



THE FRIGONS

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

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FALL 2015

OUR 2015 MEETING (KINGSEY FALLS)

Gérald Frigon (116)

We had a really great annual meeting. The day started with a visit of the Parc Marie-Victorin. This 29-acre garden is known for having the greatest diversity of plants amongst all Canadian gardens. The various areas, embellished with mosaicultures, appeal to our senses of sight and smell all along this exciting visit.



Our annual meeting went well. Gérald Frigon (116) was reelected president by acclamation. In addition to members who were reelected, three new members were added to the Board, namely Lucie Gravel (275), Réjeanne Frigon (177) and Rita Frigon (178) to replace Sylvie Frigon (27) and

Marcel Guillemette (236) who left for family reasons. Congratulations to those reelected and welcome to the new. Many thanks to those who resigned after years of diligent service.



Lunch was served on the premises and has been enhanced by the visit of Brother Marie-Victorin, still young in spite of his 130 years. He gave us a summary of his life with exuberant modesty, emphasizing his efforts to create the Montreal Botanical Garden in 1931 during years of economic crisis as well as the work spent editing his Flore Laurentienne, a compilation that remains the basic manual for teaching botany at the University of Montreal even 80 years after its publication.

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The tour of the Cascades plant was appreciated by all. The visit of the vineyard Les Côtes du Gavet was guided by the owner who gave us detailed



The visit of the Cascades plant

explanation on the vines and the winery. The tasting of their wines accompanied by cheeses produced by the Fromagerie du Presbytère of Ste-Elisabeth of Warwick was a very pleasant addition to the visit.

Almost all participants stayed for dinner where everyone had good memories and anecdotes to share after a year's absence. Once more I insisted on our recruitment target and everyone promised to bring parents and children of all generations to our next annual meeting to be held Saturday, August 27, 2016. It will be a "family picnic" where everyone brings his lunchbox. We will be holding activities for young ones, for teens, for members and their guests. It is a great opportunity to meet at the Old Presbytery of Batiscan at a minimal cost of \$10.00 for those aged 12 and up.

TRIBUTE TO ODETTE FRIGON

Gérald Frigon (116)

Odette Frigon (52) is no more. She passed away last Spring. Odette was a member of the board of Directors, this year again, as she has been several times since the founding of the Association.



L'Hiver à Batiscan
O. Frigon

At the funeral home, Denis and Dominique paid tribute to Odette for her love of life and her constant presence with her family members. The text presented by Dominique, daughter of Gérald Frigon (95) and Odette's niece reads as follows: *Odette, when we think of you, we think of your love for painting, for art in general. We also think of family values, of history, of our history. We think of all the*

time you have spent with us, your nieces and nephews; of your patience with small ones; of your pleasure to see them play, learn, evolve. We remember how you would let us paint and get dirty from head to toe! That we liked! You let us do whatever we wanted, even cut your hair. With a horrible result! But you thought it was funny! When we think of you, Odette, we remember all these little moments of happiness. Have a nice trip, sweet Aunt Odette! XXX

The Association also recognizes her constant presence and participation in the life and projects of the Association. But her contribution extends well beyond the restricted circle of a family or an association. Her paintings have travelled around the world (Spain, France, USA, China, etc.) and her work is memorable.

Society should also acknowledge the traces her paintings left in the world, traces that mark her place as one of the great in our country.

Thank you, Odette

Gérald Frigon (116)



After dinner at the annual meeting, as I was passing near a group of a dozen people gathered on the porch, I was told, « We all come from Ste-Geneviève.» They were gathered together, no doubt, for the pleasure of remembering memories of their youth. And I wondered if sharing the memories of one generation can help build ties with another. Could a family picnic mark several generations.

On my way home, I was thinking of all the small places where human value is in first place. These villages build around a core activity: fur trade in Batiscan, timber industry in Ste-Geneviève, mining in Gagnonville, etc. The depletion of resources and technological progress will later remove their main

raison d'être. But they survive through the entrepreneurship of their citizens and diversity of activities. The human side takes over.

Their history is then revived. The inhabitants remember. Memories of excursions on the edge of the forest or the river, memories of smell from grandmother's kitchen, memories of first loves... And we feel as happy to relive those moments as when we talk about our professional lives.

This is partly the purpose of historical and genealogical societies, revive the past and refocus our concerns on human values.



At Marie-Victorin Park, Brother Marie-Victorin's visit



From left to right: Réjeanne(177), Francine (271) Armande Cossette, Lucie Gravel (275). The 3 members are natives of Sainte-Geneviève-de-Batiscan.

INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS AND DESCENDANTS OF FRIGON FAMILIES
TO A LARGE FAMILY PICNIC TO BE HELD
ON AUGUST 27, 2016 UNDER THE MARQUEE TENT
AT THE OLD PRESBYTERY OF BATISCAN

On-site registration, 10 \$ per participant aged 12 and up
A Treasure hunt for the teenagers - Inflated games for the younger children
Orchestra and storyteller
List of ascending ancestry for members

Everyone brings their own lunch

RAYMOND FRIGON (1), ENGINEER

2– An international career

Pierre Frigon (04)



Back in Ottawa, at the beginning of 1951, Raymond works at the National Research Council of Canada as research assistant in the Department of Buildings Research. More specifically, he is co-secretary with R. S. Ferguson of the Building Code Joint Committee. He is also the secretary of five of the technical sections of the Civil Defense Committee¹. In November, in the context of his functions, he publishes *Bibliography on Civil Defence with Special Reference to Structural Protection*².

On May 9 and 10, 1952, the 4th Annual Convention of the Building Officials Conference is held at the Prince Edward Hotel in Windsor, Ontario to discuss the recasting of the Canadian Building Code published in 1941 by the National Research Council. They consider using R. S. Ferguson and Raymond Frigon to visit Canadian cities in the course of the year 1953 to discuss the code project based on the specific needs of these agglomerations. A version of the amended code is ready to be presented³.

But Raymond will not likely make this tour of Canadian cities. In fact, he leaves the National Research Council. His service record has been noted and, in the fall of 1952, "Raymond A. Frigon, who was several years liaison officer of the National Research Council in Washington, is now at the service of the United Nations in New York" as a program officer at the Department of planning and coordination of the Administration of technical assistance of the United Nations⁴.

During his tenure at the United Nations, he accompanies a team of scientists in Central America as technical secretary. The mandate is to make recommendations on the establishment of an Institute of technological research to serve Costa Rica, Guate-

mala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and El Salvador. One of the members of the delegation is Dr. W. H. Cook, biologist of the National Research Council of Canada. The mission lasts about two months and the report is ready in the spring of 1954⁵.

After two years at the service of the United Nations, Raymond passes on to the Canadian Federal Government as executive assistant to the chief engineer of the Department of Public Works. In this position, he directs studies on port projects and exploitation of rivers as well as analyses of economic feasibility of public works projects⁶.

Then he goes to the Canadian Ministry of Industry and Commerce where his task is to publicize Canadian engineering skills abroad. In the context of this function, he organizes a mission of engineering consultants in South America who conclude that there is a need for a private Canadian consortium specializing in international engineering consulting. On May 10, 1958, he signs an article in *Foreign Trade* (a magazine published by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce). He highlights the international business opportunities. He also describes some of the problems faced by companies that do business in other countries and offers solutions. The following year, on June 9, as representative of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, he gives a lecture entitled "Engineering for Export" before the members of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada, during the 73rd Annual Convention of the Engineering Institute of Canada, held on June 8, 9 and 10 of June at the York Hotel in Toronto⁷.

(Continuation on page 21)

¹The Engineering Journal, vol. 34, no. 5, 1951, p. 470; vol. 34, no. 10, 1952, p. 1089

²The National Research Council Review, 1951, p. 58

³The Engineering Journal, vol. 35, no. 12, 1952, pp. 1330-1331

⁴The Engineering Journal, vol. 35, no. 10, 1952, p. 1089 Canadian quarterly journal, vol. 38, autumn 1952, p. 332. Job description: Archives École Polytechnique de Montréal, folder Raymond Frigon (329-300-11 #21)

⁵The Engineering Journal, vol. 37, no. 3, 1954, p. 296

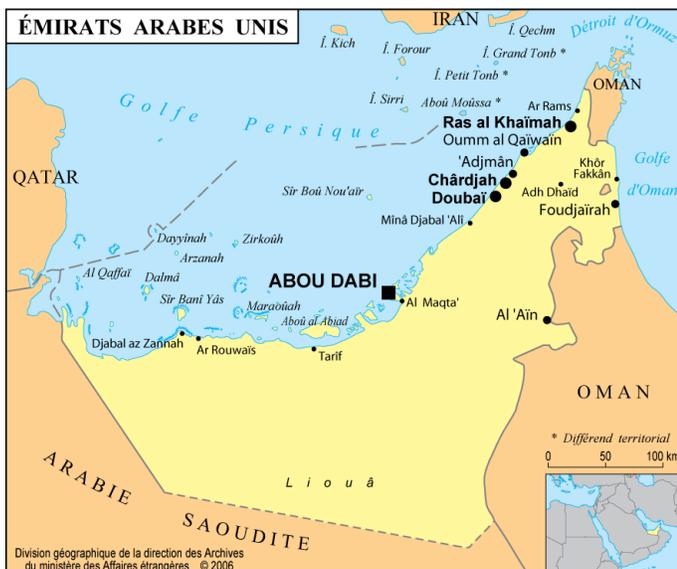
⁶The Engineering Journal, vol. 37, no. 11, 1954, p. 1517. Who's Who in Canada 1980-81, op cit.

