Levasseur



Vol 24 No 2

On the foot steps of the pioneers

Quarterly informations

Since the early 17th century, the Levasseurs, mainly descendants of Laurent Levasseur, left the south shore close to Quebec and settled between Rivière-du-Loup and Gaspé. Many established themselves along the shores of the Saint-Laurent River and others chose to build their homes close by on the high land plateau. In addition to homes, they built farm structures, cultivated the land, and created businesses. They also contributed to the building of churches and schools and left the Levasseur names in many locations, in Eastern Québec.

Many of these Levasseurs and their family will be meeting in Rimouski with other Levasseurs, Carmels or Borgias who will be coming come from various parts of Québec and elsewhere. All these Levasseur are descendants of Laurent or that of the two brothers, Jean and Pierre Levasseur.

May these visitors enjoy their stay and find pleasure when talking about their common ancestors in a friendly and cordial atmosphere while socializing with new found Levasseur relatives.

We invite all of you, involved in the organization of this gathering on September 1st 2012, to take time to enjoy some of the Fest Jazz activities that are ongoing at the same time. Or you may chose to complement your stay by visiting the various sites and activities that are available in the Rimouski area, as outlined in the following pages presented in collaboration with «Tourisme Rimouski».

Vol. 23 no 2 June 2012



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Mayor's Message



Whether your visit is for a vacation, attending a congress or for a family gathering, Rimouski has much to offer its visitors.

Recently proclaimed Québec's City of Happiness and being the most important Administrative region of the Lower Saint-Laurent. Rimouski, on the shores of the «Saint-Laurent» is located where the largest estuary in the world begins. The population of Rimouski lives an exceptional life where the sea and the forest are united in a grandiose location.

The maritime capital of Eastern Québec offers, in addition to plentiful and diversified city life activities, an enchanting natural décor. The Levasseur families when visiting Rimouski will discover numerous exceptional sites such as l'Ile St-Barnabé, well-heeled in history and the famous Bic park that gives Rimouski a unique cachet making it a very attractive. It is not to be a missed visit, for the participants at gatherings such as the Levasseurs of America.

I am certain that you will find the City of Rimouski very receptive and courteous and an ideal location for your family gathering.

It is with pleasure that we will be greeting you on September 1st 2012... welcome and have a pleasant stay.

Éric Forest Mayor of Rimouski



Message from the president

by: Roger Levasseur (004)



Our ancestors were courageous leaving their family to go establish themselves with a young wife and a few children in some distant land. Whether on the the South side of the Saint-Laurent near Rimouski, in the North Eastern United States or in Western Canada these adventurous young couples were seeking a better life. The local farms where they were born could no longer satisfy their living requirements. They had no choice but to find work in industrial outlets in the USA or find land to clear and cultivate where they would build a home, a barn and grow wheat and vegetables for the family. They also found time, with other local pioneers, to build a church, a school and create new parishes.

Here we are today, some one hundred and fifty years later, where some Levasseur families, descendants of these courageous pioneers, chose to get together to celebrate their grandiose accomplishments.



We extend our thanks and congratulations to those who organized this event. During the course of the day you will be informed about the work accomplished by the members of the Levasseur Association of America. You will be shown how to find your respective family ties in our two dictionaries, how to navigate through our data base of over 120,000 names of Levasseurs descendants, why DNA findings reveal that there is not a family link between Laurent and Jean and Pierre Levasseur. You will also learn about other Levasseur who settled in various parts of America. You are invited to participate at this event. We also need new members on our board, if genealogy is of interest to you are invited to become a member of the board of directors.

New members



Here are four new members!

Marie-Annie Levasseur, member 511 (Stefan Goodman) and her daughter, Juliet Levasseur-Goodman, member 587, born in Yellowknife January 24, 2012. These two members are our representatives located the closest to the artic circle.

On the right, **François Levasseur**, member 510 (Raphaëlle Bédard-Marcotte) and his son, **Louis-Félix Levasseur**, **member 571**, born April 22, 2011, in Québec City.

