



THE FRIGONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES

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FALL 2001



THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF AMERICAN FRIENDS



Georges E. Frigon (93)



We have all been deeply touched by the tragic events that occurred in New York on September 11th. A few days later, on September 13th, I received an e-mail from American friends, recounting their experience of that fateful day. Aware that many of our cousins lived through the same agony, I would like to share this letter with you, with the gracious permission of the authors.

"Thursday, September 13, 2001 8:26 AM

Greetings from Connecticut,

My husband and I became aware of the attack while getting ready for work. We saw the first tower aflame on the news, then were horrified to see, live, the second tower hit. Then news from about the Pentagon came, then the Sears Tower in Chicago. The frightening thing was that we didn't know how long and where the next attack would be. We live right near the Submarines Base, General Dynamics [who make submarines], the Coast Guard Academy, and a nuclear power plant is just a few miles away. Were we next?

I work on a ferryboat and we go from New London, CT to Orient Point, Long Island, NY. The Ferry Yard was jammed up with travelers thinking they could get in by driving down the Island.

The Sub Base was evacuated, and all the men were called back to their boats. We could see all the submarines leaving, being deployed, journeying down the river, into the Sound, and out to sea.

This town was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. There was very little traffic on the highways and nothing at all in the air. No trains, nothing. The enormity of the situation is sinking in deeper as time passes. Right now, we are all giving blood, volunteering time to the relief agencies, donating money and basic items such as blankets, toiletries, food.

God help all victims and their families. God bless us all.

Sharon and Ray Maynard"

WANTED

Do you have a story, an anecdote, autobiographical or biographical notes, historical or current information to share with us? Or would you like to suggest topics or sources of information? Please do not hesitate to send us your material. Every contribution is welcome.

We are always available to help you with your manuscripts. We can either do a total revision of the text or simply provide comments and suggestions. The final word always rests with you.

Please send your material for publication to the Association Secretariat.

Secretariat of the
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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gérald Frigon (116)



When François Frigon undertook his voyages, his family was without news of him for months on end. Today, the drama of September 11th was known around the world within a few hours. Communication has changed. Machines that are plugged in, interconnected, networked, have replaced couriers; the Web has replaced the canoe; microchips have replaced neurones. Communication has changed, but men have not. Fortunately, most are good, hard-working, loving. However, even today, some are wicked. We sympathise with those who must rub elbows with the latter and endure their venomous attitudes. Also, we prefer to focus our attention on good men, true men, the builders of our country; our pioneers, like François, and those who passed on the torch as educators, managers or labourers.



Do you not find that the past appeals to us ever more insistently during the Holiday Season? We treasure memories of family reunions, the pleasure of seeing childhood companions. The events of the war must not deprive us of these warm, human contacts. Happy reading and Happy Holidays, happiness, and good health to all.



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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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**TO BETTER KNOW ONE ANOTHER
Cyrille Frigon, farmer and businessman**

(Pierre Frigon (4))

For over forty years now, our cousin Cyrille Frigon has been the owner of a family farm and the supplier of agricultural services and products such as seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. In 1993, the service and products branch of his enterprise became a company apart from the family farm. In 1996, Cyrille Frigon and Collette Isabelle's three sons acquired the company founded by their parents and renamed it *Cyrille Frigon (1996) inc.* Rémi is the President, Marc, the specialist in zoological technology and Daniel, the administrator.



In 1999, the Frigon brothers founded the company called "*Alimentation 2000 inc.*" in collaboration with Mélanie Allard, the feed, supplement and mineral representative, Chantal Jutras, and nutritionist André Lamothe, who is also a shareholder in the company. This enterprise specializes in animal nutrition: ground feeds, supplements and minerals. As well, it provides a monthly nutritional follow-up of each herd and even of each animal in the herd, so as to control and adjust the feed for the best rate of productivity.

The company *Cyrille Frigon (1996) inc.* provides a complete service to its clients from sowing-time to harvesting. There are numerous testimonies from satisfied customers:

"They are not only suppliers; they are real partners, helping us to attain the best possible results." Gérard Joinville, La Ferme Gérard Joinville, Île-du- Pas, facing Sorel.

"Year in, year out, they provide us with excellent follow up in every sector of the agricultural business." Aurèle Béland, Ferme Béland et fils, Sainte-Ursule.

"...On many occasions, I was able to benefit from the technical support offered by this enterprise." Serge Morin, Ferme Serge Morin, Saint-Edouard.