⁷The Engineering Journal, vol. 41, no. 8, 1958, p. 97; vol. 42, no. 4, 1959, p. 96 and no. 7, p. 108. Who's Who in Canada 1980-81, op cit.

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In 1960, aged 45, he leaves the security of public offices and resolutely commits himself to international engineering consultation. In 1961, he founds the company CANSULT Ltd., a consortium of Canadian engineering consultation companies based in Ontario and specializing in management of construction and engineering projects. He is the president and chief-executive officer. Under his leadership, the company gets contracts especially in India, Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria, Malaysia and Kenya.

He has flair and astutely courts the Middle East market. During this decade, he travels through the region, especially the Federation of United Arab Emirates looking for contracts and opening offices in the cities of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Chardjah and Al Aïn. In 1966, Sheikh Zayed ben Sultan⁸ gives Cansult a contract to prepare plans for an airport, a deep-water port and a 1,500 foot bridge to connect the island of Abu Dhabi to the mainland. Cansult builds a terminal of 50,000 square feet in 1968, including a hotel with a deluxe lounge at Abu Dhabi. CANSULT becomes the only Canadian company to have designed and produced a comprehensive airport plan.



The State of the UAE comprises seven Emirates: Abou Dha-

bi, Dubai, Ajman, Sharjah, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah and Umm al-Quwain (in yellow on the map).

Source: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/FR/dossiers-pays/Emirats-arabes-UNIS/>

Raymond Frigon also opens offices in countries neighboring the Federation of United Arab Emirates, especially in Saudi Arabia (Riad), Quatatr (Doha) and the Sultanate of Oman. In the early 1970s, the company builds storm and sanitary sewers in Saudi Arabia in the cities of Riad and Medina. CANSULT also carries out projects in Lebanon and Morocco⁹.

The company builds bridges, airports, ports and municipal aqueducts, sewage systems, dredges waterways and rehabilitates their banks. It also offers services of urban planning, tourism development, planning studies and development of resources. It quickly expands in this market still little courted by Western companies and becomes one of the jewels of Canadian consulting engineering. Over time, it gets contracts in about forty countries. Furthermore, it is considered one of the major engineering companies in the Middle East.

Over the years, Raymond Frigon works steadily to develop a strong network of contacts in the Middle East. It is one of the keys to his success in this area. Here is an anecdote to illustrate the kind of "prospect" he tries to recruit in the Middle East.

Karim Wade Nasser, spends his childhood in the village of Sjhweir, located some 20 kilometers from Beirut, Lebanon. He graduates in civil engineering in 1949 at the American University of Beirut. He is hired by the Trans-Arabian Pipe Line Company (TAPLINE). He is fluent in Arabic, French, English and German! In 1951, he moves to the United States at the University of Kansas with a grant of \$3,000. His master's degree in his pocket, he returns to Lebanon and continues to work for TAPLINE that sends him to work in Saudi Arabia. In 1956, he resigns, no longer able to withstand the

(Continuation on page 22)

⁸On this character, see: <http://www.lesclesdumoyenorient.com/Cheikh-Zayed-Ben-Sultan-Al-Nahyan.html>

⁹Ottawa Journal, 1er April 1972, p. 9. Donald Hawley, The Trucial States, London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 1970, 385 pages, p. 242

(Continued from page 21)

fundamentalism that targets his wife. He moves to the United States with his family and finds work as an instructor in the Department of civil engineering at Lehigh University, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. During vacations, he works at a pump at Bechtel for the Arabian American Oil Company. Another year of education passes and during the holidays he works in the water supply system for the city of Bethlehem. He enrolls in the PhD. program. His subject of study is rejected. He leaves the university and decides to go to private industry. In 1960, Beacon Engineering Inc. whose president he had met in New York, is seeking an engineer with international experience. The company lures him with the prospect of an important position in the development of the company in the Middle East. Finally, he has to be satisfied with going to Canada to work for this company. He ends up in Sept-îles managing the construction of three metal hangars¹⁰!