Congratulation to the new parents!

It goes without saying that these new descendants of the ancestor Laurent are the pride and joy of their grand parents Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250) and Paule Truchon.

Welcome to these other new members: Louise Levasseur Dussault, Trois-Rivières, Qc, Adrien Levasseur, Mirabel, Qc, Pauline Carmel, Bolton Est, QC, Georges Vaillancourt, Beloeil, Qc, Louise Levasseur, Lévis, Qc, Oma Stevens, Bay City, Tx, Richard D Wenworth, Portsmouth, NH, 03801, Robert Levasseur, Goldsboro, NC, Philip Levasseur, Knoxville, TX, Céline Labrie, Cap-Chat, Qc., Dorval Levasseur, Matane, Qc, Cameron Steele, Brockville, On, Paul Levasseur, Ridgeville, IN



. EVASSEUR NEWSLETTEI

RIMOUSKI: an attractive town

The regional capital of Bas-Saint-Laurent, Rimouski, presenting a new face, a renewed dynamism. Under municipal mergers over the counter, the new city will Bic in Pointe-au-Père through the neighborhoods of Rimouski-Est, Sainte-Blandine -Mont-Sainte-Odile and Lebel-sur-Rimouski.

source : http://www.tourisme-rimouski.org/

Historical site of the Lamontagne Home



Visit the oldest house east of Quebec city, a halftimbered construction built around 1744. Dicover its history, exceptional architectural style and different exhibits on domestic architecture and the life of 18th century peasants. Activities, free outdoor concerts on Sundays, picnic areas further allow visitors to appreciate the historic site. Marie-Agnès and Basile, the fist owners, await you!

Schedule: June 24th to September 3th, 9 am to 6 pm, everyday September 6th to October 8th, 9 am to 6 pm,

Thursday to Sunday

Price: Adult 4\$, Under 5 years old free, 6 to 18 years old 3\$, Senior 3\$

707, boul Du Rivage (route touristique 132) Rimouski (Quebec) G5L 1H3

Phone: 418 722-4038

Fax: 418 722-3879

maisonlamontagne@globetrotter.net
http://www.maisonlamontagne.com

Historical Maritime Site



Climb aboard the ONONDAGA submarine and dive into this fascinating world with an audioguided visit. The site historique presents the history of the Empress of Ireland and also includes the visit of one of the highest lighthouse in Canada.

Schedule: June 9th to October 9 2012, 9 am to 6 pm everyday

1000, rue du Phare Rimouski (Quebec) G5M 1L8

Phone: 418 724-6214

Fax: 418 721-0815

<u>info@shmp.qc.ca</u> http://www.shmp.qc.ca

Rimouski Regional Museum



Facing the Tourist Information Centre, in the heart of downtown Rimouski, this museum is housed in the oldest stone church in Eastern Québec. The museum focuses on contemporary art, local history, and sciences - so much to see and do for all the family.

Schedule: June 11th to Septembre 3th, everyday 9:30 am to 18:00 pm. Rest of the year: Wednesday to Sunday 12:00 am to 5:00 pm and until 20:00 pm Thursday

35, rue Saint-Germain Ouest Rimouski (Quebec) G5L 4B5

Phone: 418 724-2272

Fax: 418 725-4433

<u>mrdr@globetrotter.net</u> http://www.museerimouski.qc.ca

Bic National Park



Located 15km west of downtown, this National Park measuring 33.2km2 offers an impressive collection of small islands, reefs and cliffs sculpted by the sea over the centuries. You can observe grey and common seals among other things. In the summer: Discovery activities, hiking, bike rides (bike rentals available) guided hikes, minibus shuttles to the pic Champlain. and kayak excursions. Lodging: Campings semi-serviced, serviced or primitive), yurts, Huttopia, tents-trailers. In the winter: Snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, winter hiking, equipment rental, camping in yurts, igloos and refuge.

