

# Levasseur



December 2016 Volume 28 No 4

[www.levasseur.org](http://www.levasseur.org)



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1989-2016

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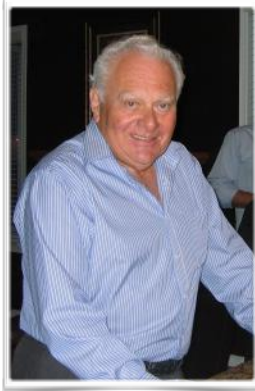


*The Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie military training camp 55 was in operation from 1940 to 1944. Veteran Émilien Dufresne makes mention of it in his book Notebook of hope published in collaboration with his daughter Danielle in the Éditions du Septentrion in 2003.*

*Jean-Marie Levasseur was among volunteers who trained in this camp, before he left in 1943 to England, then a warring country against Germany. His life story is told in this issue.*

*This photo was published in the front page of L'Estuaire magazine, in June 2002, to go with an article which Gabriel Langlois wrote about Rimouski Seminary and the 39-45 War.*

## The President's Word



To all members of the Levasseur Association of America

It is that time of the year when Levasseur and Carmel family members, like their ancestors before them, gather with their families to celebrate Christmas and wish one another a Happy New Year.

On behalf of the Board members and administrators of the Levasseur Association of America, I appreciate having this opportunity to wish to you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. At this time of year, one reminisces about his youth and how Christmases were spent with his own family. The memories of Christmas mass, the gifts under the tree, the foods prepared with so much love by his mother and how he or she kept up the tradition with his own family as was done by our Levasseur and Carmel ancestors since their courageous arrival to the Americas. It is our hope than many of you are keeping up these memorable traditions.

Your Association has had another excellent year. If it were to be judged by the objectives for which the Association was founded, that are:

- Disseminate genealogical and historical knowledge about Levasseur families.
- Maintain a data base an archive of photos of the Levasseur and Carmel families.
- Honour the memories of our ancestors.

There is no doubt that the objectives are surpassed, thanks to generous voluntarism of your Board members and the dedicated administrators.

I thank you for being members of the Levasseur Association of America and invite you to access the web site: [levasseur.org](http://levasseur.org). We would also appreciate receiving an article and photos of your ancestors for the benefit of future Levasseur and Carmel generations.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family

Roger Levasseur



## Newsletter Team

### Newsletter responsible

Roger Levasseur

### Setting and layout

Jean-Pierre Levasseur

### Contributions to the texts

Raymond Levasseur

Huguette Levasseur

Carmen Trottier

### Review of the texts

Huguette Levasseur

### Translation

Roger Levasseur

### Mail distribution

Gilles Carmel

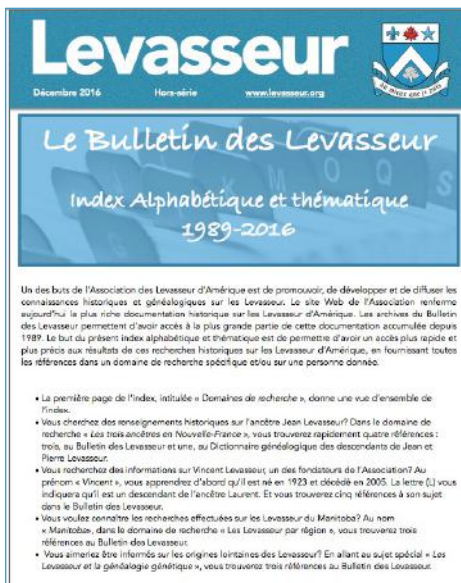
### Genealogist

Joceline Levasseur

### Photo page 1 :

Source : [L'Estuaire](http://L'Estuaire). Historical review of villages or towns situated in the the Saint-Laurent estuary. Vol. XXV, no 2 - June 2002

# An alphabetical and thematic index of all articles published is now available.



The Levasseur Association of America was founded in 1988. Soon thereafter, a Newsletter was published to communicate with the members. Several articles have been written on the history of Levasseur ancestors and their descendants. To quickly access information on a specific topic or a character, an alphabetical and thematic index has been prepared. This accomplishment is the work of Jean-Marie Levasseur, who developed this index in a very methodical and thorough fashion. We are grateful to Jean-Marie for all the hours he spent to prepare this useful tool for researchers.

