

Summer 2026 Number 151

Le Trésor des Kirovac

Bulletin of the descendants of Alexandre de K/voach
Witness to Kirovac Activities since 1983



General view of Quebec. In the centre, at left, along the shore, we see a sailing vessel called Québec being built. On 30 October 1758, Levasseur wrote: "We had to stop building this vessel". (Unknown artist, according to George Cooke and Richard Short, 1812, in the permanent collection of the Quebec National Museum of Arts, Quebec City)



Kirovac
Kirovac



Kérouac
Kérouack



Keroac
Keroack



Kéroack
Kyrouac



Breton
Burton



Curwack
Curwick



Le Trésor des Kirouac

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Publisher

L'Association des familles Kirouac inc.
Kirouac Family Association
3782, Chemin Saint-Louis, Québec (Québec) Canada G1W 1T5

Legal Deposit 3rd Trimester 2026

Bibliothèque & Quebec Archives
National Library of Canada

French Edition: 80 copies; English Edition: 45 copies

ISSN 0833-1685

Subscriptions:

Canada: \$22; United States: \$22 US; Overseas: \$30 Canadian

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The President's Word

Greetings, Summer 2026 is here, it is a great time to forget winter cold and I hope everyone enjoys warm sunshine, rest and happy days with your families and friends.

As always, there is no rest for **Le Trésor** and it would be terrible if I forgot to mention the incredible work of François Kirouac and Marie Lussier-Timperley and that of our faithful copy editors and proofreaders.

For this edition number 151, the plan was to mark the 200th anniversary of Knight François Kirouac's birth. This remarkable family personage often figured in **Le Trésor** but finding a new angle to approach him was very difficult, almost impossible. However, unknowingly, chance was on our side. So, when an unexpected genealogical avenue opened up, we happily followed it.

Julie Kirouac and genealogist Marc Langlois sent us an unusual and fascinating new trail. Marie-Julie Hamel, wife of Knight François, has an autochthone ancestor when looking back all the way to the New-France period. It is a very special and historically commendable story.

Talking of the New-France period goes hand in hand with an article I had been working on about the naval shipyards in the 1700s. When adding to this the story of a daughter-in-law of

Knight François, Annie Davie and the Lévis shipyards, so covering shipbuilding from the 20th century back to New-France.

A new initiative of the KFA board is to ask each member in turn to select a previously published article particularly meaningful to them, to be reprinted in **Le Trésor**.

Mrs. Danielle Girouard, a grandniece of Marie-Victorin, was elected to choose one for this edition, and she picked: *Atlantic Crossings during the 17th and 18th Centuries*, by André Lachance, first published in French in the **Bulletin Mémoires vives**, no. 22, October 2007, and printed for **Le Trésor des Kirouac** no. 132, Spring 2020, and translated by Marie Lussier Timperley.

As you can see in the following pages you are diving into an old epoch in our new land showing that the Kirouacs and their descendants have inherited.

Of course, we could have decided to talk about the Atlantic crossing around 1722-1726 of our dear ancestor, Urbain-François Le Bihan de Kervoach. Well, rest assured it will be in a future **Trésor**!

To conclude, I invite you to note that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on Saturday, 12 September 2026. The AGM will be held at Rivière-du-



André Kirouac

Loup, and, besides those who will attend in person, it will be ONLINE for all to take part without travelling. The double reason for our choice of location is explained on the next pages.

I wish all of you a great summer and I am looking forward to seeing you at Rivière-du-Loup and Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup.



INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANDRÉ KIROUAC

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Saturday, 12 September 2026, at Rivière-du-Loup in the Musée du Bas Saint-Laurent (Lower Saint-Lawrence Museum)¹.

The AGM will be available ONLINE for those who cannot attend in person, starting at 9:30 a.m. As mentioned, this year we are not organizing a full weekend, just a day event around the AGM.

After the AGM, preferably before lunch in the same room, Mr. Gwendal Quistrebert, online direct from Brittany, will introduce his film *Sur les traces de Jack Kerouac* (27 min.), *In Jack Kerouac's footsteps*, to mark the 60th anniversary of the publication of *Satori in Paris*.

In the afternoon, we visit the *Jack Kerouac Space* at the municipal library of St-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-

Loup. On the way there, (30 min. drive) we plan to drive by Jack's father's birthplace and stop at the parish church and cemetery.

To register, simply write to associationfamilleskirouac@gmail.com as we need to know whether you intend to be present, either in person or ONLINE. No registration fee. At Rivière-du-Loup, each participant pays for their lodging and food. We recommend **Hôtel Lévesque** where a block of rooms is reserved. The hotel has a dining room; more info on page 5. Evening meal at St-Hubert at the highly recommended **Microbrasserie St-HuBièrre! (HuBeer in English)** A microbrewery whose name is an appealing play on words. Easy to translate too. We chose Rivière-du-Loup as it is closely connected to Jack Kerouac who went there in 1967, a year after publishing *Satori in Paris* his book about his quest for his Breton origin.

Our visit to St-Hubert's Municipal Library is also because of the link with Jack². At the AGM, we will be talking about electing more Board members again as we need more brains around the table. It is not a full-time job, far from it, but there are many subjects that we need to discuss like *Le Trésor*, our annual gatherings and especially how to keep in touch with Kirouacs because these elements are essential to securing our Association's future.

Much gratitude to Nathalie Keroack and Stéphane Kirouac for their precious help.

1 Musée du Bas St-Laurent at Rivière-du-Loup, Website: <http://www.mbsl.qc.ca>.

2 See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 142, Summer 2023, pages 29-32.



During the official inauguration of the *Jack Kerouac Space* on 19 July 23, the Mayor of Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup, Mrs. Josée Ouellet, copied a historical gesture by cutting a long paper roll, representing the famous *On the Road* scroll to inaugurate the new cultural space located in the municipal library. (Photo: courtesy of Andréanne Lebel, journalist at Infodimanche.com)

2026 Annual Gathering Kirouac Family Association

Rivière-du-Loup (Lower-Saint-Lawrence Museum)
and Saint-Hubert-de-la-Rivière-du-Loup (Municipal Library)

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

11 September 2026

Suggested hotel at Rivière-du-Loup for those planning to attend the Saturday events;

12 September 2026

9:00 to 10:30 – AGM at Musée du Bas Saint-Laurent (Lower St-Lawrence Museum) (Either in Person or ONLINE)

10:30 to 11:00
Coffee break

11:00 to 12:00
Directly from Brittany, Gwendal Quistrebert presents – **ONLINE** - his 27-minute film *Sur les traces de Jack Kerouac (In Jack's footsteps)*, marking 60 years since the publication of *Satori in Paris*)

12:00 to 1:30
Lunch at the Museum (meals will be ordered out, each person pays for their own)

2:00
Departure for **Saint-Hubert-de-Rivière-du-Loup's Municipal Library** (Mme Anne Laporte)

2:45 to 3:30
Visit of the *Jack Kerouac Space* at the Library

3:30 to 4:30
On the road to Jean-Baptiste Kirouac's birthplace, Jack's father's and, on the way, visit of parish church and village

4:30
Microbrasserie St-HuBièrre – in English: Microbrewery St-Hu-Beer!

5:00
Cocktails and Dinner
Back to Hotel Lévesque in Rivière-du-Loup

13 September 2026

For those who wish, breakfast together in hotel dining room



Kirouac Family Association Board Members 2025-2026. From left to right: Greg Kyroutac, Nathalie Keroack, Cathy Kirouac-Robinson, Stéphane Kirouac, André Kirouac and René Kirouac.

To benefit from the Hotel rebate at Rivière-du-Loup:

Use promotional code at: **Hôtel Levesque**

Group Name: **Kirouac Family Association**

Group Code: **260911ASS**

Reservation for 11-12 September 2026 on Hotel Website at <https://www.hotellevésque.com/>

or by phone at 418-862-6927 –Bilingual receptionist

Annie Davie and the Lévis Shipyards:

Looking Back - From The XIXth Century to New-France

André Kirouac

In 1897, Napoléon-Georges Kirouac, widower, took on a second wife, Annie Davie, daughter of George T. Davie, owner of the renowned Lévis Shipyard then and still very important today. When Annie married Napoléon-Georges Kirouac, she was the widow of Doctor Charles Arcadius Onésime Wenceslas Collet, doctor and surgeon from Laval University, Quebec, whom she had married on 23 August 1892. But this second marriage was a short-lived union, only four years, as Annie died in 1901.

Close to the shipbuilding world for only four years, did this son of Sir François Kirouac realize that his name and our family name were thus added to a line of personages who, since New-France, shaped one of the most important industrial activities in the Quebec (City) area?

At the end of the 19th century the shores on both sides of the river at Quebec (City) and Lévis were a forest of masts as people used to say at the time. On Quebec's side, it was the golden age of trade with Europe. Tons of wood brought on rafts or floated down the Saint-Maurice and Outaouais rivers further west, arrived to be loaded on ships bound for Europe.

Boats were everywhere, on the river's edge and in Bassin Louise behind the warehouses belonging to Napoléon and Cyrille, his brother and associate. On the south shore, Lévis side, you could picture the actual New Liverpool wharf, or the Anse Tibbitts then; there were sailing vessels everywhere and masts galore.

The shipyard owned by George T. Davie, Annie's father, was in full swing. At the time, Joseph-Elzéar Bernier was Master of the Lorne dry dock there, one of the largest in Canada. Bernier's house, on Fraser Street, was just above the cliff behind AC Davie shipyard. As an aside, let's mention that Bernier's adopted daughter, Elmina Caron, was the second spouse of Cyrille Kirouac¹, a brother of Napoléon-Georges.

