



# THE FRIGONS

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

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## TO BETTER KNOW ONE ANOTHER

### Jean-Marie Frigon, a Pioneer<sup>1</sup>

Pierre Frigon (4)

*The Cooperative Movement Loses a Founder.* These were the headlines of the Lac-Saint-Jean weekly newspaper *Nouvelles Hebdo*, on January 11, 2003.



Jean-Marie Frigon

Journalist Isabelle Gagnon relates the impressive career of a cousin of ours who was involved in the agricultural cooperative movement. "An inveterate promoter of the co-operative system, Jean-Marie Frigon of Albanel, who was totally committed to the field of agriculture on the local, regional, provincial and even international levels, passed away on January 4<sup>th</sup> at the age of 62, following an illness."

#### GENEALOGICAL SKETCH

(Jean-Marie Frigon)

François Frigon and Marie-Claude Chamois

Jean-François Frigon and Gertrude Perrot

Antoine Pierre Frigon and M.-Anne Trottier

Pierre Antoine Frigon and Josephite Massicotte

Antoine Frigon and Marie-Anne Frigon

Joseph Souleine Frigon and Henriette Cloutier

Joseph Onésime Frigon and Rebecca Massicotte

Henri Homère Frigon and Rose Alma Lacourse

Henri Georges Frigon and Régina Larouche

Jean-Marie Frigon and Blandine Blais

Jean-Marie Frigon was not a newcomer to the world of agricultural cooperatives. In 1957, he was administrator of the *Châine Cooperative du Saguenay*, before carrying out the same responsibilities at the Albanel Cooperative from 1965 to 1981. Mr.

Frigon also served as secretary and president of the local agricultural producers union (1965-1978), besides

being a member of the regional council of the UPA (agricultural producers union). Also, from 1973 to 1983, he was president of Agritours in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region and provincial president from 1978 to 1983. Meanwhile, he became mayor of the Canton of Albanel in 1977, a position he held until 1981."

His impressive list of accomplishments does not end here. He was administrator of Nutrinor from 1983 to 1987, and president from 1987 to 1989. When the Lactel group was formed, he became vice-president of the new enterprise (1989-1996). He was also administrator (1988-1997) and vice-president (1997-2000) of the International Development Cooperative, of which he was a life-time member. Because of his functions within this organisation, he travelled to China, Japan, Africa and Guatemala to assess the feasibility of developing agricultural cooperatives in these countries. In the year 2000, he was awarded the highest distinction of Quebec's Order of Cooperative Merit.

The Albanel *Quotidien* of January 7, 2003, carried an article by Léo-Gilles Savard titled "Jean-Marie Frigon has a Well-filled Record". Here we learn that "the family dairy farm which he purchased in 1963 has become an important enterprise in which some of his

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1- Our thanks to Georges E. Frigon (93) for having sent us the newspaper clippings.

**THANK YOU, ROBERT (2)**

*Thank you* for that first gathering in September 1992, where the idea of forming an Association was sown.

*Thank you* for the enthusiasm which persisted until the first meeting of the Association's Board of Directors during which you were appointed Vice-President.

*Thank you* for your newsletter articles, your gleanings and monographs on the Frigon family.

*Thank you* for all your research, for your "pilgrimages" from rectory to rectory, from library to library, from kitchen to kitchen, from district to district.

*Thank you* for your involvement as Vice-President for



eight years and as organizer and promoter for our annual meetings.

*Thank you* for diffusing your knowledge about the lot of several descendants of the extended Frigon family in Quebec as well as in the United States and in the West.

*Thank you* for having communicated your passion for genealogy to those around you.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on March 29, 2003, it was decided unanimously to honour **Robert Frigon (2)**, a founding member of our Association, with the title of

**“HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT  
AND LIFETIME MEMBER”.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES INC. (2002 - 2003)**

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Bibliothèque National du Québec*

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

The team

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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.

Ivanhoë Frigon III (80)

The members of the Frigon-Chamois Park Committee are : Gérald (116), Georges (93), Cyrille (180), Daniel (34), Ivanhoë III (80), and Shirley (213) and Réjeanne (177), who were absent at the time of the meeting.

Present at the meeting as observers and counselors were : Cécile Brunelle (181), Jean-René (11), Pierre (4), Odette (52), Claudette Frigon Giesinger (89) and Claudette Chevrette-Naud (126).

Enthusiasm for the project is growing and a more detailed plan for the enterprise will be undertaken by the committee members. We urge you to make known your opinions and suggestions to the committee

members within the next few weeks, so that the steps we take will reflect the aspirations of all the FRIGONS.