"It is a pleasure to do business with the professionals at *Cyrille Frigon inc.*." François Gagnon, Ferme François Gagnon, Saint-Justin.



In April 2000, they bought Maski Cube inc. which they transformed into a facility for drying and processing corn, soy beans and oleaginous cereals. A new company was formed: *Louiseville Agro Fournitures inc.* The system at this plant can handle 200 tons per hour. The dryer, which is completely insulated for energy efficiency, has a 40 to 75 ton capacity. This represents an investment of 2 million dollars.

All in all *Cyrille Frigon (1999) inc.* boasts a dynamic team, farsighted managers, and a most promising future.

This, in short, is the remarkable success story of our cousins from Louiseville.

This information was taken from the *Cahier spécial* of the newspaper *LE NOUVELLISTE*, - February 24, 2001.

Sixteen pages of the *Cahier spécial* were dedicated exclusively to *CYRILLE FRIGON(1996)inc.*

Some thirty employees work at *Cyrille Frigon (1996) inc.*; about fifteen of which are full time workers. *Cyrille Frigon (1996) inc.* sells enormous quantities of grain either at the daily market price or by term contracts, and must often hire sub-contractors to transport it. The Company has been the exclusive distributor for Pioneer Hi-Bred in the Louiseville-Yamachiche area for more than 10 years. It also distributes the products of the William Houde Company, the only Quebec enterprise in the fertiliser industry.

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
POSITION FILLED**

Our thanks to Mary Frego Coates (139), Kincardine, Ontario, who responded to our call for help with the revision of English texts. Mary teaches grades 3 and 4 French Immersion at St. Anthony's School in Kincardine. She received her B.A. from the State University College of New York at Potsdam, a Diploma of French Studies from the Institut de la Touraine in Tours, France and a M.S. in French from Middlebury College, Vermont. We are happy to welcome Mary to our Newsletter team!



Cyrille Frigon

**GENEALOGICAL SKETCH
(Cyrille Frigon)**

François and Marie-Claude Chamois
|
Jean-François and Gertrude Perrot
|
Paul Joseph and Ursule Lefebvre
|
Olivier Pierre and Judith Lamontagne
|
Olivier Toussain and Madeleine Lupien
|
Antoine Abraham and Caroline Fréchette
|
Edouard and Amanda Lamy
|
Albert and Florida Paquin
|
Cyrille Frigon and Colette Isabelle

François Frigon - Voyageur

Pierre Frigon (4)

XII

CONTEXT OF THE 1686-1687 JOURNEY



In 1686, the fur trade war is in full swing. The French are forcefully resisting the commercial offensives of the English and Iroquois, who want to redirect the fur trade of Michillimakinaw towards the English colonies. The English, under the command of Radisson, have raided Fort Bourbon, captured 8 men and seized about 20,000 beaver pelts. In retaliation, the Chevalier de Troyes and his lieutenants LeMoynes de Sainte-Hélène and LeMoynes d'Iberville, take possession of Fort Monsipi (Hayes) at James Bay in June 1686. Then, "On July 3, Sainte-Hélène and de Troyes, along with 60 men, capture Fort Rupert (...) while d'Iberville and 13 Canadians take over a vessel moored near the shore."¹ In the fall, d'Iberville seizes two ships, "The Young" and the "Churchill". Two Canadian prisoners are found aboard the latter¹.

Then, "In November 1686, Dongan sends a first group of thirty traders to Michillimakinaw but they are captured and (their merchandise) looted by La Durantaye, in command of a detachment of two hundred Frenchmen and 'Sauvages'. In May, a second contingent, sent out in December under Major Patrick MacGregor, encounters

*Tonty and his Illinois, west of Lake Erie; they (the contingent) are scattered and their goods seized. (...) In June, (1687) the expeditionary force of 930 militiamen and 400 'Sauvages' residing in the colony, is ready. Champigny takes the lead and leaves Montreal with 15 canoes on the 17th of that month.*²

This is guerrilla warfare. On both sides merchandise is stolen, villages are devastated, suspected traitors executed and Amerindians captured. Some Iroquois prisoners are sent to Louis XIV's galleys. At the root of all this turmoil are tribal conflicts and commercial interests. It is also during this troubled period that the Massacre of Lachine takes place on the night of August 4-5, 1689; "... taking advantage of a violent rainstorm, 1,500 Iroquois cross the river near Lake Saint Louis and sneak into the sleep-stilled abodes..."³

