



THE FRIGONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIGON, FRIGONE, FREGO,
FREGOE, FREGON, FREGONE FAMILIES

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THE ANCESTRAL LAND HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AT LAST!

Ivanhoë III (80)

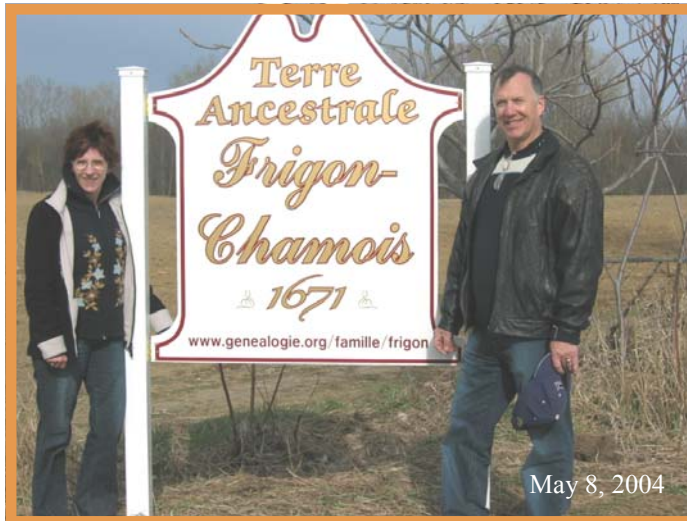
Editor's note In this article Ivanhoë does not mention that he designed and paid for the magnificent sign that now marks the ancestral land. We are deeply grateful to him for this as well as for all the steps he took to try to acquire a portion of that land. Here is his account of that memorable day.

As you know, we had a meeting on our ancestor François' land last May 8th. It was the perfect time to install a sign that the Frigons and their friends can see when they visit the Batiscan region. (The sign is situated about 1 km west of the Batiscan Bridge, on Route #138, on the river side of the road.)

I am taking this opportunity to express my warmest thanks to the 35 or so people who were present for the occasion. I say "warmest", for, despite the lovely though partially sunny day, a northwest wind blew so strongly that many people would have been disheartened...but not the Frigons!

I had a deep need to do this for the Association in order to close on a positive note the project that I had shared with you, that is, the return of a part of the ancestral land to the Frigons. In 1996 Raymond had rightfully qualified my ambitious project as "Ivanhoë's Dream", which, as it turns out, will have been just that, a dream! (I will make my final report next August.)

We had the pleasure of having among us



Madeleine Cyr and Ivanhoë Frigon on the ancestral land.

Robert (2), Pierre (4), Jean-René (11), all of who were among the earliest members of the Association, and Gérald (116), our President. The sign was erected in record time, thanks to the collaboration of several broad-shouldered Frigons.

As always on such occasions, the feminine element provided meticulous supervision

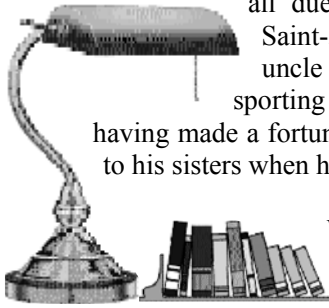
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Gérald Frigon (116)

Who doesn't have an uncle who returned from Témiscamingue with pockets full of stones bragging about having seen gold in abundance but claiming that the laboratories, in cahoots with the large companies, "gave test results that were too low for exploitation"? Who doesn't have an uncle who brags about being the best Atlantic salmon fisherman west of Lake Edward (with all due respect to our friends of Lac Saint-Jean)? Who doesn't have an uncle who returned from the "States" sporting a silk shirt and white shoes after having made a fortune and who left nothing but debts to his sisters when he died a few years later?



When I was young, every family had its storyteller. During each

visit he would take the floor (and the spittoon), and add, create, and embellish stories as long as our eyes were filled with wonder and our ears astounded... I have much better memories of those evenings than of those I have spent watching television during the past week. What pleasure I still feel in my heart at the thought of those evenings!

Why wouldn't you write an article about your favourite uncle for the newsletter? And don't let your sister discourage you just because she says that her preferred uncle is not Armand, but Paul... She can write an article about Paul. But I have never been able to write!!! Did you ever try? Even the "Word from the President" would not be as interesting and opportune without Pierre's corrections. Put your ideas on paper and ask us to help you to prepare an article with your material. The article will bear your signature and will be your pride and joy.

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Revision: authors of manuscripts are free to accept or reject the corrections, remarks or suggestions proposed to them by the revisers.

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and the results were simply excellent...as always.

