

Bulletin no 60  
September 2002.  
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## The gunsmith, fishing, hunting and the Archambault



Indian trading furs, 1785

## THE GUNSMITH

Until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the New France, the gunsmith was more busy repairing fire-arms than manufacturing them. He was able to make parts and to mount them. At that time, the gunsmith was often a traveler who visited the forts and trading posts to repair fire-arms. The craftsman was often paid with beaver or other furs, and on their return to Montreal, some of them became fur traders.

In the 1744 census, there were only three gunsmiths in Quebec. The profession of gunsmith accounted for 1.9% of all the professionals.

In general, apprenticeship started at the age of 15 and lasted 5 years and 7 months, and the apprentice could not practice his trade before the age of 20.



Often this trade was transmitted from father to son. Such was the case of Raoul Archambault, son of Ulric, former mayor of Sainte-Martine (Chateauguay), and of Armoza

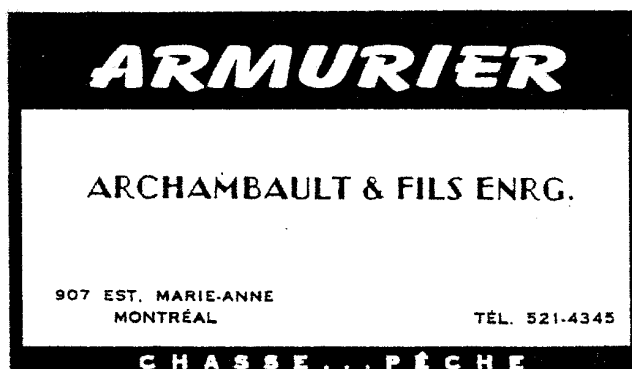
Lapensée, and their son Jean-Marc, who carried on his business on Marie-Anne street in Montreal.

After having spent fifty years of his life behind a counter in the fishing and hunting department of the Omer de Serres store in Montreal, he was honored by this company in June 1973.

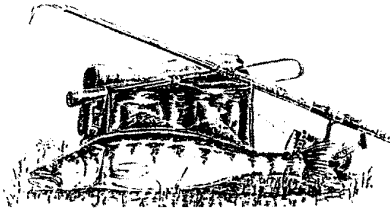
In 1923, Raoul Archambault started selling fishing and hunting articles on Sainte-Catherine street, corner of Saint-Denis, in Montreal. Thereafter, he took on the management of the northern division on Saint-Hubert street. M. Archambault gained the confidence of thousands of hunters and fishers. The most famous names appear in his list of regular customers. A select group of artists and sportsmen had found in Raoul Archambault a valuable adviser.

His son Jean-Marc and his daughter-in-law Denise will perpetuate the name Archambault in the fields of fishing and hunting. This couple has become expert in repairing fishing-rods and reels. This is not to say that the name is less renowned in the repairing of fire-arms.

If you have problems with your fishing equipment or if your shooting is erratic, go see the Archambault, a family that is an honor to the world of outdoor living and sports.



## FISHING



At the beginning of the French regime, fishing was an important and vital activity as it provided the population part of its food, at a time when there was no limitations on the number of catches. It is only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that fishing became a leisure activity for the inhabitants, who used their weekends for relaxing and teasing fish.

Several fishing clubs were formed and the huge number of lakes and rivers provided an abundance of suitable sites.

That was the case in the Lanaudière region, where the Joliette fishing and hunting club was presided by Camille Archambault, the founder of our association.

In the Eastern Townships, the veterinary Joseph-Aimé Archambault, born in 1888, son of Christophe and Célanire Perrier, a nature lover and adept in outdoor living and sports, decided to buy at Trois-Lacs a wooden lot containing three pounds where fishes abound. He built small camps which are rented to Americans every season.

After the death of Joseph-Aimé, his son Paul, also a veterinary, took over the business. Paul is now retired.

## WINTER FISHING

Léonard Archambault, son of Adrien and Jeanne Jauron, of Pike River, operated from



1953 to 1985, a 'méné' business. A 'méné' is a small fish used as bait for fishing under ice. In the fall, he caught his 'ménés', also called shiners, at night in the Pike river, and stored them in 350 gallon tanks, each capable of containing 1500 'ménés'.

When winter has come, fishers come to his house as early as four o'clock in the morning to buy their 'ménés' before going to Misisiquoi Bay to install their fishing-lines to catch mainly perch. A can of 'ménés' was sold for 6\$.