Did François Frigon participate in these raids? It is possible. But perhaps the fur trade journey of 1686 never even took place: "... in Montreal, (Governor Denonville) forbids all *coureurs de bois* to leave town and, with the help of the Onontagues, manages to capture a few lawbreakers."⁴

Furthermore, the orders of Denonville on January 29, 1686 stipulate that: "Regarding trade with the Illinois, since we are not sufficiently informed about His Majesty's intentions to know whether or not this (right) is granted to the Sieur de la Salle only, we forbid anybody to approach within 5 lieues of Fort Saint-Louis until we receive further orders from His Majesty."⁵

According to the contract drawn up on May 26, 1686, DeFay promised the voyageurs "in the course of the next month, to deliver to them in Montreal, two *congés* sent by monsieur de la Salles, governor and Lieutenant-General for the King in the country of Louisiana, signed by himself". Governor Denonville's orders were issued in January. Therefore, it is possible that they never received the *congés de traite* mentioned in the contract. But were Frigon and his associates able to trade with the Illinois since Fort Saint-Louis had become inaccessible?

Moreover, "In September, the French from the West and their Indian allies were ordered to be ready to join an expedition against the Iroquois."⁶ Assuming that François Frigon had obtained his *congé de traite*, that he was out West when that order arrived and that he had joined the raids as a *coureur de bois* militiaman, what would he have gained? Were the militiamen well paid? They were not: "Since the creation of a regular militia in 1669, all Canadians aged 16 to 60 had to serve in time of war; they provided food, arms and clothing; and they were never paid."⁷ There were probably a few exceptions for food. In fact, we have a clue in the "Report of the expenditures made by Sieur de la Durantaye in the Outaouïacs for the King's service and the execution of the orders of

1- Gustave Lanctot, Histoire du Canada, du régime royal au traité d'Utrecht, 1663-1713, Librairie Beauchemin, 1963, pp. 127-128.

2- Lanctot, p. 138.

3- Lanctot, p. 144.

4- Lanctot, p. 127.

5- Archives de la province de Québec, *Ordonnances, commissions, etc., des gouverneurs et intendants de la Nouvelle-France, 1639-1706*, par Pierre-Georges Roy, volume deuxième, L'éclaireur Limitée éditeur, 1924, pp. 138-139.

6- Lanctot, p. 127.

7- Marcel Trudel, Mythes et réalités dans l'histoire du Québec, HMH, cahiers du Québec, collection histoire, 2001, p. 202.

*Monsieur le Général de la Barre for the years 1683-1684. Namely: ... for food for the two men I had with me on the 20th of November to travel from La Baie des Puants to Missilimakinaw, having received the order from M. de la Barre to protect the aforementioned Missillimakinaw against a probable attack by the Iroquois; which (two men) were fed by me at my expense during 6 months: 300 sols."*⁸ De la Durantaye does not ask to be reimbursed for salary for these two men, only for food expenses. These men did not receive a salary; sometimes they helped themselves to the booty snatched from the enemy. That is confirmed by the orders of Denonville on January 29, 1686: "... capture the deserters (and illegal coureurs de bois) ... and seize their beaver (pelts) and other goods..."⁹

In conclusion, if the 1686-1687 journey did take place, it was indeed a very hazardous one. The merchandise was worth 7,109 *livres*, including the *congés de traite*. The merchant DeFay accepted the responsibility for one sixth of any losses. Thus, if a loss were complete, the merchant DeFay was responsible for 1,185 *livres* and the associates Frigon/Desrosiers/Bellefond, for the remainder, some 1,481 *livres* each. These were considerable sums of money that would have taken the associates many years to reimburse to the merchant.

The next article will deal with the profitability of the fur trade journey of 1686-1687.

8- P.-G. Roy, Bulletin de recherches historiques, vol. 29 - 30, p. 49.

9-Archives de la province de Québec, *Ordonnances, commissions, etc., des gouverneurs et intendants de la Nouvelle-France, 1639-1706*, par Pierre-Georges Roy, volume deuxième, L'éclaireur Limitée éditeur, 1924, p. 139.



PRESS REVIEW

Georges E. Frigon (93)

A Tribute to Huguette Frigon

The following is an extract of the article entitled *Le regard porté vers l'avenir, (Looking Towards the Future)*, published last August 20th in the *Nouvelliste*, authored by Marie-Ève Lafontaine.