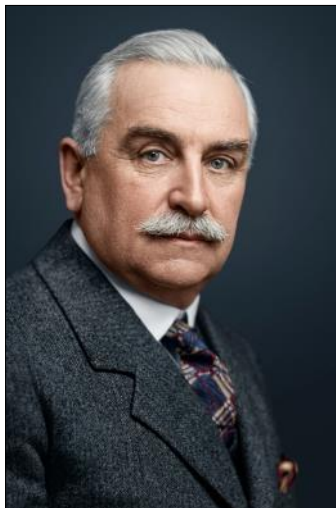
Back at the end of the 19th century, there were many shipyards, they were everywhere. Trade with England was nonstop. Steamships were arriving in ever-increasing numbers; however, large sailing ships were still very popular.

In Quebec City, Eileen Reed Marcil counted thirty-six shipbuilders. Some were better known than others, like the Dunns, Sewells, Goudies, Rosas, Olivers, or Munns. On the south shore, besides the Davie family, were the Samsons, Russells, and Brunelles, among others.

Trade was so important and demand for ships of various tonnage was so high that alongside the big shipyards, there were smaller ones; even some on Île d'Orléans and at L'Islet. Joseph-Elzéar Bernier's father built his own schooners on the shore of L'Islet, his village.

All these people, Annie Davie included, were the worthy successors of the King's shipbuilders of the French regime. As it still is nowadays, global political and economic contexts have direct effects on the need for commercial ships and, often, military vessels.

In the mid-20th century, during World War II, the Davie shipyards built several corvettes. As did the Morton Engineering Shipyards on the Saint-Charles River or, even a small shipyard on Île d'Orléans commissioned to build two small wooden minesweepers.



Napoléon-Georges Kirouac and Annie Davie
(KFA Collection, colorized photos)

¹ See *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 150, Spring 2026, page 25.

Of course, it was no different during the New France period. In 1748, when Intendant Bigot and Governor de la Jonquière were in charge in New France, there were conflicts in Europe, and the Seven-Year War was brewing. Under the French administration and the naval minister, Mr. de Maurepas, shipbuilding was one of the industries they wanted to set up on this side of the Atlantic.

There was an abundance of good quality wood in New-France, the Saint-Lawrence River ran between two towns and workers could be sent from France as well as workers recruited locally. Expertise came from overseas as well as some essential elements to build the royal vessels, particularly if needed to build war ships with over sixty cannons.

A first shipyard was opened in 1738 at the mouth of the Saint-Charles River. Jean-Nicolas Levasseur, master builder (shipwright) arrived from France and settled his family on Champlain Street, near the Anse du Cul-de-Sac (dead-end cove). The first ship built was christened Canada and was followed by others with meaningful names: Carcajou, Martre, Castor, Caribou and Saint-Laurent. (Wolverine, Marten, Beaver).

Over the years, reports sent to the governor seemed to indicate that the launching pad was not adequate for large ships. Intendant Hocquart and Jean-Nicolas Levasseur, suggested that the best place was the Anse du Cul-de-Sac (dead-end cove). Thus from 1746, the shipyard at Anse du Cul-de-Sac was built to launch a



A wooden cleat used to wrap a rope, usually between a ship's railing and a mast. Quebec Maritime Museum (1997-126-1 H) Note on the label: « [...] on 15 July 1925, wooden cleat from L'Original the ship that sank on 2 September 1750 — Gift from Mr. Albert Delage who received it from his father in 1888 who had it since the dredging of St-Charles River. See historical notice in Vol 6 p. 306.

Souvenir of Québec.

All persons who attended the National Celebration should bring home at least one souvenir from the Capital.

This would be a precious object to take home: A cane made from the wood of L'Original the ship that sank in 1750 and was retrieved in 1879. We invite all those present to pay a visit to the ...

Excerpt from the newspaper, *L'Événement*, of 12 July 1880 about an object made from wood from *L'Original*.

² Idem p.117.



Part of a maritime map of Quebec designed by Henry Wolsey Bayfield in 1829. Look at the mention WRECK in the middle of the river. It could be where the wreck of L'Original lies. (In English, the boat's name means *The Moose*.)

first ship in 1748. It was the Original (Moose), 1000 barrels, 62 cannons, and 600 crew members. It was a big project; so about a dozen plots along Champlain Street were expropriated and a new dock built because small private boats were already being built there.

According to Jacques Mathieu, *various trades were needed usually including foremen, inspectors and guards making sure the work sites ran smoothly. Skilled workers like drillers, pulleymen, carpenters, ship carpenters, joiners, caulkers, sawyers, lumberjacks, maters, scribes, rope makers, sailmakers, and blacksmiths made up the bulk of the workforce. [...] There were also cartwrights, painters, upholsterers, grinders, tinsmiths, locksmiths, and coopers. Altogether, the work sites provided jobs for nearly 200 people.*²

In the lower town, rain or shine, manual labour went on; however, in the upper town, it was quite different. The colony's authorities often clashed with each other, and suspicions of shady dealings plagued the conversations.



In 1748³ Bigot succeeded Hocquart as intendant and was accused of embezzlement together with the king's storekeeper, Guillaume Estèbe. The latter's house is now part of the Quebec Museum of Civilisation! And back in France he was imprisoned in the Bastille.

Men worked in the shipyard, a vessel took shape, the *Orignal* (Moose), the largest ever built in Quebec, a real pride! Early on 2 September 1750, a large crowd was expected along the Cul-de-Sac cove. But everything went wrong.

It is with great sadness that we have the honour of informing you of the loss of the royal ship L'Orignal (The Moose). It was launched on 2 September. Precautions were taken, two large anchors were secured in the middle of the river, where it was decided to anchor it, [...] it moved earlier than expected, gaining considerable speed, broke the cable fastened on board and to the log, [...] the current and a light wind carried it faster than it could be rowed, so the ship was reached only after it had run onto the reef beyond Cap Diamant. [...] Rest assured, my lord, that every possible measure was undertaken, but in vain [...] We have the honor to be, with our deep respect, my lord, your very humble and very obedient servants. De La Jonquière, Bigot⁴

Although the *Moose* went down in 1750, barely a month after the disaster, in October 1750, at the Cul-de-Sac shipyard, another ship, the *Algonquin*, was underway.

These were the last ships built during the French Kings' reign. In 1759, the English attacked Quebec and the colony fell in 1763. The new masters gradually moved in and, in the early 1800s, along the Saint-Lawrence shores, many shipyards were established. The descendants of the shipyard workers under the French regime took on the shipbuilding's hard work for the Munns, Dunns and, of course, the Davies.

³ Letter signed by Bigot and de la Jonquière to the French Naval Minister dated 1 October 1750.

⁴ As governor, the Comte de la Galissonnière succeeded Hocquart in 1748 and 1749. From 1749 to 1752, the Marquis de La Jonquière was the one who had to manage the sinking of L'Orignal, although the reasons for the incident cannot be attributed to him..

⁵ Letter from Bigot and de la Jonquière to the Minister of Marine, 1 October 1750.

Brother Marie-Victorin's Scientific Legacy In The Light of His Indigenous Origin

Marc Langlois, anthropologist, genealogist

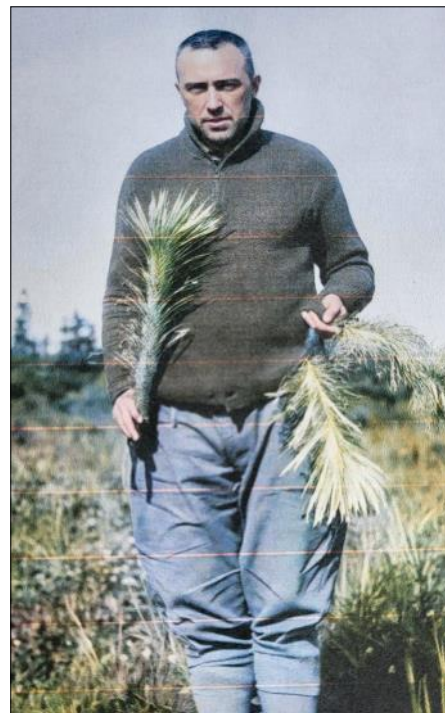
We warmly thank Julie Kirouac who allowed us to discover the research of Marc Langlois, whom we thank just as much.

Preamble

Pursuing genealogical indigenous research requested by Mrs. Julie Kirouac, it was discovered that the grandmother of Conrad Kirouac (Brother Marie-Victorin) had Indigenous ancestry. This happy surprise fully justifies presenting an article detailing this multi-ethnic origin.

Conrad Kirouac, who became known under his religious name, Brother Marie-Victorin (1885-1944), revolutionized the study of botany in Quebec while carrying in his genes the invisible French-Canadian-Algonquin roots inherited from his maternal grandmother, Marie-Julie Hamel. As he created modern botany, he embodied the scientific awakening of French-speaking Canadians in the 20th century. His contribution is centered on three major achievements:

La Flore laurentienne: (Laurentian Flora): Scientific Inventory of the Saint-Lawrence Valley plants
Flore laurentienne - [Wikipedia.com](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flore_laurentienne)



Brother Marie-Victorin (Conrad Kirouac) during a field exploration. (Photo by Brother Roland Germain, Montreal University Archives)

Montreal Botanical Garden (1931): One of the five most important botanic institutions in the world.