## EEL FISHING

Under the French regime, eel fishing was the most important. Eels are abundant, easy to preserve, and, whether it is roasted on a skewer, boiled, smoked or salted, eel is a delicious dish. According to Governor Frontenac, eel is the manna of the inhabitant.

Eels begin to swim down the St-Lawrence river towards the sea in the middle of august by bad weather and during moonless nights. They reach the Quebec area by the end of September, as expected by the old fishermen.

In 1965, Paul Chalifour, spouse of Jacqueline Archambault, daughter of our ancestor, buys jointly with Léonard Leblanc a concession of roughly six acres frontage on the St-Lawrence river in Lauzon with rights of fishing and hunting.

Five years later, he buys Leblanc's share for nine barrels of eels well salted. A few years

later, Chalifour rents his land and fishing rights for three thousand eels, salted and well seasoned, per year.

Due to his poor health condition, he sells his concession for 5500 well salted eels to be delivered during the next four years. In his will, Chalifour makes sure that each of his sons and



sons-in-law will have received the three barrels of eels promised in their marriage contract.

### THE FISHMONGER

In the past, the fishmonger, in a horse drawn carriage, used to arrive on Thursday, the day before fast-day. In the villages further remote from the river, the delivery could be up to

three days later.

With the advent of automobile in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the fishmonger, accompanied by a woman probably his spouse, offered his product from his car. Mr. V. Dupont from Rivière-du-Loup said in 1987: « Damn, he takes along a good looking woman. She must be from the city; she smokes and drinks bottled beverages. »

In 1982, Marcel Archambault, son of Albani and Lucille Sénécal, founds in St-Hyacinthe La Poissonnerie Archambault, a home delivery service.

In the beginning, packing and storing took place in one room of the family home, and a single truck traveled through the streets of neighboring towns. Later on, new agents were added to develop new territories. Business expansion and shortage of space required moving the equipment to Ste-Rosalie. The number of agents increased rapidly from three to ten

and the territory soon reached 8000 customers.

To-day, the business has more than 18 agents covering more than 100 cities and towns in Quebec, and serves more than 12000 homes in greater Montréal, and in the areas of Montérégie, Eastern Townships, middle of Québec and Quebec City.

### APRIL FOOLS' DAY

In 1564, King Charles IX proclaimed that the year would start on January first and not on April first as it was then the case. Indeed a serious upheaval that changed the face of History. It led to the April Fools' Day, called in French « poisson d'avril », referring to a fish.

Not receiving gifts anymore for the New Year, people started to give to those who did not quite accept the change, foolish and funny gifts, making April's fools out of them or « poissons d'avril » (naive people).

April is the month when the sun leaves the Pisces sign of the zodiac and when is celebrated the opening of the fishing season.

Our ancestors, of French culture, kept the tradition alive in New France and the laughter and the teasing is still going on today. Of the approximately 20.000 descendants of our ancestor, only nine were married on a first of April: Hedwidge of Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu to Pierre Leblanc in 1856; Marie-Célina to Gaspard Parent in Saint-Louis de Gonzague, also in 1856; Arthur of Montréal to Armande Renaud in 1913; Armand of Holtone (Mass) to Blanche Lefebvre in 1929; three were married in Montreal on April first 1967: Patrick to Laurence Côté, Colomba to Yvonne Lépine and Normand to Suzanne Lépine; Denise was married in Ottawa in 1962 to André Lavigne and finally, in 1987, Diane of Laval to Robert Jean. Nine bold Archambaults who were not afraid to be victims of a hoax that day!

## UNE HISTOIRE DE CHASSE AU LAC NASSIGON

« Par un beau matin...

« Après une nuit raccourcie par un manque de sommeil, ce sont des pieds lourds qui entraînent dans les bottes vers les cinq heures du matin.

« En retard pour le petit déjeuner, en retard pour nous rendre vers nos affaires, nous traversons le lac Nassigon avec peu d'espoir, quand tout à coup, l'armurier Jean-Marc Archambault et un ami, Normand, aperçoivent, presque en même temps une masse noire, à plus de mille pieds de nous, tout près de l'endroit où les appels avaient été lancés la veille. Il faisait beau et nous voilà assurés qu'un trophée pourrait conclure notre expédition.