In addition to the electronic version that will be forwarded to our members, it is also possible to access this document of reference by this link:

PDF version : <http://levasseur.org/bulletin/index/indexe.pdf>



*Le Mans West Cemetery, France, where Jean-Marie Levasseur was buried.  
His grave, which bears the number 30, is located in row C of plot 21, as mentioned in the Canadian  
Virtual War Memorial.*



## THE LEVASSEUR IN THE FIELD OF HONOUR

JEAN-MARIE LEVASSEUR (1918-1944)

by: [Raymond Levasseur](#) (276)

*« This letter is to tell you that I am reclaiming my 17 year old child, soldier at camp 55 at Rimouski, P.Q. My son is too young and would serve the country better outside the camp. He is not yet ready to work in military life. He is presently part of the staff in camp 55. At the age of 21, if he has the ability, he will go to do his training. This is my only son and I need him at home »*

Such is the request that a father, from Mont-Joli, sent to the Department of National Defence in Ottawa in [a letter](#) dated May 19, 1941.

This father is, Alphonse Levasseur, a descendant of Laurent He was employed by the Canadian National Railway (CNR) at the time. The young soldier, Jean-Marie, his son, was born on July 22, 1923. He initially joined the Fusiliers du Saint-Laurent (Rifle Corps), at Mont-Joli, on October 4, 1940 and eventually went to camp 55 of Rimouski. He left this camp on July 9, to return to his previous unit. But this return was only temporary.



His father, [Alphonse Levasseur](#), was born at [Bic](#) on March 9, 1895. His mother, [Claire Dumais](#), was born in Saint-Joseph-de-Lepage on August 13, 1899. They were married in this parish on September 21, 1920. In addition to their son, Jean-Marie, the couple had 4 girls: [Gemma](#), was born January 15, 1922; [Madeleine](#), on June 12, 1925; and twins, [Georgette](#) and [Pierrette](#), were born November 3, 1927.

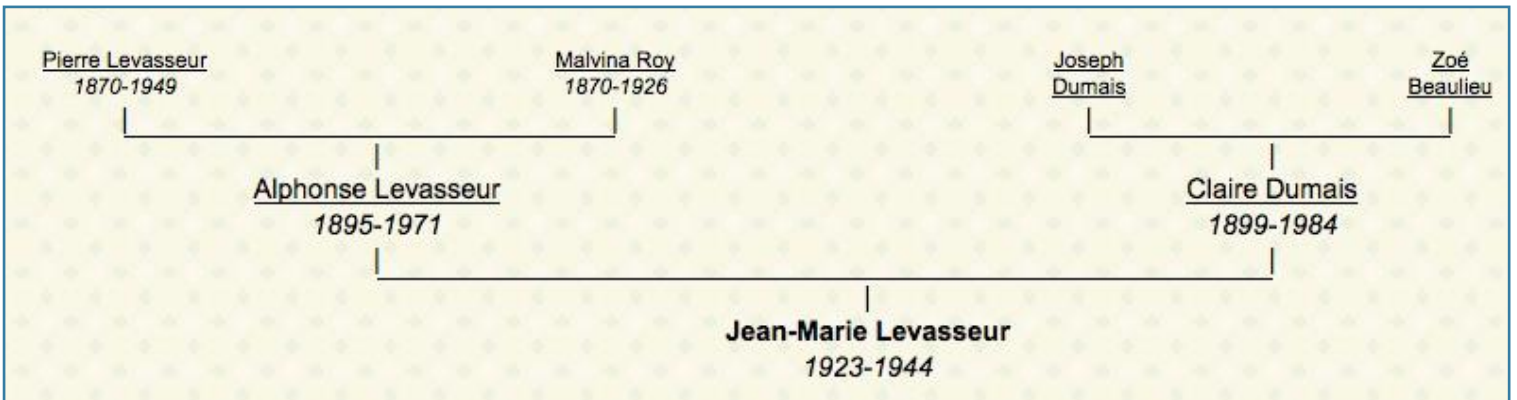
Jean-Marie had just completed his commercial course at the Academy of the brothers of the Sacred Heart in Mont-Joli, in June 1940, when he joined the [Fusiliers du Saint-Laurent](#). During his stay in camp 55, he performed the tasks of an office clerks. When he returned to Mont-Joli, he worked as an aid to the engineer, J. Barry Shehan. He left that job in April 1942 to join the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). This time, with his father's consent, as it was subsequently confirmed in a letter to the Department of National Defence on February 10, 1945, where he wrote: ....this boy enrolled at the age of 18, he did not wait to be called, he left with my consent...

