



La Lignée Saindon

North American Association of Saindons Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 3

October 2012

English Summary

Le bulletin en bref / Summary of the newsletter (p. 3)

This issue is mainly about the 2012 Family Reunion held in St-Jacques-de-Montcalm, last August.

First, special thanks to the organizers, Luc Saindon, his wife Lise Jetté and children Stéphanie and Antoine, and also to Fernand, Martine Saindon and Lea Vachon.

Through Suzanne Saindon's report, you will learn about the activities that took place during that weekend; we invite you to read her article.

Fernand has summarized the Annual Meeting and the financial statement. Members present showed enthusiasm to attend the 2014 World Acadian Congress

You will learn about the "Crèmerie St-Gérard" a family enterprise specialized in butter and cheese that earned a huge success.

You will discover Mona Saindon and her many artistic talents.

Robert A. Saindon, from Montana, reveals some of his findings about Michel Saindon's education and his commission as royal notary.

Finally, Flaurie Sindon-Champagne, 1st prize winner of the Scholarship Competition, talks about her great grandfather, Gérard Sindon, known as Gécin and renowned for his china ink drawings.

Joanne Proulx has written a vibrant tribute about her aunt, Maria Saindon.

Finally, we welcome Claude Saindon as a new advertiser.

Enjoy!

Le conseil d'administration / The Board of Directors (p. 4)

Here is a summary of the Annual Meeting made by Fernand Saindon.

- As of June 30, 2012, the financial statement (p. 5) showed a surplus of \$2024.34.
- The President, Diane Saindon, reported on the Bulletin and invited the members to contribute by sending news, births, weddings, deaths. She has sought the members opinion on their interest in attending the next World Acadian Congress. The Association is looking for members interested in helping preparing the Association's participation to this event.
- André Sindon reported on the website and the creation of a page on Facebook.
- Diane Saindon and Marie-Josée Noël have renewed their mandate on the Board of Directors. Réal Saindon had announced last year that he would complete only one of his two years' mandate and Martine Saindon was appointed to complete his term.
- In July 2012, Andrée Thinel has sent her resignation as a member of the Board. Her position still remains open. Those interested could contact the President, Diane Saindon (jedi.larose@sympatico.ca)
- Finally, special thanks were addressed to : Andrée Thinel for her contribution to the Board and to the Family Dictionary; André Sindon and Louise Camirand for the Dictionary and the Bulletin; Pierre, Luc, Lise for the Family Reunion; and to all who contributed to the activities of the Association.

Retrouvailles 2012 / 2012 Family Reunion (p. 6)

- A special report from Suzanne Saindon

The welcome we received last August at St-Jacques-de-Montcalm during our annual gathering of Saindons was truly memorable. In fact, Friday we were invited to a wine and cheese tasting prepared by true connoisseurs, Pierre and Luc; while Lise Jetté put together the delicious accompanying dishes. It was all so good that I kept the menu list in order to be able to find the fine

wines and cheeses that I appreciated so much.

What impressed me most that evening was the story of Pierre Saindon, who demonstrated how a man can truly follow and achieve his dreams. From his youngest days, he wanted to work his own cheese and butter dairy. Believe me, he was never deterred by the many pitfalls that crossed his path. I was deeply touched by the determination and passion of this man of action. It was truly a remarkable account.

The Saturday was almost entirely dedicated to tempting our taste buds. We had the occasion to visit the “Gourmandes” festival of Lanaudière. It was a chance to taste the products of more than 80 exhibitors, to meet some great chefs and the unique, likeable Sister Angèle. The weather was perfect and atmosphere was festive. There was truly something for all tastes: beers, wines and farm produce. Once again, during this visit, the expertise of fellow Quebecois was evident and confirmed that we have no reason to envy others in this domain.

From the festival the group returned to the bowling alley each at their own pace. Many took advantage of the occasion to play a few games of bowling while others simply chatted among themselves. In the same format as other years, we held the association annual general meeting followed by a briefing on our website and the presentation of bursaries.

