



# THE FRIGONS

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

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## JEAN-PIERRE FRIGON REWARDED AT RIDEAU HALL

Ed. Note: This article, from the pen of Bernard Lepage, appeared in the weekly newspaper *Mékinac* and was put on-line November 18, 2008. *Jean Pierre comes from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Hubert.*

### Jean-Pierre Frigon rewarded at Rideau Hall

This history teacher at *Paul-Le Jeune School* is one of six winners of the Governor General's Award.

Jean Pierre Frigon is one of six winners of the Governor General's Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Canadian History.



*Jean-Pierre Frigon received his award from the hands of the Governor-General of Canada, Michaëlle Jean.*

*(Photo courtesy of Cplc Jean-François Neron, Rideau Hall)*

Last Monday, this history professor from the *Paul-Le Jeune Secondary School*, went to Rideau Hall, the residence of the Governor-General in Ottawa, to receive this distinguished award, which aims at kindling in students a true interest in Canadian history, by creating a unique and interactive atmosphere.

While presenting him the award, the Governor-

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## 142 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES ARE TO

- retrace the families bearing the surnames Frigon, Frigone, Frego, Fregoe, Fregone et Fregon
- recruit members and resource persons
- organise gatherings and annual reunions with a view to creating bonds of friendship
- collect genealogical and historical information from the members and other sources in order to favour the promotion, development and the spread of Frigon history, genealogy and other ties between generations
- publish a Frigon Family dictionary
- publish the newsletter *THE FRIGONS*
- publish and make available monographs, biographies, family albums, the results of historical and genealogical research
- assure the preservation of the family archives

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### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual: \$20/year \$50/3 years \$80/5 years

Benefactor: \$30/year

Lifetime: \$250 (55 years and over)

Corporate: \$250/year (includes an optional free half-page advertisement in *THE FRIGONS* for two years/8 newsletters)

Canada: Canadian dollar USA and other countries: US dollar

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**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**  
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*The texts published in the newsletter are the sole responsibility of the authors.*

There are only two ways of facing life: you can either dream it away or you can do something with it. This is something we try to teach our teenagers, but it is also true for retirees. When we retire, we always have a long list of things to do; this state lasts for six months to a year. It is at this point that many of us begin to feel deprived. A retirement is an event that must be prepared psychologically as well as financially. We must not wait to be retired to find a meaningful centre of interest other than our work. It is while we are still pursuing our “active” life that it is time to think of the one “after”...and begin to prepare for it.

Genealogy is a field of research so vast that everyone can, according to his tastes and

circumstances, find a centre of interest. For example, studying the development of a field in which we have a competence from the time of our ancestor down to our own era. If you read the newsletter regularly, you are aware of the range of topics that have been dealt with. Genealogy is the evolution of man in his milieu. Genealogy touches every aspect of life. It is true, our ancestors did not have computers; but in a hundred years, genealogists will study how we have evolved with this tool, just as we examine how our ancestors used oxen in their work.

Your interest in research will develop with use. Just begin; if you are 45, it is not too soon, and if you are 70, it is not too late!

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### JEAN-PIERRE FRIGON REWARDED AT RIDEAU HALL

*(Continued from page 141)*

General Michaëlle Jean, noted that Jean-Pierre Frigon had succeeded to stimulate the learning of history through numerous pedagogical activities, among which were presentations, projects, excursions, and discussions directly involving his students.

One of the dominant themes in the history course taught by this native of Shawinigan is the participation of Canada in the major international events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Through a project entitled “The Paths of Liberty”, Jean-Pierre Frigon led his students to explore the contribution made by the Veterans of the Mékinac region in particular, and of Canada in general, to the war effort of the Allies against Nazism.

This project was centred on the production of a historical calendar dedicated to the veterans of the region, and on an international exchange of “Québécois” and French students, all aimed at underlining the Canadian contribution to the liberation of France. This project called for an enormous investment of time and resources, led to the visit of historical commemorative sites, and resulted in the creation, at the Paul-Le Jeune Secondary School, of a commemorative area dedicated to the veterans

Interviewed by the *Hebdo* last July when he learned that he was one of the 25 finalists in the country, Mr. Frigon declared that this project had provoked a series of reflections in his class. “Some of my students discovered they had a grandfather or a great-uncle who had fought in Europe. It gives a whole new dimension to that war.”

