



THE FRIGONS

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FRIGONE, FREGO, FREGOE,
FREGON, FREGONE FAMILIES

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ANOTHER LOOK AT THE LIFE OF MARIE-CLAUDE CHAMOIS (3 DE 5) Gérald Frigon (116)



FRIENDS IN EXILE

It is most likely that Marie-Claude made some friends during her year at La Salpêtrière. The following statement can be found in the text of the trial: “in the beginning of May 1670, having been named along with many other girls from the hospital to go to Canada”... Who were those other girls? Which of these have married in the Trois-Rivières area and could have been friends of Marie-Claude? Did they keep in touch with her between 1670 and 1685? I have pondered over these questions and here are the options I propose.

Firstly, the list of girls from La Salpêtrière has been lost; but we know through various references that this list has existed. La Salpêtrière used to receive

poor children of Paris. If she made any friends there, they would normally be more or less of the same age. Let's take the list of girls born between 1653 and 1657 (the Filles du Roy had to be 14 years old or more). There are 15 girls born in Paris who belong to this age group which appear on the list of girls arriving in the group of 1670, and 2 more for whom the age is not known precisely. They are: Catherine Bruneau, Marie Chrétien, Marguerite Collet, Isabelle Couturier, Madeleine Després, Jeanne Fressel, Louise Fro, Marie Hubert, Marguerite Jasselin, Elisabeth-Agnès Lefebvre, Catherine Leroux, Marguerite-Françoise Moreau, Marie-Marthe Payant, Marie Seigneur, Marie Vaquet, Jeanne Vilain and Françoise Zachée. None of these 17 girls was married in Trois-Rivières and none settled

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2013 - Annual Gathering in Saint-Prosper

Weekend of August 31, 2013

Celebration of the arrival of the first 78

« Filles du Roy » (Wards of the King)

<http://www.genealogie.org/famille/frigon/>

Further Information in the Spring.

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in the Trois-Rivières area. Of this group, only Marie-Marthe Payant lived outside of the Québec or Montréal areas, namely in Cap-Santé and she gave birth in 1693 to her only child.

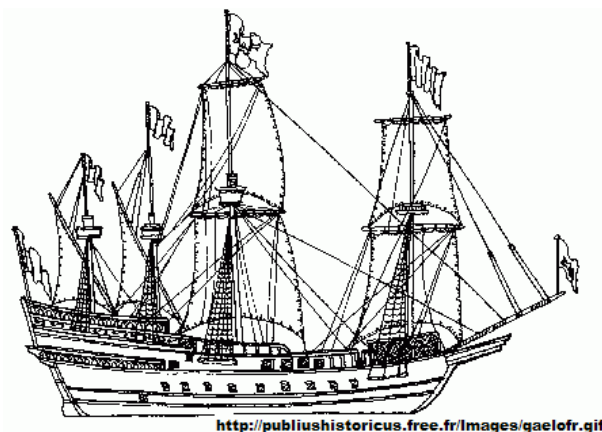
In this age group, we also find Jeanne Caillé of unknown origin. She was born around 1656 and her arrival date has not been confirmed. Around 1671, she married Jacques Renouard in Trois-Rivières. They lived in Champlain but their first child (Etienne) was baptised in Trois-Rivières. The baptismal certificate confirms that Marie-Claude was not a witness at that son's baptism.

Therefore, in the age group of girls born between 1653 and 1657, only one settled in Trois-Rivières but no document indicates any link with Marie-Claude. Let's broaden the sampling. We find 19 more girls born between 1649 and 1652. Among them, two girls caught our attention:

Isabelle Sallé, born in 1651 in the parish of Saint-Ménard from the district of Saint-Marceau in Paris. On September 9, she married Jacques Marcotte in Trois-Rivières where they settled. She assuredly has a link with Marie-Claude. As a matter of fact, Isabelle and Jacques were both present before the notary for the wedding contract between Marie-Claude and Pierre Forcier on October 16 since they signed as witnesses. Isabelle gave birth to two sons in 1671 and 1673, but Marie-Claude and François were not godparents. In 1674, the couple moved to Neuville where she gave birth to 8 other children. There again, there is no mention of Marie-Claude or François attending the baptisms. If they kept in touch while living in Trois-Rivières, their relationship only lasted 3 years, and they were certainly not meeting every week ... and Marie-Claude lost a companion.