Accueil Principal: Route 132 Ouest, Secteur Rivièredu-Sud-Ouest Rimouski (Le Bic) (Quebec) G0L 1B0

Phone: 418 736-5035

<u>parc.bic@sepaq.com</u> http://www.parcsquebec.com

Excursions to l'Île St-Barnabé



4 km East of Rimouski. Saint-Barnabé Island faces downtown Rimouski. Transfer from the marina to the island aboard safe ridged hull inflatables, hiking trails, great blue heron and common seal observation. Rimouski seen from a unique point of view.

Marina de Rimouski, route 132 Est Rimouski (Quebec)

Phone: Hors saison: 418 723-2322 / En saison: 418 723-228

Canyon of the Gates to Hell



The canyon stretches between 90 meters high walls. A Network of hiking trails brings you to the highest suspended footbridge in Quebec (63 meters). An animated tribute relives the work of river drivers on the Rivière Rimouski. Food services, picnic area, primitive camping, bike trails and bike rentals are available. NEW : Les Portes d'Oniria : le sentier enchanté et le parcours de géocachette : Le rallye des sens.

Scedule: May to June and August 27th to October 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. June 23th to August 26th 8:30 am to 6:30 pm

Admission: Adult, 9\$, family, 23\$, children 5 to 17, 5\$. Leashed pets accepted.

1280, chemin Duchénier Saint-Narcisse-de-Rimouski (Quebec) G0K 1S0

Phone: 418 735-6063

Fax: 418 735-6032

<u>infos@canyonportesenfer.qc.ca</u> http://www.canyonportesenfer.qc.ca

2012 Levasseur gathering

The Levasseur gathering will be held in Rimouski on September 1st 2012 at the following address:



Centre communautaire Terrasse Arthur-Buies

387, rue des Passereaux, à Rimouski Information: Mr. Raymond Levasseur (418) 724-6629 e-mail: <u>raymi@globetrotter.net</u>

For informations: <u>www.levasseur.org/rimouski</u>

Registration cost for the event is 25 \$ for each participants and includes all genealogical related activities and the evening dinner.

Lodging (optionnal) :



The Association has booked a block of 20 rooms (double beds, non smoking) for the 31st of August and September 1st at a cost of \$89.00 plus taxes. An additional \$15.00 will be charged for a third and forth adult in the room and there is no charge for children under 18. These rooms must be booked before July 31st, 2012.

Call 1 888 910 1111 and indicate that you are part of the «Levasseur Association of America» to book your room at the special rate. Room and meal charges, other than the Saturday evening dinner are the responsibility of each individual.

HÔTEL GOUVERNEUR RIMOUSKI

155, boul. René-Lepage Est, Rimouski (Québec) Canada G5L 1P2

The annual meeting of the Association members will be held at the «l'Hôtel Gouverneur» in the La Rochelle room, at 11:00 AM on Sunday. L'Hôtel Gouverneur is situated at 155, René-Lepage blvd. East, Rimouski G5L 1P2. The agenda for the meeting is attached to this newsletter and is available on our Web site.

Program for the Gathering of the Levasseurs Rimouski, Quebec Saturday PM September 1st, 201						
13 h 30	Welcoming remarks - Gilles Carmel, vice-president					
14 h 00	Presentation: The Levasseur who settled in Eastern Québec - Raymond Levasseur.					
15 h 00	Coffe Break.					
15 h 20	Group Photo.					
15 h 30	Visit to the Genealogical Society of Rimouski.					
	Various activities related to genealogy. Volunteers will assist you to trace your ancestry.					
17 h 00	Presentation: Levasseurs innovate on the Web.					
17 h 15	Presentation: Genealogical dictionaries. Descendants of Laurent Levasseur					
17 h 30	Exhibit of various genealogical activities. The web site, ancient photos etc.					
18 h 00	Dinner and door prizes.					
Evening	During the weekend, participants can attend the Rimouski Festi-Jazz activities. (not included with the registration fees). For more information on Festi Jazz go to: (http://festijazzrimouski.com/) to know the time schedule of the various events. If you plan to attend some of these activities we recommend that you make your reservations as soon as possible on the SpectArt web site.					