Ms Lafontaine paid tribute to Huguette Frigon who worked long and hard at the creation of the historical site, *le Village du bûcheron* (Lumberjack Village), in Grandes-Piles.

Ms Huguette Frigon, and her late husband Mr. Perreault were honoured yesterday, at the *Village du bûcheron*, the heart of their life's work, which is now one of the principal tourist attractions in the Mauricie region. "It was simple, warm and sincere", said Ms Frigon when speaking about this testimonial.

Ms Frigon was touched by her return to the *Village du bûcheron* where she and her late husband had dedicated a large part of their lives. She recalls the beginnings, a small exhibition on the third floor of a barn. "In 1978, we made a museum upstairs in the barn. It was very small, but we were proud of it", she remembers. In 1981, thanks to the former Consolidated-Bathurst, the "cookerie" was built. Since then, several buildings have been added, among others, the file shop, the stable, the sawmill, and the coal shed.

This little village of yesteryear knew how to attract many Europeans. It was particularly popular in the years 1992 to 1997. "The best year was 1996. We received 500 busloads of Europeans and we had more than 50,000 visitors. We had as many as 32 employees", relates Ms Frigon. The Village now has 24 employees.

Since then, there are fewer visitors. It seems that organised trips are not as popular as they used to be. People travel in smaller groups. "Now it is the style to travel in small groups. Before, the buses were always full. Now, there are 20 or 30 persons per bus. There are also more drop-ins. These people are interesting because they have plenty of time", notes Ms Frigon.

In the light of projects that are being developed, this lady assures us that her husband would have been very happy. "The Village was his whole life. We devoted a lot of time and money to it. We never dreamed that it would become so big."

The Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, Lise Thibault, attended the testimonial in honour of Mr. Viateur Perreault and Ms Huguette Frigon. She took this opportunity to visit the site. "I am always amazed to see that so many of our people take good care of things, of people and of their history."



Ms Thibault planted a tree, assisted by Ms Huguette Frigon.

A HUNTING TRIP WITH THE FRIGONS

During the 1940's

- I -

Jean-Pierre Frigon (194)

The first of this series of five articles describes the status of the hunter in the 1940's; the second, the preparations and the trip to the hunting site; the third, the living conditions of the hunters; the fourth, the return from the hunt and a few anecdotes; the last, the hunt, yesterday and today.

As you will notice, the hunting prowess of our ancestors is still very much alive in our present generation .

INTRODUCTION

For the labourers of the 30's and 40's, life was a continuous and exhausting struggle. The long hours spent at the factory left little time for leisure activities, and the hard-earned and meagre salaries did not permit extravagant hobbies. At the time, few people used the little vacation time they had to travel to sunny countries; tourism and holidays as we know them today, were the prerogative of the rich. It was only after the war that Europe became a destination accessible to so many people.

However, hunting was always a pleasure open to a good number of people. Consequently, the two weeks vacation usually allocated by the big companies to its regular workers was often taken in the fall rather than during the summer. Hunting provided the workers with periods of adventure and escape from the hard reality of their everyday lives.

My father, Roland Frigon, who was born in Shawinigan in 1922 and died there in 1989, knew this era well. His father

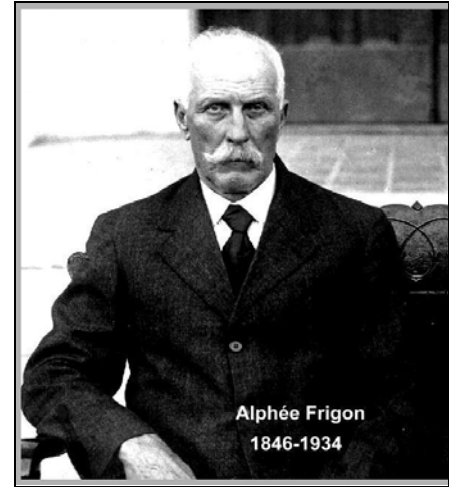
GENEALOGICAL SKETCH (Jean-Pierre)

François and Marie-Claude Chamois
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Augustin and Marie Lefebvre
|
Abraham and Josephte Dontigny
|
Hubert and Sophie Cloutier
|
Alphée and Délima Pronovost
|
Bruno and Rachel Giguère
|
Roland and Gisèle Roy
|
Jean-Pierre Frigon and Anne Cinq-Mars

and his uncles, Jules and Charles Edouard Frigon, had gone hunting since they were children. With his brothers Robert, Charles, Paul and André, he was initiated to this activity during the 40's. This text was taken from an interview with Roland Frigon, on November 20th 1983. It is less an in-depth analysis than a retelling of small details that bring to life a time long gone and memories of the days

HUNTING, THE SPORT OF THE WELL-TO-DO WORKER

Alphée Frigon, my great-grandfather, a native of Ste-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, settled in Shawinigan Falls in 1899 in order to work on the construction site of the Shawinigan Water and Power Plant. His many children found work in the Shawinigan factories that were very prosperous at that time. Yet, they always remained attached to the rural setting where they had spent most of their childhood and adolescence.