When the project will be more solidly anchored, we will inform you about our intentions, most likely through the next newsletter, *The Frigons*, thereby giving you a better idea about this project that I sincerely hope will rally all the FRIGONS of the world!

We eagerly await your suggestions and comments !

Ivanhoë III

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August 23, 2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING August 23, 2003



## *An invitation to the Annual General Meeting*

*This year the annual general meeting will take place on August 23rd, in Laval near the Rivière-des-Mille Îles Park (Thousand Island River Park).*

*Dinner for those who wish to avail themselves of this service.*

*Further details will be available in the summer newsletter and on our Web site.*

*We hope a large number of you will join us for this reunion.*

### TO BETTER KNOW ONE ANOTHER Jean-Marie Frigon

*(Continued from page 105)*

seven children took shares in 1991.”

On January 16, 2003, another newspaper, *La terre de chez nous*, also from Albanel, ran an article signed by P.-E. T. under the heading “Death of a Pioneer in the Field of Agricultural Unionism”: “The former presidents of Nutrinor and of the UPA of this region, are among those testifying to the commitment that this man of principles and of consultation brought to his work, of his great availability and of his human warmth.

A former president of the UPA in this region, Benoît Harvey, calls him a hard worker and a trustworthy

administrator. He was close to the people and sensitive to the needs of the producers.” Gaston Lajoie, a former president of Nutrinor, describes him as “*a man of integrity, with deep cooperative and union convictions which he used for the advancement and well-being of the producer.*” Mr. Lajoie recalls that the deceased was convinced that unionism and cooperatism should work together, “like the two legs of the producer”. He states that in the last few years Mr. Frigon was disappointed to see agricultural unionism and the cooperatives that this movement had formed to transform their products, no longer marching to the same beat; he deplored the unions’ lack of understanding of the importance of agricultural cooperatives.

We frequently see natural disasters on television.

We also have our share of these mood swings of Mother Nature.

A severe earthquake shook the Saint Lawrence Valley on: **February 28, 1925 at 21h19m20s**

It was in the Mauricie region that the quake was the most severe.

To rekindle the memory of those who are older and to pique the curiosity of the younger readers, the following is the entire article that was published by the *Nouvelliste* on Monday, March 2, 1925.

TELEPHONE 1  
 100-100-100  
 100-100-100  
 100-100-100

## LE NOUVELLISTE

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, LUNDI 2 MARS 1925

TIRAGE  
 CERTIFIÉ  
 PAR L'A.B.C.

### Saturday's Earthquake Kills a Woman in La Pérade

THE STRONGEST TREMOR WAS IN OUR REGION.

*One death occurs in La Pérade, and the stones crowning the columns that support the church portico are knocked over.*

- *In Shawinigan, a wall collapses in St- Marc Church.*
- **THE GROUND OPENS IN YAMACHICHE**
- *In Grand'Mère three tremors are felt and the rumbling of the earth is heard throughout the night of Saturday to Sunday.*
- *Fear, as well as the belief that the end of the world has come, grips the population almost everywhere*
- **NUMEROUS WOMEN FAINT**

Trois-Rivières and the entire Saint-Maurice Valley, as well as the villages of the south shore of our region, were prey to intense panic when an earthquake that lasted about forty-five seconds and, according to our elders, was more violent than the one in 1870, was felt in our district Saturday night, between nine-fifteen and nine-twenty P.M.

Many people fainted from fear and, at Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, Mrs. Eugène Bureau, a woman in good health, died from fear before the arrival of the doctor.

In Trois-Rivières, Shawinigan Falls, Grand'Mère, thousands of terrified people, some even believing that it was the end of the world, rushed out into the street where, in the midst of ominous cracking sounds, they saw sturdy buildings swaying on their foundations, looking as though they would collapse at any moment. Tension was high; generally, it was "every man for himself".



Building of Mr. J. A. Frigon



Ressources naturelles  
Canada

Natural Resources  
Canada

centre of the commercial area, more than a thousand people gathered in a short time. People had run out of stores and theatres seeking greater safety. The streets were filled with people. Those who stayed in their houses were for the most part speechless from fear, feeling the earth shaking and waiting for the worst to happen.

At St-Joseph Seminary, there was a moment of panic. But it was at the Arena that the panic was greatest: the lights went out and the steel framework of the building cracked menacingly; the skaters rushed toward the narrow exit in the midst of the screams of hysterical children. However, there were no serious accidents anywhere.