<https://espacepourlavie.ca/en/botanical-garden>

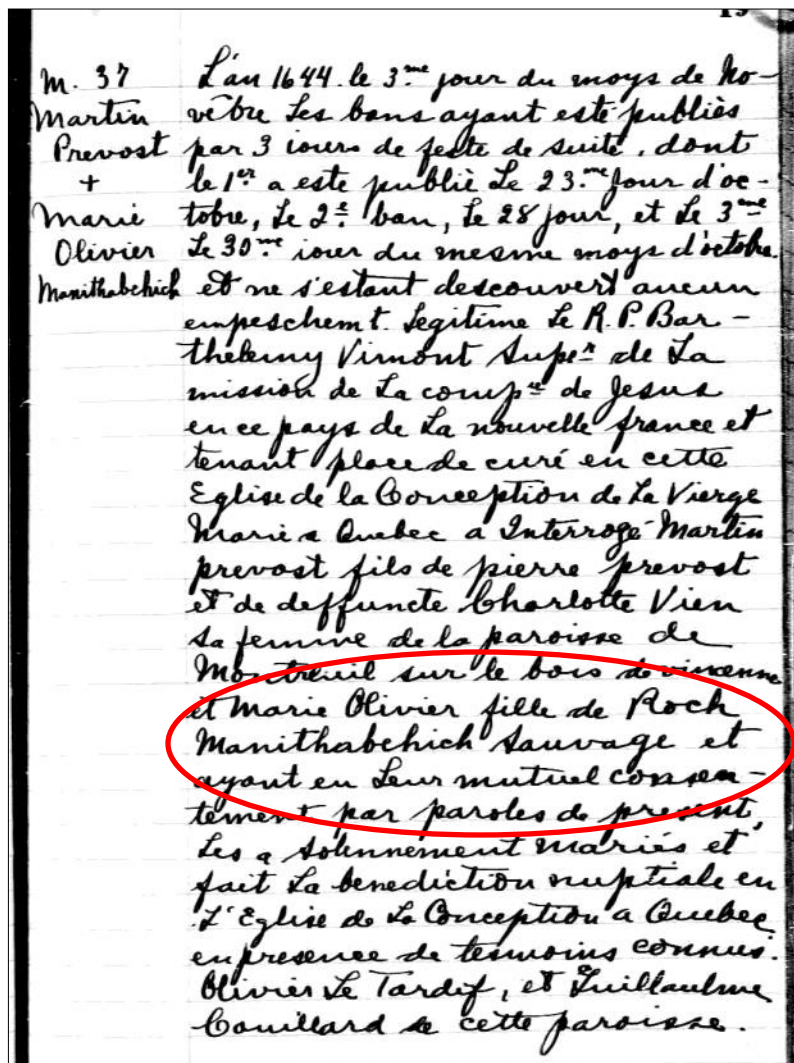
Institut botanique: Botanical Institute entirely dedicated to research in natural sciences; now known as the IRBV and located at the Montreal Botanical Garden.

<https://www.irbv.umontreal.ca>

Maternal Line of Marie-Julie Hamel

Genealogical analysis shows that the heritage comes through Marie-Julie Hamel (1830-1915), maternal grandmother of the scientist. The alliance of the Kirouac family with the First Nations dates back from the New-France period. During the 19th century, socio-religious assimilation imperatives often relegated such ancestries to silence or oblivion. Presenting this side of Marie-Julie Hamel's ancestry is necessary and absolutely in line with Quebec's true plurality of identity.

Although Marie-Victorin adopted the Western current study methods, his conceptual relation to the territory shows a sensitivity that perhaps echoes his ancestral roots. His *Croquis laurentiens* (Laurentian Sketches (1920)



Marriage Records between Martin Prévost and Marie-Olivier Manitouabewich (1644) (Source: From the Past to the présent@ Indigenous Genealogical Research.)



Marc Langlois

Graduated in anthropology from Laval University. During his early career, he served as a research assistant on a project at the **Centre d'études nordiques** (Northern Studies Centre) at Laval University on a project with the Naskapi First Nation, and then spent a 38-year career with the federal Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. His duties have led him to closely share the daily life of the First Nations communities of Quebec-Labrador, the Inuit of New Quebec and Baffin Island (Iqaluit). His mastery of the basic notions of the Innu and Inuktitut languages has fostered his bonds of respect and friendship with these populations and being himself of previous Innu and Algonquin ancestry. For more than twenty-five years, he has been actively involved in Indigenous genealogical research and gender diversity in Canada and the United States and as a speaker on this subject.

INDIGENOUS ROOTS OF CONRAD KIROUAC (BROTHER MARIE-VICTORIN)

by Marc Langlois, anthropologist, genealogist

A-Marie Olivier Manitouabewich, Algonquin/Wendat, marriage on 3 November 1644 to **Martin Prévost**
at Notre-Dame de Québec, Québec

(B) **Jean-Baptiste Prévost**, metis*, marriage on 18 August 1683 to **Marie-Anne Giroux**
at Beauport, Québec

(1) **Guillaume Prévost**, metis, marriage on 20 April 1733 to **Marie-Marguerite Lemarier**
Québec, Québec

(2) **Joseph-Guillaume Prévost**, metis, marriage on 18 October 1761 to **Marie-Josephte Berthiaume**
Sainte-Foy, Québec

(3) **Marie-Josephte Prévost**, metis, marriage on 16 January 1786 to **Charles Moreau**
Sainte-Foy, Québec

(4) **Angélique Moreau**, metis, marriage on 16 November 1813 to **Joseph Hamel**
Sainte-Foy, Québec

(5) **Marie-Julie Hamel**, metis, marriage on 6 June 1848 to **François Kirouac**
Québec, Québec

(6) **Cyrille Kirouac**, metis, marriage on 29 August 1882 to **Philomène Luneau**
Saint-Norbert-d'Arthabaska, Québec

(7) **Conrad Kirouac (Frère Marie-Victorin)**, metis,
(Born 3-April-1885, Kingsey Falls, Québec)

*The word metis is used only for the purpose of allowing a follow-up of this generational bloodline. NB: All documents constituting this research may not be copied or used for any other research without the written consent of the author. By Marc Langlois, anthropologist, genealogist (genmetis@gmail.com)

demonstrate a holistic and almost sacred perception of nature. Similarly, his intensive field explorations, match the millennia-old interdependent relationship that Indigenous peoples maintain with plants. Highlighting this original link permits an epistemic dialogue between modern science and traditional knowledge.

The Basic Alliance: Marie Olivier Manitouabewich and Martin Prévost

Inserting the line within French-Canadian genealogy goes back to the union of Marie Olivier Manitouabewich and Martin Prévost, celebrated at Quebec (City) on 3 November 1644 (Notre-Dame de Québec parish records). The marriage certificate formally identifies the wife's father as Roch Manitouabewich dit (known as)

sauvage (savage i.e., Amerindian); the mother's name was however missing, but this was usual then in the first colonial records.

This ancestor, sometimes called under the name of Sylvestre or Ouchistaouichkoue, holds a special place in historical demography because she was the first autochthone woman whose marriage with a European settler was recorded in New-France parish

registers. She died at Quebec (City) on 10 September 1665. Searched documents present various ethnic affiliations. For example, in Monsignor Cyprien Tanguay's Genealogical Dictionary of Canadian Families, she is identified as Huron-Wendat, but in the Relations des Jésuites (Jesuits' official journals), Father Jérôme Lalemant mentioned her origin as Algonquin. Contemporary research suggests that her mother was Outchibahanoukoueou. From a young age, Marie Olivier was entrusted to Olivier Le Tardif, labourer and interpreter, who became her guardian and gave her his first name; she was educated in the home of Guillaume Hubou and Marie Rollet and at the Ursuline Convent in old Quebec.

Thus, this presentation of Marie-Victorin helps us better understand the personage. He is no longer only the scientist trained on European models; he becomes a son of the land whose intellectual rigour immortalized the flora of the land occupied by his ancestors.

Conclusion

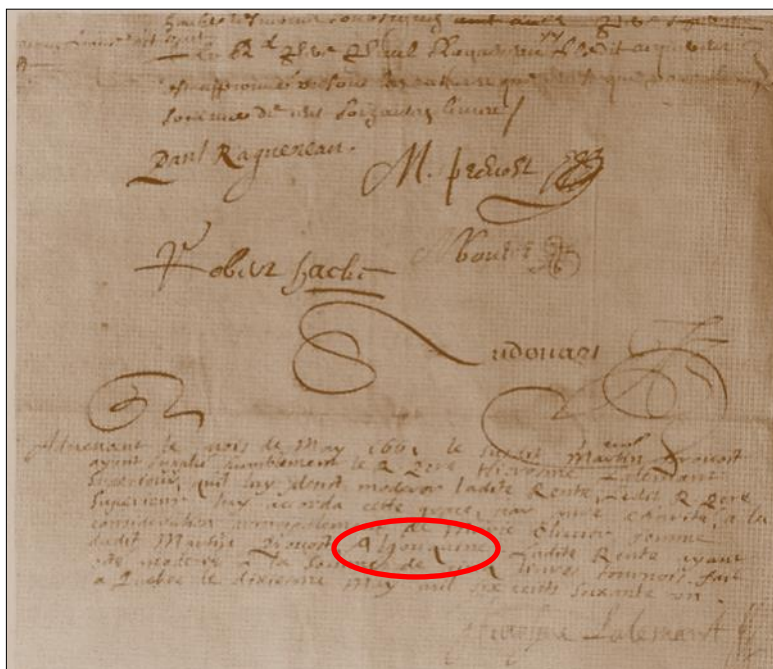
The integration of this Indigenous ancestry within Brother Marie-Victorin's biography is an invitation to re-examine his scientific and cultural legacy. More than a genealogical anecdote, this lineage connecting the botanist to Marie Olivier Manitouabewich creates a symbolic bridge between two ways of relating to the world: the rigour of modern taxonomy and the age-

old closeness with the Laurentian territory.

By recording the *Laurentian Flora*, Conrad Kirouac, besides carrying a Western science work, perhaps unconsciously, was pursuing the dialogue initiated in Quebec on 3 November 1644. Thus, his journey embodies a unique synthesis of the memory of blood and a passion for the land.

Bringing back Marie-Julie Hamel and her ancestors their rightful place in the family lineage allows us to lift the veil on the First Nations' invisible contribution to Quebec identity, reminding us that the roots of our modernity are deeply imbedded in the soil of northern lands and mixed origins.

Contract of sale (1661) between the Jesuits and Martin Prévost.



In this contract, above the signature of Father Lalemant, we see that Marie Prévost is said to be Algonquin.