For Jean-Pierre Frigon, it is essential that today’s adolescents know about this period of history that was a turning point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. “Here in Quebec, we often associate the Second World War with conscription, to women’s right to vote, and to the acceleration of industrialisation, but we forget to say that 180,000 French-speaking soldiers, the majority from Quebec, took part in this conflict. We have a great tendency to conceal this historical fact.”

Jean-Pierre Frigon’s award consisted of \$2,500, a gold medal and a trip for two to attend the award ceremony at Rideau Hall. For its part, the *Paul-Le Jeune Secondary School* received a gift of \$1,000 in cash.

**AUGUSTIN FRIGON**  
**III - Tribute (continuation)**  
*Pierre Frigon (4)*

The following is the continuation of the tribute to Augustin Frigon that was published in the *Revue Trimestrielle Canadienne* in the fall of 1952.

BIOGRAPHY OF MR. AUGUSTIN FRIGON, C.M.G., D.Sc., C.E., I.C.

Born in Montreal on March 6, 1888.

*Académie commerciale catholique de Montréal* for six years.

Entered the *École Polytechnique* in 1905.

While a student in civil engineering, he did some surveying for the City of Montreal. He also worked for the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company in its test laboratories where he was invited to return after obtaining his engineering diploma in the summer of 1909. His career at the Montreal Light, Heat and Power was very useful to him; there he acquired experience in employee management through his relations with the workers and the administrative staff of the company.

In 1909 received his Civil Engineer Diploma from the *École Polytechnique de Montréal*, finishing 4th in a class of 24 students.

In 1909 he was named professor at the *École Polytechnique*. Shortly after, he obtained a sabbatical leave with pay to study in Boston

Post-graduate course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Electrical Engineering, (1909-1910).

He directed the electrical laboratories of the *École Polytechnique* from 1910 to 1920.

Augustin was named titular professor of electricity, replacing Professor Saluste David in 1917.

He obtained another paid sabbatical leave from the *École Polytechnique*, to study in France in 1914, but his departure for Europe had to be put off until the summer of 1920 because of the war.

In the meantime, he served as engineering consultant for the Commission of Public Works of the Province of Quebec (1910-1917).

He joined forces with Arthur Surveyer, engineer, in 1912, in the firm of *Surveyer and Frigon*. This partnership had to be dissolved in 1917, because of the difficult conditions that existed during the First World War; however, the firm had already had the time to do some important work, particularly in the municipal field, as well as in the construction of dams, hydro-electric plants, etc., in the different centres of the Province of Quebec such as Grand'Mère, Shawinigan Falls, Joliette, St-Jérôme, etc. At the request of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce and the Shipping Federation, the firm of Surveyer and Frigon prepared a study for the canal that was planned for Georgian Bay; this plan was later submitted to the Federal Government. The St. Lawrence Seaway project later replaced that plan. The fact is that Mr. Surveyer had already done the preliminary studies for this enterprise long before the Surveyer and Frigon Society was formed.

From 1915 to 1917 Augustin was manager and engineer of the Canadian Seigwart Beam Company. At

*(Continued page 145)*

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that time, this firm constructed floors and roofs using a system of juxtaposed beams, (a technique) which was frequently used in Montreal, Shawinigan Falls, Trois-Rivières and Quebec, among others.

Upon his arrival in Paris in the summer of 1920, Mr. Frigon registered at the *École supérieure d'Électricité de Paris*.

During the summer vacation of 1920, he followed the *Alliance française* courses.

He was received as an engineering trainee at the *Laboratoire central d'Électricité de Paris* in 1920-22 (official laboratory of the French government).

He was accepted for the defence of a thesis in science at the beginning of 1921.

Graduated as an electrical engineer from the *École supérieure d'Électricité* in the summer of 1921.