The Air Force Officers that met Jean-Marie in interviews in April and June of 1942 are unanimous in recognizing him as a valuable candidate. Their interview reports indicate:

*This issue continues series of articles devoted to Levasseur who participated in World War II and who, for the most part, were killed in action.*

**Direct lineage  
Jean-Marie Levasseur**

Laurent Levasseur -1726  
|  
Pierre Levasseur 1679-1738  
|  
Jean-Timothée Levasseur -1816  
|  
Étienne Levasseur 1764-1824  
|  
Alexandre Levasseur 1791-1859  
|  
Israël Levasseur 1834-1914  
|  
Pierre Levasseur 1870-1949  
|  
Alphonse Levasseur 1895-1971  
|  
**Jean-Marie Levasseur 1923-1944**



*Ancestry of Jean-Marie Levasseur up to his grandparents.*

« Good appearance, well mannered. He is very willing to learn and anxious to fly. Athletic built, most eager to be a pilot and see the world. Has very good will to succeed; learned decent amount of English in 6 months under bad conditions. Cheerful, cooperative, courageous. Good average type for either pilot or bomber duties. »

When he signed his commitment to join the R.C.A.F. on April 30th, Jean-Marie did not plan to eventually return to civilian life, because he wanted to stay in the armed forces. On June 25, as rookie of the RCAF, he pledged allegiance to the King.

As Airman 2nd class, Jean-Marie performed an 8 weeks stay in Quebec and another of 4 months in Toronto's military district, prior to training as an apprentice pilot, in Victoriaville, from December 29, 1942, to March 5, 1943.

On May 3, he was stationed in Trenton, Ontario, training as a gunner. From there he went to Manitoba, on June 12, to the McDonald training school to train as a gunner and bomber. At the end of this training program, during which he was very disciplined and knowledgeable of his work, Jean-Marie received his insignia of gunner and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. His promotion was one day after his 20th birthday, July 23, 1943.

Some five weeks later, Jean-Marie sailed to the United Kingdom, to be with an operational training unit prior to attending the Dalton Military School. His stay at Dalton, in January 1944, earned him the following assessment: *Has displayed exceptional keenness throughout the course and will prove an asset in any crew.*

The crew Jean-Marie joined, on March 18, 1944, is the R.C.A.F. squadron 425 (Alouettes), where he was promoted to the rank of sergeant on April 23. He is assigned the task of air gunner. As a member of this squadron, he took part in several raids over enemy territories.

On May 22, a [Halifax MK3](#) aircraft departed at 23 h 50 to perform a bombing raid over Le Mans, France, with onboard 7 crew members:

- Flight sub-lieutenants E.E. Laporte and A.R. Tétrault, respectively pilot and navigator;
- Lieutenant R. McGowan;
- Warrant officer 1st class J.A. Laing;
- Flight sergeants H.C. Mallette and Jean-Marie Levasseur (who was on his tenth sortie of this type);
- Sergeant N.V. Ward.

The only survivor, R. McGowan, was taken prisoner by the Germans for a while.

Jean-Marie's official death certification is dated, December 30, 1944:

« Previously reported missing 23 May 44 after air operations (Overseas, over Le Mans, France) and subsequently reported "missing believed killed" (Official German information). Now presumed dead 23 May 44 for official purposes. »

Jean-Marie encountered a tragic death two months before his 21st birthday.

In a letter he addressed to Mr. Philippe, June 6, 1944, the commanding officer of the squadron 425, L.H. Lecomte writes:

« By losing this plane, we lost one of our best crew member, who was headed for a brilliant future in this squadron... Jean-Marie was very popular with all the members of the squadron, rest assured that we will all miss him. »