« Quelle vilaine bête ?

« On ne sait pour quelle raison, la bête décide d'entrer en forêt... Jean-Marc et Normand dirigent l'embarcation vers la rive et décident de faire sortir la bête de cette presqu'île. Ils encerclent comme ils le peuvent ce vieux *Buck* de dix pointes pendant que j'attends, embusqué derrière les épinettes. En un rien de temps, l'animal sort de son repaire et se dirige vers la rive.

« Lui accordant tout le temps nécessaire pour bien se placer, je tire la balle qui l'atteint sur la colonne vertébrale pour faire tomber ce vieux *Buck* dans un pied d'eau où il meurt instantanément.

« Il était 7h15 lorsque l'animal fut abattu, c'était la fin d'une chasse excitante... La bête que nous avons déposée à bord d'une embarcation de 18 pieds pour la transporter sur la rive du pavillon où elle est exposée pour une bonne journée.

« Une fête...

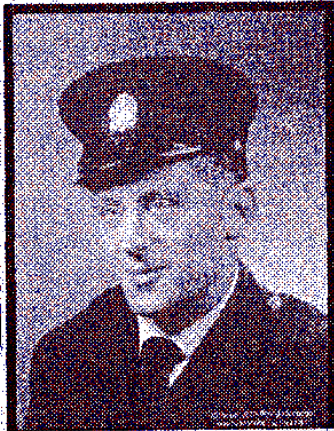
« La cuisinière avait préparé le gâteau traditionnel pour célébrer ce succès de chasse. Une entrée au foie d'original fut ajoutée au menu des 21 chasseurs, Canadiens et Américains, enfin tous ont sablé le champagne avant le grand dîner devenu gastronomique...

« La chasse est une activité de plein air. Elle s'accompagne de 95 % de chance et de 5 % d'adresse... J'ai été chanceux, j'ai été privilégié d'avoir un compagnon extraordinaire, en la personne de Jean-Marc Archambault. »



Jean-Marc Archambault, à droite, qui a travaillé comme un « démon », méritait bien que je lui verse quelques gouttes de « réchauffant. » Il était mouillé jusqu'aux os. Un original à dix pointes de plus de 1200 livres, on ne trouve pas ça partout.

