

Grand Reunion 2015

by Suzanne Saindon

It wasn't by chance that the annual Reunion 2015 took place in the region of Cacouna. In fact, the 20th anniversary of the founding of our Association coincides with the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers in Cacouna. It took a lot of energy to put together these festivities which were a great success. Our thanks go to the organizing committee: André Saindon (Cacouna) and his family, Jean-Paul Saindon and Rosaire Saindon (Rivière-du-Loup) and André Sindon and Louise Camirand as well as Fernand, Martine and Lea Vachon who all contributed to bringing this wonderful project to life.

Friday Evening

As is the custom, Friday evening was devoted to registration followed by a gastronomic meal. This year, however, there was more. A special Bulletin dedicated to the 20 years of accomplishments of the Association as well as an anniversary badge was given to all participants. The mood was festive and the conversation was lively. It was like a wonderful family get together where everyone was happy just to see each other again. During the meal we enjoyed delicious local specialities elegantly presented in small glasses.

Saturday

André Sindon presented a spectacular slide presentation relating all the past reunions and the projects and accomplishments of the Association since its founding. This journey into the past was filled with nostalgia and emotion. This was followed by the Annual General meeting. A decision by the Board to allow spouses to become active members of the Association was approved by a vote of members. The Board of Directors welcomed Réal Saindon and André Sindon replacing departing members Fernand and Suzanne. A special thanks to Fernand who accepted to extend his mandate last year. The loyalty of those who have maintained their membership for 15 years or more was highlighted with the presentation of special lapel pins. Those not pre-



Registration



The organizers : André, Jean-Paul and Rosaire



It was the birthday of Rosaire.

sent will receive their pin in the mail.

As I mentioned previously, the citizens of Cacouna were celebrating and, in this context, we shared a traditional lunch with them. Even the first mayor of Cacouna, Benjamin Dionne (Georges Pelletier) came back from the past to welcome us.

After lunch, a talented Acadian story-teller, Kevin Arseneau captivated us all with a wonderful tale of the complicity of a man and his tree throughout the different stages of his life. I would love to be able to hear this story again.

Later in the afternoon, we visited the area of the first settlements in Cacouna. Mrs Lynda Dionne, dressed in clothes of the era, explained the living conditions of the time and the changes that came about including the moving of the houses of the first settlers. She also explained how Cacouna became a vacation site of choice in the period of the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. She personified the widow of Basile Saindon and we visited the farm of Simon Talbot, her second husband.

Just down the road was the *Gîte La Veilleuse* which was the home of Michel Saindon. We were welcomed by the owners and a reception. The ensuing ceremony at this site was led by Lynda Dionne and Georges Pelletier, each in their historic roles. A plaque was unveiled highlighting the history and the role our Saindon ancestors played in establishing Cacouna after fleeing the Acadian deportation.

André Saindon in his role as Michel addressed the group. Members of Parliament and the mayoress of Cacouna were all present. Our dean, Rosaire, took the occasion to thank Mayoress Daris for her involvement in the controversial TransCanada terminal project and the protection of the Belugas.

In traditional fashion Saturday finished around the table with a great dinner.

Until next year and our reunion in the Montreal region.

A real success



The banquet team.



Miguel and Marie-Claire



Annual assembly