitjournal Hong Kong - L'Actualité locale et internationale pour les expatriés français et les francophones* - <https://lepetitjournal.com/hong-kong>



Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord

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15-nov.	Le Mercien AUTUMN Vol. 36 n°3.
See you!	

The Gathering and the
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