He was the recipient of a grant from the National Research Council of France and the Hughes Grant of the *École supérieure d'électricité de Paris*.

Defence of his thesis at the Sorbonne, on July 1, 1922. The subject was the following: "Étude expérimentale sur les pertes d'énergie dans quelques diélectriques industriels soumis à une différence de potential sinusoïdale." (An experimental study of the loss of energy in some industrial dielectrics submitted to a difference in sinusoidal potential.)

Received a Doctorate in Electricity with distinction from the University of Paris on July 1, 1922. He was the first Canadian to receive such a doctorate from this French university.

Returned to Canada in the fall of 1922 where he resumed his chair in electronics at the Polytechnique of Montreal.

Named Director of Studies at the *École Polytechnique* in the summer of 1923, a position he held until May 1935. He then became the President of the School Corporation.

As director of the *École Polytechnique*, he was the instigator of certain improvements in the administration and the courses of the school.

1. The reorganization of the library in view of making it more practical and more easily accessible for the professors and the students. It had grown considerably in the past 30 years.
2. He did away with the handwritten courses in use until that time and replaced them with printed ones, some of which were prepared by the professors.
3. He introduced numerical calculations in the exams; these were useful in proving that the student not only remembered what had been taught, but also that he understood it.

(Continued page 146)

(Continued from page 145)

4. He entrusted to some practicing engineers a series of conferences on the practical aspects of engineering. Several French-Canadian graduates were thus called upon to contribute in an effective way to the teaching of engineering at their Alma Mater.
5. He equipped hydraulics laboratories, the best of all the Canadian universities.
6. He substantially improved the laboratories for testing materials.
7. He extensively oriented the young graduates of the School towards industrial careers.

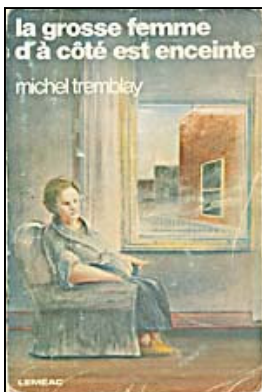
Appointed General Director of Technical Education of the Province of Quebec in the fall of 1924, he held this position until May 1935. As such, he introduced trade courses and apprenticeships in typography. He founded *l'École du Meuble* (furniture-making) that has acquired an excellent reputation in the province as well as elsewhere. Under his direction, the different courses of the Technical Schools were restructured to provide a more efficacious distribution of the courses offered to the students. He founded a few schools and industrial courses throughout the province, such as Grand-Mère, Chicoutimi, Port-Alfred, Drummondville, Lachine, etc.

Founder of the magazine "Technique" in 1924, published by Technical Education of the Province of Quebec.

### AN APPEAL TO ONE AND ALL!

#### Does anybody know the *Reel<sup>1</sup> des culottes à Frigon*? Does this rigadown really exist?

During our Association's 2008 Annual Meeting in Neuville, Lucie Frigon (56) informed us that, in the novel *La grosse femme d'à côté est enceinte*<sup>2</sup> (The Fat Woman Next Door is Pregnant), author Michel Tremblay mentions the *Reel des culottes à Frigon* (Frigon's Pants Reel).



"Josaphat who already, at the age of seventeen, was beginning to be called "Violin" because of his talent for learning to play the most complicated jigs and daunting reels in record time on the instrument his father had made for him, and even interpreting them, transcending them and leaving his personal imprint on them, making of some of them, such as the *Reel des culottes à Frigon*, for example, musical pieces that bordered on masterpieces, while in all humility simply wanting to make people dance [...]."

Well, no, this reel does not exist! Pierre (4) got in touch with Michel Tremblay and asked him about it. The

answer received on June 19, 2008 was: "Purely fictional!" What a shame!

**ERRATUM** Please note that on the first page of the *Winter 2009 Newsletter*, Raymond's age at the time of his death as well as the end of his participation in the production of the Newsletter was inadvertently omitted.

The first paragraph should have read:  
"After a long stay in a nursing facility, Raymond has left us at the age of 93. He was the founding president of the Association and was in charge of the newsletter until the end of the year 2000."