Material damages are fairly high, especially in Shawinigan and Grand'Mère. Here, the most important to date is the collapse of the top portion of the 243 foot chimney at the Wayagamack plant. In Shawinigan Falls, St-Marc Church is closed due to the caving in of part of the transepts.

**A section of wall of a two-story building belonging to Mr. J.A. Frigon, situated on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, also collapsed.**

At the Northern Aluminium, part of the wall and roof at the smelter collapsed, and a worker was slightly injured by a falling brick. The windows of hundreds of houses broke and plastered walls cracked.

In Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade the pyramidal stones that crown the columns supporting the church portico were knocked over.

In most of the churches and convents in Shawinigan Falls and Grand'Mère, as well as in the villages to the north of Grand'Mère, statues toppled over and broke.

At the *Marché aux Denrées*, the grocery area in the

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According to the most precise and reliable observations, the earthquake went from north to south, but in some cases it seemed to come from the east. The tremors varied in intensity depending on the location. It seems to have reached a peak at St-Marc de Shawinigan, especially in the highest places.



Joseph Auguste Frigon

### GENEALOGICAL SKETCH

(Joseph Auguste Frigon)

François Frigon and Marie-Claude Chamois

Jean-François Frigon and Gertrude Perrot

Antoine Pierre Frigon and M.-Anne Trotter

Pierre Antoine Frigon and Josephite Massicotte

Ignace Frigon and Marguerite Prénouveau

Hilaire Frigon and Marie-Anne Grant

Alphée Frigon and Eugénie Girard

Joseph Auguste Frigon and Annette Massicotte

the night from Saturday to Sunday, light rumbling could be heard coming from the earth. These same tremors were felt in Trois-Rivières, but they were less severe than in Grand'Mère.

The only place that reported fissures in the ground was Yamachiche. These openings were observed

near several houses. In Grand'Mère, the ice at the skating rink was badly cracked.

In many places, the earthquake made the church bells ring.

### IN OUR CHURCHES

In our city, there were rumours that the earthquake caused serious damage to Notre-Dame des Sept Allégres Church and to St-Philippe Girls' School where, it is said, the wall between the old and new schools came apart. These rumors were ill-founded. At Notre-Dame, Rev. Father Ferdinand, O.F.M. declared that there was hardly any damage. Only a bit of covering fell off the roof as well as a small cornice. There was no panic in the church where many people had come to confession.

Mr. Napoléon Lamy reports that at St-Philippe Girls' School, as in almost every other school of the school district, there was very little damage: only the giving way of plaster a bit everywhere.

Cracks in the walls of the old school can be seen, but according to Mr. Nap. Lamy, they must have been there (before the earthquake). With regard to St-Philippe Girls' School, this statement has been confirmed by the school authorities.

M. l'abbé J.A. Lemire, pastor of Ste-Cécile parish, told us that neither the rectory nor the church suffered the least bit of damage from the earthquake.

### AT THE AQUEDUCT

The cracks in the old aqueduct building, which was already badly fissured (prior to the earthquake), were enlarged but there was no danger of collapse. The dam that had been built for the

installation of the new water intake resisted very well and remained perfectly intact.

### AT THE HOSPITALS

The tremor was hardly felt at the two hospitals in our city where a part of the personnel was up at the time of the earthquake. Most of those who were in bed awakened when everything was over or simply thought a violent wind had shaken the building.

### COMMOTION IN MONTREAL

The population of Montreal particularly felt the earthquake which, according to the Ottawa Observatory had its epicentre at the mouth of the Saguenay, headed west as far as Sudbury and south as far as Richmond, Virginia, and followed a line from Chicago to New York. The tremors lasted with more or less intensity from 9:21 P.M. to midnight.

At 9:21 the whole city began to shake. The vibrations were much milder at ground level than on the upper stories of the houses where strong, irregular, rocking movements astonished people and provoked fear. While the oscillations continued, lamps began to rock and swing back and forth: dishes and furniture shook and floors resembled ships' decks.

### IN THE THEATRES

The rising of panic in the theatres could have been

(Continued on page 112)



## **Édouard Frigon alias Edward "Ned" Frigon (1834-1917)** **Pioneer in 1850 among the aboriginals on Vancouver Island**

Raymond Frigon (1)

and

Charles Frigon (50); Wendy Scott; Margo Frigon (7); Robert Frigon (2); Lucie Frigon (56); Paul Frigon (6)

### **II - Édouard Frigon: His legendary life**

In the Autumn 2002 issue, we briefly outlined the milestones of Edward "Ned" Frigon's life on Vancouver Island. We also told of how we were able to unravel the mystery of the origin of this native of Saint-Prosper, who was said to have been born in France! We will now delve into North Vancouver Island's early history and folklore, often filled with hearsay, and try to sort out fact from fancy, so as to give you a more detailed account of Edward's amazing life.