On his return from Sept-îles, McEwen his boss, sends him to Ottawa to meet Raymond Frigon who is an official in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Nasser describes the latter as an enthusiastic and friendly man who boasts about the great potential of Canadian engineering companies overseas, mainly because of their vast experience and their political neutrality. Frigon mentions that the Canadian Government is sponsoring a mission to the Middle East and suggests that the Beacon Engineering Company should participate. The company accepts and the departure is planned for mid-October. Time passes. Nasser establishes numerous contacts with the people he knows from the time when he worked for TAPLINE. He becomes a very interesting "prospect" for Western headhunters.

In 1962, Raymond Frigon is in Beirut for CANSULT. As luck would have it, they end up face to

face at the Phoenicia hotel. After the usual greetings, Frigon offers to hire Nasser to represent CANSULT in the Middle East. His answer: "I am now working for UMA and I want to finish my doctorate." However, Nasser proposes his brother-in-law, Anis Dagher, a member of the ACE Engineering Company that is very active in the Middle East. Raymond meets him with the aim of reaching an agreement¹¹. This hunt for local engineers in foreign countries is done in a highly competitive context and Raymond Frigon succeeds very well.

During the 1970s, CANSULT's turnover (pre-projects, projects, design and construction management) is approximately \$500 M. The vice-president of the company is David Duggan. The company is also involved in mining projects in Australia, Ireland, Greece, Mauritania and Morocco. It is in fierce competition with large European and American companies, some of which have become huge and wealthy consortia. One of the services the most appreciated by the clients is the formation of local engineers by the companies. CANSULT makes it a challenge to wrest contracts from competitors¹².

Raymond Frigon directs CANSULT at least until 1980¹³. In 1985, he is elected Fellow by the Council of the Canadian Institute of Engineers. Since 1963, this honour is awarded by the Engineering Institute of Canada in recognition of excellence in engineering and the services rendered to the profession and society¹⁴. Furthermore, in 2002, his name is mentioned among the benefactors in the annual report of the Care Foundation¹⁵.

In October 2006, the company merges with UMA, a subsidiary of the giant AECOM. At the time of the merger, CANSULT has a turnover of \$60M and employs approximately 700 people in Canada and the Middle East. The coming of CANSULT into

(Continuation on page 23)

¹⁰Karim Wade Nasser, *How to Achieve Your Dreams*, Saskatoon, Victory Books, 2012

¹¹Karim Wade Nasser, *op. cit.*, p. 100, 101, 128

¹²Who's Who in Canada 1980-81, *op. cit.*. Ottawa Journal, 1er April 1972, p. 9.

¹³Who's Who in Canada 1980-81, *op. cit.*

¹⁴http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellows_de_1%27ICI

¹⁵Care Canada, annual report 2002, p. 21

(Continued from page 22)

the fold of AECOM brings the latter to create a new company: CANSULT MAUNSELL to serve the Middle East and Pacific Asia¹⁶.

Raymond Frigon was a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada. He was also the designated consulting engineer of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

Photography and genealogy were among his hobbies. It must be added that, in 1994, he donated a book written by Sister Véronica Roy, My family:

Hebert, Frigon, St. Peter, Morin, Sénézac, 1639-1994, 515 pages, to the library of the Société de généalogie canadienne-française ¹⁷. His membership number was 7536.

We see that he followed a path comparable to that of his father, Augustin. Both were modest and affable as mentioned by many of his contemporaries; both were engineers; both were precursors, one in electricity and in radio diffusion, the other in international consulting engineering; both accomplished major projects. And, in the third generation, another engineer, our cousin Paul, son of Raymond, also leads a successful career in engineering.

¹⁶http://pr.aecom.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=211994 & p = irol-newsArticle_print & ID = 997982

¹⁷Memoirs of the French-Canadian genealogical society, Montréal, 1994, Société de généalogie canadienne-française, vol. 47, No. 4, p. 314.

PARTICIPANTS AT MARIE-VICTORIN PARK ON AUGUST 22,2015

LOUIS-AUGUSTIN LINE (Orange):

