Levasseur



Vol 22 No 4 - December 2010

The Board of Directors of the Association of Levasseur wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2011

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The Lac du Bonnet LeVasseurs

by: Karen LeVasseur (250)

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I have always been interested in my genealogical roots, but was not prompted to really explore them until the afternoon of my father's wake in August of 2004. I knew I was descended from the "Laurent" side of the family but did not know very much more. That unhappy day, I was approached by an elderly gentleman who grasped my hand and asked me if I knew who he was. Even though I had never met him before, I was certain I was speaking to Vincent Levasseur, our association's founder. He was kind enough to attend to offer his condolences, a gesture that I really appreciated and one that started me on my genealogical journey.

Also in the summer of 2004, I had attended a conference in La Malbaie, Québec, where on more than one occasion, upon hearing my surname, a local person would say to me "oh, you are south shore." I did not really understand what this

meant until someone explained that the twinkling lights that

Early History of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba

Lac du Bonnet is a community rich in history dating back to the De La Vérendrye era. La Vérendrye, having surveyed the topography of the area, decided that the lake (actually a river) reminded him of a bonnet. Appropriately, he named the area Lac du Bonnet. In tribute to the great explorations and tireless efforts of La Verendrye, the La Verendrye Monument was unveiled at Fort Alexander at the mouth of the Winnipeg River.

I could see twelve kilometers across the St. Lawrence River,

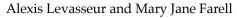
was the village of Kamouraska, where many of my ancestors had lived for generations..

It was the combination of these two events that made me want to find out more. My father, Farrell Alexis LeVasseur had been the fourteenth of fifteen children born to my grandparents, Albert LeVasseur and Carmen Lupien LeVasseur. The two eldest children, Mercedes (1913- 2008) and Rita (1915-1920) were born in Grand Isle, Maine. But the rest of my father's siblings were born in Brandon, Winnipeg or Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba. I am fortunate that several of my father's brothers and sisters are still alive and have told me about what they



remember about the family history. As a result of being considered the family historian, I have had the good fortune to have been given a few family artifacts safekeeping, including the fascinating diaries photo albums kept by my grandmother, Carmen, and the war album kept by my late uncle. I like to think inherited that I grandmother's interest in family history.





Our ancestor, Laurent Levasseur, had fourteen children, and I am descended from his middle child, Pierre, who moved from the Parish St. Joseph de Lauzon near Québec City area to the seigneurie of Kamouraska, St. Louis, in 1701. There are records of him being the church warden there in 1726 and he owned several acres of land. The family remained in the Kamouraska area until near the end of that century. Pierre's great grand

child, Jean-Baptiste Levasseur was born in Kamouraska in 1782 but at some point, he migrated to Ste-Basile, New Brunswick, where he was married in 1808. He died in Lille, Maine in 1871. The reason for the move from the lower St. Lawrence area had to do with the work opportunities available in northern Maine and he joined an exodus of French Canadians who made the same journey. My branch of the family seems to have gone back and forth between Ste. Basile and the towns of Grand Isle, Caribou, Lille, Van Buren and Lewiston in northern Maine.

My great-grandfather, Alexis Levasseur (whose photograph is in the Association archives) married his second wife, Jane Farrell in 1883 in Van Buren and that is the town that eventually was considered to be the family home, and is where many relatives are buried. They had seven children together and my grandfather, known as Hugh, was their fourth child. He was born in 1894 in Caribou. He married my grandmother, Carmen Lupien, the only child of Dr. Lucien Lupien, and his wife Nélida de Villiers, in 1913, in Grande Isle. My grandmother's family included the Leclerc, Dumas, Landry, Arsenault, Blais, Rouleau and Chavigny de Lachevotière families. She also had Levasseurs in her family tree!

In response to an advertisement in the Winnipeg Free Press, my grandparents immigrated from Van Buren with their two young daughters to Canada in 1918 so that my grandfather could work as a butcher. The west was considered to be the

land of opportunity for people willing to work hard. My grandparents eventually settled in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba on the Winnipeg River, about 140 kilometers from Winnipeg. There, my grandfather worked for a Mr. Allard, the owner of the butcher shop and grocery store and the family lived in a small apartment above the store.

