

The association des Charbonneau d'Amérique Newsletter



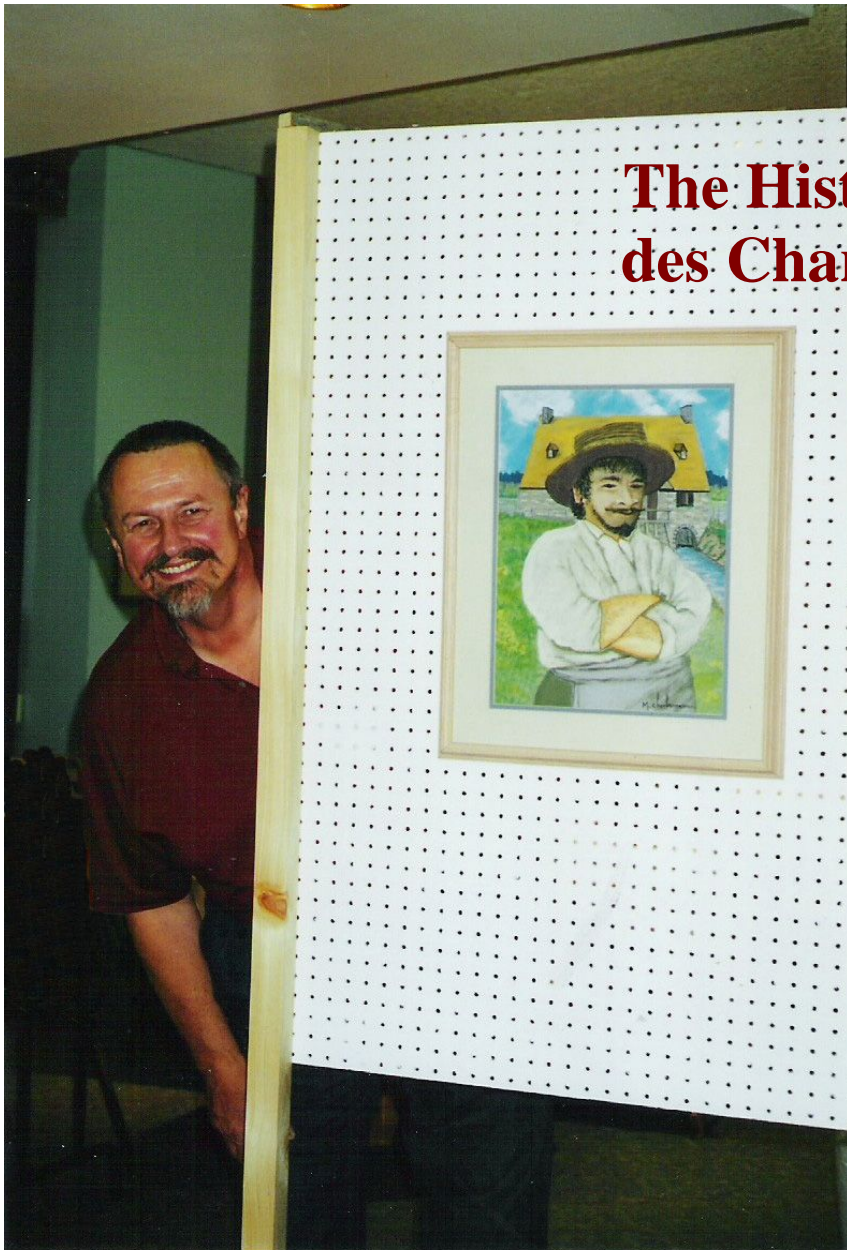
# Parole de Charbonneau

Special Edition  
Spring 2010

## The History of the Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique

A journey  
that lasted  
15 years

1994 - 2009



*Peeking out from behind a likeness of our ancestor, Olivier, in a painting by Marcel Charbonneau, is Charles Charbonneau. Notice the resemblance.*

# 1994-1995

Towards the end of 1993, Henri Charbonneau of Ottawa, Ontario, was searching for a Quebec-based Charbonneau to assist him in founding a

## Le fondateur



Henri

family association. His sister, Suzanne, informed him that a certain Claire had been organizing family get-togethers and publishing a quarterly newsletter since 1980. Henri contacted her and invited her to participate in establishing an association. She accepted, and a provisional committee of six people from Quebec and Ontario was established.

## Les cofondateurs



Claire

A meeting was held at the Chateau Montebello Hotel in January 1994. Present were Henri, Gérard and Odette from Ontario; Claire, Gérard, Marcel, Jean-Marie and Suzanne from Quebec.



Gérard

Claire was elected President of this provisional committee, Odette, Vice-President, Gérard, Treasurer and Henri, Secretary.



Odette

The first newsletter appeared in April 1994, under the name of **Le Trait d'Union**. Subsequently, some sixty people expressed interest in becoming members of the association. The executive made a formal request to the Quebec Government to incorporate and sought an affiliation with the Fédération des familles-souches québécoises (Federation of Quebec's Founding Families).

At that time, free membership cards were available from Marc Charbonneau, son of Gérard, our treasurer, and were printed at the Saint-Léonard Printing Shop in St.Jovite in the Laurentians.

The founder's meeting took place on May 28, 1994, at the mother-house of the Soeurs de la Congrégation Notre-Dame in Montreal (Sisters of the Congregation of our Lady). This location was chosen to highlight the role played by Marguerite Bourgeois, of this same congregation, who sailed to Marans,



Denis

France, in 1658, and invited several families, including that of Olivier Charbonneau, to emigrate to New France.



Jean-Marie

During the founding meeting, those present adopted the objectives, rules and regulations intended to govern the association. The newsletter changed its name and became **Paroles de Charbonneau**, or Charbonneaus Speak Out. It was decided that the annual membership fee be set at \$15.00. A discussion of both short-term and long-term projects ensued.



Louise

The members present at this meeting also voted to officially elect executive members to the board. Claire became the first official President, Odette, Vice-President, Henri, Secretary and Gérard, Treasurer. Gérard died a few months later and was replaced by Denis. The three non-executive directors were: Jean-Marie, Louise and Monique.