Transcription of the text at the bottom of the page:

"In the event of the month of May 1661, the aforesaid Martin Prévost having humbly begged the Reverend Father Hierosme Lalemant Superior, that he be pleased to moderate the said Annuity, the said Reverend Father Superior granted him this grace, by charity, in special consideration of Marie Olivier, wife of the said Martin Prévost, Algonquin. The said Rent having been moderated to the sum of five livres tournois. Done at Quebec the tenth day of May one thousand six hundred and sixty-one. »

[Signature]: « Hierosme Lalemant, s.j. »

Marriage Act of Marie Prévost and Marie Olivier Manitouabewich (1644) Upper part of the deed (Signatures)

Paul Ragueneau (Jésuit priest) : « Paul Ragueneau de la cop[agnie] de JEsus »

M. prevost (Martin Prévost)

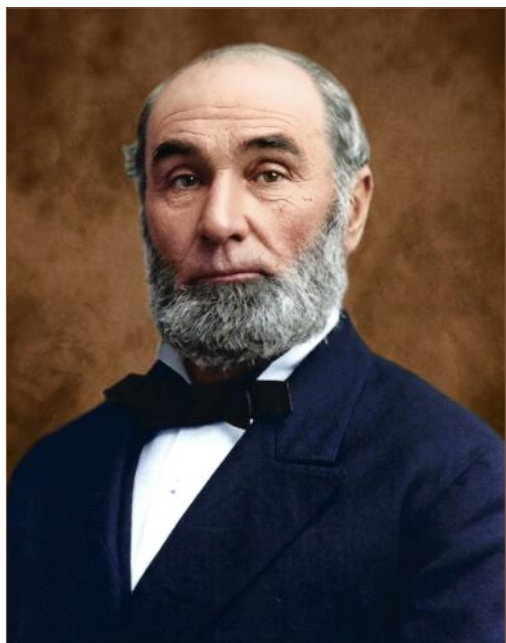
Vollant

F. Olier sacht (or similar)

H. Lalemant (Hiérome/Jérôme Lalemant, Superior of the Jesuits)

«... led[it] R. Father Paul Ragueneau of the said purchaser... »
«... is approved by all the aforesaid... that for the d[ite]... » «... sum of one hundred and sixty pounds. »

BROTHER MARIE-VICTORIN'S GRANDPARENTS



François Kirouac (1826-1896)
(KFA Collection, colorized photo)



Marie-Julie Hamel (1830-1915)
(KFA Collection, colorized photo)

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Saint-Aimé Parish in Kingsey Falls. (1885). Baptism Register: Birth and baptism of Conrad Kirouac, April 1885.

JULIE KIROUAC

Second Cousin of Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin)

The Editor

Genealogist Marc Langlois just unveiled the indigenous ancestry of Marie-Julie Hamel. It is a major discovery for our family history that would never have surfaced without Julie Kirouac's dogged resolve. She was determined to find her indigenous roots and Marc Langlois's discovery was so important that she wanted this information out as fast as possible. But who is Julie Kirouac? Some will remember reading her autobiography published in *Trésor des Kirouac*, number 125, in December 2017. The following streamlined bio sheds light on Julie, a woman determined to realise her dreams in genealogical research as in horticulture, her passion.

Julie Kirouac, A Passion for Horticulture

Born in Quebec City, Julie, the eldest of six, grew up in a large house in the area known as *le Petit-Village* (the small village). She belongs to the Kirouac branch of François the Knight, and his wife, Marie-Julie Hamel, thus she is a first cousin twice removed of Conrad, Brother Marie-Victorin.

From her father, Gabriel, she learned how to care for outdoor plants in all four seasons. Later, his advice helped her prepare estimates and schedules while working on various large horticultural mandates. Julie also remembers her paternal grandparents, Émile and Léontine (Marois) Kirouac, as a happy couple loving the outdoors, rivers and fishing. Her best teenage memories were the time spent at Lake Sergent at her maternal grandmother, Jeanne Beaumont, who had a glorious flower garden and a kitchen garden just as inspiring. At the end of her studies, she gave art classes to children in the Petit-Village. After marrying her childhood friend, she started working in the hotel industry to enable her husband to complete his business studies. They had two daughters, Sarah and Elsie.

After ten years in the hotel industry, it was time for a change, either hotel or family life. *So, I left the hotel business and chose horticulture, my real love; it was a step towards a new life.* She registered at a trade school to get professional training in greenhouse production. *At the end of the course, I mentioned to the director that I had learned very little about cultivating perennial plants and that I could easily give such a class.* So, the school hired her, and she taught over 2,000 hours in vocational training, which later allowed her to become a Certified Instructor for the Quebec Labour Market Partners Commission (professional agricultural and fisheries sections). In 1986, the landscape she designed for an important condominium complex won an excellence award from Quebec City.

Her commercial production of 30,000 perennial plants, including historical and indigenous plants, were used in numerous landscaping projects in the greater Quebec area, including, among others: Villa Bagatelle, Domaine Catarauqui, Bois-de-Coulonges Park, Maison Michel-Sarrazin, Domaine Maizerets, etc. Her study of the distances needed between perennial plants for best growth, turned into a teaching and planning programme. Carefully examined by the Director of the bio-agronomy programme at Laval University (Quebec), it was approved enabling her to teach without a



Julie Kirouac

diploma, she adds: *in a way, somewhat like Brother Marie-Victorin did at first.*

Eventually hired by Quebec City Environment Services, Julie worked for twenty years beautifying over 300 parks and public spaces, caring for them all *as if they were her own.*

In her 2017 short biography, she concludes: *In short, I would describe myself as a passionate person always willing to work to make my dreams come true, sometimes to the detriment of my family life; but my daughters seem to accept this. They have always been the sunshine in my life, now even more so with the addition of two grandchildren. I am passionate about life and life is really good to me.*

Much gratitude to you, Julie, for your amazing contribution to our genealogical tree! As you say, you can be rightly proud of your ancestry and your descendants!

REVISITING THE PAST

The Atlantic Crossing in the 17th and 18th centuries By André Lachance

First published in the *Bulletin Mémoires vives*, number 22, October 2007

New-France is at the heart of the present issue of *Le Trésor des Kirouac* as we cover, among other things, shipbuilding in Quebec and the Indigenous origins of Conrad Kirouac, Brother Marie-Victorin.

The KFA Board has agreed to start a new series entitled Revisiting the Past. Each member in turn will share a text previously published that particularly speaks to them. Danielle Girouard, a grand-niece of Brother Marie-Victorin, chose André Lachance's interesting stories about the Atlantic crossings in the 17th and 18th centuries. This text really fits well with the themes developed in the present Trésor and is a vibrant homage to our ancestors' determination and courage; they are the great builders of our country.

*We wish to renew our thanks to Mr. André Lachance¹ for authorizing us to reprint his text² in *Le Trésor des Kirouac*, number 132, Spring 2020, as we reprint it here once more.*

Today when we cross the North Atlantic comfortably sitting in an Airbus or a Boeing, it is difficult to imagine the incredibly harsh conditions people faced when daring to board a ship navigating the oceans during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Although it was slightly less perilous than during the 16th century, crossing the Atlantic in the 17th and 18th centuries was still an ordeal for sailors and passengers alike. Fear was part of everyone's baggage. For over a thousand years, the European populations had been essentially land-bound, and any open-sea travel was synonymous of the worst possible images of distress and anguish.

At the time in Europe, lots of adages circulated advising one and all to keep away from the sea: Praise the sea, but on shore remain, said the Latins. Better ride on land in an old chariot than on the ocean in a new boat, so said the Dutch. If you want to learn to pray, go sailing! declared Sancho Panza.³

Crossing the North Atlantic between the old country and new France was also reputed to be extremely arduous. In 1716, Captain Voutron, commanding officer of the *François*, after many crossings, wrote: "Seven times I sailed to Canada and, although I managed fairly well, let me say that even the easiest of these crossings gave me more white hair than any other sea-voyage anywhere else."

The vessels departed mainly from Île-de-France or the North-West, Normandy, Brittany, Poitou, Aunis, Saintonge and Picardie, immigrants embarking for Canada were always quite anxious when stepping aboard a vessel less than 25 meters (84 feet) in length with inside space of only

200 barrels⁴. Needless to say that inside such a small vessel comfort was minimal at best. Passenger space was extremely limited. Everyone: king's representative, missionary, nun, military officer, soldier, hired-hand, well-to-do young heir, poacher, merchant, agent, voluntary migrants and involuntary immigrants: were

FOOTNOTES PREPARED BY THE EDITOR OF LE TRÉSOR

¹ "André Lachance, PhD in history from Ottawa University, under professor Marcel Trudel (1917-2011). Now retired. He taught history of Canada and New-France at Laval University (Quebec City) 1966-1968, then at Sherbrooke University (Quebec) 1968-1998. Member of the Quebec Heritage Commission 1975-1978, and member of the editorial committee of *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française* during the nineties. At the beginning of the 21st century he was scientific consultant for the TV series *Origines*, on Historia TV channel. During the summer of 2003, his many books and papers, particularly *Juger et punir en Nouvelle-France* (prosecution and punishment in New France), was most useful to the organizers of the *Fêtes de la Nouvelle-France* held in Quebec City to develop that year's chosen theme: justice.

² Streamlined version of a text published in Chapter 2 of *Survivre à l'Atlantique* (Atlantic Survival) published in 1992 in a collective work compiled by Yves Landry entitled, *Pour le Christ et le Roi. La vie au temps des premiers Montréalais*, (For Christ and the King, life at the time of the first Montrealers, i.e., 17th century) *Libre Expression & Art Global*.

³ Sancho Panza, one of the characters in *Don Quixote*, the 1605 novel written by Don Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra.

⁴ Less than 25 meters (or 83 feet compared with a 78-foot tennis court); 200 barrels: indicates the inner capacity of a vessel, a barrel equaled 2.83 cubic meters, about 100 cubic feet!