Louise Petit got married in Québec and lived in Neuville. The couple had two children born in 1672 and 1673 who were baptised in Québec. They returned to France in 1673. Marie-Claude did not attend any of the baptism or marriage of these two women, according to the religious lists and we do not find her name on any marriage contract passed before a notary. We know that Marie-Claude was still trying to hide from her mother.

Under such circumstances, she might have refused to appear as a witness on marriage contracts, although she could have been present. The 17 other girls of this group age were married and lived outside of the Trois-Rivières area.



Note: *The ship Le Saint-Jean-Baptiste measured 24.7 meters (76 feet) long and was 8.9 meters (27.3 feet) wide.*

The trip lasted 2 months. It must have been a period of great insecurity for these young girls without resources and they must have tried to overcome their loneliness. If you cram 107 girls in a section of a boat of approximately 50 feet by 20, no one can isolate them self and this proximity could fostersome socialization. Could she have made friends with girls other than Isabelle Sallé? If so, we can suppose that they would have insisted to be sent together with the group leaving for Trois-Rivières. Let's see which other girls from the 1670 cohort were married in Trois-Rivières: there are four, excluding Louise Jacquier and Marie Pothier who were much older (35 and 31 respectively) and with whom Marie-Claude would not have been friends as she was only 14.

Denise Anthoine, born in Lorraine in 1651, married Laurent Buy, a soldier from the company Cie de St-Ours in Trois-Rivières on October 11, 1670. They settled in Batiscau. It is to be noted that six soldiers from this Cie were married in the Trois-Rivières area before moving back to Sorel/Contrecoeur. The contract has been signed before the notary Larue. Soon after, the couple moved to St-Ours where their first child was born in 1671,

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Louise Frigon (83)

Dear Members,

At the last Annual General Meeting which took place at the Montmorency Manor in Montmorency Falls Park, we mentioned the projects that the Board of Directors had presented. I am pleased to announce the completion of one of these projects, the construction of a miniature house as the contribution of the Frigon families and their descendants to the “Noël en lumière” event at the Sanctuary of Notre-Dame-du-Cap. This house was on exhibition from December 8, 2012 to January 6, 2013. Several families participated in this activity which takes place each year during the holiday season. All the houses are lit up and identified with the name of the donor family.

For this event, the Board of Directors chose a house situated in Saint-Prosper-de-Champlain that had been

inhabited by Frigons in the 1880s. This house is currently the property of Odette Frigon, a member of our Association. I wish to thank François Frigon, our treasurer, for his work and his devotedness; Claude Frigon, our secretary, for the support he gave François; Pierre Frigon, member of the Association for the wording of the identification plaque; and our dear Odette who authorized us to reproduce her country home and provided the notarized deeds pertaining to it.

The next Annual General Assembly will take place in Batiscan at the end of the month of August in the context of the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Filles du Roy (King’s wards) at Québec. We will give you further information shortly.

Greetings to each of you!

Louise

THE UTILITY POLES OF MONTREAL

4 - La rue Sainte-Catherine / Pierre Frigon (4)

Already, at the beginning of the 20th Century, “Saint Catherine Street is the commercial artery par excellence of Montreal. Underground installation of the cables of this vital downtown artery is becoming urgent.” It would become the first Montreal street to be equipped with public underground conduits for the distribution of electricity. The Saint Catherine Street project consisted of two sections: District 1 (from Papineau Avenue to Guy Street) and District 2 (from Guy Street to Atwater Avenue).