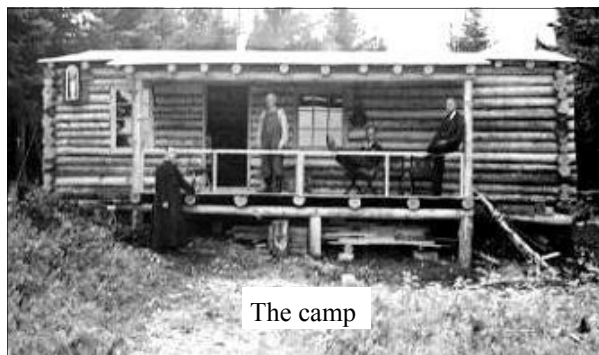
My grandfather, Bruno Frigon, worked 37 years at the Belgo pulp and paper mill in Baie Shawinigan (then known as Belgoville because of the size of the company). Thanks to his hard work, he succeeded in climbing a few steps of the company ladder and in attaining a position of night shift foreman . At that point he became what was known as a "well-to-do worker ". Married to Rachel Giguère of Ste-Flore, father of two daughters and five sons, owner of a three-story family dwelling wherein he occupied the first floor, a worker with a stable and well paid job for the time, even owning an automobile, Bruno Frigon could be proud of his personal success.

However, this list of accomplishments would not be complete if it were not mentioned that Bruno Frigon was a member of a hunting and fishing club. Oh, not one of the big clubs established by the Americans in the region; only a small parcel of land, big enough to provide the pleasure of hunting, yet small enough to be set up easily by a group of workers. With his brothers, Jules and Charles Edouard, and many of their friends, my grandfather Bruno participated in organising the "Club Caribou". That club was their pride and joy!

Yes, it was their pride, because during the depression and the war, hunting was the predominant sport of the "well-to-do" workers. During this period, there were three different categories of hunters in the region. First, the rural residents who hunted on their own land or in the surrounding areas. For this group, hunting was less a sport than a necessity, an extra crop, a part of their lifestyle.

At the other extremity were the very wealthy Anglo-Saxons who carved excessively large estates out of the forests of the region : the Laurentian Club, the Shawinigan Lake Club, the Barnard Club, etc.. For example, during the 1940's the Laurentian Club, stretched over half the territory that now constitutes the *Parc National de la Mauricie* and the *Réserve du St-Maurice*. It encompassed several hundred lakes, a few luxurious chalets, and hardly more than a few dozen select members. Those hunters played the great lords, reigning over large domains that they visited only occasionally and to which access was carefully guarded. The only French-Canadians found there were the guides who paddled and carried the canoes, and the guards who kept their fellow countrymen from trespassing.

Between these two extremes, the specialised workers and factory foremen comprised the bulk of the sports hunters. Most of the time, they set up small private clubs located



The camp

around a few lakes where they built rustic hunting camps. Since these clubs were too costly for most of the labourers of this era, they gave their members a certain prestige, permitting them to imitate their rich Anglo-Saxon bosses. Moreover, since most of these workers came from rural areas, it was a traditional ancestral activity that the hunters took up each year.

Hunting provided for them an indispensable return to their roots, to the customs of the rural world, and a resurgence of memories from their childhood and adolescence.

The group of hunters from the "Club Caribou" belonged to this last category. It was as much to imitate their bosses as to return to their roots, that Bruno Frigon, his brothers Jules and Charles-Edouard and their respective children went hunting (including the children, there could be up to fifteen Frigons hunting at the "Club Caribou"). It is through the memories of one of these hunters, that we will follow the activities of a hunting party somewhere between 1930 and 1940.