The hunt for « relics » of the ancestor was not very thorough, given the weather conditions but certain Frigons bravely tried their luck. Gérald (116) found a tooth from “Marie-Claude’s rake », Pierre (4) found a “nail from one of François’ horseshoes”, and Jean-René found a “nut from the ancestor’s plough” ! But this was only a beginning, for I am personally convinced that there are still more substantial souvenirs of the ancestor to be found there.

Georges projected slides of the Frigons onto an almost giant screen; many people appreciated seeing members of their family on the screen. Our hosts at the Batiscan Marina, Julien (Irene Frigon’s son) and Solange, served us delicious meals that were especially appreciated after such a heavy day’s work.



Some of the people who attended May 8th, 2004’s supper at the Batiscan Marina

This relaxed and informal family outing will be happily remembered by all who were present, especially the author of these lines, who takes this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to all those who responded to his invitation.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

A few members have notified us that they have not received their membership cards. The reason is that these cards are no longer issued. Your membership expiration date is now written on the mailing label of your newsletter, thus rendering the card superfluous. Furthermore, the management of these cards became cumbersome because all the members do not pay at the same time. The new procedure gives us more time for focusing on other aspects of service to our members. Thank you for your understanding.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

At the Annual General Meeting last August, the members in attendance voted for an increase of the annual membership fees from \$15 to \$20, applicable from the 1st of April 2004. We would be most grateful to you for sending your dues as soon as possible.

The members also voted for the following fees:

Benefactor (annual membership fees): \$30

3-year Membership: \$50

5-year Membership: \$80

Lifetime Membership (for members over the age of 55): \$250

To date, some members have taken a Lifetime Membership. So, in addition to Raymond (1), our Founding-President, Ivanhoë Frigon (80), Huguette Frigon (84), Pierre Frigon (4), Marguerite Frigon (5), Paul (6) and Jean-René (11) have become Lifetime Members. Our thanks to them for their support!

Editor's note In this second chapter about William Frigon and his times, we continue with Henri Frigon's biographical notes and memories of his father and his family.

A few weeks prior to his death, he (William) fell in his home and broke his pelvis. Despite this, he remained lucid and serene and appreciative of his being surrounded by his children.

When grandfather (Alphée) lived on his farm located next to the one his father Hubert Frigon had at "Rivière-à-Veille", close to Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, he realized, as many others did in those days, that with five (5) sons and five (5) daughters, the proceeds from the farm could no longer meet the needs of the family. While continuing to cultivate his farm, he made the decision to get involved along with his children in the cattle wholesale business on the Montreal Market. The cattle were first taken to the "Grand Nord" train station located on the hill in Saint-Prosper in order to be afterward transported and sold in Montreal. All these comings and goings along with a lot of effort and extended periods away from home did not appear to be sufficient for the needs of the family. As our father appeared to be doing fairly well in Shawinigan, grandfather with help from our father concluded that in the long run, the family's migration to Shawinigan would be the solution to his problems. This was a decision that many parents and neighbours did not agree with. There were risks but grandfather had made the right choice for him and his family as well.

Upon his coming to Shawinigan in 1899, grandfather and our father bought from the Shawinigan Water and Power for the sum of \$250.00 (payable over 3 years) lot number 628-22. It was located on the north side of 3rd Street, next to the corner of 3rd Street and Avenue des Cèdres. There he built "La Petite Maison" at the rear end of the lot. As the lot was covered with trees, they used some of them to build the house.

For many years after his arrival, grandfather Alphée was a carter. He took contracts for heavy loads transportation using a horse team. One of his contracts was to transport gravel extracted from the Saint-Maurice River in front of Plant 2 of the S. W. & P. Co., the one that was nationalized in 1963 by the Quebec Liberal Government (Lesage) with the help of "Ti-Poil" Lévesque then minister and later on Prime

Minister of the Province of Quebec under the Pequist Regime.

Alphée Frigon and his family lived in "La Petite Maison" until 1910 and then lived in the new house that he had built next to the one located on the corner of 3rd Street and Avenue des Cèdres. They lived there until their death with their youngest son Charles Édouard (Ti-blanc) and his wife Cora Cayer who always cared for her in-laws, while bringing up a family of eleven (11) children, with an exceptional devotion, one worthy of mention.

During the first years in the city up until 1926-27, grandfather and our father kept some cows to provide milk for their two families. These were kept in a shed located next to "La Petite Maison" and against the back alley. The hay was kept in bundles on the ground floor of "La Petite Maison" and it took up half the floor. The other half of the floor was used as a workshop and as storage space for the milled grain needed to feed the cows. Potato peels were also used for this purpose. Omer and I had the responsibility to get potato peels from our aunts Marie-Anne Trudel and Annette Leblanc.