Monique



*A few members  
at our first official meeting*

Our coat-of-arms was selected during the first year. Because of our ancestor's place of origin, it was decided to adopt the Vendée family De Charbonneau coat-of-arms bearing the motto: Pro Fide, Scuta, A rege, Lilia, which translates into: For his loyalty, shields; From the king, lilies. Recent translation by Louis-André Charbonneau of our French Association reads: From his Faith he holds the arms and from the king he has received the lily. Several Charbonneau names appeared in the news: the Minister of Education in British Columbia was Art Charbonneau; Artist Marc Charbonneau participated in the franco-phone games in Paris; at least three Charbonneaus were candidates in Quebec provincial elections: Michel and Yvon under the Liberal banner and Jean-Pierre for the Parti Québécois, a nationalist, separatist party desirous of establishing Quebec as a separate country.

Our first major gathering was held on June 24 and 25, 1995, in Alfred, Ontario. It was a fitting occasion to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first Charbonneaus in Upper Canada (now Ontario) in 1870. Our association now numbered 106 members and included several people from the United States formerly associated with Milton Charbonneau, who had been publishing *The Charbonneau Connection*



for a number of years. Our Anglophone members asked for an English language edition of the newsletter and Yves Charbonneau from Deep

River, Ontario, offered his services as translator. The executive council met at Louise's home to organize our first major event, the Alfred rally. This, only one short year following our founding. The two-day Alfred rally attracted some 500 participants. Roughly half came from Quebec and half from Ontario. In addition, we attracted one Manitoban, three Americans including Milton, five Frenchmen including Jacques and Françoise from Versailles, Étienne and Pascale from Angers and Yves Conquer, who was Henri's brother-in-law, and finally two others from Mexico. Some three hundred people attended the Saturday night banquet, a huge success. Most other daytime events were also held indoors away from the scorching heat. Bernard Bouchereau, Mayor of Marans, France, wrote a letter congratulating us on our initiative and

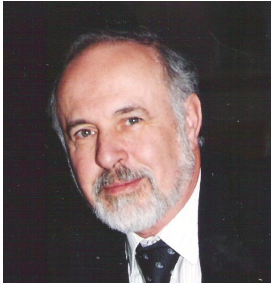


*Yvette, Claire's mother, Baxter Laporte, Monique Charbonneau, Father Lucien and Monseigneur Paul-Émile Charbonneau*

invited us to come to Marans, the birthplace of our common ancestor, Olivier, to hold another gathering. Jacques Charbonneau, our friend from Versailles, France, informed the gathering that Olivier had been married three times, and not two times as was generally believed. An article was subsequently published in the magazine *Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne-française* (French-Canadian Genealogical Association), including the text and, as proof of this, a photocopy extracted from the parish register.

## 1995-1996

The 1995-1996 Board of Directors was composed of Claire, President, Odette, Vice-President, Henri, Secretary, and Denis, Treasurer, while Louise, Monique and Yves served as directors.



Yves

It was announced that a second family gathering would be held in Laval in 1996. It was in Laval that our ancestor chose to settle in 1676, along with his daughter Anne and his son-in-law Guillaume Labelle, the first

to colonize the island in the 17<sup>th</sup>

century. The organizing committee was headed up by Louise, assisted by Denis and Monique.

After one full year, the association numbered 140

members plus some 32 others not yet fully acquitted of their dues. Our newsletter was still being printed by Marc Charbonneau, co-owner of a printing shop in St. Jovite. Claire and Henri acted as editors, while Monique prepared the copy and layout and Yves did the translation.

In 1995, our newsletter began to publish the history of Olivier, our common ancestor. Articles discussed his preparations before leaving for New France, the ocean crossing, his arrival in Montreal, his various business dealings, and subsequent move to l'Île Jésus (Jesus Island or Laval). For those who were not members of our association in 1995-1996, here is a recap...

**A**ccompanied by fifteen family members, Olivier left France with his wife Marie and one small child, Anne, aged two, in the summer of 1659. They embarked on a ship named the *Saint-André* in the port of La Rochelle. After a difficult crossing, the ship arrived in Quebec City 68 days later on September 9, 1659. After resting for two weeks, the family travelled to Montreal where they arrived on September 29. Olivier stayed in *Ville Marie* (as Montreal was known at that time). He may also have lived in *Côte-Saint-François* (Saint Francois' Hill) named *Longue-Pointe* (Long-Point) afterwards, a district part of Montreal. Olivier was one of the first settlers in 1665-1666. For the next fifteen years, Olivier was busy renting and purchasing strips of land, buying animals, eventually selling his holdings, and in 1688 became owner of a water-powered mill in *Pointe-aux-Trembles* (on the eastern tip of Montreal Island). Olivier kept busy

in another way. Since his arrival in New France, he had had four more children: Joseph, born in 1660, Jean in 1662, Elisabeth in 1664 and Michel in 1666.

In 1676, Olivier lived in *Île Jésus* (Laval) with his daughter Anne and her husband Guillaume Labelle. Both families worked as tenant-farmers for *Monseigneur de Laval's seigneurie* (squire of Laval). They even got to reside in the squire's own comfortable house. Three years later, the squire sold a piece of land to Olivier near the one owned by Guillaume Labelle, his son-in-law, who had been granted land by the Sisters of the *Congrégation de Notre-Dame*, represented by Sister Marguerite Bourgeois. Both the Charbonneau and Labelle families are considered pioneer settlers of *Île Jésus* (Laval). Joseph, Olivier's first son, set down roots in Laval, while Jean, his second son, ended up in *Pointe-aux-Trembles*, and his descendants spread out to the parishes of *Boucherville* and *Vareennes*, on

*Montreal's south shore*. Still others travelled as far as Wisconsin (USA). Michel, the third son, established himself in *Boucherville* while his descendants migrated to the United States. The most famous descendant was Toussaint Charbonneau who had, as his wife, *Sacagawea*, of Lewis and Clark fame. Olivier lived a full life and died at the age of 76. He was buried in *Pointe-aux-Trembles* on November 20, 1687.

According to Hubert Charbonneau, demographer, the exact number of Olivier's descendants before the year 1766 was known: 5 children, 56 grandchildren of which 37 married; 460 great-grandchildren (an average of 12.4 children per family) of which 277 married; 1600 great-great-grandchildren, all before 1766. There were certainly 5 or 6 times more descendants in all since the majority of the children of the 5<sup>th</sup> generation were born after the end of the French Regime.

During this same year, we published the life, career and family tree of our association's founder, Henri Charbonneau.