It was a weekend where gastronomy was truly at the forefront. If, as I mentioned, the Friday wine and cheese was memorable, the dinner Saturday was worthy of any fine restaurant.

The dinner and evening was ably animated by Réal Saindon. The great challenge when you are with a group of Saindons is to be able to interrupt them and gently get and direct their attention when required, and this he did brilliantly.

A special tribute was given to Roland Saindon and his wife for their long standing and passionate involvement and efforts to energize the association. I wish to once again express our gratitude and thanks.

Once again, thanks to the generosity of Association members, many of the participants left with one of the many, quality prizes from the various draws.

Three young people impressed us with the quality of the excellent presentations that each of them made. Stéphanie Saindon recounted the arrival of the first inhabitants in the St-Jacques region. While Flaurie Sindon-Champagne and Mathieu Barré related, with love and pride, the lives and exploits of their great grandfathers. Parodying Aznavour, I could say that we are in a time

where those under twenty still know how to write. Bravo! In closing, I wish long life to this wonderful association and invite Saindons-Sindons of all generations to participate, each in their own way.

L’histoire de la Crèmerie St-Gérard Inc. / The story of St-Gérard Dairy (p. 8)

Pierre Saindon is a man of action. As Suzanne mentioned previously, from his youngest days, he wanted to work his own cheese and butter dairy. The 2012 Family Reunion was an occasion for him to tell the story of “La Crèmerie St-Gérard”.

It all started with his grandfather Jean-Baptiste who owned a little butter dairy in St-Arsène where his father Joseph worked during his youth.

After farming lands in St. Arsène and then in Coaticook, Joseph, Jean-Baptiste’s son, married and father of two children, decided to move to Vaucluse (St-Gérard Magella) where he started his own dairy. Founded in 1922, it progressed constantly, adding cream, butter and cheese to the production of milk.

In 1960, two of his sons, Gilles and Pierre, took over and the dairy became a major enterprise. In 1972, they started producing cheddar cheese. In 1978, with the help of a cheesemaker from Switzerland, they develop a new expertise: European-style cheeses (Tomme, St-Paulin, Swiss, Fontal, Fontina, Gouda, Havarti). Over the years, their cheeses won major awards.

“The dairy was a success story. This was the result of a lot of work but also of passion and support from our family”, as Pierre said. In 1984, the company was sold to Agropur, a well-known dairy products company.

Pierre is grateful to his grandfather and father for allowing him to be the third generation in this field.

Les Saindon d’hier à aujourd’hui / The Saindons of yesteryears (p. 11)

Two words best describe Mona Saindon: creativity and generosity. Her passions: sewing, embroidery, knitting, crochet, transmitted to her by her grandmother and her mother. At age 4, she started with embroidery. She still has pieces done between the age of 4 and 19.

Over the years, she has embroidered bedspreads and tablecloths, made dolls for non profit organizations. She also knitted scarves and hats for the homeless. For the benefit of a Montréal hospital, she sewed with her mother little white dresses for babies who had died at birth. For the past 7 years, she has been making stuffed animals for the Optimist Club to raise funds for the neonatal department of the hospital of her region.

This year, she gave the Association of Saindons an embroidered tablecloth as prize which required 600 hours of work. Mona Saindon, truly a very passionate person !

Michel Saindon, Royal Notary: findings of an American researcher (p. 12)

We invite you to read this special contribution from Robert A. Saindon from Montana.

Concours Bourses d'études 2012 / 2012 Scholarship Competition (p. 15)

The winners of this year competition are: Flaurie Sindon-Champagne (1st prize) and Mathieu Barré (2nd prize). Here is the text written by Flaurie about her great grandfather, Gérard Sindon.

Gécin - Art and Genes

Flaurie describes the path followed by her great grandfather, Gérard Sindon. Born in 1907, he studied to become a teacher. He was married in 1935 to Jeanne Rho, daughter of Fortunat Rho, painter and church decorator.