⁵ Sainte-barbe: storage space below deck, where some passengers slept in hanging hammocks.

packed like sardines. It was particularly bad for those allocated to the *sainte barbe*⁵ i.e., a storage space in the stern where were stored merchandises and food supply for the crossing, all provisions for about two months. There were also live animals: pigs, sheep, hens, cattle and horses, parked close to the kitchens under the forecastle, as some poor beasts would be butchered to feed the passengers during the crossing. Every inch of space was used to the maximum.

After leaving port and once on the Atlantic, so many unknown factors would hinder the voyage like storms, sinking, even pirate attacks. The North-Atlantic was infamous for cold temperatures, fogs, and icebergs, and as you got closer to the Canadian coasts, the harsh climate made life far more painful. Cold and humidity were all the more biting on board the ship not just due to the usual bad weather and frequent storms but because of the fire danger; it became impossible to make a fire to warm up and cook food, so crew and passengers had to make do with cold meals. Often too, bedding, mattresses and hammocks got soaked; and provisions and merchandise were destroyed by water infiltrating everything everywhere.

During the crossing, daily life was rather boring for the passengers. Weather permitting, the sole exercise might be walking on the bridge; amusements included parlour games, or cards, chess, checkers, dice as well as music and singing. Some passengers also read and wrote. Otherwise, chatting with fellow passengers and observe the odd ships sailing by. There was so little to do that boredom quickly took over. Luckily, meals were a welcome break normally three times a day. Breakfast was the usual ship-biscuits but, after a few weeks at sea, they became wormy. As for lunch and supper, there was soup made with rye or oat flour, sometimes corn, beans or peas, to which fat or olive oil was added for nourishment.

Happily for the travellers, three or four times a week, at lunch and supper, according to Father Georges Fournier⁶ author of *Hydrographie*, we know that lard was given to the passengers, and some days, two cods or two herrings were shared by eight men. Whenever possible fishing provided: tuna, porpoise, shark, etc. to improve the daily diet.

Cider and fresh water, when not too contaminated, were the usual drink. Drinking water was frequently kept in wooden casks, but after 15 to 30 days at sea, it tasted bitter, turned brownish and was maggot infested, and then the smell was nauseating. So much so that, sometimes, people pinched their nose to have the courage to drink it. During the 1653 summer crossing, Marguerite Bourgeoys⁷ was given dirty and contaminated water; however, she always showed a grateful expression as she took it in a spirit of penance and mortification. On Sundays, being a special day, wine was served.

Sailors' and passengers' personal hygiene left a great deal to be desired. Soft water being a very precious commodity, wasting it to wash oneself or one's clothes was a no-no. One can easily imagine the pervading stench in steerage where the portholes were nearly always shut. Parasites were crawling everywhere. Father Nau, a Jesuit⁸ wrote about his 1734 crossing: "whenever we left the steerage, we noticed that we were covered with lice; I even found some in my socks..."

Living in such conditions, illnesses flourished, some were even deadly.

The first one to appear was seasickness. For some passengers, as soon as a vessel reached open sea, trouble began. Here is how Estienne Cleirac⁹, described it in his book about habits and customs at sea: *Les Us et Coutumes de la mer* published in 1661: their stomach would immediately start to heave and sway painfully, which content would altogether jump out upwards and downwards at the same time. Those used to life at sea laughed at the sick and made fun of them.

Father Joseph Dargent, a Sulpician¹⁰, came to New-France in 1737, and started writing a travel log as soon as the vessel left the dock. Immediately he noticed the effects of the rolling and

⁶ Georges Fournier, French Jesuit priest (1595-1652) renown geographer, hydrographer and mathematician, wrote numerous scientific papers including the very first French marine encyclopedia. He spent many years at sea and was Chaplain of the French Navy.

⁷ Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys, born in Troyes, France, in 1620, died at Montreal, Canada in 1700. First teacher in Montreal and founder of the Congregation of Notre-Dame, a nuns' teaching order.

⁸ Nau, Luc-François, French Jesuit priest (1703-1753). Missionary in New-France 1734-1744. He left La Rochelle, France on 29 May 1734, on the Rubis, and landed at Quebec on 16 August after 80 very trying days at sea.

⁹ Estienne Cleirac, (1583-1657), juriconsult and lawyer at the Bordeaux Parliament (France); specialized in maritime law, author of many treaties and of one of the first complete book of maritime rules and regulations of his time.

¹⁰ Joseph Dargent, French Sulpician priest, born in France in 1712, died at Montreal in 1747. He published his recollections of his crossing from Paris to Montreal, Canada in 1737 entitled *Relation d'un voyage de Paris à Montréal en Canada en 1737*. The crossing took only 54 days and must have been rather calm because he does not even mention it in his book.

pitching on the men. *Everywhere, people were slumping and throwing up. It was almost laughable to watch people running from starboard to portside. However, I would not dare laugh as I was afraid it could soon be my turn. Anyway, I decided to be brave and not give anyone the opportunity to make fun of me as they would have love to do; luckily I was not sick at all.*

At sea the most common ailment that often turned deadly was scurvy¹¹. In the 18th century it was just as deadly as in the previous century. Other ailments also causing many deaths were those covered by the old generic terms malignant, common, hot, or spotted fevers, because in most instances they did not know any more about these diseases. And the term would encompass typhus, measles, dysentery, smallpox, etc. Promiscuity combined with total lack of hygiene, cold and humidity, created a ripe bed of diseases spreading like lightning through any ship, thus 7% to 10% of passengers died before reaching New-France.

After up to sixty days at sea, surviving illnesses, storms, pirates and privateers, and sailing up the Saint-Lawrence river infamous for shipwrecks, finally reaching the port of Quebec, the traveller was setting foot in the promised land, Canada.

¹¹ Scurvy: disease due to lack of vitamin C; starts with loosening of teeth, then gum purulence, hemorrhage, and finally death. First noticed during the Renaissance, during the first world maritime explorations, it lasted on land and at sea until the 19th century.

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Twenty years ago, 24-26 February 2006, for the first time, our association took part in the *Salon des familles souches*. Quebec family associations were invited in what would become in 2013 *Heritage weekend*. We attended from 2006 to 2008, and again from 2011 to 2015. It ended in 2016. On this photo, two of our faithful and regular representatives, Marie Kirouac and Lucille Kirouac. (Photo: François Kirouac)

THINKING ABOUT ANNUAL GATHERINGS IN THE FUTURE?

by André Kirouac

At each KFA Board meeting this year, as mentioned before we discuss a key concern for our Association: our publication, *Le Trésor*, then our annual gatherings, and increasing the membership always in order to secure a lasting future for our Association.

In the previous issue, number 150, we explained what was decided about the future of *Le Trésor*. At our last meeting, on 4 May 2026, we discussed the annual gatherings. Over the years, they were held in various regions of Quebec, in Manitoba and in the USA. But we must face a sad reality: that yearly, the number of people attending diminishes.

Nevertheless, when asking people if annual gatherings should be discontinued, those present always say that we should keep them. We know that some practical considerations play against us, like the increasing cost of renting a venue, travel distances, parking facilities, costs of meals, and planning varied activities. To this we must add the energy required from a few people for fewer and fewer participants.

During the past years, we relied on the priceless help of Mercédès Bolduc and her husband, Marc Villeneuve, as well as the contribution of the KFA Board members on top of their individual responsibilities. Without the help from all these generous people, we would have had to rethink our gatherings much earlier.

The least we must do is to express our everlasting gratitude to them but, let's face it, Mercédès and Marc's departure leaves a sizable gap. In spite of all our efforts, we only attract a maximum of forty participants each year. I want you to know that, in 2025 in Quebec City, the surplus of food was given to a local community charity food depot.

Given these facts, the KFA Board members have decided:

♦ Large gatherings will still be organized but only every two years and last one day only, except in rare cases. Besides the AGM, a special activity,

historical or other, may be offered. For example, were suggested, a dinner-theater event or an excursion) depending on the location. An enticing theme is the most important factor for selecting a region and, ideally, some local people must be part of the organizing committee.

♦ The choice of the host city will be based on several criteria: ease of access, the availability of nearby parking and, above all, the presence of an attractive theme. The organizing committee should ideally be composed of people from the chosen region, plus one or more members of the board of directors.

♦ Every second year, only the AGM will take place and be attended in person or virtually. When possible, an activity may be planned for those who travel to attend the AGM. A lot of energy is needed and there are very few people to do it all, causes some second thoughts. So, the year when there is only the AGM, each person attending will be responsible to arrange and pay for their own room and board. The KFA will reserve a hall and manage the AGM.

Further on, you can read what is planned for 2026. We also need to think about 2027 because we wish to commemorate the arrival in New-France of Urbain-François le Bihan de Kervoach. How could we possibly ignore this 300th anniversary? Of course, we need your collaboration to celebrate it properly. Wherever you are, put your thinking cap on and share your ideas.



KFA annual gathering in 1994 – some of those taking parts in front of Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Church at Place Royale in Quebec City (photo: KFA collection)

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2025 (Non-verified)

René Kirouac, Treasurer

Financial results for the year 2025 present a positive balance of **\$1,363.83** of revenue over expenses.

Revenue went up by **\$386.08** compared with 2024. This positive result is due essentially to one item: gifts and recovered amount of **\$923.20**. This includes **\$1,084.50** the amount sent to the KFA by the Fédération des Associations de Familles du Québec (Federation of Quebec Family Associations), after they terminated their activities. Without this contribution, the balance of revenues would have presented an amount lower than last year. This is due first because of the lower number of members, the item *annual memberships*, that reduced the revenue by **(\$754.00)** and, a small reduction in *premiums and interests* **(\$171.98)**.

Again, in *gifts and recovered amount*, there is a small diminution of the revenues from the *Jacques Kirouac* Funds. This is the result of the diminishing annual interest on the Capital Parts of Desjardins Bank that went from 5.5% to 5.0%. As for gifts, the total of **\$641.00** is almost identical to that of 2024. Much gratitude to the donors from the KFA Board members.