During the day, beginning at 12:30, there will be various genealogical activities such as: family monographs, ancient photos, workgroups on the use of the genealogical dictionaries and the Web site and DNA questions. The meeting place: Centre communautaire (community center) Terrasse Arthur-Buies located at 387, des Passereaux Street, in Rimouski

Sunday September 2nd 2012 - Annual meeting of the Levasseur Association

The annual meeting of the Association members will be held at the «l'Hôtel Gouverneur» in the La Rochelle room, at 11:00 AM on Sunday. L'Hôtel Gouverneur is situated at 155, René-Lepage blvd. East, Rimouski G5L 1P2. The agenda for the meeting is attached to this newsletter and is available on our Web site.

For more information about the gathering, contact, Mr. Raymond Levasseur, telephone (418) 724-6629 or by E-Mail: <u>raymi@globetrotter.net</u> or other members of the organizing committee:

Francine Levasseur, Josée Levasseur, Alain Levasseur, Donald Levasseur,

France Brunette, Chantal Desgagnés, Régis Levasseur, Gervais Levasseur and Denis Levasseur.

Josianne Levasseur, artist

by : Hélène Bélanger

At the age of 5 Josianne began figure skating and at nine she was a student in artistic gymnastics.

At an early age, her talent is noticed and she is invited to participate at the competitive level. She was accepted in a special «sports-study program» at the Estacades Academy. Due to her rapid progress she participated in the Provincial Championships in 1992. At that event, she won a gold medal in the category, Benjamines «A» (junior level).

She then participated in the Annual Canadian Championships where the top seven athletes in each province are invited to attend. In 1995, the Sports Study Program was no longer accessible at the collegiate level. Josianne begins to find the training requirements overly demanding and considers abandoning. However, having seen a special program by the «Cirque du Soleil» on television, she decides to audition and she is chosen to play at the Bellagio in Las Vagas. After seven months of practice in Montreal, the show opened in Las Vegas.

The acrobatic moves in that show were not easy. She is seen in a metallic grid up in the air on a suspended boat defying human mechanical abilities. In one of the performances she was injured and required an operation. After that contract ended, Josianne returned to Québec and resumed her training on tumbling. Another injury necessitated 6 months of recuperation and convalescence.

During that time a friend called inviting her for a show in France. Le «Cirque Éloïze» selected her as a substitute for the show «Le Cirque Orchestra». She then moved on to the «Nomade show» where she performed on the Russian bar, spring board and hands-to-hands. Her travels brought her to Europe, USA, Hawaii, New Zealand,

Hong Kong and back to Trois Rivières. In 2008, her contract with «Nomade» having ended, she went to New York to work for «Le Cirque du Soleil» in the production, «Wintuk» at the Madison Square Gardens

Mid way through the presentation she was asked to replace the star performer of the show.

She also participated in the following events:

Opening of the TGV station in Strasbourg

All Star NHL hockey game in 2009 at the Bell Center in Montréal

As a replacement in the production «Rain» that was presented in Mexico, Colombia and in Canada.

Spent time in Las Vegas with le «Cirque du Soleil» and in Macao with the Franco Dragon Company.She was recently asked to join le «Cirque Éloïze» for the production of «ID» as an assistant acrobatic designer and played a role on the «Cyr Wheel». With «Le Cirque Éloïze» she travelled to South Korea, Belgium the USA and Singapore.

Travelling all over the world is very exciting but here is Josianne's answer to the question: «How much training time is required to get ready for an event? »

For an event with fifty artists, certain companies will spend as much as one year for the creation and preparation of the show. Once the concept is agreed upon, the preproduction schedule begins. After selecting the designers, the main actors are chosen. Then the producer, the sound, lighting and set designers are selected along with the appropriate acrobatic apparatuses, the



choreographers and the musical director. An important feature is the creation of new acrobatic apparatuses equipment and testing it, thus making the spectacle unique. Then follows the distribution of specific roles. They are selected based on their abilities to perform as dancers, singers, musicians, comedians, clowns, specialized acrobats who perform in groups and regular individual acrobats. Once the group has been formed the implementation begins. For a 90 minute show it can take as much as 7 months to a year working 5 to 6 hours per day with many repetitions that may stretch from 9 AM to 7 PM, if not more prior to the official show time.