Several Charbonneaus were in the news: Jean-Pierre, member of the National Assembly for Verchères, was elected President of the Quebec National Assembly ; Marie-Paule became sergeant-at-arms responsible for security in Canada's House of Commons. In all of the British Commonwealth, only two women have ever held similar positions. Adelina and Cléphas, parents of members Lucien and Gaston, were proclaimed Farming Family of the Year. Finally, Eileen, a prominent American author, became a member of the association.

September 15, 1996, a second major gathering was

held in Laval. Our guest of honour was Jean-Pierre, President of the National Assembly. Other atten-



Milton

dees included Hubert Charbonneau, demographer and professor at the University of Montreal, who spoke on the history of Olivier's descendants up to 1800. Other workshops were led by genealogists Gaston Chapleau, Laurent Gauthier and Claude Pelletier. Milton Charbonneau

brought his historical findings from the United States. More than 100 attendees visited the various displays and sat in on the numerous conferences.

## 1996-1997

In this year, the Board of Directors was composed of André from St. Jovite as president, André from Ste.



André  
de Saint-Jovite



André  
de Sainte-Anne

Anne-des-Plaines as vice-president, Denis as treasurer and Monique as secretary.



Charles

Other directors included Odette, Yves and Charles. Claire continued contributing material for newsletter articles which were developed by Monique. The association unveiled its new website thanks to the efforts and expertise of our Vice-President,

André, who also helped with the layouts for our newsletter.

It was announced that a third major gathering would be held in August 1997 at the apple orchard and cidery of our cousin, Denis Charbonneau, (not the treasurer) in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Quebec.

Our newsletter changed its name ever so slightly,

dropping the S from *Paroles*. The name, *Parole de Charbonneau* (The Charbonneau Word) suggested by our treasurer, was borrowed from the advertising slogan of a gardening company owned by one of our Laval members, Gaston Charbonneau, from Laval, who kindly gave his permission. Another Charbonneau in the news was a six-foot tall model by the name of Sophie Charbonneau from the Specs Agency. Judged to be too tall for work in Quebec, she pursued her career in Europe.

As planned, our 3<sup>rd</sup> gathering was held on August 31 at the Denis Charbonneau orchard and cidery. His restaurant provided a delicious brunch, which was followed by our annual meeting. The weather was beautiful, so the rest of the day was devoted to visiting the orchard of over 15,000 apple trees. Some picked apples while others shopped in the boutique where souvenirs and products derived from apples were to be found. Eileen, our American author, was present with her two children and her parents, as well as Joan Mustard from Hilton Head, South Carolina, with her husband.



## 1997-1998

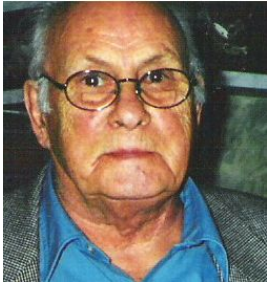


Wilbrod

This year saw a few changes to the Board of Directors. The two Andrés remained as president and vice-president, Yves replaced Denis who retired as treasurer, and Charles became secretary. The other directors included Claire, Monique Odette

and Wilbrod.

Our American cousin, Eileen, was in the news. She won the Mid-America Romance Writer's award for her novel *In the Time of the Wolves* and she won the Heart of the West Award for another novel *Waltzing in Ragtime*.



Marcel

Well-known Quebec artist, Marcel Charbonneau, was honoured by the City of Lachine which awarded him a cultural merit prize.

The association announced that a trip to France was being

planned for 1999 to commemorate the 340<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launching of the ship Saint-André from the Port of La Rochelle. Passengers on this ship included, our ancestor, Olivier Charbonneau and his small family.

Germaine and Bill Alexander from San Diego travelled to Alfred, Ontario, site of our first gathering, to trace their roots and ties to both the Charbonneau and Tourangeau families. Odette, her brother, Father Lucien, and the mayor of Alfred, Pierre Tourangeau, welcomed them with open arms.

Dominique Charbonneau was honoured for his dictionary of Charbonneau marriages.

Other Charbonneaus were in the news: Louis Charbonneau, a kettledrummer with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra (MSO), retired after an illustrious career spanning some 48 years. His great-great-

grandfather was an organ-builder with Casavant, one of the world's premier organ manufacturers. His grandfather was a violincellist, while his father was a bassist, both with the MSO. A truly musical family. The year 1998 also brought disaster to Quebec. It was the year of the infamous ice-storm which deprived entire cities and towns of electricity for up to one month or more. Several activities planned by the association, including the annual sugaring-off party, had to be cancelled.

A fourth gathering was held at the Club Tremblant in Mont-Tremblant located in Quebec's Laurentians on



Gérard

June 21, 1998. One of the presentations dealt with the settling of the Laurentians in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One of our founding members, Gérard from Saint-Jovite, gave an amusing family account of his father's arrival in Saint-Jovite. The text of this story appears

further down on this page. This is the first time this text has appeared since it was only obtained by the association in 2009.

A third speaker, Michel from Gatineau, a descendant of Jean Charbonneau and Elizabeth Allaire Trinque, told of the arrival in New France of this second lineage of Charbonneaus in 1693.



*The Mont-Tremblant Gathering of 1998*

**I** am Gérard Charbonneau, 9<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Olivier. I am the son of Paul-Émile and Amanda Boivin. I was born in Saint-Jovite in 1929 and married Thérèse Levert in 1947. We had five children, four boys and one girl, and we have nine grandchildren. Marc, co-owner of the printing shop which printed our newsletter, is one of my sons.

I have always lived in Saint-Jovite because I don't like moving. I have only moved twice in my life, once at the age of 5 and then again at 58. I am a full-blooded Charbonneau. Obviously, my father is a Charbonneau, but my maternal grandmother was also a Charbonneau. They were distant cousins.

When we talk about Charbonneaus, I especially like to talk about my great-great-grandfather, Jean-Baptiste, 6<sup>th</sup> generation. His first wife, Angèle Drouin, died when he was 60. Several descendants settled in Ontario, in L'Original, Lefavre and Alfred. One of them was named Delphis. He was half-brother to my grandfather Wilfred, Odette's grandfather and our founder Henri's uncle.