FORM 6 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS—QUEBEC DEATH TRANSCRIPT											
1. PLACE OF DEATH		Municipal county <b>OVERSEAS (FRANCE)</b>			Official name of civil municipality or township			Place an X over the word which applies to this municipality or this territory City   Town   Village   Parish   Township			
2. LENGTH OF STAY		(a) In hospital or institution			(b) In municipality where death occurred			(c) In Province		(d) In Canada (if immigrant)	
3. NAME OF DECEASED		Surname <b>LEVASSEUR</b> (Black letters)			Given names <b>JOSEPH JEAN MARIE</b>			Do not write in this space			
4. RESIDENCE		Street No.			Official name of civil municipality or township <b>Mont Joli</b>			Municipal county <b>Matane</b> Province <b>Quebec</b>			
5. SEX	6. NATIONALITY (Citizenship)	7. RACIAL ORIGIN	8. Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (Write the word)			22. Date of death <b>May 23rd 44</b> (Month) (Day) (Year)					
<b>Male</b>	<b>Canadian</b>		<b>Single</b>			23. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from 19... to 19... and last saw him alive on 19...					
9. If married give name of wife or husband of deceased		10. BIRTHPLACE (Province or Country) <b>Quebec</b>			11. DATE OF BIRTH <b>July 22nd 1923</b> (Month) (Day) (Year)			24. CAUSE OF DEATH <b>Previously reported missing after air operations, now presumed dead.</b>			
12. AGE OF DECEASED <b>20</b> Years Months Days		13. Trade, profession or kind of work, as spinner, teamster, office clerk, etc. <b>Air Gunner</b>			14. Kind of industry or business, as cotton-mill, lumbering, bank, etc. <b>R.C.A.F.</b>			25. If a woman, was there a puerperal condition? .....			
15. Date deceased last worked at this occupation <b>May 23/44</b>		16. Total years spent in this occupation <b>Two</b>			17. NAME			26. Was there a surgical operation? .....			
18. BIRTHPLACE (Province or Country)		FATHER <b>Levasseur, Alphonse</b> <b>Quebec</b>			MOTHER <b>Dumais, Claire</b> <b>Quebec</b>			27. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following— <b>Accident</b> Date <b>May 23rd 44</b> <b>Presumed killed during air operations</b> Manner of injury (How sustained) Nature of injury Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place <b>public place</b>			
19. Place of burial, cremation or removal		20. Date of burial			21. PLACE OF REGISTRATION OF THIS BURIAL			28. Signature of person who fills in the form (curate, coroner, hospital authority, etc.) <b>For (R.C.A.F. Records Officer)</b> This signature authorizes the collector to accept this form as authentic.			
(a) Name of parish or church		(b) Civil municipality of			(c) Municipal county			29. Name of clergyman in charge of Register of Civil Status in which registration of this burial was made. (Voir l'autre côté pour le français)			
(d) Date (Month) (Day) (Year)								Signed _____ M.D. Address _____ Date _____ 19			



On October 25, Mr. Leveseur was informed that his son was promoted to the rank of pilot officer retroactively to May 21, 1944.

The declaration of succession completed by Mr. Leveseur for the Department of National Defence, on February 19, 1945, is authenticated by the officer J. B. Kerleroux <sup>(1)</sup>, from the R.C.A.F. headquarters of Winnipeg. This flying officer married Jean-Marie's elder sister, Gemma, a

fortnight later, on March 3, in Mont-Joli.

Jean-Marie Leveseur completed 922 days of service in the Canadian Army, including 273 overseas. His contribution to the R.C.A.F. earned him, posthumously, the 39-45 war Medal, awarded "in recognition of at least 28 days of service between September 3, 1939 and September 2, 1945.

His mother received the [Memorial Cross](#), known also as the Silver Cross, awarded to mothers and widows of "*Canadian soldiers who died on active duty or whose death is consequently attributed to such duty.* »

The Chief of staff of the air force sent to the parents, on January 24, 1951, a picture of the son's tomb, stating that the temporary cross will be replaced by a permanent headstone, like that of all the soldiers killed in service. The Imperial War graves Commission, of which Canada is a member, will be providing perpetual care of the grounds where Jean-Marie was buried.

(1) Jean-Baptiste Kerleroux's father, François Kerleroux, was born in Lannilis (Finistère, France). He was an emigrant who settled in Kermaria, Saskatchewan, in 1907 with his wife Marie-Anne Colin and their three children. Six more children were born in Canada. The largest french families living in Kermaria were Crozon, Guéguen, Jézéquel et Kerleroux. Source: [Saskatchewan Historical Society](#).