Expenses diminished by **(\$6,323.18)** compared with 2024. The main part of this large decrease can be found in the item *divers*, particularly about the *work done on our website*. In 2024, during the AGM held at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu in September, it was decided to put in the financial results for 2024 the whole amount of expenses for Website, that is **(\$4,963.59)**. Please note that the accounting method used before 2024, was explained in *Le Trésor des Kirouac* #147, p. 21.

As for the other items listed in the expenses, each one decreased by about **\$300** compared with 2024, except the item *Genealogical File* that went up by **\$262.65**.

Please find attached the financial report for the Jacques Kirouac Funds since its creation. Its impact on the financial results for each year is obvious, as well as on the whole period. Since 2023, the Jacques Kirouac Funds is **\$26,050**.

Expenses linked to the publication of Le Trésor

Le Trésor Number	147	148	149	TOTAL
Production Cost	\$595.33	\$659.18	\$621.91	\$1,876.42

Revision of the Financial Statements for the year 2025

18 May 2026

Mr. André Kirouac, President

The treasurer of the Kirouac Family Association, René Kirouac, gave me a copy of the financial results for the year 2025. I looked at them and asked him some additional questions.

The treasurer answered my questions very well, so I certify that the 2025 financial results are accurate and correspond to the additional information provided in the appendix by the treasurer.

Mercédès Bolduc, G.C.C.

Financial auditor appointed at the last KFA Board meeting at Cap-Rouge on 5 September, 2025.

REVENUES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	2025	2024
Regular Members (69); (94)	\$1,524.00	\$2,062.00
Benefactors (26); (34)	\$ 702.00	\$ 918.00
Sub-total	\$2,226.00	\$2,980.00
PREMIUMS & INTEREST		
Exchange on US currency	\$120.46	\$291.73
Rebates	\$3.81	\$4.55
Interest earned	\$1.92	\$1.89
Sub-total	\$126.19	\$298.17
GIFTS AND RECOVERED AMOUNT		
<i>Jacques Kirouac fund</i>	\$1,302.50	\$1,436.68
Gifts (towards administration)	\$491.00	\$512.30
Gifts (towards research)	\$150.00	\$157.00
Recovered amounts	\$1.00	
Closing of the books of the FAFQ	\$1,084.50	
Sub-total	\$3,029.00	\$2,105.98
ANNUAL GATHERING		
Surplus from annual gathering	\$381.83	\$118.79
Sub-total	\$381.83	\$118.79
PROMOTIONAL ITEMS SOLD		
Le Trésor bulletins	\$25.00	\$20.00
Jack Kerouac & Québec (François Kirouac & Eric Waddell)	\$55.00	\$304.00
Sale of one copy of Memory Babe (Gerald Nicosia)	\$30.00	
L'Ancêtre & his family in North America (François Kirouac)	\$130.00	
Various books sold at the AGM	\$210.00	
Sub-total	\$450.00	\$324.00
TOTAL OF REVENUES	\$6,213.02	\$5,826.94

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION	2025	2024
Canada Custom & Revenue (Annual Return)	\$42.00	\$39.00
Insurance General Responsibility; (12/12 months)		\$100.00
Membership (FFSQ @ \$2/member/year)	\$50.00	\$241.00
Bank Book & Bank Fees	\$175.68	\$146.15
PayPal Fees	\$6.89	\$54.97
Sub-total	\$274.57	\$581.12
BULLETIN—LE TRÉSOR (no 147—149) (144—146)		
Printing	\$1,087.49	\$1,341.59
Handling	\$135.94	\$152.92
Postal expenses (Canada)	\$264.38	\$268.01
Postal expenses (USA & international)	\$388.61	\$370.45
Sub-total	\$1,876.42	\$2,132.97
SECRETARIAL EXPENSES		
Postage stamps	\$25.76	\$221.20
Photocopying		\$111.70
Stationary, envelopes & cards	\$4.01	\$30.90
Sub-total	\$29.77	\$363.80
GENEALOGY (Research)		
Subscriptions (Ancestry, BMS2000 & Drouin-Quebec Genealogy)	\$505.21	\$492.56
Subscription to Fédération Histoire Québec (FHQ) 2025	\$250.00	
Sub-total	\$755.21	\$492.56
MISCELLANEOUS (KFA publicity & promotion)		
Work on KFA Website	\$767.47	\$4,963.59
Website Hosting 2025; 2024	\$413.91	\$413.91
Domain name for both Websites: French & English 2025; 2024		\$46.97
September gathering – Costs covered by KFA	\$585.04	\$860.11
Space rental at Café Smith for a Board meeting		\$114.98
KFA Gift to François Kirouac presented at the AGM		\$150.00
Printing of book <i>Jack Kerouac & Québec</i> (25) (45)		\$469.96
Scanning of family photos at Saint-Boniface History Society	\$15.76	
Purchase of three bookcases for archives (L'Islet)	\$131.04	
Easel for plaque at L'Islet (Omer DeSerres)		\$321.92
Moving of archives from Lévis to L'Islet		\$260.48
Sub-total	\$1,913.22	\$7,601.92
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,849.19	\$11,172.37
SURPLUS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$1,363.83	(\$5,345.43)

BANK ACCOUNT ON 31 DECEMBER	2025	2024
Balance as of previous 31 December	\$5,545.89	\$6,267.00
Revenues from 1 January to 31 December	\$7,264.44	\$5,568.50
Expenses from 1 January to 31 December	\$6,652.77	\$6,289.61
Balance at the end of the year 31 December	\$6,157.56	\$5,545.89

Report of the Jacques Kirouac Fund

Balance as of 8 June 2004 to 31 December 2025

Revenues of the Jacques Kirouac Fund		Impact of the Jacques Kirouac fund on the KFA finances			
		KFA Revenue	KFA Expense	Revenue minus Expense	% of Funds on total revenue
From 2004 to 2023	\$18,487.12	\$130,654.05	\$129,655.92	\$998.13	14.1 %
In 2025	\$1,302.50	\$6,213.02	\$4,849.19	\$1,383.63	21.0 %
Total	\$19,789.62	\$136,867.07	\$134,505.11	\$2,361.96	14.5 %

Notes about the Jacques Kirouac Fund

Here is a new presentation of the report concerning the *Jacques Kirouac Funds* since its creation.

In 2004, a first amount of \$20,000.00 was invested at *Caisse Populaire du Plateau Montcalm, i.e.,* (Desjardins Bank) in Quebec City. In 2023, another amount of \$6,050.00 from the Jacques Kirouac estate was added for a total of \$26,050.00. **Please note that the annual interest rate may vary from year to year following the decision taken by the Board after the AGM of the Fédération des Caisses Desjardins du Québec, i.e., Desjardins bank of Quebec.**

1st investment: five-year term deposit, from June 8, 2004 to June 11, 2009, at a rate of 4.25%;

2nd investment: convertible term deposit, from 12 June 2009 to 30 October 2009, at a rate of 1.5%;

3rd investment: permanent shares of the credit union as of October 30, 2009, at a rate of 4.25%;

From 1 January to 30 June 2015 the rate was set at 4.25% and, from 1 July 2015, the rate was set at 3.5%; As of January 1, 2017, the rate has increased to 2.75%;

4th investment: shares in Capital Fédération from 10 February 2017, at a rate of 4.25%, followed by a new rate of 5.35% in 2022, a rate of 6.00% in 2023 and 5.5% in 2024.



Marie-France Bornais (1966 – 2026) (The Editor)

Born in 1966, Marie-France Bornais was the daughter of Yolande (Genest) and Michel Bornais, former secretary of the Kirouac Family Association (2002-2009), and was the granddaughter of Léona Kirouac (GFK 00331) and Lucien Bornais. She lived in Quebec City, had a multifaceted and valuable existence. She made a name for herself as a journalist and in the publishing world. She was the mother of Charles-Éric.

A Brilliant Journalistic and Literary Career

Hired by the *Journal de Québec* in 1989, Marie-France Bornais began a varied career. Over the years she started by covering general news, then was assigned to the editorial desk, on to writing about consumer affairs, fashion, cooking, and travel. Her intellectual curiosity and thirst for learning naturally guided her toward the cultural world, becoming a sharp expert in literature.

As a journalist, columnist and author for two dailies: *Journal de Québec* and *Journal de Montréal*, she was recognized as a major ambassador of both Quebec and international literature. Known for her great professionalism and her ability to make authors feel at ease, she interviewed prominent literary personalities from here and abroad, including Dan Brown, Marc Levy, Kathy Reichs, Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt, Dany Laferrière and Marie Laberge. A pleasant polyglot, she conducted her interviews in French, English, Spanish, and Italian.

Successful Career as a Journalist and Author

Besides contributing to many writers renown here and abroad, she used her love of travelling to write



Author's photo of Marie-France Bornais © Annie Thériault-Roussel

four books about road trips, camping and outdoor activities, published by: **Éditions de l'Homme**:

- *Escapades américaines* (Camping in the USA)
- *Le Québec en camping* (2017) (Camping in Quebec, 2017)
- *Le Nouveau-Brunswick en camping* (Camping in New Brunswick)
- *Camping 101* (General info for campers)

Her work earned several awards. In February 2004, her collaboration to *Gastronomie et forêt* (Gastronomy & Forest) was praised in Barcelona as the **Best Cookbook in the World**. Also, **New Brunswick Camping** took second place as 'Best Travel Book' at the annual Travel Media Association of Canada (TMAC) conference held in Sudbury, Ontario.

Her son, Charles-Éric, a professional musician, inherited the family's cultural talents. In 2007, he took part in *La Quête*, a TV broadcast on TFO (French-Speaking Ontario Television), a video about Brother Marie-Victorin. (*Le Trésor* 88, pp.4-5)

End of Life and Homage

In October 2025, Marie-France was diagnosed with an inoperable brain cancer. She showed incredible courage and kept writing the memories of a family camping trip out West in 1977. She lost her battle on 13 May 2026, at the age of 59.