1. A lively Scottish dance.

2. The novel *La grosse femme d'à côté est enceinte* published in 1978, is the first volume of the *Chroniques du Plateau Mont-Royal* (The Chronicles of the Plateau Mont-Royal), written by Michel Tremblay, Quebec playwright and novelist.



### **JEAN-GUY FRIGON, A MAN WITH A BIG HEART**

Jean-Guy Frigon was the driving force of several associations devoted to the well-being of handicapped persons in Lanaudière.

Following an accident that left him paralysed in 1976, Jean-Guy Frigon took upon himself the mission of helping those who, like himself, are handicapped. As president of the Association of Handicapped Persons of Joliette (APHJ) in the '80s, Jean-Guy's involvement in the development of *Le Bouclier* Physical Deficiencies Rehabilitation Centre was important for the future of the young organization.

Later on, he became president of the Board of Directors, undoubtedly to be in a better position to negotiate with the ministers of the Quebec Government that he had to contend with on several occasions to obtain the necessary funding for the organization.

*Le Bouclier's* mission is to offer specialized services in adaptation, rehabilitation, and social integration to people of all ages having auditory, verbal, motor or visual deficiencies, living in the Lanaudière and Laurentian regions.

(Taken from an article published in the newspaper *l'Action*, and put on line November 14, 2008.)

*Jean-Guy Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of François-Xavier.*



1940 - 2008

### **MARTIN FRIGON - AUTHOR AND FILM-MAKER**



Martin Frigon, the author of *Contes, légendes et récits de l'Outaouais* (Tales, Legends and Stories of the Outaouais) whom we discovered in the Fall 2008 Newsletter, is also a film-director. He has just won the "Grand Prix" of the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the

International Film Festival of Environmental Films held in Paris. Forty-six of the ninety films

presented between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2008 were in competition.

His film, *Mirages d'un Eldorado* (Mirages of an Eldorado), was presented thus by Médiafilm:

"In the Huasco valley, near the Andes cordillera, a film-maker joins the members of an agricultural community who, for ecological reasons, oppose the establishment of the mining giants Barrick Gold and Noranda in their region."

*Martin Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Souleine.*

### **TWO MAGNIFICENT PHOTOS OF THE FRIGON ISLETS**

The Frigon Islets were so named to honour the memory of Édouard "Ned" Frigon<sup>1</sup>, the first colonist to settle among the natives of Hope Island, situated at the far north end of Vancouver Island, around 1850.

Édouard lived on Hope Island from 1882 to 1890, and at Quatsino from 1890 to 1917. The Frigon Islands are situated 60 km (37.3 miles) south of Hope Island and 15 km (9.3 miles) south of Quatsino.

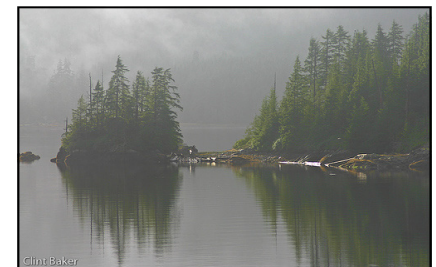
Patrick Lacharité, who signs Syran Nary, took the first photo in March 2006.

Clintbaker took the second photo on October 28, 2007.

*Édouard "Ned" Frigon, born in Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan, comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Hilaire.*

1. Édouard Frigon alias "Ned" Frigon (1834-1917), Pioneer in 1850 among the aboriginals on Vancouver Island.

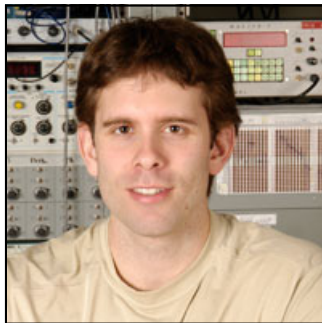
Fall 2002 Newsletter : Finding Édouard Frigon's origin  
Spring 2003 Newsletter : His legendary life



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### **ALAIN FRIGON, RESEARCHER**

Early in 2008, Alain Frigon, who has a doctorate from the University of Montreal, received a \$92,000, 2-year grant, to pursue his research in rehabilitation. The *Christopher and Donna Reeve Foundation* provided this subsidy.