In 1922, Hugh and Carmen opened their own establishment on the bank of the Winnipeg River. In 1930, the family moved again into a five bedroom home with an attached business portion for their grocery and butcher shop in the

centre of town and very close to the main dock, overlooking the river. My father recalls that the boys in the family assisted their father in cutting huge blocks of ice from the river, which were stored in a shed under straw. The ice was used for refrigeration during the summer months. Eventually, the grocery store evolved into an airline office - Wings Ltd. Their home was also the site of the first telephone exchange in town and my grandmother was the town's first operator. Throughout all of these changes though, my grandfather still



butcher shop on wheels too, providing a welcome service to customers as far away as Seven Sister Falls. grandfather made his deliveries three times a week, leaving at dawn and returning only after nightfall. During the long, hard winters, often the only vehicles on some of the more remote roads were those driven by grandfather and the town doctor.

My grandparents went on to have thirteen more children, many of whom died in infancy or from diseases such as Eight survived until diphtheria. adulthood: Mercedes (Callander), Gisele (1919-), Lucien (1921-1944), Ostende (Husband) (1924- 2005), Omer (1926-), Hectorine (Street) (1927-) Farrell (1931-2004) and Paul (1942-). My father was named after his grandmother, Jane Farrell. He was 11 years old when his younger brother, Paul was born. My grandmother was 50 at the time!

Interestingly, my grandparents, who were francophone, only spoke French to their eldest children and to each other. My grandmother's diaries were written in her elegant penmanship, in beautiful, formal French as she had been educated in a convent. My eldest aunt, Mercedes, recalls that she never learned to speak English until the family moved to Lac du Bonnet when she was five years old. But the youngest children, my father included, grew up speaking only English, probably as a result of living in an English-speaking town where the second language was Ukrainian, not Sadly, it took only one French. generation for our French language heritage to be lost.

The children remember a very happy household, with many adopted young people benefiting from the LeVasseur's open door and open heart policy. Night after night, their dining room table was stretched to capacity with their frequent guests. A highlight for my father was his older brother, Lucien's (known as Louis)

conducted his butcher business. It was a musical talent. He remembers family and friends gathered in their home, singing and dancing around the piano as Louis would play. My Uncle Omer also inherited this gift but the family insists that it was Louis who could really play. Neither could read music but just had an "ear" for it.



Tragically, Louis was killed in 1944 when his Lancaster bomber was shot down over Dusseldorf, Germany. The Allies were attacking targets in the Ruhr Valley in an effort to halt the German war machine. Louis was a wireless operator and normally, the same pilots, co-pilots, engineers and wireless operators flew with the same crew for each mission during their tours of duty. Louis and his crew had completed all but one of their bombing missions when the wireless operator from another crew fell ill with appendicitis. Louis volunteered to replace him. When that plane was shot down, the pilot was able to parachute to safety, but the rest of the Louis's own crew crew perished. successfully finished their last mission and all safely returned to Canada.

My father, Farrell, was trained as an airplane mechanic, inspired by the float planes that flew in and out of Lac du Bonnet, taking passengers into the north. He grew up with those planes almost in his backyard. He married my mother, Louise (Lollie) Strimbicki, in 1956, the year after his father died. A year later, I

Direct lineage of Karen

Laurent Levasseur abt 1648-1726 Pierre Levasseur 1679-1738 Pierre Levasseur abt 1710-1791 Jean-Baptiste Levasseur 1752-1828 Jean-Baptiste Levasseur 1782-1871 Joseph Levasseur 1816-1905 Alexis LeVasseur 1844-1905 Albert Hugh LeVasseur 1894-???? Farrell LeVasseur 1931-2004 Karen LeVasseur

was born. In 1959, my father accepted a job in Ottawa with the Ministry of Transportation, where he remained for the next 37 years. That is the reason that we moved back east. My father rose through the ranks, eventually attaining the position of Director of flight services before he retired. My sister, Laurie and her family, and my brother, John were born in Ottawa and still live here. As for me. I was married in Ottawa to David Chick and we have four wonderful children: Benjamin, Allison, Matthew and Andrea.

For the last few summers, my youngest daughter and I have been making an annual pilgrimage to Kamouraska to explore our roots and to try to reclaim what was lost so many years ago - our French language and heritage!

Biography of Nicolas Dubuc

« In life, there are circumstances that will continue to escape us»

by: Lorraine Levasseur



Deceased at age of 31 after a courageous battle against cancer, Nicolas has left his mark on several levels. Son of Lorraine Levasseur and Pierre Dubuc, he was born on 25 December 1978. With such a birth date, he could only be someone very special. Very soon, Nicolas became a very curious child who wanted to know everything and to try anything. Whether

on the intellectual level (music-travel-reading) or in sports (hockey-archery-baseball-soccer), he touched a little of everything. Around the age of 13 and after having played soccer, he swapped the soccer ball for a whistle and found that he liked it better. He progressed very quickly under the tutelage of John Gordon a former FIFA Assistant Referee. Three years later he was on the provincial team of referees.