Delphis used to like to visit my parents in Saint-Jovite. He arrived by train in the evening. In those days, one didn't telephone to announce a visit. Anyways, we didn't have a telephone. One time the train was late, and when Delphis arrived, my parents were in bed. He knocked at the door and shouted, "Get up" at the top of his lungs. "It's the big Charbonneau from Lefavre at your

door". After, the customary greetings, conversation followed. Since it was already late, my father Paul-Émile said to Delphis that it was time to go to bed. Delphis answered that he hadn't come to watch them sleep, but to chat, and so the conversation continued.

To get back to my great-grandfather Jean-Baptiste, who was a widower at 60; he remarried the next year. His bride was 21-year-old Flavie. Louis Charbonneau, Henri's father, told me that Flavie had been the girlfriend of one of Jean-Baptiste's sons. This romance had ended, so the father of the boyfriend married her. This is proof that a senior citizen who wants to and still can is better than a youngster who won't. This marriage produced 10 children. Five descendants settled in the Upper-Laurentians (Ferme-Neuve, Brébeuf and St. Rémi d'Amherst). My grandfather Wilfred married Angéline Paquette in 1883 and they left Saint-Jérôme to settle on land in the 9<sup>th</sup> concession of Amherst, today known as Brébeuf. He acquired this land from an Indian family, the Commandants, for a cow and a tin of butter. Wilfred was quite a character. One day, he walked all the way from Brébeuf to Saint-Jérôme and back to buy two small piglets which he transported in his coat pockets. This trip was about 80 kilometers (50 miles) long over mountainous roads.

My father Paul-Émile bought a lot in the center of Saint-Jovite. The house on it is still standing at 785

Ouimet Street and now houses a Re-max Real Estate Agency. Constructed in 1889, this house is part of the local heritage.

My father was very active in the parish. He was a founding member and director of the local credit union and of the Co-op store, as well as a director of several farming and social associations. I took over the farm from my father and tilled the soil until 1967. I took the lead from my father and got involved in several farming and social associations, and my children are continuing the same traditions.

Until 1967, we used to home-deliver milk and other products. My mother and then my wife used to wash the milk bottles. We were one of the last dairies to sell raw milk. There are other Charbonneau families that lived in and around Saint-Jovite, including the ancestors of our current president, André. His great-grandfather, Samuel, was one of the first settlers in the 7<sup>th</sup> concession of Saint-Jovite. He had to clear his land before farming. His house burned down twice during big forest fires. His grandfather, Bruno, and his great uncle, Louis, had farms in the 6<sup>th</sup> concession, today known as Coupal Street. André returned to his ancestral roots in our parish and he, too, is involved in our community.

Gérard Charbonneau

## 1998-1999

During the fourth gathering, a new Board of Directors was elected: Claire returned as president, Monique as vice-president, Yves as treasurer and Charles as secretary. Michel, Odette and Wilbrod served as directors. Monique assumed responsibility for the newsletter with Claire's collaboration. This was the preparatory year for our trip to France. We had a lot to do: put all the logistics in place, have a commemorative plaque made, and establish contact with several Charbonneaus in France.

Several new members joined our ranks, especially from the United States, and it was hoped that several of them would join us for the trip to France. Many of them were descendants of Delphis, Damase or Pierre, sons of Jean-Baptiste, the great-grandfather of one of our conference speakers in Mont-Tremblant, Gérard. We also noted that some twenty-odd association members also descended from Jean-Baptiste's other two sons, namely François and Jean-Baptiste Jr.

We featured Dominique Charbonneau, the author of the dictionary of Charbonneau marriages, by publishing his family tree.



Michel

Michel, one of our new directors, gave us a copy of the speech he had made at the last Annual General Meeting and it was published for the benefit of all of Jean's descendants.

We also published the proposed itinerary of our trip to France planned for 1999, arriving in Paris, proceeding to LaFlèche, LaRoche, Marans, Bordeaux, Rocamadour, Toulouse, Carcassonne, Avignon, Nice and Monte-Carlo, returning to Montreal from Marseilles. We also produced an article featuring Rocamadour, one of France's most extraordinary towns.



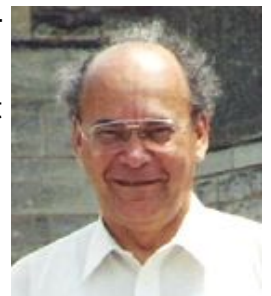
Louis-Philippe

More Charbonneaus were in the news: Louis-Philippe, a painter residing in Boucherville, presided over the Institute of Figurative Arts, a group with over 110 professional artist-members.

Lyse from Oka told us about her

father, Antoine, who was a businessman and mayor of Saint-Eustache in the forties. A street and a subsidized housing project bear his name.

Yvon, a well-known union leader, president of a commis-



Yvon

sion of inquiry into the management of toxic waste, and later a federal member of parliament, joined our membership. Honorius Charbonneau, mayor of the town of Mont-Saint-Hilaire for over 30 years also became a member. Our association now numbered 172 members, while 14 laggards' dues were still unpaid.

Charles, our secretary, wrote an article on our proposed visit to LaFlèche. He managed to inject some humour into the story. He introduced us to Jérôme Le Royer, squire of Dauversière, who was invested with the task of founding a hospital on a deserted island in the Saint-Lawrence River named Montréal. Unfortunately, the squire never laid foot in Montréal and died, a ruined man, on November 6, 1659, in France.

In order to give us a taste of what was to come, Thérèse Charbonneau-Conquer, Henri's sister, related her trip to Marans in 1962 with her father, Louis, 20<sup>th</sup> child of his own family, who fathered 10 children himself.

André, son of Marcel, our famous painter, also related his visit to Marans in 1998.



Our travel agency held a draw offering a free trip to France to some fortunate person having registered before December 31, 1998. Some 81 families were eligible. The winner was Lynne-Marie Charbonneau from Dobbinton, Ontario, who received the lucky phone call directly from the Montreal Casino where the draw was held.

Our next annual meeting was announced for September 11, 1998, in Montréal.

Once more, a call was made to recruit new blood for



*Here is Charles placing the call to Lynne-Marie Charbonneau, winner of the contest. Next to him are Yolande, our travel agent, Claire and Odette.*

the board. There were openings, and renewal was essential to the association's survival.