Guy Pagé  
Chroniqueur de chasse et pêche  
*Journal de Montréal*



FAMILY  
TREE OF  
JEAN-MARC

**Jean-Marc Archambault**

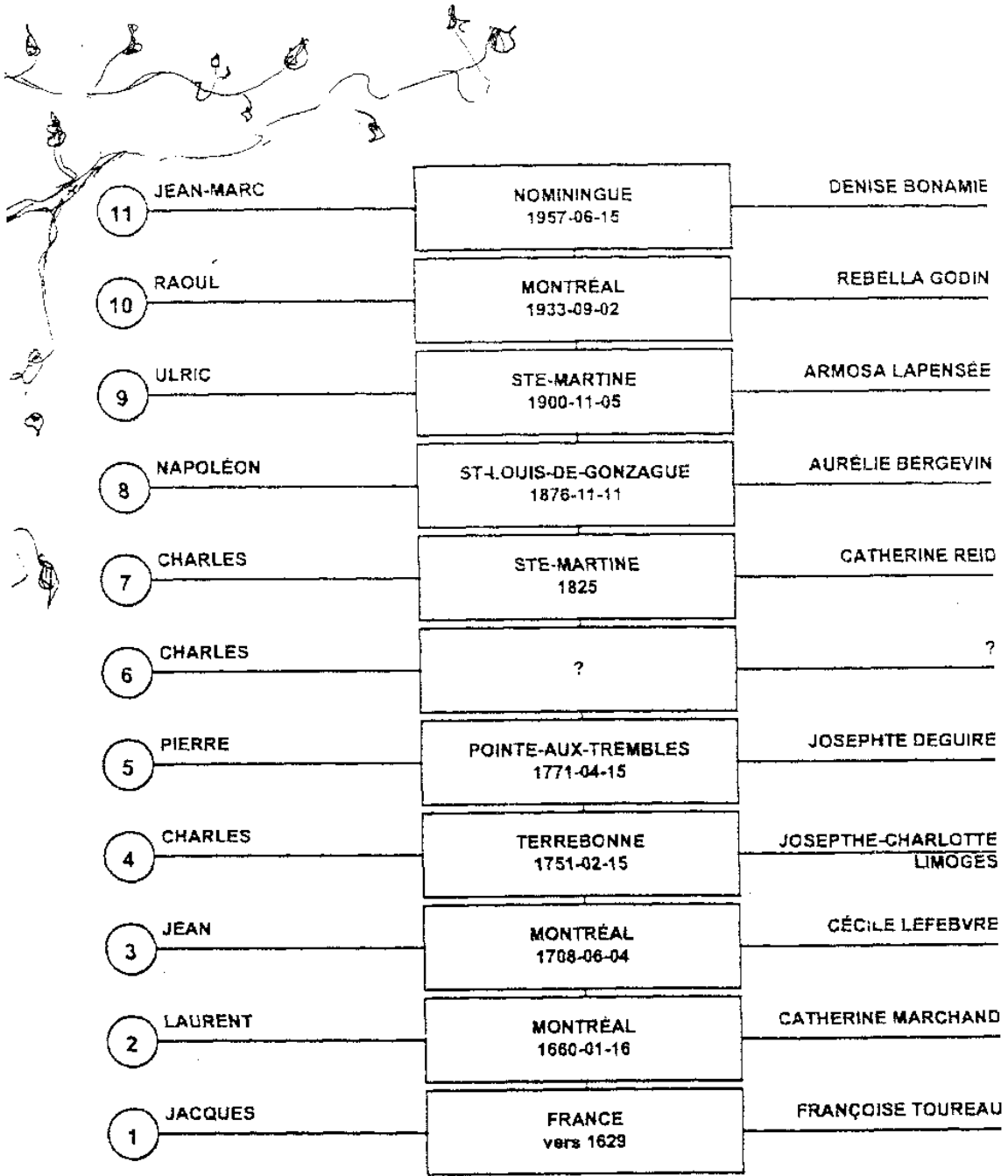
Jean-Marc Archambault who was the son of Raoul and Rebella Godin was born on December 2, and baptized on December 6, 1936. He married Denise Bonamie on June 15, 1957 in the Parish of Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola in Nominingue, Québec, the daughter of Narcisse and Oliva Dinelle. Listed below are the four children of this marriage: Richard, Lyne, Louis and Marie-Josée.

After completing his studies in Montréal, Jean-Marc worked for la Maison Omer de Serres in the sport's department for approximately five years. In the month of September of 1959, he joined the fire fighters in the city of Montréal, and made it his career. Then at the beginning of 1960, he became a gunsmith, same career as his father Raoul, at the request of la Maison Omer de Serres that was situated at the corner of Sainte-Catherine and Saint-Denis in Montréal. A few years later, he decided to open his own shop but in the hunting and fishing department where he sold fishing rods, and brand name reels, as well as the repairing of firearms.

His first business was situated at 941 on Marie-Anne Street in Montréal, and a few years later he moved it to 907 but on the same street. The business operated for 18 years with the help of his spouse Denise, then he took a little rest to practice his favorite sports, which were hunting and fishing.

Finally, after 30 years of services as a fire fighter for the city of Montréal, Jean-Marc Archambault retired on September 1, 1989, and the couple left the big city to settle in the countryside of Nominingue.

Jean-Marc is the cousin of Michel who is the Vice-president of our Association.



## LAVALTRIE

Ce sont près de 80 Archambault qui se sont retrouvés à Lavaltrie le 1<sup>er</sup> juin dernier pour l'assemblée générale annuelle de notre association.

Au début de l'après-midi ils ont visité la Galerie Archambault qui fête ses 25 ans cette année. Ils ont apprécié les œuvres des artistes « maison » et de plusieurs artistes Archambault réunis pour l'occasion par Denis, notre hôte.

Après l'assemblée générale, les participants ont eu l'occasion d'échanger avec les artistes durant un bon repas au poulet, arrosé de vin de la cuvée Archambault.

Mentionnons que des prix de présence, dont plusieurs œuvres d'artistes Archambault, d'une valeur totale de plus de 1 500 \$, ont été attribués aux participants.

Merci à tous ceux qui ont contribué au succès de cette belle journée dans Lanaudière.



André recevant le grand prix, une œuvre originale d'Aline A. Lalancette.



Pierre remettant à Denis le blason des Archambault.