After his high school in Trois-Rivières, he began his studies in science with a view to later enrol in dentistry at Laval University. Four years later in 2002, and at the age of 23, he became one of the youngest graduates of his cohort. Meanwhile, in the summer of 1998 after going successfully through several interviews and contests at the provincial level, he was selected with eight other Quebecers to attend the World Soccer Cup in France. As the sole representative of his region, he became temporarily a reporter for the daily local paper Le Nouvelliste. During this trip and in addition to attending a few soccer matches between the best teams in the world, he was also invited at a reception where he had the opportunity to meet Jacques Chirac President of the France. Furthermore, the Quebec delegation had earned a medal at the World Cup Edition of the Dictation of the Americas with Bernard Pivot. After this experience, he said that one day he too might achieve this high level of refereeing achieved by the FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association).

Meanwhile, he continued his progression juggling his career as a referee and his university studies. In November 2000 he received the trophy Chantal Navert awarded to the "Elite Referee of the year in Quebec." Nicolas started the 2001 summer season by earning his Grade Level 1, which will provide him his first refereeing experience at the Canadian level. On several occasions, he is given an opportunity to referee Canadian university, college and junior championships. During the Christmas period he would also referee many games in Florida thus providing him a chance to travel and gain refereeing experience.

In June 2002, he began his career as a dentist in Trois-Rivières. Both his professional and sport careers looked very promising. In March 2005, his referee's performance is paying off and he was admitted in the National Program as an Assistant Referee.

However in October 2006 fate decided otherwise. A cancer, of the type sarcoma localized in the left arm, is diagnosed. The only possible effective treatment is amputation. He did receive chemotherapy treatment to ensure the cancer did not spread elsewhere. With a little 8 month old girl (Florence) at the time, his careers in dentistry and as a referee are seriously compromised. Both his wife Anne-Marie Lamy and Nicolas showed great courage during treatment. Optimism and cheerfulness were ever present as they all were convinced that he would overcome the disease. In August 2007 and only four months following a very aggressive chemotherapy treatment, he surprised the soccer leaders across Canada, by successfully completing the very demanding physical tests that will enable him to continue refereeing. In recognition for his courage and determination, he was awarded the rank of National Assistant Referee: a first for a referee with only one arm! Thus, the greatest hope of achieving this high level is finally within reach. He lives up to his Canadian crest!

In September, the Cégep de Trois-Rivières offered him a job as a dental clinician responsible for the supervision of dental hygienists students. He is still useful to society as he liked to say jokingly. December 2007, a positive lymph node was detected at the left armpit. Vigilance is necessary as the recurrence of this type sarcoma is usually localized in the lungs. His optimism is not adversely affected. The removal of the lymph node is performed and radiation therapy treatment is administered as a preventive measure. During the treatment, he continues to work and train in order to maintain his physical condition. Only a 20% loss of lung capacity is noted.

Despite being very optimistic, he felt a sword of Damocles over his head. In spring 2008, while feeling in good shape, he decides to make a dream trip. As mentioned earlier he was very curious individual and in early adolescence his aunts took him to see Great Explorers conferences. The Machu Picchu episode had greatly impressed him and he had mentioned that one day he would visit the site of the ancient Inca city in Peru. He left for three weeks with his father and two friends after planning a trip worthy of the best travel agents. With his wife Anne-Marie, I joined them for the hike to the Machu Picchu. For those who







know a little about the area, the hike is quite a physically demanding.

Everything is going well. The disease seems a thing of the past: tests are normal, they have projects in mind, a new home, a second child. No question to stop living just in case the disease would return

The refereeing career continues to grow. Regularly, Nicolas is assigned to referee professional games of the Montreal Impact, the Vancouver White Caps and the Toronto Lynx. In late autumn 2008, he was selected to officiate the National in Nova Championships Scotia. Because of his accomplishments, he is designated as one of the four officials for the grand finale. In the summer 2009, he went to Chicago to officiate his first international match. On 24 July a dream comes through at the Olympic Stadium with Champions Trophy game between the French clubs Bordeaux and Guingamp. He worked as an assistant referee in the framework of this high caliber international competition. It has been his best career opportunity in front of a crowd in excess of 30,000 people.