May 1913 was a memorable month in the Annals of Montreal. Twenty three years after the adoption of Amendment 53 Victoria Chapter 67 (1890), the work seems to have begun discretely one spring morning, the 26th of May, with neither dignitaries nor speeches. Simultaneously tackling three intersections on the north side of Saint Catherine Street, G.M. Gest Ltd began at the corners of Metcalfe, Mansfield and McGill College¹. The contractor succeeded in doing the work on Saint Catherine Street in only seven months, finishing at the end of

December 1913, for the sum of \$198,846² (the equivalent of roughly \$4,065,000 in 2011). The final cost for the district amounted to \$330,688 (equivalent to about \$6,760, 000 in 2011)³. The installation of the underground cables and the inauguration of the system would be the next steps.



Figure 1

Saint Catherine Street between Papineau and Atwater-Avenues. Construction of underground conduits: 1913. Credit, map collection. BANQ, map 66993

“Here was an event of national importance that gave the mayor of Montreal a golden opportunity to

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¹VM98 S1 SS1: May 28, 1913.

²Amounts paid to G. M. Gest for District 1: VM98 S1 SS1: July 11; August 8; September 5; October 2; November 7; December 11, 1913. January 3, 1914.

³All the figures pertaining to the final cost for the districts in the tables are taken from the Templeman Report, 1935-1936-1937, table labeled: Table of districts December 31st 1937

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focus the spotlight on his city and its engineering services. In fact, on June 24, 1914, for the first time since 1907, an annual Convention of Engineers of the Canadian Electrical Association (the 24th) was opened. The convention took place at the Ritz Carlton Hotel and gathered about 350 Canadian engineers, most of them from elsewhere than Montreal. It was the largest meeting of electrical engineers of Canada. It was the perfect context and the city of Montreal used it to inaugurate its underground network⁴. At 2 p.m. on June 24th, in the presence of commissioners of the CSECM (Catholic School Board of Montreal) and other dignitaries, Mayor Médéric Martin⁵ officially inaugurated the underground installations by connecting a few street light cables on Saint Catherine Street, at the corner of Drummond⁶. Definitely, pride was the order of the day! A cartoon in the Montreal Herald showed a drawing of a mausoleum marked Tomb of the Wire on St. Catherine St.

Figure 2



The inauguration of the public underground electrical network of Montreal, June 24, 1914, page 2, draws out the humorists...

Credit. The Montreal Herald.

“Surprisingly, this monument really existed. In fact, for the inauguration of the network, G.M. Gest Ltd had

a kind of wooden mausoleum made which was then set on the access shaft of the transformer chamber situated at the north-east corner of Saint Catherine and Drummond Streets, site of the official inauguration.”

Figure 3

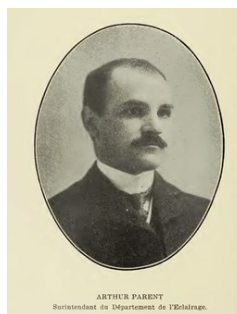


On the left, Louis Anthyme Herdt, president of the Montreal Electrical Services Commission, accompanied by the Superintendent of Construction and Maintenance, D.B. MacIntyre.

Credit. The Canadian Electrical News, vol. 23, July 1914, p. 36.

However, this was just the kick-off. There remained the important job of making the network operational. They began by the street lighting; the underground cabling to buildings was not yet ready. “Thus, by night, the Superintendent of Street Light Services, Arthur Parent, successfully ran 15,000 volt tests, a voltage three times greater than that which the system would ever have to support. For the occasion, only a few policemen and night-owls were present for the gripping spectacle. Arthur Parent claimed that, given a twenty-four notice, he would be ready for the official lighting event.”⁷

Figure 4



Legend. Arthur Parent, at the time of his inauguration as Superintendent of Montreal Street Light Services, in 1903.