Jean, Charles, Rita, Aline, Monique, Luc et Denis, notre hôte, à la Galerie Archambault.





Richard président l'assemblée. avec le secrétaire Roch et France, la trésorière.



Claire, Richard M. et la cuvée Archambault.



À l'accueil, Catherine, Jeannine et Jocelyne.

## THE ORIGIN OF OUR MOTTO JE ME SOUVIENS

« The motto *Je me souviens* ("I remember") admirably summarizes the reason of having a French Canada as a distinct province, and it is the legitimate aspirations of our race. It clearly expresses the past, present, and the future of our nationality. The past! Our ancestors have been pioneers endowed with courage, endurance and of an invincible energy, having as a base the catholic faith, the attachment to the French language, and a passionate love for the land.

« They have fought unceasingly and ruthlessly against the Iroquois Indians to protect the possession of a corner of land that they had cleared ».

Our ancestor, Jacques Archambault, his sons Denys and Laurent, and his sons-in-law who have volunteered for many armed forces have been among these pioneers.

Known for their courage and their valor they have been members of a small troop of 72 colonists set up by Maisonneuve in 1650 to guard day and night the refuges that have been constructed here and there in the country. Our ancestor himself and his son-in-law Urbain Tessier, spouse of Marie Archambault have been in charge of one of these strongholds situated at the actual Place d'Armes in Montréal.

We know that Denys Archambault, the son of Jacques had died at the age of 21 in 1651 in the explosion of a cannon while fighting against an army of 200 Iroquois Indians, and he had been responsible for killing many of the enemies... The historian, Gérard Lebel C.S.S.R stated that he had merited a monument. The Iroquois Indians had captured Urbain Tessier, the spouse of Marie Archambault, and they have kept him for 1 year and 5

months, and he had been very fortunate to lose but one finger during the adventure.

« The pretensions of the Anglo-Saxon who had wanted to make them abandon their language and faith had found the French quite irreducible. The actual fights courageously supported under the direction of an enlightened elite were a guarantee of success for the future ».

« The honorable Mr. Jetté had stated in 1890: "Our fathers who have come to found New France have brought faith, and the ancestral language with them. They have also taken along their skills and custom, the laws, the civil and religious orders, in other words, everything that France, once the biggest nation of the world had to offer. Therefore, it had been all of that which has made the province of Québec the image of their mother country; that is to say, that it had been the fidelity of the Canadian people with their French and catholic traditions that one had valued to conserve.

« At first, the coat of arms of the province of Québec did not have a motto. Here is the description that the Royal mandate of 26 May 1868 has presented: a crest divided into 3 horizontal parts; in the center lie an opened-mouthed golden lion stretched on a reddish background; above; are 3 golden fleur-de-lis placed on a bluish background; then there are 3 golden long-stemmed maple leaves centered below on a golden background.

« We are indebted of having the motto that had been invented by Mr. Eugène Taché, the draftsman and architect employed by the government of the province; and it has made us the envy of our oversea cousins.

« Since he had been in charge of preparing the designs for the facade of the Legislative House of Québec, and it was him who had introduced the coat of arms of the province with

the motto « Je me souviens », he is then the author.

« As the contract for the construction of this grand building had been signed on the 8 February 1883, it had been affirmed that it was since this date that our national motto has taken an

official character. »<sup>1</sup>



So if you should travel in the region of Québec and should happen to see an immaculate plaque carrying the motto « Je me souviens » you will know of its' definition and origin. »

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## ST. ERKEMBODE OR SAINT-ARCHAMBAULT ?

Erkembode, the nickname meaning *Recognized messenger*, supposedly belonged to an Irish monk. In 723, because of the saintliness of his life, the monks of the Saint-Bertin abbey whose ruins are still visible today unanimously elected Erkembode abbot. Saint-Bertin was the fourth successor of Bishop Saint-Omer.

In the XIII<sup>th</sup> Century, the diocese of Théroouanne (Pas-de-Calais), where is located Saint-Bertin, was rather huge; it covered a region going from the current Belgian border (Ypres) to the Somme Valley. St. Erkembode traveled all around the diocese to buy land that he would redistribute to the destitute. He died in 742, nearly paralyzed.