#### Main sources:

- Web site: <http://militaires.levasseur.org> Mainly the section dealing with the Second World War.
- *Dictionnaire généalogique des descendants de Laurent Leveseur 1666-2008*, Association des Leveseur d'Amérique, 2008
- The Leveseur Association database. [Jean-Marie Leveseur's complete genealogy](#)
- [Library and Archives](#)
- [ancestry.ca](#)

#### Others :

- [Jean-Marie Leveseur's Enlistment form](#)
- [Jean-Marie Leveseur's birth certificate](#)
- [Jean-Marie Leveseur's complete genealogy](#)
- [Complete service record with the army. \( 150 pages archived\)](#)



## Annual meeting of the Levasseur Association of America September 17, 2016

A meeting of the members of the Levasseur Association of America was held on Saturday, September 17, 2016, at the Hotel, Urbania in Trois-Rivières. Some 26 people were happy to reconnect with each other and to fraternize with descendants of the ancestors Jean, Pierre and Laurent Levasseur. Gilles Carmel, the president of the elections of the Board of Directors of our Association gave the results of nominations. Roger Levasseur was elected as president, Raymond Levasseur, as Vice President and Pauline Carmel, as Treasurer. The three elected members asked André Larochelle to be the secretary and he accepted. Thanks were addressed to Marie-Noëlle Levasseur, who carried out very faithfully the various tasks of the secretariat since the founding of the association. On a regular basis, she and her husband, Patrick Levasseur, travelled from New Brunswick to participate in Board meetings and Association gatherings.

### Reports

Several reports were presented at the meeting. The president, Roger Levasseur is very pleased to see that the association is meeting its goals by communicating historical knowledge concerning the Levasseur families and increasing the database. As president, he was very proud of the work done by the members of the Board of Directors and individual directors. He expressed some concern about the aging of our members. To ensure the continuation of our Association new personnel is required to continue the work begun by our founder Vincent Levasseur.

The treasurer, Pauline Carmel, provided detailed financial statements and confirmed that the association is in excellent financial condition.

The genealogist, Joceline Levasseur, reported that she responds to emails she receives and regularly adds data to the database. The data bank, available to our members, is updated twice a year. During the past year, Joceline's research focused on census data research of Levasseur in the provinces of the Canada. She also adds to the data bank, obituaries data provided by Gilles Carmel. Joceline stated that genealogy is her passion and will be pursuing research in Louisiana and on the Vasseur and Levasseur in Maine.

Roger Levasseur, as editor of the Association's Newsletter, expressed his appreciation for the work done by Jean-Pierre Levasseur. He provides the many articles, the production and layout of the Newsletter. Last year, 5 issues were published. Pauline, Raymond, Jean-Pierre, Jean-Marie, Huguette and Joceline wrote very interesting articles. A valuable site of Levasseur who dedicated their lives to the military was developed by Jean-Pierre and Raymond wrote two excellent articles on Benoit and Jean-Marie Levasseur. Roger translates and provides the English version of the Newsletter.

The webmaster Jean-Pierre Levasseur worked in the consolidation of the association Web site. The "[irma.levasseur.org](http://irma.levasseur.org)" site has been updated. The site "[carmel.levasseur.org](http://carmel.levasseur.org)" was added for the branch of descendants of Pierre Levasseur dit l'Espérance who became Carmels. As a follow up to his research on Levasseur who were in the military, Jean-Pierre created the site "[militaires.levasseur.org](http://militaires.levasseur.org)".

Further, he notes it is very important that new people become members of our association. Our Association must increase its presence on social networks. Carmen Trottier will be creating a Facebook page for the Association with the Webmaster.

Huguette Levasseur reported on hosting exhibits for the Levasseurs at the Association of Families' Fairs held in Trois-Rivières in the fall of 2015 and the one that took place in Lévis, in February 2016. Participation at these fairs provides visibility for the Levasseur Association. Some forty Levasseur, Levasseur relatives stopped at the booth in order to obtain information about their respective family. Some provided information on their children.

Could a Levasseur gathering be organised in 2017? Huguette and Jean-Pierre are looking at the possibility of organizing one in Quebec City. Information on their preliminary work to determine if such a gathering can be done should be available in the near future.

The members present at the Assembly observed a minute of silence in memory of the death of Joseph Levasseur, an American and founding member of our association. Joseph, an amiable man, always dedicated himself for the good of the Association. Ernest Levasseur, residing in the United States, agreed to represent our American members residing in the United States. He is presently assessing the merits of holding a gathering of our American members in Carlisle.