- 1) Anita Frigon (22), Montréal-Nord, Silvestre branch
- 2) Marcel Guillemette (236), Montréal-Nord
- 3) Louise Frigon (32), Montréal, Elzéar branch
- 4) Jeanne d'Arc Fortin, Montréal
- 5) Thérèse Frigon (42), Montréal, Silvestre branch
- 6) Lucie Caron (56), Gatineau, Silvestre branch
- 7) Richard Caron, Gatineau
- 8) Claudette Frigon-Giesinger, Longueuil, Silvestre branch
- 9) Walter Giesinger, Longueuil
- 10) Raymonde Frigon (96), Saint-Jérôme, Silvestre branch
- 11) Jacques Frigon (104), Ottawa, Elzéar branch
- 12) Claire Renaud-Frigon (279), Ottawa
- 13) Gérald Frigon (116), Laval, Joseph 2376 branch
- 14) Lise Drolet, Laval
- 15) Denise Frigon (121), Trois-Rivières, Elzéar branch
- 16) Gilles Bordeleau, Trois-Rivières
- 17) Claudette Chevrette-Naud (126), Montréal, Hubert branch
- 18) Guy Naud, Montréal
- 19) François Frigon (130), Laval, Hubert branch
- 20) Marie-Andrée Frigon, Laval
- 21) Roger Frigon (131), Rimouski, Joseph 2376 branch
- 22) Denise Hupé, Rimouski
- 23) Denise Frigon-Pelletier (145), Québec, Abraham branch
- 24) Gérard A. Pelletier, Québec
- 25) Réjeanne Frigon (177), Laval, Hubert branch
- 26) Rita Frigon (178), Laval, Hubert branch
- 27) Normand Frigon (246), Sainte-Geneviève de Batiscan, Elzéar branch
- 28) Monique Cossette, Sainte-Geneviève de Batiscan
- 29) Claude Frigon (256), Laval, Hubert branch
- 30) Murielle Dubois, Laval

- 31) Nicole Guilbault (257), Québec, Silvestre branch
- 32) Fernand Beaulieu, Québec
- 33) Ghislain Frigon (261), Grand-Mère, Elzéar branch
- 34) Denise Melançon, Grand-Mère
- 35) Francine Frigon (271), Saint-Prosper, Hubert branch
- 36) Armande Cossette, Sainte-Geneviève de Batiscan
- 37) Lucie Gravel (275), Saint-Maurice, Hubert branch
- 38) Clémence Rivard-Frigon (281), Montréal

PIERRE-ANTOINE LINE (Red):

- 1) Sylvie Frigon (27), Cap-Rouge, Souleine branch
- 2) Bernard Naud, Cap-Rouge
- 3) Ivanhoë Frigon (80), Rock-Forest, Hilaire branch
- 4) Madeleine Cyr, Rock-Forest
- 5) Louise Frigon (83), Saint-Anne-de-la-Pérade, Souleine branch
- 6) Claude Vaillancourt, Saint-Anne-de-la-Pérade
- 7) Jeannine Vallée Boivin, Anjou, Souleine branch
- 8) Jean-Guy Boivin, Anjou
- 9) Marie-Paule Frigon, La Doré, Souleine branch
- 10) Paul-André Bilodeau, La Doré

JOSEPH LINE (Yellow):

- 1) Luc O. Frigon (3), Saints-Martyrs-Canadien, Pierre branch
- 2) Françoise Labelle, Saints-Martyrs-Canadien
- 3) Yves Frigon, Blainville, Pierre branch
- 4) Hélène Campeau, Blainville
- 5) Jean-René Frigon (11), Trois-Rivières, Joseph (Ste Geneviève) branch
- 6) Cécile Brunelle, Trois-Rivières

GUESTS:

- 1) Gilles Bergeron, auditor, Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel
- 2) Reine Martin, Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel



 Our descendants



Cassandre Frigon, born in Laval on April 30, 2012. She is the daughter of Jean-François Frigon and Marie-Ève Lavoie.



Anabelle Garneau, born in Victoriaville on February 12, 2012. She is the daughter of Christian Garneau and Geneviève Frigon.

*(11th generation) Cassandre Frigon and Anabelle Garneau are linked to the Frigon families through their **paternal** grandfather, François Frigon (130)*

Cassandre Frigon and Anabelle Garneau come from the line of Louis-Augustin, branch of Hubert

ERRATUM - WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER:
P.8 We should read Olivar is the son of Marjorie Noël and Benoît Frigon.



Morgane Frigon, born in Nicolet on September 29, 2011. She is the daughter of Geneviève Frigon and Louis-Xavier Coté Benoît.



Marilou Frigon, born in Nicolet on March 30, 2009. She is the daughter of Geneviève Frigon and Louis-Xavier Coté Benoît.

*(11th generation) Morgane Frigon and Marilou, are linked to the Frigon families through their **paternal** grandfather, Aurèle Frigon (272)*

Morgane Frigon et Marilou Frigon come from the line of Louis-Augustin, Branch of Elzéar

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

Let the members of the Association share the joys of your expanding family.

Keep in touch! It will be a pleasure for me to send you the details.

I can be reached by telephone: **(418) 651-3948**

or by e-mail: sylvie.frigon@videotron.ca



Sylvie Frigon