A battle ensued between Jean-Louis from Quebec and Alexa from the United States to see who would



Alexia

Jean-Louis

win the title of top recruiter of new members. It was a tight race. Our first spring activity was a sugar-ing-off party

held in Oka at a sugar-shack owned by Claude Charbonneau. More than 80 guests attended. The event proved a complete success.

Another Charbonneau in the news was Marguerite from L'Assomption, who published a book entitled:

*"A Mixture of Love and Grief"*. It related more than 70 years of her family's history.

We published a first article on Monseigneur Joseph Charbonneau, Archbishop of Montreal, originally from Lefaivre, Ontario, and related to many of our members. It was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the workers' strike in Asbestos, Quebec. Monseigneur Charbonneau ordered a collection of funds in all the parishes in his diocese to support the strikers' families.

Maurice Duplessis, Premier of Quebec, opposed this move and manipulated several bishops into petitioning Rome against Charbonneau. Six months later, Charbonneau was summarily dismissed by the Pope and retired to Victoria, British Columbia where he died in 1959. His body was returned to Montreal where a televised funeral service was held (a first). He was entombed in Mary Queen of the World Cathedral in Montreal, to take his place with all the other bishops of Montreal.

Our treasurer, Yves, and his wife Marilyn looked forward to visiting Gabrielle and Jean Charbonneau, whom they had met in 1992 during a trip to Marans and Charron, France, and with whom they had remained in contact.

The association numbered 181 members, while 18 others were still owing.

Finally, after much anticipation, our group of 47 intrepid travellers left Montreal for Paris on June 28, 1999, to undertake a 15-day journey back to our roots. Magnificent receptions were held in our honour in LaFlèche and La Rochelle, and finally on July 5<sup>th</sup> in Marans, we met up with some 30 Charbonneaus from France. Following a church service, after which our plaque was formally unveiled, a cocktail was offered at the City Hall by Mayor Bouchereau. He had previously written to hundreds of Charbonneau families in surrounding provinces and had invited them to Marans to meet their Canadian cousins. A splendid banquet followed with speeches and presentation of gifts. Even the wines were from a winery owned by a Charbonneau. Several friendships developed that day.

A few months later saw the creation of the Association of Charbonneaus of France in Marans.



*Some founding members of our association in front of the plaque in the church at Marans. From the left: Odette, Mayor Bouchereau, Claire, Louise, Denis and Monique.*

## 1999-2000

The Annual General Meeting was held on September 11, 1999, at which several pictures of our trip to France were displayed.

The new Board was elected: Odette became president, Monique remained as vice-president, Yves remained as treasurer and Charles as secretary. The directors elected were Michel, Jean-Guy and Gilles.

More Charbonneaus in the news: Alice Charbonneau-Larocque, aged 97, talked about the emigration of Charbonneaus from Quebec to Ontario. She is Delphis' daughter and, as we remember, Delphis was Odette's grandfather,



Jean-Guy



Gilles

half-brother to Gérard from Saint-Jovite and uncle to Henri, our founder. Got it!!!

To date, the association numbered 206 members, while 12 others were still owing after four months.

While re-reading old newsletters, we discovered a poem written in French by Lyse I. Charbonneau entitled: *Hommage aux Charbonneau (A Salute to Charbonneaus)*. Here is the English translation:

*Charbonneau, what a popular name,  
Check it out for phone book fame  
My grandfather, to name but one  
Gave birth to 26 daughters and sons*

*Descendants of Olivier, who worked at the mill  
Now spread over dale and hill  
Living some on French ancestors' soil  
Others even with the English do toil*

*Some of them, Columbia did see  
Still others adventured to Italy  
Then Charbonneau became "Charbee"  
Or yet again more exotic "Carbonari"*

*The Americans turned it into "Colewater"  
For those who ventured there  
Several adopted "Charbonnier"  
Some chose Indian fare*

*Lumberjack, artist, doctor  
Actor, politician, writer,  
All good trades and strong professions,  
For these people of beloved origins*

*The Charbonneaus, well-born, home-grown or  
"nosegrown"*

*Hours with laughter overblown  
Upon hearing a story, invented or known  
See the good side of life  
Man, woman, husband or wife*

*Getting to know them is well worth the cost  
Never must you tell them to go get lost  
More than one card stacks their deck  
A reply may be dry like good wine sec*

*Working hard their lives throughout  
Ever meaning success to see  
Their recompense lies without a doubt  
In the song they sing of their ancestry.  
(English Translation: Sandra Dickson)*

We learned that our French cousins, probably inspired by us, met on December 18, 1999, at the Marandais Restaurant in Marans to found their own association to be named The Association of Charbonneaus of the Old Continent.

Jean-Guy, a newly elected director of our association, informed us that he had developed a passion for genealogy over the past 15 years. He had been a member of the French-Canadian Genealogical Association since 1984, and with the help of Lynne-Marie, our winner of the trip to France in 1999, he proposed to contribute a regular column on genealogy to our newsletter.

Early in 2000, we were apprised of the sad news of the passing of our founder, Henri, at the age of 80. We will undertake to tell his life story starting from his youth and we take the opportunity to thank this wonderful man for his boundless energy and enthusiasm, as well as his great generosity for the time and competency he placed at our disposal.



*Henri  
Charbonneau*

More Charbonneaus were in the news: Louise, one of our directors, and her husband had just opened a second clothing store on Montreal's south shore. We learned of Louise's polished management skills and her talent in managing a large-surface store comprising dozens of employees.

Many new members joined the association, both from Québec and from the United States, especially from Michigan, thanks to the recruiting efforts of Alexa and her sisters. Armand discovered us on the web and soon became a director. Our membership stood at 210 with, as usual, some 17 laggards.

In the early spring, our sugaring-off party was held at Paul Labelle's sugar-shack in Saint-Eustache. Paul is a descendant of Olivier's daughter, Anne, who was married to Guillaume Labelle. Some 75 people, descendants of Olivier and Jean, attended the event and partook of an excellent meal.

In this year, it was announced that our next rally would be held August 5, 6 and 7, 2000, in Ottawa-Hull, our federal capital region.

More Charbonneaus were in the news: it was announced that at our upcoming gathering, the featured speaker would be Marcel Fournier, a very well-known



Marcel Fournier

and reputed genealogist, recognized in both Québec and France.