Her death generated strong expressions of sympathy from her colleagues in the newspapers and publishing world, numerous friends and the KFA.

References to Her Life and Work in the media and *Le Trésor des Kirouac*

Le Trésor des Kirouac (No. 75, p. 41; No. 120, p. 7-8; No. 129, p.5).

Official Obituary – Complexe funéraire Lépine Cloutier/Athos (May 2026).

Other Articles and Obituaries published in – *Le Journal de Québec* and *Le Journal de Montréal* (as of 13 May 2026 & over the following days).

IN MEMORIAM

BERUBE, ANNETTE (1923-2026)

Annette Berube, 103, died on Jan. 26, 2026, in Scarborough, Maine. She was born Jan. 23, 1923, in Lewiston, Maine, the daughter of Amedee (**GFK 01824**) and Olivine (Richard) Kirouac. On October 12, 1946, she married Lionel B. Berube, who died in 2005 after 59 years of marriage. Annette is survived by her children Denise Martel, Anne Marie Mailhot (Reginald), Janice Latulippe (David), Robert Berube (Carolyn Rapier), and Michael Berube (Michele Tucci); 14 grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents, a brother, three sisters, and a son-in-law. Funeral services at Holy Family Church on February 6, 2026, followed by interment at St. Peter's Cemetery.

CURWICK, JAMES HENRY (1930-2026)

James Curwick James Curwick (great-grandson of **GFK 00178**), 96, of Brandon, Minnesota, passed away on March 3, 2026. Jim's Mass of Christian Burial was held on March 21, 2026, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Brandon, Minn., followed by interment at St. Ann's Cemetery. James Henry Curwick was born to Reno and Louise (Baert) Curwick on February 11, 1930, in Marshall, Minn. He married Wynifred Erickson. Jim and Winnie were married for 71 years. Winnie passed away in 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents; sons, Jim Jr., Jack; daughter, Dawn; brothers, George, Don; and sisters, Donna and Doris. He is survived by his son, Bill (Annie) Curwick; daughter, Sherry (Phil) Drietz; son-in-law, Chris Fuhs; daughter-in-law, Terry Curwick-Jeffrey; brother, Gene Curwick; sister, Rosemary Bakke; eight grandchildren; many great and great-great-grandchildren; special friend and niece, Bev and Mike Schuft.

GULLQUIST, GARY L. (1949-2026)

Gary L. Gullquist, 77, of Manteno, Ill., died on May 16, 2026, at home. He was born February 12, 1949, in Kankakee, Ill., son of the late Walter and Myrtle (Emme) Gullquist. He served in the U.S. army during the Vietnam War, where he was wounded in action. For his sacrifice, he was awarded the Purple Heart. Gary is survived by his wife Debra Gullquist of Manteno; two daughters, Jill Gullquist (great-granddaughter of **GFK 02735**) and Kaylee (Matt) Lynch, three grandchildren; Sloan Lynch, Maeve Lynch, and a grandson due in August; one brother, Carl "Duke" (Virginia) Gullquist and one sister-in-law, Sue Gullquist. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Bonnie Jean; two brothers Francis "Fran" and Kevin; and stepson, Justin Gholson. Visitation and funeral on May 26, 2026, at Brown-Jensen Funeral Home, Manteno, followed by interment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

KEROACK, KATHLEEN MARIE (1947-2026)

Kathleen Marie Keroack (**GFK 00068**) died on March 25, 2026. She was born on July 13, 1947, in Norwich, Conn., to Henry and Dorothea Keroack. She married Richard Oinonen who died in 2001. She is survived by daughter Elizabeth Weeks, son Evan MacLoud, sister Claire Wright (Dave and niece Frances), brother Robert Keroack (Teri and niece Caitlin and nephew Christopher), brother Paul Keroack (Jason and Jerome) and brother- and sister-in-law Bill and Cass (and their children, grandchildren and great grandchild). Service was private.

KEROACK-JEAN, NICOLE (1951-2026)

At Enfant-Jésus Hospital, Quebec City, on 30 April 2026, at 74 died Nicole Keroack, wife of the late Alain Jean. She was the daughter of the late Stanislas Keroack (**GFK 02407**) and the late Germaine Lajoie. She leaves to mourn two daughters: Annie Desmeules and Stéphanie Desmeules; her grandchildren: Nathan, Emmy Drolet, Laurie and Gabriel Leblanc; her sister, Diane; her brothers, Guy and Jacques. Visitation was on Saturday, 30 May 2026, at Claude Marcoux Funeral Home at Saint-Romuald, Quebec.

KIROUAC, CLAUDE (1964-2026)

At Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec on 15 April 2026, at 62, died Claude Kirouac (**GFK ????**), from Saint-Constant (Quebec). He leaves to mourn his daughter Claudia, his son Nicolas, his son-in-law Jonathan-David, his daughter-in-law Zéa, his grandchildren Édouard and Sofia, and many relatives and friends. As requested, a private gathering will be held at a later date.

KIROUAC, DENIS (1941-2026)

At the Saint-Maurice long term care in Shawinigan, Quebec, on 19 March 2026, at 84, died Denis Kirouac (**GFK 01094**). He leaves to mourn his spouse, Lise Lachance, his children, Terry Kirouac and Steven John Kirouac, as well as his granddaughters, Leäny Kirouac and Elyane Kirouac; and his sister the late Monique Kirouac (Gilbert Poirier); his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law. A short celebration of life was held on 25 April 2026 at the Richard & Philibert Funeral Home in Trois-Rivières. Interment will be at St-Michel Cemetery in Sherbrooke, Quebec, at a later date.

**KIROUAC, ERNEST EDMOND
(1942-2026)**

Ernest Edmond Kirouac, "Ernie", (great-great-grandson of **GFK 02676**) (from Keene, N.H.) born on January 28, 1942, died aged 84, on February 26, 2026. He was predeceased by his parents, Victor E.J. and Alice L. Kirouac (Arbo); his daughters, Ann Lambert and Heather Cannon; his former wife Mary Kirouac; and his brothers, Victor Kirouac Jr. and Robert Kirouac. He is survived by his wife Carolyn M. Kirouac (Dunham); his grandchildren, Jessica Lambert, Brittany Woolsey, Kimberly Woolsey, Kristin Woolsey and Tyler Kirouac; great-grandchildren, Jeremiah Thompson, Abbigayle Thompson, Ellianna Thompson, Dominick Thompson, Maddison French, Roxanne French and Aurora Kirouac; and his sister Marty Thibodeau. A graveside service with military honors for "Ernie" Kirouac, was held on June 6, 2026, at the South Cemetery, Athol Road, Richmond, N.H..

**KIROUAC, ISABELLE
(1957-2026)**

At Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, Arthabaska, Quebec, on 27 April 2026, at 68, died Isabelle Kirouac (**GFK 02343**). Funeral was on 9 May 2026 in the chapel of the Bergeron Funeral Home in Arthabaska. She leaves to mourn her two sons: Sébastien Kirouac Champagne, Mikael Martin (Mélanie Vachon), her grandson, Antoni, her siblings: Alain (Marie Houle), Andrée, Roder, Luc (Manon Picard). She also leaves sisters-in-law and brothers-in-laws, nieces and nephews, and many other relatives and friends.

**KIROUAC, JULES
(1943-2026)**

Surrounded by his wife Suzanne and children David and Caroline, Jules died peacefully at home on 9 April 2026 at 82 years and 11

months. He was the son of the late Camille Kirouac (**GFK 00320**) and the late Simonne Baril. He leaves to mourn his wife, Suzanne Lemay; his son David (Caroline Dubuc) and his daughter Caroline (Stéphane Abgral); his grandchildren: Loic-Antoine Kirouac, Kaya, Zoé, Léo, Lilou and Emie Georges as well as their father, Mehdi Georges; his siblings and their spouses: Hélène, Louis (Janine Lemay) Claude (Louise Richard) and Suzanne (the late Louis-Georges Larouche); his sister-in-law Nicole and Francine, a family friend; his nieces and nephews: Mélissa, Mathieu (Annie), Benoit (Roxanne) and Stéphanie; the Bruneau family. He was predeceased by his first wife Gisèle Bruneau, his sister Céline and **his brother Pierre, former, KFA president from 2002 and 2005**). Parents and friends gathered on 19 April 2026 for his funeral at the Centre Rousseau in Trois-Rivières. **Jules was on the organizing committee of the Kirouac annual gathering in 1993 and 2005 at Trois-Rivières.**

**KIROUAC, MAUREEN JOYCE
(1942-2026)**

Maureen Joyce Kirouac (**great-granddaughter of GFK 00273**), 83, of Storr, Conn., died on April 26, 2026. Maureen was born on 2 June, 1942, to Henry Kirouac and Maureen (Casey) Kirouac and grew up in Waterbury, Conn. She was happily married to the late Victor L. Kaplan for over 20 years and leaves her son Dennis (Kelly DiGiovanni), stepdaughter and husband, Nell and Dean Kies, and stepson Dan Kaplan (Jerelyn Thomas). There was a private burial service.

**KIROUAC, MICHEL
(1936-2026)**

Michel Kirouac (**GFK 00631**) died on 7 March 2026. He was preceded in death by his parents: Lucienne Drolet and George Kirouac; his brother Pierre (the late Colette Bernier). He leaves to mourn: his wife Monique Vaillancourt; his sons: Alain (Diane Charlebois), Daniel (Natalie Beaulieu) and Martin (Annie Garneau); his

grandchildren: Élyse (Mathieu Cosette), Catherine (Frédéric Bériault), Philippe (Ariane Soucy), Sophia (Kieran Coates), Sheila (Marc Messier), Amanda (Jérémi Rochette), Dereck (Audrey-Anne Charest) and Olivier; his great-grandchildren: Édouard, Victor and Maël. Funeral service was on 30 May 2026.