WHILE SURFING THE WEB

Academic



Chantal Frigon, professor at the University of Montreal, at the 65th Convention of the ACFAS (Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences; The French-Canadian Association for the Advancement of the Sciences), held at the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières, Linguistics session (S-307), May 12, 1997 at 1500 h, gave the conference *l'Utilisation des caractéristiques dialectales du français québécois par un groupe d'anglophones bilingues de Montréal*. (*The use of Dialectic Characteristics of Quebec French by a group of Bilingual English-speaking Montrealers.*)

<http://www.acfas.ca/congres/congres65/Sect307.htm>

Jean-Yves Frigon (62), professor at the University of Montreal, at the 68th Convention of the ACFAS, held at the University of Montreal, Psychology session (S-415), May 15, 2000 at 0920 h in collaboration with Line Tremblay also from the University of Montreal, gave the conference on *Déterminants biologiques, cognitifs et comportementaux des conduites sexuelles à risque chez les adolescentes québécoises selon une perspective longitudinale*. (*Biological, Cognitive and Behavioural Determinants of Sexual Behaviour at risk in Adolescent Quebec Females According to a Longitudinal Perspective.*)

<http://www.acfas.ca/congres/congres68/Disc415.htm>



François Frigon (25), *Première cuvée millésimée 1997*, Productions of the top finalists in the Multimedia Masters Degree Program, University of Quebec in Montreal, *installation* category, a Master's project named *Le Cirque Consensuel*. (*The Consensus Circus*). This multimedia installation brings together several persons in a play environment strewn with obstacles to overcome. This research has good potential for use in personnel training, for it brings out interpersonal relationships in a group having a common task to perform.

<http://www.comm.uqam.ca/~multimedia/>

<http://www.unites.uqam.ca/medias/JOURNAL/sii967/Journal/numeros/11/11-u.html>



Sylvie Frigon, professor at the University of Ottawa, at the 66th Convention of the ACFAS, held at Laval University, Penal Policy and Social Management colloquium (C-424), May 12, 1998, at 1400 h, gave the conference *Corps, féminité, et dangerosité: de la production du corps docile en criminologie*. (*The Body, Femininity and Dangerousness: Production of Docility in Criminology.*)

<http://www.acfas.ca/congres/congres66/Coll424.htm>

<http://www.crfp-rcwp.uottawa.ca/recherchesf.htm>



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FAMILY NEWS

Georges E. Frigon (93)

Sincere condolences to our members and families who have lost a dear one:

- † **Rita Dorval**, wife of Paul-Aimé Frigon, resident of Saint-Tite, deceased on February 9, 2001 and buried on February 12, 2001 at Saint-Tite, QC. She was the mother of Jean-René (11), Aline (12), André (13), Diane (15), Monique (18).
- † **Cécile Saint-Arnaud**, wife of Alphonse Frigon, resident of Shawinigan-Sud, deceased on June 11, 2001 and buried at Shawinigan-Sud, QC, on June 14, 2001. She was the mother of Liliane (109).
- † **Louis Frigon**, husband of Jeanne Brunet, deceased at Ste-Thérèse, QC, on June 23, 2001. He was the father of Luc (3), a founding member of the Association of Frigon Families and treasurer 1994-1998.
- † **Edmund L. Frigone (46)**, husband of Elaine Anderson, deceased at Allyn, Washington, U.S.A., on August 29, 2001.
- † **Marguerite Lincourt**, wife of Benoît D. Frigon, deceased at Trois-Rivières, QC, on September 6, 2001 and buried at Cap-de-la-Madeleine on September 8, 2001. She was the mother of René J. Frigon (75).
- † **François Frigon (146)**, husband of Suzanne Carpentier, resident of La Tuque, deceased at Trois-Rivières, QC, on September 22, 2001 and buried at La Tuque on September 25, 2001.

Condolences also to the families of our other deceased cousins:

Date of death	Name	Place of death
2001-05-06	Marielle Frigon	Shawinigan, QC
2001-06-09	Denis Frigon	Shawinigan-Sud, QC
2001-06-18	Léo-Paul Frigon	Shawinigan, QC
2001-06-19	Rita Frigon Fraser	Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade, QC
2001-06-26	Marcelle Piché Frigon	Saint-Célestin, QC
2001-07-08	Jean-Charles Frigon	Malartic, QC
2001-07-22	Jeannette Frigon Cossette	Trois-Rivières, QC
2001-08-27	Josée Frigon	Cap-de-la-Madeleine, QC
2001-09-20	Béatrice Frigon	Chicoutimi, QC
2001-09-23	Flora Landry Frigon	Springfield, MA, U.S.A.
2001-10-03	Viateur Frigon	La Tuque, QC