Three days later, he refereed a friendly game between the Montreal Impact and the Girondins de Bordeaux. Among the players was Zidane, one of the greatest soccer players of modern times.

In November, he was invited in Vancouver to officiate the Canadian University Soccer Championship. Unfortunately in mid-October, life decided otherwise as a very aggressive post-chemotherapy leukaemia appeared. He responded well to a first protocol. Once again, all hopes are allowed as he was a candidate for a bone marrow transplant. Late December: recidivism. A new protocol is sought and there is still hope. Unfortunately the search is too long and complication occurred. The disease did its work and Nicolas lost his battle on 21February 2010, one month after the birth of Catherine and two months after moving into his new house.

Until the very end, he always fought with a smile and taking full advantage of every moment. It is that smile that we will remember.

Direct Lineage

Pierre Levasseur\Lespérance abt 1627-1694

| Pierre Levasseur 1661-1731
| Denis Joseph Levasseur 1712-1792
| Joseph Levasseur 1741-1825
| Étienne Levasseur 1777-1851
| Étienne Levasseur 1803-1890
| Hilaire Levasseur 1831-1927
| Tancrède Levasseur 1877-1938
| Joseph-Louis Levasseur 1919-1995
| Lorraine Levasseur 1952| Nicolas Dubuc 1978-2010



President's Message

by: Roger Levasseur (004)

It is that time of year, time to wish one another, dear members of the Levasseur Association of America, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. On behalf of your Board of Directors that is our wish to each of you and to the members of your family.

I would like to share with you the principal accomplishments of your Association in 2010. We are no longer like the Association that saw the light of day more than 30 years ago. The advent of the computer and the Internet are such that the Association no longer limits its communication with its members with a Newsletter. For that reason it was decided that the membership would be divided in two distinct groups. There will be "On-line members", those who use the Internet and "Non On-line members", for those who do not have access to the Internet or chose not to use it. Non On-line members will always receive the Newsletter by the post four times per year but will not have access to the information available on the site «levasseur.org» Whereas On-line members have access to all information on the Levasseur Web site including the Newsletter. However if they want a printed copy of the Newsletter they will be required to print it on their personnel computer and will not receive a mailed copy. This decision is applicable to all members including Lifemembers.

I would like to mention the modifications and improvements to our Web site that have contributed in making us a leader among other genealogical Associations. There is also the work with Jacques Beaugrand on DNA who will be the guess speaker at the Association's annual meeting in Sherbrooke in August. There was also work done that has contributed to increase the number of entries in our data base with the obituary notices and the gathering of information by our genealogist. On your behalf I thank the board members for their contribution ensuring the success of our Association and wish them and there family members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are thankful to the Levasseurs who send us News about their families. In this Newsletter you will read the story of the LeVasseurs from Lac du Bonnet in Manitoba by Karen LeVasseur This kind of article, in addition to being very interesting, will be archived and available for future generations interested in genealogy. I encourage and invite you to write your family stories for future publication in the Levasseur Newsletter.



Regards,

Roger Levassseur

Offer an original Christmas gift

Get two birds with one stone! Offer to a next of kin a gift that he can appreciate all year. For as little as \$20, a subscription as an On-line member of the Levasseur Association will enable him to discover the history of his ancestors and access a data base of close to 120,000 registrants.

As soon as he becomes a member, the Association will send him a Christmas card on your behalf.

To do so, <u>click on this link</u>, or go to the section «Become a member» on our site. If you cannot use an electronic payment method, communicate with us by <u>webmaster</u> and we will advise you how you can pay for his or her membership.

Do not forget to send us his valid E-Mail address since all communications will be done electronically.

Visitor statistics

Google Analytics is a free web site analytical service offered by the U.S. computer giant Google. Here are some statistics.