Alain is a member of a research team at the University of Montreal's Medical Faculty, Department of Physiology that is exploring various

ways of re-establishing certain neuronal and muscular communications after spinal cord injury.

According to Alain, it is possible that, after a partial or even complete severance of communication between the spinal cord and the brain, the body can reorganize its crucial neurons circuits and favour locomotor recovery.

In October 2008, he won the prize for the best thesis in the Health Sciences, awarded by the Faculty of Continuing Education and Post-doctoral Studies.

*Alain Frigon comes from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Hilaire. He is the son of Paul Frigon (Gabrielle Perreault) who was on the Board of Directors of our Association from 1998 to 2000.*

## **FAMILY NEWS**

*Georges E. Frigon (93)*

### **DEATHS**

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

#### **September 2008**

**Denise Trépanier**, daughter of the late Georges Trépanier and the late Marie-Louise Frigon, died in **Trois-Rivières**, on September 20, 2008, at the age of 72.

*Marie-Louise Frigon was from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Abraham.*

**Camille Frigon**, husband of Louisette Cournoyer, died in **Sorel-Tracy**, on September 28, 2008, at the age of 83.

*Camille Frigon was from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Olivier.*

#### **October 2008**

**Marie-Laure Frigon**, wife of Raymond Arcand, died in **Shawinigan**, on October 12, 2008, at the age of 89 years and 7 months.

*Marie-Laure Frigon was from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Elzéar.*

**Dorothy Adams**, wife of Edgar (Babe) Frigon, died in **Woonsocket, RI, USA**, on October 20, 2008, at the age of 88.

*Edgar Frigon was from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of François-Xavier.*

#### **November 2008**

**Prosper Frigon** (Brother Grégorius), a member of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, died at the Community's Infirmary in **Bromptonville**, on November 4, 2008, at the age of 97 years, 80 of which were spent in the religious life. He was the son of the late Philippe Frigon and the late Marie-Anne Pronovost.

*Prosper Frigon was from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Elzéar.*

**Roberta M. Orio**, wife of the late Earl W. Frigon, died in **Syracuse, NY, USA**, on November 6, 2008, at the age of 81.

*Earl W. Frigon was from the line of Olivier-Pierre, branch of Olivier.*

**Jean-Guy Frigon**, husband of Madeleine Rousseau, died in **Joliette**, on November 13, 2008, at the age of 68.

*Jean-Guy Frigon was from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of François-Xavier.*

**Brigitte Paquin**, daughter of the late Arthur Paquin and the late Léonide Frigon, died in **Trois-Rivières**, on November 17, 2008, at the age of 81 years and 3 days.

*Léonide Frigon was from the line of Olivier-Pierre, branch of Antoine.*

**Raymond Frigon**, founding-president of the Association of Frigon Families, husband of the late Madeline Colledge, died in **Ottawa**, on November 21, 2008, at the age of 93.

*Raymond Frigon was from the line of Joseph, branch of Césaire.*

**Pierrette Frigon**, wife of Gérald Fournier, died in **Quebec City**, on November 28, 2008, at the age of 72.

*Pierrette Frigon was from the line of Olivier-Pierre, branch of Olivier.*

#### **December 2008**

**Lionel Frigon**, husband of the late Marie-Paule Dubé, died in **Quebec City**, on December 9, 2008, at the age of 90.

*Lionel Frigon was from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Souleine.*

**Jean-Baptiste Boulanger**, husband (1st marriage) of the late Julienne Frigon, died in **St-Narcisse de Champlain**, on December 17, 2008, at the age of 88 years and 4 months.

*Julienne Frigon was from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Abraham.*

**René Frigon**, ex-husband of Béatrice Withford, died in **Roberval**, on December 24, 2008, at the age of 79 years and 2 months.

*René Frigon was from the line of Pierre-Antoine, branch of Souleine.*

**Spring 2009**