Yvon Charbonneau, a federal member of parliament, and committee president of the parliamentary friends of



Yvon Charbonneau

UNESCO, was invited as our guest of honour at the rally's closing banquet. The gathering was well appreciated for the many workshops, the exhibitions and the various talks by Jean-Guy,

Lynne-Marie and Milton. The official welcome to

Hull was pronounced by the president of the municipal council.



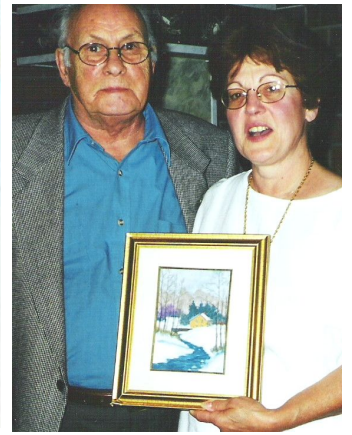
*The closing banquet*

Tours

were offered both of Hull and Ottawa. There was a fireworks display next to the casino and a mass was co-celebrated by Léonel Charbonneau, a missionary in Peru, and Lucien, Saint-Albert Parish Priest, and Odette's brother.



*The rally attracted more than 100 participants from Québec, Ontario, New-Brunswick, and from the states of Michigan, Pennsylvania, New-York, South-Carolina and California. Others came from Peru and South-Africa. One American family came 14 members strong to the Hull rally.*

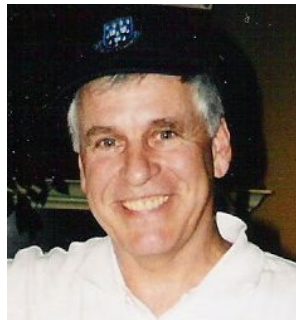


*Left and center : Who could forget the wonderful train ride to and from Wakefield, Quebec, on Monday, September 8! On the right: a painting by Marcel Charbonneau, won on a draw by Sandra Dickson.*

## 2000-2001



Gisèle



André



*The Board of Directors for 2000-2001: First row: Jean-Guy, Odette and Gisèle. Second row: Charles, André, Gilles and Yves.*

The new Board of Directors was comprised of: Odette as president, Jean-Guy as vice-president, Yves as treasurer, and Charles as secretary. The directors were Gilles, Gisèle and André from Ontario. Claudine

took over responsibility for the newsletter while Sandra and Yves took care of translation. Gisèle co-

ordinated the content and Claire continued as a frequent contributor. Dr. René Charbonneau shared memories of his family's recent gathering in Saint-Albert, Ontario. The event was held to celebrate the homecoming of his sister, Thérèse, a missionary in Peru for over 30 years.

One year later, she was named Assistant-General of the Sisters of the Sacred-Heart order of nuns. René also declared, with the necessary proof, that the first Charbonneau to settle in Ontario was his great-grandfather, Charles, who settled in 1863, some 12 years before Jean-Baptiste who had been believed to be the first, and who is the direct ancestor of several of our members. More Charbonneaus were in the news: Pascal is Canadian junior chess champion, international chess star and Master of the International Chess Federation. Steve Charbonneau, a professional football player, signed with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League.



René

In Memoriam: Our top recruiter, Jean-Louis, left us for a better world; Ralph died in Seattle; Paul, one of our first members, died in Montréal at the age of 89. Jean-Guy and Lynne-Marie continued to inform and interest us all with their well-documented articles on



Lynne-Marie

genealogy. They inspired many members to do their own digging into family trees. Jean-Guy was gathering much detailed information with the intention of publishing a historical and genealogical dictionary of the Charbonneaus. Meanwhile, Lynne-Marie spe-

cialized in compiling genealogical data on Ontarians and Americans.

The 2001 Annual General Meeting of the association was held in Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, just north of Montreal, at a sugar-shack called Chez Paquette. The meeting was followed by a visit and guided tour of the Ferme Vachalê International (international cow farm). This specialized farm raises pure-bred Holsteins exclusively and exports to Europe, the United States and South-America. The founder, Jean-Louis Charbonneau, willed it to his five children: Pierre, Daniel, Guy, Benoît and to Monique's husband, Richard Maheu.

## 2001-2002

The new executive consisted of Jean-Guy, President, Gilles, Vice-President, Gisèle, Secretary and Yves, Treasurer. The directors were Charles, André from Ottawa and Éric.



Eric

More Charbonneaus were in the news: Nicolas Charbonneau raises ostriches in Saint-Eustache. His flock consists of 120 ostriches of which 20 are kept for reproduction. Charles, our intrepid reporter on this story, informed us that it takes 10 people to eat an omelet made of only 1 ostrich egg, the

equivalent of 24 chicken eggs. The yoke of an ostrich egg is as large as a grapefruit.

We published Toussaint Charbonneau's family tree (Toussaint, husband of Sacagawea of Lewis and Clark fame) as well as a short history of his life in Western Canada and in the United States as a trapper, explorer and guide.

We related the story of Larry Letourneau from Kansas who became a priest at the young age of 61, after having been married for 37 years and raising 3 children. After the death of his wife, he announced

to his children that he was commencing theological studies to enter the priesthood. Larry and Ramona from California share the same great-grandparents, Gaspard Perret and Marie-Mélanise Charbonneau. In Memoriam: We sadly announced the disappearance of several members or relatives: Vincent, father of Sylvain; Marcel from Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac; Jean, son of Marcel and Jeannine and brother to André and Louise, a co-founder of our association. We also remembered Al Sierens, well known by our American cousins.

André, a recent board member, was busy organizing a winter activity: the Bal des Neiges (Snow Ball) 2002 edition in Ottawa for February 3. Everybody was invited to bring along skates or walking boots to enjoy the open-air festivities held on the Rideau Canal, which is reputed to have the longest skating surface in the world.



Once more, in April, we gathered for our sugaring-off party at a sugar-shack in the Oka area owned by our cousin Claude. It was a wonderful party at which we featured the many promotional articles we had for sale.



*From left to right:  
André, Louise, Colette and Jean-Guy*



Another Charbonneau in the news was Christine, an author, composer and singer. She has written songs for

many of Quebec's singing stars including France Castel, Michel Louvain, Ginette Reno, Céline Dion and Patsy Gallant.