To start off with, let's try to explain the circumstances that would have led Édouard to leave home. In 1885, presumed year of his departure, Quebec was in the second decade of the great exodus of French Canadians to leave the country in search of opportunities abroad. In such unsettled times he presumably decided to forgo marriage and leave alone for the unknown. He was well-suited for the adventure. Firstly, he must have felt well at ease with the English language, since his mother Mary-Ann Grant was English-speaking. Furthermore, his was a family of entrepreneurs and was well-to-do. His brother Alphée

#### **GENEALOGICAL SKETCH**

(Édouard "Ned" Frigon)

François and Marie-Claude Chamois

Jean-François and Gertrude Perrot

Antoine Pierre and M.-Anne Trottier

Pierre Antoine and Josephite Massicotte

Ignace and Marguerite Prénouveau

Hilaire and M.-Anne Grant

Edouard Frigon

in Saint-Prosper was post-master as well as banker<sup>1</sup>, as was the practice at the time. Among Alphée's children were merchants as well as professionals, including Dr. Rosario Frigon and M.P. Joseph Auguste Frigon<sup>2</sup>.

Once in British Colombia, did Édouard ever get married? It is known that later in life he lived with

Lucy Moon, a princess of the Kwakiutl tribe. According to the *Succession Duty Tax* record of April 4, 1922 issued at the time of his death, a sum of \$200 was allocated to Lucy Moon "without relationship to the deceased by marriage". This amount was taken directly from Édouard's estate as he died intestate. Another clue to a possible marriage is to be found in the 1901 Canadian Census which lists Edward Frigon with Caroline (sic) Frigon and her daughter Edna. Was Edward a boarder with Caroline? Were they living common law? There is no trace of a marriage. Rumours circulate in the region's folklore about alleged Old Ned liaisons. Since such rumours are virtually impossible to confirm, we have chosen to not repeat them here<sup>3</sup>.



We have already described briefly in the previous issue the niche that Édouard made for himself on Vancouver Island from the early days of its foundation. He first settled on Hope Island off the extreme North end of Vancouver Island where he lived between 1882 and 1887, trading furs with the natives. He then went into gold mining and became the owner of the Eureka concession on Kloutchlimmis Creek. Finally, he settled down to owning a hotel at Drake on Limestone Island, boasting, it seems, the longest bar north of San Francisco!

Thus lived Édouard /Edward *Old Ned* Frigon, far from his native land: Saint-Prosper in the beautiful Mauricie region in Quebec. Witness to his legendary life in British Columbia, the photo on the next page shows him, proudly standing on the deck of the boat responsible for patrolling his beloved country, at the extreme north-end of Vancouver Island.

<sup>1</sup> The fact that at the time the postmaster often acted also as banker was checked by Lucie Frigon (56) at the Canadian Postal Museum in Gatineau. Local history on Vancouver Island makes much of the fact Édouard's family in Saint-Prosper included a prominent banker...!

<sup>2</sup> Source; Robert Frigon (2)

<sup>3</sup> Readers interested in sampling the local history and folklore of North Vancouver Island can obtain copies of articles which Wendy Scott of Ladysmith, B.C. had collected and supplied to assist our research and are available upon request to: Raymond Frigon, 403-15 Murray Street, Ottawa ON K1N 9M5. E-Mail : rayfrigon@aol.com