During the summer, the cows were pasturing in an enclosed field where is now the "Parc Saint-Maurice" and the south side of Broadway Avenue. One of my responsibilities was to get the cows and bring them to be milked by my grandfather while my mother milked our cow. Prior to the making of the street, cow-dung on the earth or gravel roads caused no problems. However, the use of concrete made it imperative for me, since the cows waited to be on the pavement to relieve themselves, to pick up their nice "pies".

During the first years, a part adjacent to the cow shed was used as a woodshed. Another shed and a henhouse were then located where there is now the



Henri Frigon

(Continued from page 148)

kitchen of the “Maison Neuve”.

Prior to the construction of the “Maison Neuve”, the shed and the henhouse were demolished and the chickens were kept in the stable that continued for a long time to house visitors’ horses, mainly horses belonging to Joseph, Benoît and Gérard Frigon, sons of Ludger Frigon, our grandfather’s brother, who traveled some 35 miles by car or sleigh to bring the merchandise from their farm to sell at the market. These trips from Ste-Geneviève were very long and arduous especially during the winter in bad weather. On these occasions, they were housed in our grandfather’s home or our home.

During the last years of his life, grandfather Alphée worked for some time as municipal evaluator for the City of Shawinigan.

Line fishing with us and a friend named “Héon” who lived on 4th Street occupied a lot of his time. We fished on a 12 foot long boom on the Saint-Maurice

River at the end of 4th Street and the park. To do so, grandfather settled himself on the boom sitting on a light wooden chair that had a seat made of “babiche” (leather thongs braided and treated with oil or a piece of animal skin stretched over the seat).

Our grandfather was also very much involved in Federal, Provincial and Municipal Politics. He always was a red Liberal and the others were “des pas bons” (no good).

He smoked the pipe and he used very strong tobacco. Uncle Charles-Édouard had made a tobacco cutting board and grandfather chose me to be the “appointed” tobacco cutter. He did not trust anyone else. I was at the time around 9 or 10 years old. He often gave me rewards stating that I would not regret it. Before his death, he had told Uncle Charles to give me his watch and it was done after his death in 1934.

In 1981, the watch was given to Léo for him to give to the eldest of the Frigon lineage.

August 2004						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Annual General Meeting 2004 Gatineau



Tétreau Community Center

This year our annual meeting will take

place in the magnificent Outaouais/ Gatineau Region the weekend of August 21st.

We hope that many of you will attend this event that will be held at the Tétreau Community Centre, 361 Lucerne Boulevard, Gatineau, in the sector of Hull.

With this bulletin you will find registration forms for the reunion. We would like you to fill them in and return them to us before the 1st of August. This would be greatly appreciated for it would facilitate our planning for the event. And, since the membership fees have been due since March 31, why not take this opportunity to pay your dues for 2004-2005 at the same time?

Register now! We are eager to see you again!

TO BETTER KNOW ONE ANOTHER
Véronique Frigon at the World Social Forum of Porto Alegre
II - Resisting ruthless free-trade

Pierre Frigon (4)



The following are a few excerpts from communiqués written by Véronique when she attended the World Social Forum held in Brazil in January 2003. They show very clearly her expectations and preoccupations.

This firsthand account is most revealing about the atmosphere and the content of this important event.

“I have just lived through a very important moment in my life: I have been enlightened. I was given the opportunity to learn very basic things and broaden my understanding of these fundamentals. Now I see more and more clearly how to put these ideas, these methods into practice.” ...

“There are many new strategies, and it is especially through ‘entertainment’, among others, that the message can best be transmitted.

- ▶ *Using our artistic potential: making art a means of communication and diffusion, with our songs, poems, literature, and distinctiveness...*
- ▶ *Making a direct link with people’s daily lives, as we have always dreamed of doing, so as to be able to laugh at and with them, and, eventually, to gently make fun of those responsible for our ignorance and our suffering, pointing out the latter and sharply denouncing their grotesque and pitiful relentlessness in playing with our lives!”*

And she continues with other strategies:

- ▶ *“Make known the organization charts of the large societies and corporations.*
- ▶ *Explain the meaning of impunity.*
- ▶ *Let people know about the private and controlled information network.*
- ▶ *Take the pains of scrutinizing news bulletins, chronometer and pencil in hand, to find out the importance that is given to ‘real’ things, those that matter to us and are crucial to the survival of millions of people, of numerous generations that are at risk.*
- ▶ *Become international observers and denounce the horrors we see, if need be.*
- ▶ *Make public the names of those who represented our government at the 2003 World Social Forum and request that they make known their position on the issues discussed and the strategies proposed.*
- ▶ *Impose a Quebec/Canadian referendum concerning the World Free Trade Zone.*