During the 2000 rally, Claire had announced for 2004 or 2005 the possibility of

a trip to the United States where Toussaint had travelled and explored. The idea was to commemorate the bi-centennial of the famous Lewis & Clark Expedition which had as its goal the discovery of a route to open the far west. It is to be remembered that Toussaint and his wife, Sacagawea, acted as guides and translators for Lewis & Clark as well as facilitators with several Indian tribes. It is said that without them the expedition



might have been doomed to failure. Still many questions were pending at the beginning of 2002: the



*Monseigneur Charbonneau*

point of departure for the Canadian and American participants and the cost of this trip.

More information was forthcoming on Monseigneur Joseph Charbonneau, and his family tree was published.

Other Charbonneaus were in the news: Roger, from Hull, a veteran of the Canadian forces who

fought in World War II was to be featured pictorially-



*Roger and the Canadian \$10 bill*

speaking on our ten-dollar bill. A short history lesson revealed a man deeply engaged in his community.

For the second consecutive year, Pascale Bigras-Charbonneau kept her title of champion and received a second gold medal in judo at the Quebec



Summer Games. Yvon, our honourable deputy, while touring France with sev-

eral parliamentarians, took time off to visit Marans and met with Étienne and Jean-Paul from our sister organization in France. They toured Marans and La Rochelle together.

The La Presse newspaper honoured the youngest International Chess Grand Master, and new Canadian champion from Quebec, Pascal Charbonneau, and named him Personality of the Week.



*Our Annual General Meeting was held in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Quebec, on September 8, 2002, on a beautiful sunny day. Souvenir plaques were presented to Odette and Denis for their work and devotion to our association.*



## 2002-2003



In this year, a new executive was formed and consisted of: Jean-Guy, President, Gilles, Vice-President, Claire, Secretary and Yves, Treasurer. The directors were André from Ontario, Éric and Gisèle.

The cost of an annual membership increased from \$15 to \$18.

Talk turned to the projected trip to the United States planned for June 2004. It was to center around Toussaint and Sacagawea. Some 48 people ex-

pressed interest in this trip when it was presented at the Hull, Quebec, gathering.

Milton from Michigan, who had travelled the route chosen by Toussaint some 200 years before, addressed an invitation to our members to undertake this same trip and discover the explored territory by travelling through the mid-and north-western United States.

Our association now stood at 206 members.

Our eldest member, Alice, reached 100 years of age and André from Ottawa, representing the association, offered her a bouquet of flowers.



*André and Alice*



In Memoriam: Several members passed away during the year: Jules, brother to Marcel and uncle of Louise; Suzanne, member of the provisional executive committee in 1994 and our founder Henri's sister; Robert, father of Vice-President Gilles, and father-in-law of Gisèle, Director.

It was announced that a second winter event would be organized within the Winterlude festivities in Ottawa.

More Charbonneaus were in the news: Gisèle told the life story of her aunt, Sister Fernande of the Congregation of Our Lady. She entered the convent in 1939, worked as a teacher and director, founded a spiritual group, and wrote several books on Marguerite Bourgeois. A full life for this nun of 84.

Paul, a photographer, posted a photo of the sunset every night at [www.soleildujour.com](http://www.soleildujour.com).

Kristen Den Hartog, Marilyn's daughter, published her second novel entitled *The Perpetual Ending*. The book received several positive reviews. Marilyn is our Treasurer Yves' wife.

Ginette Charbonneau and her partner Jean Boulanger opened a bar-restaurant in Mont-Saint-Hilaire on Montreal's south shore.

Pascal Charbonneau, son of one of Quebec's singing Stars, Ginette Reno, was the opening act at his mother's concert. Would he enjoy the same success as his mother? We know that, in 2009, he created and produced a song sung by his mother which sold over 250,000 copies in Quebec. It was entitled: *Fais-moi la tendresse (Be Tender with Me)*.

Alexa's family, staunch supporters of our association from its beginnings, several of her 9 brothers and sisters having attended our past gatherings, sent us a family portrait and a short note which we published in one of this year's newsletters.

Claire promoted the planned trip to the United States by providing us with new relevant publications: a book by Richard Héту entitled *La route de l'ouest (The Road West)*, while Quebec historian and author, Denis Vaugois, released a book entitled *America, the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Birth of a New Power*. Ken Burns of PBS directed a video entitled *Lewis and Clark: the Journey of the Corps of Discovery* available through PBS. Claire

told us, once again, the story of Toussaint after he left Quebec in 1777, never to return.

One of our ever-present and helpful non-members, Sandra Dickson, often present at our meetings and one of the key organizers of the Ottawa-Hull rally, in addition to tirelessly translating and adapting our newsletter into English, finally succumbed to the temptation of becoming a member.

In Memoriam: Conrad died in the fall of 2002. He was the brother of Jacques, Lucienne, Françoise, Huguette, Madeleine, Lucien and Odette, our ex-president, all of whom were members of our association.

Our annual sugaring-off party was held at the Maurice Jeannotte sugar-shack located in Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu, a village on Montreal's south shore.

Obviously, several Charbonneaus were in attendance including the former mayor of Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Honourable Charbonneau, who held office for over 30 years.



We were pleased to learn that our ancestor Olivier's history could be traced back twenty years before his departure from France. He signed as witness to his brother's marriage in 1639.

Claire and Thérèse went to France and during their stay, they had the pleasure of having lunch with a few members of the Association des Charbonneau du Vieux Continent's Board of Directors. They spoke of a possible gathering in 2009.



*1<sup>st</sup> row, from left to right: Jean Carracha, Claire, Thérèse; 2<sup>nd</sup> row, from left to right: Jacques Charbonneau, Liliane Paris, Robert Charbonneau and Étienne Charbonneau, President of the Association des Charbonneau du Vieux Continent.*

While doing research for his book entitled *America*, Denis Vaugeois found Toussaint's birth certificate. It appears that he was 37 years of age and not 47 when he was hired by Lewis & Clark.

Our members were encouraged by an article published about the Richelieu Valley to discover this region one beautiful sunny day. Approximately one hundred Charbonneau families reside in this region. Fourteen members of our association come from the state of Michigan. We took the opportunity to relate the story of the arrival of French Canadians in this region during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We remembered those who died on the battle field or who put their lives at risk during the first and second world wars. We invited our members to speak of those in their own families who gave their lives for their country.

In Memoriam: Fernand, Gérard's brother, one of our co-founding members passed away. Vincent, father to our American writer, Eileen, died at the age of 89 at his home in the state of New York.