His role as a teacher led him to study in the United States where he specialized in education for young mentally disabled, what is now called young with behavioral or development problems. His career lasted 35 years.

Upon retirement, he devoted himself to drawing and used ink as a medium. After the death of his wife in 1958, he began visiting the art galleries with his portfolio in hand. Simon Dresdnere, gallery owner in Montréal, was fascinated by his work qualified as primitive as surrealist. He organized the first exhibition which was a great success. Gérard Sindon adopted then the pseudonym "Gécin".

He did china inks but his etchings dominated. There are over 2500 drawings using different mediums. The Musée National des Beaux-Arts du Québec and the National Gallery of Canada holds some of his work.

From 1958 to 1985, Gécin had 18 exhibitions, 15 in the Province of Québec, one in Paris, one in Milan and one in New York. He died in August 2000.

For Flaurie, Art takes on special meaning in her life. Her grandfather André Sindon has a talent for wood-working; for instance, he made a stool for each of his grandchildren. Her mother, Élise, is an artist at heart (writing, jewelry making). For Flaurie, she has skilled hands and artistic eye especially drawing. Art is probably in the genes !

Hommage à une femme exceptionnelle, Maria Saindon / Special Tribute to Maria Saindon (p. 18)

On August 22, 2012, died at age 97 Maria Saindon a woman of exception. Her goddaughter, Joanne Proulx, pays her a special tribute.

Born with a handicap, Maria never married. The eldest of a family of 10 children, she devoted her life to her brothers and sisters; she took care of her mother Eva and for 20 years, of her father Joseph.

She was optimistic until the end of her life and for her family, she was a true model.

Nouvelles / News (pp. 20-21)

55th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Jeannine Brisson and Émilien Saindon !

Family Reunion - Special thanks to...

Stéphanie Saindon for her presentation on the arrival of the first inhabitants in the St-Jacques region; and

Réal Saindon for his animation throughout the Saturday evening.

A repair, an encounter, an advertiser...

On his way to Gaspésie, André Sindon had a problem with the bumper of his trailer. Being close to Cacouna, he decided to stop at the garage of Claude Saindon, where, of course, he met Claude but also... André Saindon.

As André was about to leave the garage, Claude told him that he wanted to advertise in the bulletin. A job well done !

Congratulations

We are glad to announce the births of...

Laura Saindon on August 10, 2012. She is the daughter of Léandre Saindon and Chantal Dion and granddaughter of Maurice Saindon (crosswords).

Margot Angers on July 13, 2012. She is the daughter of Catherine Larose and Étienne Angers and granddaughter of Diane Saindon and Jean-Claude Larose.

Our Deepest Sympathy to the families of Gerry (Jean-Gérald) Saindon, from St-Jérôme, age 69.

Marie-Emma Bédard Saindon, from Montréal, age 85. She was the wife of Raoul Saindon, mother of Jo-

hanne and Rubis and the sister-in-law of Isabelle and Rosaire Saindon, members of the Association.

Louise Saindon, age 45. She was the President of the *Fédération Québécoise de Camping et Caravanning*, the largest group of campers in Québec and in Canada.

Deadline for the next issue

November 1st

Send your texts to :
André Sindon
486, ch. du Clocher
St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC
J2Y 1A9
or
bullsaindon@hotmail.com

Dictionary

You wish to buy a copy of the Saindon Family Dictionary, contact:

André Sindon
486, ch. du Clocher
St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC
J2Y 1A9
or
assosaindon@hotmail.com
or
450-347-1860

Important Notice

You are moving?

In order not to miss an issue of the Bulletin, or any correspondence sent by the Association...

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS.

Association des Saindon
332, rue La Ferté
Québec, QC
G1C 5C3
afjt@videotron.ca.



Legal Deposit
3rd quarter 2012
Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec
Bibliothèque Nationale du Canada
ISSN 1481-0735