Credit. Lamothe, J. Cléphas and La Violette and Massé, Editors, Histoire de la Corporation de la Cité de Montréal depuis son origine jusqu'à nos jours comprenant..., p. 556 (History of the City of Montreal Corporation from its origin to today

Including..., p.556).

“Nowadays, electrical lighting is banal. At the be-

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⁴The Montreal Herald, June 24, 1914, p.2, “Electrical Convention Opens its Twenty-Fourth Gathering at the Ritz/Delegates From Far East and West Gather to Take Part in Programs in Business and Entertainment-Interesting Addresses to Be Presented While Special Trips and Social Gatherings Have Been Arranged for the Ladies.”

⁵Médéric Martin is one of the mayors who had a long “reign“. He was in office from February 6, 1914 to April 7, 1924, and from April 12, 1926 to April 2, 1928 when he was defeated by Camillien Houde.

⁶The Montreal Herald, June 24, 1914, p.2, “‘Tomb of the Wire’ on Saint Catherine Street.”

⁷The Gazette, September 29, 1915, p. 5 : New Light System Ready for Start/Test Results Satisfactory and Installation Awaits Official Opening.

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ginning of the 20th century it attracted much attention. In fact, turning on the lamp lights on Saint-Catherine Street for the first time on the evening of Saturday, October 16, 1915, attracted a crowd and there were political speeches. With great pomp, Mayor Médéric Martin inaugurated the ornamental lamp posts. Plunged in darkness, attentive, a crowd of several thousand people awaited the burst of light. At the corner of Saint Catherine and Amherst Streets, the mayor, accompanied by members of the Office of Commissioners (also called the Control Office), aldermen, Catholic School Board commissioners and several representatives of the electrical companies, prepared to pull the cord attached to the top of one of the lampposts which had been swaddled in a large Union Jack⁸ flag. With a gesture imbued with solemn simplicity, Montreal's mayor pulled the cord. Everybody held their breath. Long seconds passed. The mayor began to speak: "When man..." Before he could finish his sentence, the lampposts on both sides of the street began to glow, to the cheers of the crowd. The new lamps, of the same power as the former ones but placed closer to the ground, diffused a light two-and-a-third times more intense. The shadow zones disappeared. The difference was remarkable. The witnesses, impressed and delighted, marveled at what they had just seen."

"Standing up in a convertible, Médéric Martin harangued the crowd. He spoke humorously about the 'forest of dead trees' that still pointed skyward and 'that would be missed'. In an outburst of humour and enthusiasm he promised that they would be re-

moved within three weeks! He thanked Arthur Parent, the Superintendant of Street Lighting, and all those who contributed to this achievement. He invited Montrealers to make Montreal a clean city. The controllers Côté, McDonald and Ainey also made speeches. Côté, responsible for public works, invited the merchants to illuminate their business places. McDonald stirred up the enthusiasm of the crowd by expressing the hope that Montreal, following the example of Paris, would become a City of Light; then he went into a blustery tirade about the light that emerged from chaos, citing the book of Genesis."

"Then, to the sound of horns, under the light of the lampposts, the procession of about twenty dignitaries' cars moved off, lead by controllers Côté and McDonald, towards the Saint-Denis⁹ Club for a "worldly celebration¹⁰". For the present, the citizens celebrated the event and the future of lighting using underground wiring looked promising.

However, despite repeated demands, the extension of conduits beneath Saint Catherine Street eastward (from Papineau Avenue to Pie IX Boulevard), would not be constructed until 1926, under the instigation of a new president, Augustin Frigon."

The next article will deal with the arrival of Augustin Frigon to the presidency of the Electrical Services Commission of the city of Montreal.