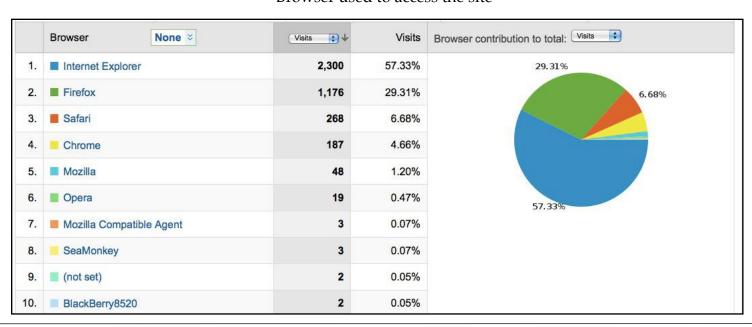
Average numbers of visitors in the last six months



Origin of visitors by continent

Visits		②	Goal Conversion Rate N/A Configure Now		Per Visit Goal Value		
	Detail Level: Continent >			Visits ↓	G1	Goal Conversion Rate	Per Visit Goal Value
1.	Americas			3,479	-	-	-
2.	Europe			479	-	-	-
3.	Africa			23	-	<u>e</u>	-
4.	Asia			23	-	-	12
5.	Oceania			8	742	_	-

Browser used to access the site



Company profile: Levasseur

Fire Trucks Levasseur

Source: www.levasseur.ca

Over half of fire trucks currently in use in Québec are "Levasseur". Since its founding in 1990, "Levasseur" fire equipment remains on the lookout for new technologies to exceed the standards and to better meet the needs of Québec municipalities.

Founded in 1990 by Jean Levasseur, "Levasseur" is a Québec company specializing in the manufacturing, refurbishing and repair of fire vehicles.

For over sixteen years, this company has earned an enviable reputation in the

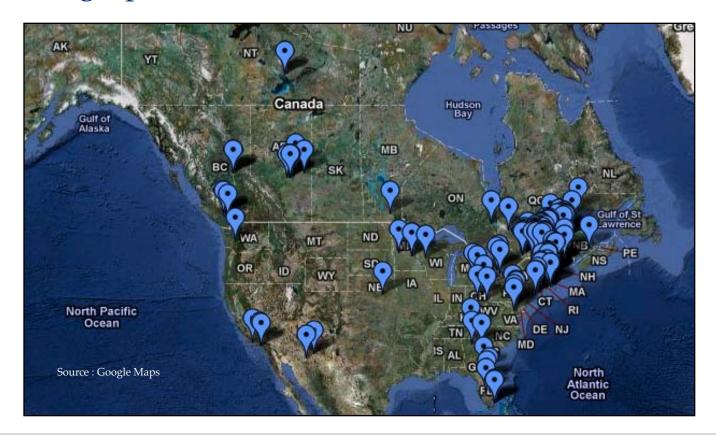


Québec industry of suppliers of products and services in the fight against fires. Its fame rests on the quality, reliability and durability of its products manufactured entirely in Québec and meeting the highest standards.

"Levasseur" is one of the few manufacturers that produces fire trucks made entirely in Québec and its plant is located in Saint-François-du-Lac.



Geographical distribution of the ALA members



Photographs received from our members











Alfred Levasseur

Augustine Levasseur

Octave Levasseur

Philias Levasseur

Diana Levasseur

These photos and many others have been sent by Mr. Roland Williams (William Henry 1903-1981 and Blanche Levasseur 1902-1979) of Pohénégamook. To access Mr. Williams' file genealogical in our database, <u>click here</u>. You must log in to access this section.

To view these documents and many others, enter our website under «Photo Album».

Thank you for sending us your old digitalized photos by accessing this link.

Brief news

by: Joceline Levasseur and Jean-Pierre Levasseur

♀ Conference: The Levasseurs of Saint-Maurice



M a n y Levasseurs were pioneers of the parish of Saint-Maurice

Jean-Marie Levasseur, a

member of l' Association des Levasseur d'Amérique, went looking for them. With the use of many research tools such as censuses, deeds, the "Dictionnaire généalogique des descendants de Jean et Pierre Levasseur, Jean-Marie managed to revive those Levasseurs who were our ancestors. You are invited in great numbers to hear about those who preceded us.

This conference is made possible through the kind invitation of the Société d'histoire de Saint-Maurice

Date and location: Friday, March 11, 2011 at 8 PM in Saint-Maurice parish hall located to the right of the church. The municipality of Saint-Maurice is located northeast of Trois-Rivières.

● The Stem Family Fair



The Fair will be held in Québec, in the "Laurier Québec Mall" on 25, 26 and 27 February 2011. The Association des Levasseur d'Amérique will have a booth and you are invited to visit us

in large numbers.

Online database

We thank all those who sent us information concerning their families. Information such as births, marriages and deaths are important to complete the database of l'Association des Levasseur of d'Amérique.

Our database is unique as we are the only family in Québec offering our members the opportunity to consult, via the Internet, a genealogical database.