Prior to the official opening a presentation is made to a select group to get their reaction and make necessary adjustments and changes that may be needed. A preview show is than held for friends, next of kin and the media just before the official grand opening of the event.

For shows requiring 8 to 15 artists, the steps followed and personnel requirements are basically the same but preparation time is reduced to 3 to 6 months. There are many other factors to consider. Time requirements vary when new acrobatic procedures are used compared to those that have already been mastered. Also, when a group has previously worked together it is easier for them to adapt to a new or modified acrobatic procedures. Acrobats need to adapt to new partners at times and having mutual confidence in one another is very important.

There are other various types of shows for different kind of audiences

such as: Sporting events, galas and charity shows where preparation time varies according to the specific requirements of each type show.

The 10 years I spent in acrobatic training, spending more than 20 hours per week, enabled me to adapt to the stringent requirements of the show business. The Provincial and National competitions I participated in enabled me to cope with stress associated with the circus life. The experience I acquired while in training and when I competed gave me the assurance needed to meet the difficult requirements of the Circus life.

Thanks to my sound preparation in the short period of two months I was able to master a special acrobatic show on the «Cyr wheel». When I am available, I am sometime asked to replace an artist who is sick. It requires concentration and I must work hard to step into someone else's role like I recently did when I was called to replace in the show, «Wintuk» in New York. That was a very gratifying experience.

Josianne returned to Québec to celebrate her 10th anniversary with the Company. She is now primarily involved in the development of new acrobatic procedures.

Josianne is a determined, optimistic and very helpful person who enjoys and values life. She has overcome many challenges and succeeded in fulfilling her dreams of seeing the world. She has met and made many friends during her travels.

She lives in harmony with life learning about different world cultures and adapting to the varied requirements of the work she enjoys..



Josianne Levasseur's ancestry

by: Joceline Levasseur (328)

Josianne's paternal ancestry

Josianne's maternal ancestry

Noël Levasseur	France	Geneviève Gaugé	François Bélanger	Québec July 12, 1637	Marie Guyon
Pierre Levasseur/ Lespérance	Québec October 25, 1655	Jeanne Chaverlange	Charles Bélanger	Château-Richer, QC November 21, 1663	Barbe Delphine Cloutier
Pierre Levasseur	Québec March 18, 1696	Anne Mesnage	Charles Bélanger	Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré February 18, 1692	Geneviève Gagnon
Denis-Joseph Levasseur	Saint-François-du-Lac February 4, 1738	Charlotte Couturier/ Labonté	Prisque Bélanger	St-Laurent, Île d'Orléans November 6, 1724	Geneviève Gosselin
Ignace Levasseur	Pointe-du-Lac January 21, 1765	Josephte Camirand	Jacques Bélanger	St-Michel, Bellechasse January 6, 1768	Louise Rousseau
François Levasseur	Trois-Rivières January 9, 1797	Agnès Fortin	Jean-Baptiste Bélanger	St-Vallier, Bellechasse January 7, 1800	Geneviève Roy
Louis Levasseur	Trois-Rivières November 18, 1939	Zoé Rivard/Dufresne	Laurent Bélanger	St-Vallier, Bellechasse February 4, 1834	Marie Fontaine
Napoléon Levasseur	Boston, MA April 21, 1874	Eugénie Bergeron	Jean Bélanger	St-Gervais, Bellechasse January 12, 1864	Marie-Célina Roy
Pierre Levasseur	Trois-Rivières May 5, 1908	Alma Moisan	Napoléon Bélanger	St-Nérée, Bellechasse February 21, 1898	Georgiana Godbout
Hervé Levasseur	Saint-Bernard, Shawinigan December 26, 1935	Thérèse Milette	Napoléon Bélanger	St-Louis-de-Courville, Beauport June 16, 1930	Marie-Alice Grenier
Pierre Levasseur	Saint-Louis-de- Courville July 5, 1969	Hélène Bélanger	Hélène Bélanger	St-Louis-de-Courville, Beauport July 5, 1969	Pierre Levasseur
Josianne Levasseur		Jean-François Faber	Josianne Levasseur		Jean-François Faber