Édouard Frigon, c.1905



Édouard Frigon, c. 1915



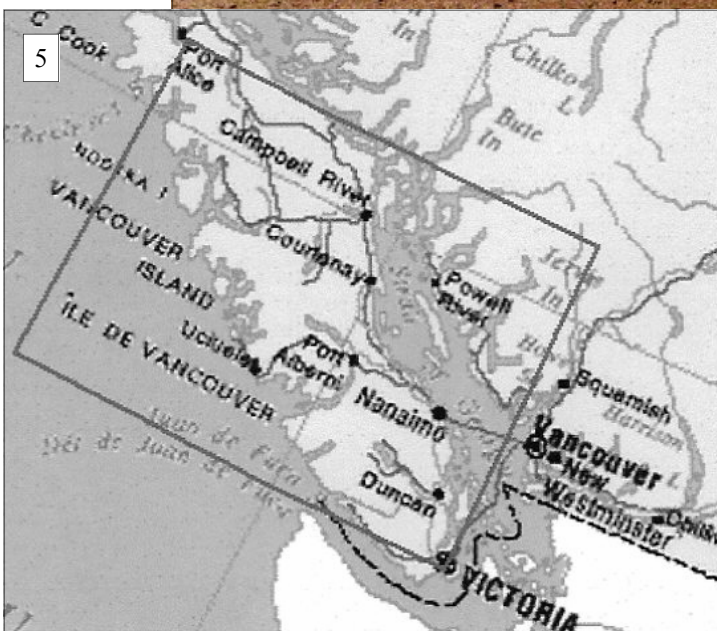
Vancouver Archives

Édouard Frigon on board a patrol boat anchored at Quiet Cove (?), c. 1905



Frigon Islets - Summer 1999  
Paul Frigon (6), his sister Margo Frigon (7) and friend take in the tranquility of Neroutsos Inlet, a small bay along the Pacific Ocean

Photo Paul Frigon (6)



<http://maps.nrcan.gc.ca/search/namequery.html>

**Vancouver Island** - Édouard Frigon lived on North Vancouver Island near **Port Alice** where the **Frigon Islets** are located (see adjoining map), so named to honour the memory of Édouard Frigon, first settler to become established, around 1850, among the natives of **Hope Island**, at the top of the map to the right.



<http://maps.nrcan.gc.ca/search/namequery.html>

**The North of Vancouver Island**, centered here on **Quatsino**, where Édouard lived from 1890 to 1917, after sojourning 8 years on **Hope Island**, at the extreme tip of Vancouver Island. At the bottom of the map are the **Frigon Islets**.

(Continued from page 109)

more serious had not the employees of these places had the presence of mind to reassure the spectators. In one theatre someone screamed fire and there was an immediate stampede towards the exits: one woman lost consciousness. In other theatres, women became hysterical and fainted, but order was promptly restored and nowhere was the presentation interrupted. The theatres were full.

At the Forum where six thousand people were watching a hockey game between Montreal and Hamilton, the earthquake was felt especially in the upper tiers. There was a general rush to leave and when a window opened making a tremendous racket, the situation worsened. On the ice, the players did not feel the shaking at all and continued to fight for the puck.

There was a lot of emotion in a Westmount pharmacy when two bottles of nitro-glycerine fell from a shelf to the floor. Fortunately, they did not break. The customers ran for the door, but there was no explosion. The clerk courageously picked up the two bottles and put them in a safe place where they could not fall so easily.

### AN ACCIDENT AT LA PRESSE

Montreal, 2  
University of  
Montreal

students were giving a concert at Radio Station CKAC when the earthquake began. One of them was at the microphone ready to begin singing when suddenly the 2,000 lb piano began to wobble and the building started shaking. The strong steel pillars moved in an alarming manner and everybody was terrified.

Leaping to the microphone, Mr. Jacques Cartier, the director of the radio station of "La Presse" issued this message: "We are in the throes of an earthquake. If we are still alive when it is over, the concert will continue: for the moment we are discontinuing our broadcast.

At the same time, he ordered Léonard Spencer to turn off the radio. Spencer did so, but he had no sooner done so that, when he returned to the studio, he lost consciousness as if he had received an electric shock. It was believed that this was due to a discharge of static, and the young medical students lavished their care on the engineer. Water and smelling salts did not revive Mr. Spencer, and Mr. Cartier radioed for a doctor.

Dr. V.-P. Landry, 77 Orléans Street, Maisonneuve, answered the call. A few minutes later, many doctors rushed to the scene and Spencer received first aid before

being brought to Notre-Dame Hospital.

Two years ago, Mr. Spencer was the victim of a comparable accident when fire partially damaged La Presse's radio station.

— — Canadian Press — —

### A CHURCH DAMAGED

Quebec, 2

At Baie St-Paul the earthquake damaged the church so badly that it is believed that it will not be possible to celebrate Mass there until it has undergone costly repairs.

The Liquor Commission store in Rivière-du-Loup was damaged. Two windows were broken and a good number of bottles of liquor fell off the shelves.

### ONLY ONE DEATH

Quebec, 2

Other than the death of Mrs. Eugène Bureau in Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade, twenty-five miles from Trois-Rivières, there are no confirmed reports of other victims of Saturday night's earthquake in the province. At one point it was rumoured that five people had lost their lives in different places on the south shore, but since this rumour has not been confirmed, we believe it is groundless.