⁸The British Flag (Union Jack) was the official flag of Canada at the time. The Maple Leaf Flag was created under the Pearson government, and floated over the Parliament in Ottawa for the first time on February 15, 1965. Quebec's Flag, the fleur-de-lisé (adorned with fleur-de-lis) was created under the Duplessis government and waved over the Quebec Parliament Building for the first time on January 21, 1848

⁹Saint Denis Club: a private social club founded in 1874, regrouping some French-speaking economic, social and cultural leaders of Montreal. The Club closed on September 15, 2009, mainly because of the "change of behaviour of the young business people who use other ways of staying in touch with their clients and partners."

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/Montreal/2009/07/17/001-Club-St-Denis.shtml/>

¹⁰ The Gazette, 18 octobre 1915, p.4: Mayor pulled cord new light shone / St. Catherine and Bleury Sts. illuminated from New Standards on Saturday / Poles down in 3 weeks / Formal inauguration of New Lighting System Before Big Crowd / Thousands admire "White Way".

La Presse, April 5, 1926, section 1, p. 1 : The new lighting on Saint-Catherine Street / Alderman A. A. DesRoches, member of the Executive Committee just received a plan regarding this subject - Very important project/Eighty arc-lights.

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because they had exchanged their piece of land with Pierre Bon on May 2, 1671. If there had been any friendship between them, it would have quickly ceased.

Marie-Madeleine Hébert, born in Bourges in 1650, signed a marriage contract with Denis Brosseau on October 15th. They settled in Trois-Rivières where their first child (Marie-Gertrude) was born in 1672. Soon after, the couple was located on Montreal island after the baptism of Marie-Renée in Québec in 1673. Marie-Madeleine was a witness when Marie-Claude and Pierre Forcier signed a marriage contract on October 16, where her name was followed by the term “her companion” (sa compagne). There is no other evidence of a continued relationship between Marie-Madeleine and Marie-Claude. They might have seen each other from time to time while Madeleine lived in Trois-Rivières but again this was short lived. On the other hand, Denis was godfather to Isabelle Sallé and Jacques Marcotte’s first son born in 1671.

Françoise Michel (Michaud) born in 1655 in Sens in Burgundy married Gilles Dupont on August 10, 1670 before notary Arneau and they settled in Cap-de-la-Madeleine. Between 1671 and 1682, she gave birth to 5 children whose registries of baptism have been lost. Their first child was baptised Marie-Françoise in 1671 and their second girl, Marie-Anne in 1672. During those years, boys were given the name of their godfather and girls the name of their godmother in 56 % of the cases (based on a sampling I took of 153 baptisms in the region). Françoise would have had the opportunity twice to name a child by Marie-Claude’s first name. There is no mention of Marie-Claude or of François Frigon at the baptism of her son Jean-Baptiste in 1683 nor at her second marriage in 1684.

It is interesting to note that the selection and transportation of the Filles du Roy to Trois-Rivières was done very hastily. The boat arrived in Québec on July 31 (according to Yves Landry) and a first girl signed a marriage contract in Trois-Rivières on August 10. It is most likely due to Elisabeth Etienne, the lady escorting those Filles du Roy during the trip. We can imagine that the eight

girls from the group assigned to Trois-Rivières travelled together around August 4-5 or 7-8. Since the 6th was a Sunday, the girls would not have been prevented from attending a religious ceremony. Courtship was quite short ... Let us now return to the couples married in the Trois-Rivières area.










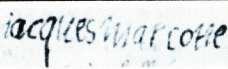
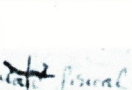
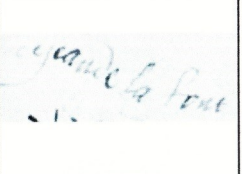


Catherine Sénécal, born in Normandy in 1649 married Jean Lafond on October 12 and they settled in Batiscan in front of the St-Eloi island. The neighbouring lot on the north-east side will become the site of the church (fabrique) and Old Presbytery. Twenty-one signatures appear on the contract but Marie-Claude’s does not appear. As was the case for François and Marie-Claude, the baptism registries for the first 4 children have been lost but we do know that the two families were on good terms. Their first child was named Marie; at the age of 14 she was the godmother to Antoine Frigon. Jean was present at the double marriage Frigon-Moreau. Moreover, the first child of the Frigon’s is named Jean-François. Possibly the combination of the first names of both the godfather and the father. At Marie’s marriage in February 1687, François was not back from his trading trip to Illinois and Marie-Claude was absent, as we know. They could not have been present although she might have been their goddaughter.