Business Cards

Send us your business card and it will be published in all printed and electronically produced issues of the Levasseur Newsletter. It will also be listed on our Web site in the section <u>«Our Sponsors»</u>. The cost: \$ 30.00 per year. This opportunity offers you a modern an ideal method to reach potential clients. It will also help support the Association financially. You can contact us at: webmaster@levasseur.org to initiate this promotion.



Gérard Levasseur



Levasseur, Brother Gérard, s.c. (Brother Émery) 1917-2012

Brother Gérard Levasseur (Brother Emery) passed away in a Quebec City Hospital on Friday January 6, 2012 at the age of 94 of which 75 years were spent with the religious order, the Brothers of Sacred Heart.

He leaves to morn him his fellow members of the order and his sister Jeanne d'Arc, also many nephews and nieces.

He will be buried in the order's cemetery. There will be a biography of brother Gérard in a future issue of the Association bulletin..

The Levasseur Association

The Association, Levasseur d'Amérique Inc. is a non-profit organization, founded in 1988, in accordance to a federal charter. Its goals are:

- ★ To join together and unite a large number of Levasseur and other descendants who have adopted the patronymic Borgia, Carmel, Carmell, Vasseur, Vassor, Vasser.
- ★ To organize meetings and gatherings that reinforce links between the members of the great Levasseur family.
- ★To promote, develop and diffuse historical genealogical knowledge about the Levasseur families with Internet, an electronic Newsletter published three times per year also the publication of genealogical dictionaries.

- ★ To maintain and update, on an ongoing basis, the genealogical data base available to members at all times on the Internet.
- ★ To make available to members a family photo album and the Newsletters that the Association has published since 1988.
- ★ To honor the memory of our forefathers and their descendants by way of monuments, plaques or symbolic gestures that commemorate historic events that are chronicle the Levasseur family.
- ★ To gather all documents related to the Levasseur family for the purpose of constructing archives that will constitute the heritage or our Association and that will provide a source of information for historians and genealogists.

Your Association is managed by a board of directors made up of official members who offer their services voluntarily and who come from various regions in North America. (Québec, Ontario, Maritimes and New England). Official members of the Association come from all parts of Canada but (40%) come from the United States. Our executive meets two to three times per year to discuss mainly future meetings, publications for our members and genealogy.

L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique is also a member of the Fédération des familles-souches québécoises (www.ffsq.qc.ca).



The Coat of Arms has been granted and assigned by the Herald of Canada on October 15, 1997 to l'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique:

Azure a chevron between an oak tree an base and a chief Argent charged with a maple leaf Gules between dexter a fleur-de-lis and sinister a mullet Azure ; And for a Motto: DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS

Board of Directors 2011-2012

President: Roger Levasseur (Ottawa, ON) (613) 841-7690 Vice-président (Canada) : Gilles Carmel (Saint-Charles-Borromée, QC) (450) 755-3856 Vice-president (USA): Joseph Levasseur (Manchester, NH, USA) (603) 623-2695 Secretary: Marie-Noëlle Levasseur (Edmunston, N.B.) (506) 735-8048 Treasorer: Paul Levasseur (Sherbrooke, QC) (819) 564-0957 Genealogist: Joceline Levasseur (Québec, QC) (418) 658-3593 Webmaster and director: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (Québec, QC) (418) 843-1956 Director: André Levasseur (Trois-Rivières, QC) (819) 377-4306 Director: Jean-Marie Levasseur (Trois-Rivières, QC)

The Levasseur Newsletter

You can contact: André Levasseur (819) 377-4306 (levasseur.andre@cgocable.ca) or submit your article via our web site www.levasseur.org