- ▶ *Help women’s movements and associations to become world-wide; they are so powerful.*
- ▶ *Make the link with human rights organizations; we do not hear enough about legitimacy...*
- ▶ *And above all, make public the good things that have been done and continue to be done, in the United States as well as everywhere else in the world.”*

Nor must we forget the place of the media in our daily lives. We are not getting our money’s worth from them! The following is a text written by Véronique after attending a workshop on the mass media and counter-hegemony.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST STANDARDIZATION OF THE MEDIA

“For the past ten years we have been assisting at the growing gap between citizens’ aspirations and those of the large information societies, and that on a world-wide scale. More and more, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), human rights organizations, women’s movements, community organizations, etc. are becoming discouraged because of the inertia of these large corporations that reject all criticism. The one and only criterion of these conglomerates is their performance on a very competitive market, in all the regions of the world. Their instrument of predilection: the creation of artificial needs in order to satisfy the requirements of the market. However, the very existence of these corporations comes from a basic need, of service of and for the people. We must at all costs free ourselves from this world-wide manipulation.”

A question or two about this widespread manipulation: did we ever see pictures or hear about the 2003 World Social Forum on television? in the newspapers? After all, the Forum did bring together more than 100,000 people!!! And the subjects that were dealt with concern us very seriously! And contrary to the World Economic Forum of Davos, in Switzerland, the future of the citizens of the world was on the agenda of the WSF of Porto Alegre.

In the next issue, Véronique will give us a day-by-day account of her participation in the World Social Forum.



Our descendants

Send us the photos of your grandchildren or your children and savour the pleasure of seeing their refreshing little faces in the newsletter.

Allow the members of the Association to share the joys of your expanding family.

Keep in touch ! It will give me great pleasure to provide you with all the details.



I can be reached
by telephone: (819) 379-4578
or by e-mail: cbrunelle@igt.net



Cécile Brunelle



Nicolas Bélanger,
Born November 27, 2003.

Nicolas,
son of Éric Bélanger
and Rachel Vézeau.

Nicolas is linked
to the Frigon family
through
his paternal
grandmother,
Pierrette Frigon (94).

Sent by his aunt
Odette Frigon (52).

NAPOLÉON FRIGON

Lucie Frigon Caron (56)

Napoléon Frigon, a notary's son, is in St-Tite for the summer vacation. Blanche meets him for the first time when she falls from her bicycle on the way to the milliner's shop and finds herself in the presence of a handsome stranger who rushes to help her and leads her to his great-uncle's place to repair the bicycle. Along the way, Napoléon realizes that Blanche is the sister of his good friend Paul, a student like himself at the Seminary in Trois-Rivières.

Blanche sees him as "the most handsome of all the boys" she has ever met in St-Tite. The parish priest for whom she works comments, "He seems to be an easy-going fellow! Pretty sharp, that Frigon lad, pretty sharp!" Blanche and Napoléon date and make marriage plans but one day Blanche puts an end to all this.

Napoléon who had intended to study law and become a lawyer changes his orientation and chooses the path leading to the priesthood. He becomes a missionary, a White Father (Missionaries of Africa). He reappears a

few decades later and he and Blanche happen to meet. They recognize one another; begin to spend time together again, and fall in love as in the past. Napoléon requests a dispensation from his vows in view of marrying Blanche who is now a widow.

So who is this Napoléon Frigon? You feel as if you know him, he reminds you of a character in volumes 2 and 3 of the trilogy "Les Filles de Caleb" (The Daughters of Caleb). You would love to know if this person ever existed, just like Ovila, Émilie, their children, and especially Blanche? I asked the author, Arlette Cousture and this was her answer: "Napoléon Frigon never existed... he is a figment of my imagination"; and "I chose the names from the marriage registers of the region".

Napoleon Frigon of Arlette Cousture's novels and Josephine Frigon of Hélène Potvin's are two very loveable characters and it is through them that our patronymic finds its place in the world of fiction.