### Shoes on a Grave

His remains were put in a sarcophagus in the small primitive church built before the current basilica which dates back to the XIII-XV<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Now leaning against the chan-

cel of the basilica, the sarcophagus offers an unusual view to the puzzled visitor: a shoe collection. You have boots, bootees, old shoes and even clogs. Here is why: as soon as the saint died, pilgrims from everywhere started flooding in and put down on the grave their worn out shoes vouching for their long journey. They thought that as St. Erkembode had walked so much for them it was their turn to walk for him and to offer him those ex-voto as symbols.

Today, people still come to pray to the saint when a child's first steps are long overdue. Mothers leave there, praying with confidence, their child's shoes.

Now in Saint-Omer, a commune near Théroouanne and Lille (North of France), is known a saint from the Middle Ages called Archambault, whose characteristics and qualities correspond perfectly to those of St. Erkembode. He had, among others, the gift to heal the foot affections. And, on his grave is left all kinds of footwear. Which leads us to think that Archambault and Erkembode (probably the Flemish version of our surname) are the very same person..?

Vies d'Archambault...



Eugène Archambault

## EUGÈNE ARCHAMBAULT

Eugène Archambault who was the son of Joseph and Marie Beauchamp was born on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1836 in Saint-Paul-l'Ermité.

He had taken his studies at the College of L'Assomption from 1849 to 1857; then, he started in the profession of Notary in L'Acadie, Québec. In 1860, he settled in California, and then in 1862, he returned to permanently live in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu where he actively interested himself in the municipal affairs; he had been named treasurer-secretary of the county.

Eugène married Sarah Gélinau on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1880 in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

He had been the oldest member of the Notaries of Québec.

When he died in Saint-Jean on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1932, at the age of 96, he was buried at this location. He had left only nephews and nieces behind since his wife and only son had died before him.

Eugène had one brother and three sisters who are:

- Louis, married Sophie Desparois dit Champagne in 1852 in Saint-François-de-Sales.
- Céline, married Fabien Bougret-Dufort in 1856 in Repentigny.
- Vitaline, married Hector-Alphonse Lozeau in 1852 in Repentigny, and
- Joséphine, married Joseph Archambault, the son of Joseph and Rosalie Reeves, and widower of Mathilde Longpré, in 1849 in Repentigny.



### **DID YOU KNOW THAT ... DID YOU KNOW THAT ... DID YOU KNOW THAT ...**

... The Classical College of L'Assomption that was founded in 1832 had received approximately 133 000 students. It seemed that the patronymic of Archambault had been the most scattered between them. One had counted about 120, and many among them have found careers in the United States.

Here are four ecclesiastic Archambault men who have been professors:

- Odon, the son of Éloi and Annie Parent of Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon;
- Urgel, the son of Jean-Baptiste and Amable Chartier of Repentigny;
- Joseph, the son of Louis and Angélique Prud'homme of Saint-Jacques-de-Montcalm and;
- Mgr. Alfred, the son of Louis and Élisabeth Dugal of L'Assomption.

## JACQUES, NOTRE DIRECTEUR

Jacques n'a pas renouvelé cette année son mandat de directeur de votre association. Il nous a assuré cependant qu'il demeurerait actif au sein du comité du bulletin.

Il convient de rappeler que Jacques a été un des 17 Archambault fondateurs de votre association. C'était pour lui l'aboutissement logique d'une recherche généalogique entreprise plusieurs années plus tôt. Dès les années 50 il avait demandé à l'Institut Drouin de retracer ses racines. Poursuivant ses recherches au Québec et en France, il a vu tout l'intérêt de mieux connaître ses origines.

Il a ainsi dès 1970 visité les Archambault de Dompierre avec lesquels il conserve toujours un lien épistolaire. Dans les années 80 c'est le premier Archambault que contacte Camille de retour de voyage au pays des ancêtres.

Depuis lors, Jacques a généreusement participé aux séances du conseil et contribué à la rédaction de bien des pages de notre bulletin, nous faisant partager le fruit de ses recherches. Les membres du comité du bulletin sont rassurés. Ils savent qu'ils peuvent compter sur le concours d'un tel rédacteur et sur la compétence d'un tel réviseur.

Merci, Jacques !

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Une erreur s'étant glissée dans la présentation de son curriculum, paru dans le numéro précédent de notre bulletin, Yves Archambault nous prie de publier la correction suivante.