Our gratitude to our webmaster Jean-Pierre Levasseur who updates the database two or three times a year.

To collect the data in our computers, the software <u>Brother's Keeper</u> is used. With Gedcom, Jean-Pierre can export the



contents of the database into the software GeneWeb. Thanks to this software, which is available on the Web. all members can access the information

gathered on their ancestors.

• New tool on the website



A section "Frequently Asked Questions "(FAQ) is the development phase on the website. Users often ask us about the different features offered (such as how to access to the

database etc.). Useful information will be offered so that you can find solutions to problems most often encountered.

Q Destination Sherbrooke in 2011

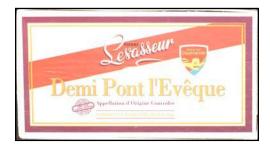


Paul Levasseur and his team are preparing a very interesting gathering for August 20, 2011. The next Newsletter, to be published in March, will detail the planned activities. A section of the website will also allow you to register via an electronic form. On you can also contact Paul Levasseur (paulev@videotron.ca) for additional information.

Q Cheese Pierre Levasseur



Always available in specialty grocery stores, this french cheese of the type Pont l'Évêque appeared in the 12th century. This soft cheese was founded by Cistercian Monks who settled west of Caen. It was known under the name of "Angelot"



Erratum

In the last issue of our Newsletter at page 3, second photo, the person identified is our friend Gilles Carmel and not Gilles Levasseur.

Welcome new members

- (535) Claude Grimard, Candiac, Qc
- (536) Fernand Levasseur, St-Maurice, Qc
- (537) Pierre Levasseur, Anc.-Lorette, Qc
- (538) Claude Levasseur, Lévis, Qc
- (539) Suzanne Levasseur, Québec, Qc
- (540) André Levasseur, St-Germain-Grantham
- (541) Robert Levasseur, Fenton, MI
- (542) Marguerite Sue Vassar, Knoxville, TN
- (543) Susie Levasseur, Rivière-Bleue, Qc
- (544) Michel Levasseur, Gatineau, Qc
- (545) Alain Carmel, Montréal, Qc
- (546) Gloria Levasseur, Hooksett, NH

- (547) Diane Levasseur, Sept-Iles, Qc
- (548) Jean-Guy Levasseur, Victoriaville, Qc
- (549) John Galligan, McCormick, SC
- (550) Susan Rego, St-Michael, MN
- (551) Nicole Morin-Hébert, Marieville, Qc
- (552) Noëlla Levasseur, Sherbrooke, Qc
- (553) Roméo Levasseur, Pembrooke, On
- (554) Gerald Levasseur, Gravenhurst, On
- (555) Michael MacHarg, Shouth Royalton, VT
- (556) Laurel Dubé, St-Calixte, Qc
- (557) Jim Levasseur, Litchfield, ME

News of the Annual General Assembly



The Board members of the Association met on October 16, 2010 in St-Grégoire, in proximity to the city of Trois-Rivières. The member's general meeting was preceded by a meeting of the board members. At these meetings many reports were presented. Amongst the important points presented a new membership and pricing schedule was proposed and accepted. In the Presidents message there will be a summary of the main changes to the regulations affecting membership.

There were also elections. Réjean, our Vice-president, Joceline our genealogist and André, were re-elected in their respective roles as administrators.

The important point was made by Paul Levasseur who recommended various activities for the Levasseur Association gathering to be held in Sherbrooke in 2011.

It is interesting to note that the number of members of the Association has increased over the last few years and we have reached our highest membership level primarily due to the Internet

Board of directors 2011-2012

President: Roger Levasseur (Ottawa, ON) (613) 841-7690

Past President: Gilles Carmel (Saint-Charles-Borromée, QC) (450) 755-3856

Vice-President (Canada): Réjean Levasseur (Ottawa, ON) (613) 741-8499

Vice-President (USA): Joseph Levasseur (Manchester, NH, USA) (603) 623-2695

Secretary: Marie-Noëlle Levasseur (Edmunston, NB) (506) 735-8048

Treasurer: Paul Levasseur (Sherbrooke, QC) (819) 564-0957 Genealogist: Joceline Levasseur (Québec, QC) (418) 658-3593 Webmaster: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (Québec, QC) (418) 843-1956 Director: André Levasseur (Trois-Rivières, QC) (819) 377-4306

Director: Diane Lacroix (Ottawa, ON)

The Levasseur Newsletter

You can contact: André Levasseur (819) 377-4306 or submit your article via our Web site