### **Presentation of the Web site.**

Following the General Assembly and lunch, Jean-Pierre Levasseur made a presentation on how to use the Association's Web site. He showed the participants how they can consult and find information in the various sections of the Web site. He dwelt on the many facets of the data bank that is only accessible to members, and provides valuable information on the Levasseur families. Jean-Pierre's presentation provided many answers to the participants enquiries and was greatly appreciated.

Our president Roger Levasseur is very proud of the work accomplished by the Board members, namely, Raymond Levasseur, Pauline Carmel and the Secretary Marie-Noëlle Levasseur. Roger is also very proud of the work done by the administrators: the genealogist Joceline Levasseur Jean-Pierre Levasseur, our indispensable Web master, author and producer of the Newsletter, Gilles Carmel for his work on the obituaries and is valuable advice, Jean-Marie for his historical research, Raymond Levasseur for his articles, Pauline Carmel for her work as treasurer and Huguette for her writing, editing and correcting of articles.

Thanks to the collaboration of all these people and other members who are involved in the organization such as: Paul Levasseur who acts as auditor and past treasurer, that of André Levasseur, always willing to help, the Association attains its goals of providing historical and genealogical information about the Levasseur families. Include the work.

Our Chairman thanked the members for the support they provide to our association.

Huguette Levasseur  
([huguette@levasseur.org](mailto:huguette@levasseur.org))

# Follow us on Facebook !

by: [Carmen Trottier](#) (276)



At the September 17th Annual meeting, members accepted the Board of Director's proposal for the Association to be present on social media. A Web site and a newsletter already exist and members receive emails regularly. So some may question, why add a new tool of communication?

To reach a different clientele, primarily young people who prefer to use smart phones and members of the younger generations. Unlike websites that require you to do a search to view or obtain information, with Facebook and Twitter, the information is sent to subscribers, (free of charge).

## Visibility and interaction

Facebook will allow us to present information about the Association, its mission and its objectives. It will also enable us to circulate information of interest to a wider public, in a quicker and in a more condensed way. Links can be added to websites whenever additional information is required.

In addition to members of the Levasseur and Carmel families, other family associations, societies of genealogy or history as well as anybody can receive on their individual Facebook page concise information about activities tied to genealogy or other related topics of interest to them.

In addition, it is possible for Facebook subscriber to give advice, post comments or news about their discoveries and achievements, add photos and videos. Thus, groups with common interests are formed allowing interaction with other Facebook friends. By reaching the younger generation, Facebook may also revitalize the Association, help retain subscribers and increase the number of members and visitors.

## How does it work?

It is possible to consult the Levasseur Association of America Facebook page as you do currently when you access the Web site. But the best way to receive all the news is to subscribe by clicking on the box "like".

When you indicate that you like the information on a page, you automatically become a member of the community and receive information that will be published in your Facebook News feed. You can read or respond using the icons that appear at the bottom of the message by clicking on:

- « **I like** » to indicate your approval
- « **Comment** » by commenting in the available space
- « **Share** » by redirecting the message to your friends or on one of your pages.

It is always possible to cancel a Facebook page by clicking on the icon « discontinue »

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/associationlevasseur>

The Facebook page is being launched on a trial basis and is available initially only in French. An English Facebook page will be made available in the New Year.

# GENERAL INFORMATIONS



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 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 of our Association and that will provide a source of information for historians and genealogists.

## Board of directors 2016-2017

**President:** [Roger Levasseur](#) (Ottawa, ON)  
**Vice-President:** [Raymond Levasseur](#) (Rimouski, QC)  
**Secretary:** [André Larochelle](#) (Bolton-est, QC)  
**Treasurer:** [Pauline Carmel](#) (Bolton-est, QC)

## Collaborators to the Association

**Newsletter editor:** [Roger Levasseur](#) (Ottawa, ON)  
**Webmaster, newsletter setting and layout:** [Jean-Pierre Levasseur](#) (Quebec, QC)  
**Genealogist:** [Joceline Levasseur](#) (Québec, QC)  
**Spell Checker:** [Huguette Levasseur](#) (Québec, QC)  
**Historian:** [Jean-Marie Levasseur](#) (Trois-Rivières, QC)  
**Recorder of obituaries and membership register:** [Gilles Carmel](#) (Saint-Charles-Borromée, QC)

*Join our team of volunteers, [contact us](#) !!*