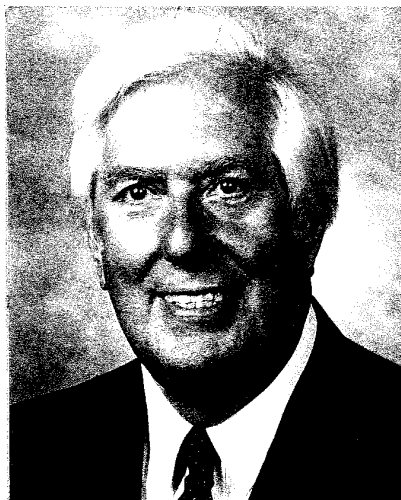
Il tient à souligner qu'il travaille pour le Festival international de jazz de Montréal, pour lequel il a créé le chat. D'autre part, Yves Archambault précise qu'il ne travaille pas pour le festival Juste pour rire et qu'il est plutôt l'affichiste Vittorio qui est le créateur du personnage vert, qui identifie Juste pour rire. Correction faite.

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## UN HOMMAGE POSTHUME À JEAN-JACQUES

Le *Journal de Montréal* du 22 juin dernier nous apprenait que le conseil d'administration de l'Association de l'industrie électrique du Québec a décidé de rendre un hommage posthume à Jean-Jacques Archambault, en créant un prix qui portera son nom. Bien que la dépêche n'en précise pas la nature, on peut supposer que cette distinction récompensera le travail d'un spécialiste de l'hydro-électricité ou du transport de l'énergie. Car on n'ignore plus que notre ami Jean-Jacques, décédé le 23 décembre 2001, a été à l'origine des grandes études d'Hydro-Québec, au tournant des années 60, qui ont permis de résoudre les énormes difficultés inhérentes au transport de l'énergie sur de grandes distances, sans perte de tension.

C'est grâce aux travaux de l'équipe technique que Jean-Jacques dirigeait qu'on a pu mettre au point la ligne de transport de 735 KV (735 000 volts), et ultimement construire les grands barrages sur la Manicouagan, à Churchill Falls et à la baie James. Prouesse technique novatrice qui a fait l'admiration de tous les milieux internationaux spécialisés.



**CAMILLE ARCHAMBAULT  
(1918—2002)**

Nous avons perdu un grand Archambault. Camille nous a quittés l'été dernier. Il a été en quelque sorte la « bougie d'allumage » de notre association de famille.

Après avoir quitté la présidence de l'association du camionnage du Québec, durant un voyage en France, il rencontre nos cousins de Dompierre-sur-mer et de Saint-Xandre. Il visite même la vénérable maison de Jacques, notre ancêtre. Les Archambault de là-bas lui disent même qu'ils correspondent déjà avec Jacques, de Montréal, qui les a visités et qu'ils le connaissent bien. Ils ajoutent aussi que sa famille possède un restaurant rue Sainte-Catherine à Montréal où l'on ne sert que du poulet rôti !

À son retour il rencontre Jacques et André G. et lance une invitation à tous les Archambault désireux de fonder un regroupement familial.

C'est ainsi que se réunissent à la rôtisserie Au Poulet Doré, sous sa présidence, 17

Archambault qui fondent votre association. C'était le 6 janvier 1983.

Vous connaissez la suite. Vous avez sûrement participé à ces assemblées, rencontres, inaugurations et voyages planifiés par le comité de direction avec la participation constante de Camille.

Il n'hésitait jamais à prendre contact avec les médias pour faire connaître les Archambault d'Amérique et leur donner une grande visibilité. Ainsi la revue *Historia* publiait en décembre 1991 un article retraçant l'implantation des Archambault en Amérique, sous la plume de Camille.

Il n'est donc pas étonnant que plusieurs gouvernements et organismes aient voulu rendre hommage à un tel homme.

Pour notre part, nous conserverons de Camille un souvenir ému et reconnaissant, privilégiés d'avoir côtoyé un Archambault de cette qualité.

Nous partageons la peine de Lilianne, son épouse, et de sa famille à qui nous offrons nos très sincères condoléances.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Viateur et Anna Archambault  
Jean Archambault  
Antoinette Archambault  
Béatrice Archambault, ss, ccj. m.  
Jean Archambault  
Gérard Archambault

Saint Lin Laurentides  
St-Faustin, Lac Carré  
Brossard  
Joliette  
Aymer  
Luskville

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CLAUDE GHANIME

Dépôt légal troisième trimestre 2002

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