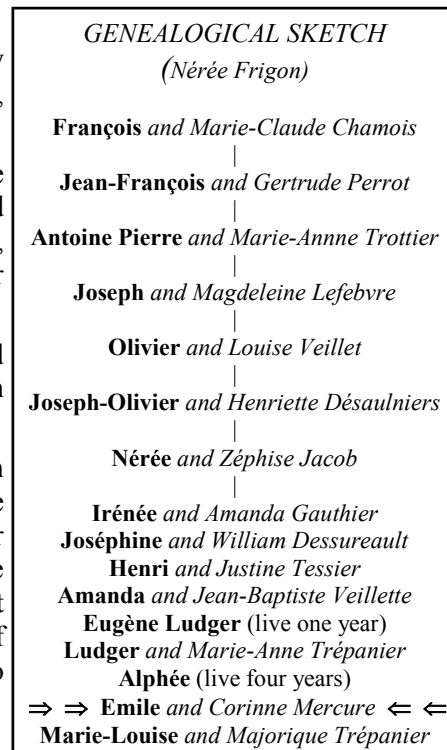
Editor's gossip : Internet provides us with the following information : in 1921, Ovila Pronovost, reality-inspired character from the *Filles de Caleb* novel, was sued by one Ivanhoe Frigon, a merchant to whom he owed the sum of 246,65\$. Mr. Frigon lived in Amos, Abitibi back then. Mr. Pronovost did not honor his duty to appear in court and was sent a "lack of presence" notice on February 4th, 1921.

Jean-René Frigon (11)

Nérée Frigon and Zéphise Jacob, both from Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan got married in 1865 and then spent a year in St-Valère where the first one of their nine children was born. It was the following year, in 1866, that this family established their permanent residence in St-Tite. The couple had their second child a year later. All of the people who are mentioned in the following are descendants from the couple's eighth child, Émile Frigon (who was married to Corinne Mercure).

DID YOU KNOW ?

- ⇒ Seven of our members, all born in St-Tite, are descendants from that very family line: "Aline (12), André (13), Diane (15), Jean-René (11), Michel (57), Monique (18) et Thérèse (24)";
- ⇒ All four of Émile Frigon's daughters have become nuns part of the "Soeurs de la Providence" congregation. Sister Thérèse Frigon (24), an archivist and historian, worked 41 years on the beatification of the congregation's founder, Mother Émilie Gamelin. Refer to the Spring 2001 and Spring 2002 editions for more information;
- ⇒ St-Tite has a Frigon street that was named after Paul-Aimé Frigon, lumberyard contractor as well as municipal representative of the city. He too, hails from that family line.
- ⇒ Pierre Frigon, also from that family line, has been in the St-Tite Western festival's organizational committee for many years now. He is in charge of the stables as well as of the camping grounds of the festival. He is responsible for greeting and accommodating rodeo contestants and their horses, which come from all parts of Canada and the U.S. This festival is the largest such event held in eastern Canada and, for the last five years, it has received the title of best North American rodeo from the International Professional Rodeo Association; Visit their website : www.festivalwestern.com
- ⇒ Pascale Frigon, from this same family line, was named 32nd cowgirl of St-Tite's Western Festival in 1999. Pascale has a Technical Degree in Special Education and proved herself to be a dynamic and confident element while working with the Festival's visitors and its organizers. She still does voluntary work for the organization committee;
- ⇒ Hugues Frigon, son of André (13) and descendant from that line works as a psycho-educator in charge of the *School bullying and intimidation Project*. That project is conducted by the *Premières Seigneuries* School Board in Québec City which includes 45 Elementary Schools, 8 High schools and some 25,000 students.



I wish to conclude by saying that each of the individuals mentioned in this brief article and all the others for which I have not brought up the names nor the merits, nor the memory, would have very much deserved the same. It will certainly be done sometime down the line. This topic is open to anyone who would like to do more research about the Frigon-Jacob family line along the Frigon genealogy.

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED**FAMILY NEWS**

Georges E. Frigon (93)

*Sincere condolences to our members,
cousins and families
who have lost a loved one*

Rosaire A. Veilleux, husband of Christianne Pelletier, son of Marianna Frigon, died in Lewiston, ME, USA, December 11, 2003.

Paul-Émile Cossette, husband of late Jeannette Frigon, died in Trois-Rivières March 4, 2004.

Georges-Aimé Déry, husband of Irène Frigon, died in Trois-Rivières March 16, 2004.

Claude Lacasse, husband of Rita Frigon, died in Laval March 30, 2004.

Elizabeth A. Frigon, wife of late Paul L. Proulx, died in Attleboro, MA, USA April 7, 2004.

Jean-Marie Frigon (134), husband of late Carmen Simard, brother of Maurice (158), Marcel (28), Georges E. (93), died in Shawinigan April 15, 2004.

Doris Frigon Cournoyer, wife of Norman W. Cournoyer, died in Spencer, MA, USA, April 20, 2004.