It should be noted that none of these seven girls (including Isabelle Sallé but excluding Marie Pothier whose marriage contract is in poor condition) knew how to sign and they have posted a mark on the marriage contract. By comparison, a good half of the girls who passed a contract with the notary Becquet in Québec knew how to sign (based on a small sampling conducted personally). It seems strange that Forcier, living on the Ile d’Orléans, came to Trois-Rivières to have a marriage contract drawn up. This contract was cancelled a few days later. Could it be because Marie-Claude did not want to settle on the Ile d’Orléans? This Forcier can be found in Sorel in 1675 where he lived until his death in 1697.

The following chart shows the “markings” they used in lieu of signature:

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Filles du Roy married in Trois-Rivières in 1670								
Name & mark		age	Husband mark	Notary	Date	Witnesses	Settle in	
Marie-Claude Chamois		14	Pierre Forcier		Ameau	Oct. 16	Isabelle Sallé & Jacques Marcotte (ép), Marie-Madeleine Hébert, Louis Tardif & Marie Allans (ép), Jacques Leneuf & Marguerite Legardeur (ép), Michel Leneuf & Marie Denis (ép), Denis Brosseau	(cancelled)
			François Frigon	?	?	?	?	Batiscan
Denise Anthoine		19	Laurent Buies		Larue	Oct. 8	Pierre Disy, Louis Foucher, François Lemoine, Pierre Niquet, Pezard de Latouche & Madeleine Mullois (ép), François Dubord & Catherine Guérard (ép)	Batiscan Saint-Ours
Marie-Madeleine Hébert		20	Denis Brosseau		Ameau	Oct. 15	Michel Leneuf, Louis Tardif, Jacques Marcotte, (Marie-Claude Chamois with reservation), ++	Trois- Rivières Québec Montréal
Françoise Michel		15	Gilles Dupont		Ameau	Aug. 10	Lapron & Michelle Anne Renaud, Denise Anthoine & Laurent Buies (ép), Marie Major, Martin Foisy, Jacquier, Bourgaud, Noëlla Landry	Cap de la Madeleine
Isabelle Sallé		19	Jacques Marcotte		Ameau	Sept. 9	J. Godefroy, Louis Tardif & M. Allans (ép), Jean Buisson, Élie Fillion dit Dupré, Jean Amador Godefroy, Marie Leneuf,	Trois- Rivières Neuville
Catherine Sénécal		21	Jean Lafond		Ameau	Oct. 12	René Gauthier & Marie Boucher (ép), Jean Trottier & Geneviève Lafond (ép), Pierre Bourg & Jeanne Crevier (ép), Louis & René Fafard, Jacques Leneuf, Quentin Moral, Françoise Lafond, Urbain & Madeleine & Elisabeth Baudry, Felix Thunay & Elisabeth Lefebvre (ép), Jacques Lefebvre, Denis Brosseau, Pézard de Latouche,	Batiscan
Louise Jacquier		35	Jean Pousset		Roy	Jan. 17/71	Michel Gamelin & Marguerite Crevier (ép), Jean Picard, Tardif & ép, Sauvageau & ép, Trottain, +2?	Grondines Batiscan
Marie Pothier		31	Élie Prévost		Ameau	Nov. 16	(contract in poor condition)	Nicolet

There is also Marie-Jeanne Toussaint, born in 1652 in Normandy who signed in Québec on October 11, 1670 a contract as housemaid for Marie-Madeleine de Chavigny, spouse of Jean Lemoine, lord of Ste-Marie (at the time a land enclaved between Batiscan and Ste-Anne). She remained in that household at least until 1672 and married Noël Charpentier from Champlain. The godfathers and godmothers for their 9 children were all from Champlain.