**KIROUACK, ESTHER
(1927-2026)**

At Quebec City, on 5 April 2026, at 98, died Esther Kirouack, born on 3 December 1927 at Jonquière. Esther was a respected and much appreciated woman. She is now with her husband, Rodrigue Kirouac (**GFK 00989**), and her parents, Ludger Kirouack and Blanche Pedneault-Kirouack. She leaves her children: Michel, Denys (Ginette Gagnon), René (Martine Rinfret), Edith (Yves Blackburn), and Emile (Michèle Vaillancourt); her siblings: the late Marie-Paule (the late Jean-Paul Arseneault), the late Lauréat (the late Berthe Savard), the late Bertrand (the late Lucille Lavoie), the late Solange (the late Gaston Bergeron), the late Denise, Gisèle (Omer Pelletier), the late Ghislaine (the late Alphonse Cyr), the late Estelle, and the late Monique (the late Roy Haydon); her late brothers-in-law and late sisters-in-law: Paul-Emile Kirouac (Rosianne Turcotte), Christine Kirouac (Réal Raïche), and Marielle Kirouac; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral was on 16 April 2026, at Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation Church in L'Ancienne-Lorette. Interment was on 1 May 2026 in Arvida Cemetery, Saguenay, Quebec.

**LAROE, VERA MAE
(1956-2026)**

Vera Mae LaRoe (**great-great-granddaughter of GFK 00178**) Vera Mae LaRoe of Russellville, Arkansas, formerly of Ola, passed away February 6, 2026, at Russellville Nursing & Rehab. She was born April 28, 1956, in Corning, Arkansas, to Caril and Beulah M. Forbes LaRoe. Doctors

said she would not live past the age of two but died at 69. She was preceded in death by her parents; five brothers, Robert, Victor, Vester, Troy, and Ronnie LaRoe and two sisters, Chris LaRoe and Edith LaRoe. She is survived by three sisters: Zetty Wilkerson; Rosie Bishop (Jack); and Girty Brown (Jerry); two brothers: Ed LaRoe (Cheryl) and Vernon LaRoe. A funeral service was held on February 10, 2026, at Humphrey Chapel. Burial was at Richwoods Cemetery in Corning, Arkansas.

**NETZLEY, MARY
ALICE RASH
(1949-2026)**

Mary Alice Rash Netzley (**great-great-granddaughter of GFK 00178**) died on January 30, 2026, at the age of 76, in Sherwood, surrounded by her five children. She was born on March 30, 1949, in Newport, Arkansas. She is survived by her five children: Annette Kovalcheck (John), Renee' Myers (John), Brandy Bokamper (Brock),

Jack Netzley III, Heath Netzley (Heather), eighteen grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, her brothers: Billy, Skeeter, Lee, Dale, her sisters Betty Sue, Connie, Robin, Tammy, her ex-husband Jack Netzley Jr., many cousins (**including Emma Sue Rash Curl, mentioned in Le Tresor #146 on page 43**). She was preceded in death by her husband, Howie Short, her parents George and Pearl Rash, Elmer and Mary Stivers, her brothers: Ronney, Aubrey, Tadpole, Charles, Stephen Wayne and Mike. The service was celebrated on February 7, 2026 in the chapel followed by burial at Cabot's Mount Pleasant Cemetery; arrangement of Natural State Funeral Service of Jacksonville, Arkansas.

**RENWICK, LILARHUE
(1922-2026)**

LilaRhue ("Lila") Renwick, 103 years old, died on May 8, 2026, at Sedgebrook, Lincolnshire, Ill. She was born on August 29, 1922, in Harvey, IL to Gilbert and Irene

(Jeneary) Bowden. On January 22, 1949, in Kankakee, Ill., Lila married Walter R. Renwick (**grandson of GFK 02732**). Walter preceded her in death on March 7, 2011, after 62 years of marriage. Lila is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Jackie Renwick; two granddaughters, Heather (Jocelyn) Renwick and Brittany (Michael) Ryswyk; and five great-grandchildren, Beau, Margaux, Millie, Louise, and Finn. LilaRhue was also preceded in death by her brother, Roland Bowden and her sister, Dorothea Stansbury. She also leaves to mourn her niece, Ruthann Klaiss, and great-grand-niece, Jessica McClure. A private graveside service was held on May 11, 2026, at Southlawn Cemetery, South Bend, Ind.

**Our Deepest
Condolences to the
Bereaved Families**



Photo: François Kirouac

Remembering a special event that took place forty years ago, on 3 August 1986, the *Service des Archives de la Ville de Québec* (Quebec City Archives Dept.) and the Kirouac Family Association, at Maison Maheux-Couillard, inaugurated a special exhibition about François Kirouac, the knight. Many precious documents and artifacts were on view from 3 to 15 August. From left to right, Yvon Vézina, official representative of Quebec City, Jacques Kirouac, KFA founding president, and Marie Kirouac, regional representative.

HOMAGE TO GISELE BERGERON-KIROUAC (1926-2026)

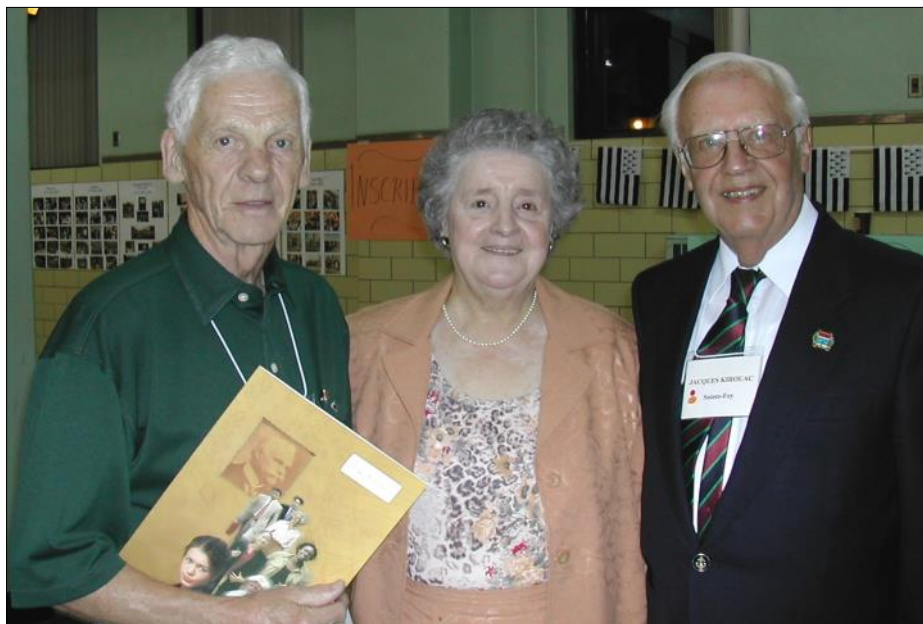
It is with great sadness that we let you know about the death of Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac, on 26 March, only five weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday. She was the wife of Bruno Kirouac one of the founding members of our family association and the mother of François, KFA president from 2005 to 2024. She died serenely, and happy to enjoy peaceful rest after a wonderful life.

Since so many of you met her at our annual gatherings over the last four decades, many will remember her as one of the pillars of our Kirouac clan. To honour her memory, we share a few more pictures of Gisèle and Bruno.

The Editor

BERGERON-KIROUAC, GISELE (1926-2026)

At Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Arthabaska, Quebec, on Thursday, 26 March 2026, died Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac five weeks after celebrating her 100th birthday. She leaves to mourn, her children: François (Francine Desrochers), Louise (Denis Noël), Christian (Doris Côté) and Daniel (Josée Sénéchal), and the late Michel (Lucie Jutras). Her grandchildren: André, Jean-François, Marie-Hélène, Catherine, Alexandre, Marie-Audrey, Charles-Étienne and Anne-Sophie; her great-grandchildren: Kassi, Cédric, Magalie, Florence, Julien and Flavie; her sister and spouse: Raymonde (the late Yvon Toupin); her brother-in-law Marc-Aurèle Nadeau (the late Jeannette Bergeron). She is now with her siblings who predeceased her: Robert (the late Marguerite Fillion), Paul (the late Étienne Létourneau), Joseph (the late Marthe Talbot), Alphonse (the late Lucille Dion), Claire, Roland (the late Rita Poulin), Jocelyne, Solange and Jean-Claude. From the Kirouac family, she now joins her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Raymond (the late Bernadette Cloutier), Fernand (the late Marielle Turcotte), Roger (the late Jeanne-d'Arc Cantin), Richard (the late Thérèse Lambert), Marthe and Monique (the late Marcel Bolduc). She also leaves many nephews and nieces, and other relatives. Funeral was held on Monday, 6 April 2026 at Warwick Saint-Médard parish church.



Longueuil, 2003. Bruno Kirouac, Gisèle Bergeron-Kirouac and Jacques Kirouac, KFA founding president. (Photo: Hélène Kirouac)



Kamouraska, 1990. Gisèle-Bergeron-Kirouac and her husband, Bruno Kirouac (Photo: KFA collection)

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Founded: 20 November 1978
Incorporated: 26 February 1986

*Member of the:
Fédération Histoire Québec*

Canada Post
Mail agreement Number 40069967 for Mailing Publications
Return to the following address:
Association des familles Kirouac Inc.
3782, Chemin Saint-Louis, Québec (Québec)
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**ANNUAL GATHERING
12 SEPTEMBER 2026
AGM – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
PROGRAMME ON PAGE 5**

**THEME OF OUR
GATHERING:**

**JACK KEROUAC
AND
SAINT-HUBERT-DE-
RIVIÈRE-DU-LOUP**



Jack Kerouac, at home in Northport, Long Island,
New York State, in 1964. © Jerry Bauer.
Courtesy of Gerald Nicosia. (Photo colorized)