Among the girls that Marie-Claude Chamois had better known prior to her marriage, Isabelle Sallé, Marie-Madeleine Hébert and Catherine Sénécal appear to be the only potential friends who would have followed her and with whom she could have had a friendly relationship over a certain period of time. These three girls were 5 to 7 years older but Marie-Claude would most likely have been more resourceful than most to be close to older

companions. Nevertheless, the only one who lived for more than three years in the area lived at the other end of the village. Indeed, as we will see in the next article, the Frigon's lived on the north shore of the Batiscan, approximately one mile from the river's mouth. They would not have seen each other every day. Although the opportunity to meet were greater during the summer, the long winters would have kept Marie-Claude as isolated as a hermit.

She must have created a new social environment amongst her neighbours in Batiscan. Who were her neighbours? How far away can you live and still be considered a neighbour? Which women were of the same age as Marie-Claude?



Board of Directors

2012-2013



Jeanne-Mance Plourde (265)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIGON FAMILIES INC. (2012- 2013)

Secretariat of the Association: 1400, Croissant du Moulin, Duvernay, Laval, QC H7E 3K5

(450) 661-8906 clfrigon@videotron.ca

Our Web site: www.genealogie.org/famille/frigon

Executive council:

President: Louise Frigon (83), Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade, QC
 Vice-president: Sylvie Frigon (27), Cap-Rouge, QC
 Secretary: Claude Frigon (256), Laval, QC
 Treasurer: François Frigon (130), Laval, QC

frigvail@hotmail.com
 sylvie.frigon@videotron.ca
 clfrigon@videotron.ca
 francois.frigon@videotron.ca

Directors:

Claudette Chevrette-Naud(126), Montréal, QC
 Denise Frigon (121), Trois-Rivières, QC
 Gérald Frigon (116), Laval, QC
 Hermine Trudel (240), Montréal, QC
 Jean-René Frigon (11), Trois-Rivières, QC
 Jeanne-Mance Plourde(265), Laval, QC
 Marcel Guillemette (236), Montréal, QC

ccnaud@hotmail.com
 denisefrigon@hotmail.com
 frigon.gerald@videotron.ca
 herminetrudel@hotmail.com
 jeanreneGM@gmail.com
 jeanne_mance_plourde@hotmail.com
 guillemette.marcel@videotron.ca

In charge of the Committees

English Publications:
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 Research: *The Frigon in France*:
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 Web Site:

Claudette Chevrette-Naud (126), Montréal, QC
 Gérald Frigon (116); Laval, QC
 Jean-René Frigon (11), Trois-Rivières, QC
 Lucie Frigon Caron (56), Gatineau, QC
 François Frigon (130), Laval, QC
 Jean-René Frigon (11), Trois-Rivières, QC

ccnaud@hotmail.com
 frigon.gerald@videotron.ca
 jeanreneGM@gmail.com
 germai@videotron.ca
 francois.frigon@videotron.ca
 jeanreneGM@gmail.com

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THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

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 Library and Archives Canada

In charge of the Newsletter and composition

- François Frigon (130) francois.frigon@videotron.ca

Edition and revision of the French texts

- Pierre Frigon (4) pfrigon@rogers.com
- Guy Naud guy.naud@sympatico.ca

Edition, translation and revision of the English texts

- Claudette Chevrette-Naud (126) ccnaud@hotmail.com

assisted by:

- Mary Frego Coates (139) coates@tnt21.com
- Guy Naud guy.naud@sympatico.ca
- Claire Renaud-Frigon crenaud@bell.net

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