We deeply regretted the departure of a person who was dear to our hearts, a great benefactor to our association, a great artist: Marcel Charbonneau, who was present at the founding of the Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique. Husband to Jeannine, father to Louise (co-founding member), André and Jean (deceased), he was always present at our activities.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in Boucherville and rallied thirty members.



*From left to right: Gilles, Yves, Gisèle and Claire*



Charles



Jacques

On this occasion, we gave a souvenir plaque to Charles for his six-year contribution to the Board of Directors and to Jacques, our generous donour involved since the beginning of the as-

sociation. On numerous occasions, Jacques invited the Board of Directors to hold their meeting at his home in Wendover, located on the Ottawa River.



## 2003-2004

The next year, the Board of Directors was composed of Gilles, President, Claire, Vice President, Monique, Secretary, Jean-Guy, Treasurer. Administrators were: Denis, André and Gisèle.

Étienne Charbonneau from France sent us a report of his voyage to Toussaint Charbonneau's country. He began following the trail in 1994 and completed it a few years later, a 1800-kilometer drive by car. He mentioned what was worth seeing and the sites not to be missed.

During the fall of 2003, we noticed that our membership was stagnant: many mortalities amongst our members, the non-renewal of membership for some and very few new inscriptions each year accounted for this. In 2000, our assets were \$12,606. In 2003, our assets dropped to \$4,981. We were always looking for a magic formula to attract new members and retain those who had taken out memberships for the first time.

Our association was present at the first exhibition of the founding families of Montreal. We were able to meet 74 other families that were on the premises and had the opportunity to visit the impressive exhibition entitled *150 Years of Genealogy in Quebec* organized by the Société généalogique canadienne-française.

We began to discuss our next rally and believed it should be held in Montreal with the following theme: In Olivier's Footsteps.

Several Charbonneau names appeared in the news: Dale from Spring Valley was able to save a man's life when he had a heart attack in a city park.

Terry from Princeton, Illinois, son of Edwin Terrence Charbonneau, found a mushroom weighing three pounds and measuring 10 ½ inches. Sophie from Montreal participated in the annual Lake St. John swimming competition and was able to cross the

lake in 9 hours and 34 minutes. She finished 16<sup>th</sup>.

Louis-Philippe, our artist-painter from Boucherville received Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 for many years of exceptional contribution in the field of art. His paintings can be found in many well-known galleries in Quebec, Europe, Asia and in Africa.

Following our article on Michigan, some Charbonneaus wrote us : Milton, Jeannette Sherwood, born Charbonneau, Roni Sionakides, born Sherbino, and Dale Sharboneau gave accounts of their Quebec and American origins.

In Memoriam: Arthur, one of Alexa's brothers, died suddenly in January; Marie-Jeanne Asselin-Gagnon, mother of Colette, Treasurer Jean-Guy's wife, left us for a better world at the beginning of January. Our American author Eileen, who had lost her father the year before, was now again bereaved : her sister Marie died in the spring of 2004.

Our American members reacted to our request concerning members of their families who had served in the American armed forces: Colonel E. Terry Charbonneau, his great-great-grandfather Anthony Charbonneau, and George F. Charbonneau, George and Terry being members of our association.

Charbonneaus appeared in the news: Manon, psychiatric doctor in Sept-Iles for the last 12 years said that practicing medicine in a regional area provided her with a sense of personal and professional accomplishment.

Clement, a monk at the Oka Abbey near Montreal, responsible for the abbey's store, serves about 60 000 people per year who come to buy caramel cream, peanut butter, stewed apples, apple jelly, chocolates, fruit cake and Oka cheese.

Robert, his wife Denise and their children run a heating-oil company: Pétroles Charbonneau.

We published an article concerning the visit of a new member to the province of Quebec: Anita Charbonneau from New York State. For two days, Jean-Guy served as guide to Anita and her husband Patrick. Together they visited the Laurentians where Anita's grandfather was born.

Our treasurer, Jean-Guy, said that he was working 40 hours per week to elaborate a dictionary of Charbonneau marriages from the beginning of the colony to 2002. Once finished, this work will consist of 3 volumes of 400 pages and it will be easy for everyone to find his lineage rapidly. He also was working at a more complete dictionary of the Charbonneaus of America with the names of fathers and mothers, where they married, the names of children, spouses, birth dates and dates of burial. There will be 20 volumes altogether and 3 are already finished.

Once again, the Association organized a sugaring-off party at La Petite Coulée in St. Esprit, in the Lanaudiere region. On the program: sleighride and visit of the farm's animals. Responding to the invitation, 160 Charbonneaus and their friends fraternized in a most congenial atmosphere.



A new page of history was written, that of the Charbonneaus of New England and the eastern states who migrated from Quebec in the 19<sup>th</sup> century carrying with them their way of life, their language and-

their cultural institutions. We sent our greetings to members of that area: Edmond, Eva Ann Ward, Alexa and Teresa, Thérèse-Fleur, Eileen, Dean Gallea, Marie and Herman.

We published an article about our sister-association in France, the activities they organized, their website, and the bonds of friendship established between our associations. We hoped that a gathering would be held in 2009 to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Recruit and the departure from France in 1659.

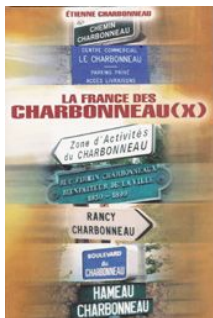
Despite all the advertising over the past 3 years, particularly in the last year, we had not been able to obtain the required number of participants for our 2004 voyage to the United States in the footsteps of Toussaint Charbonneau. Moroseness and a certain fear after September 2001 events certainly accounted for the negative decision of approximately forty members who were at the beginning favourable to such a trip. We deeply regretted having to cancel the trip since we had devoted many months to the preparation of a very personalized trip for the members of our association.



Claire and Sandra at Alexa's home in Philadelphia, preparing the proposed trip with the help of Alexa and her brother Fred who had come from Michigan for the occasion.

Representatives from the Quebec Federation of Founding Families completed an exploratory mission to France. They met with members of "sister" family associations bearing the same surname. On June 9, 2004, the administrators met with Étienne Charbonneau, President of the Association des Charbonneau du Vieux Continent.

One of the Association's goals was to get in touch with the Charbonneaus living in Western Canada. To that effect, we sent a promotional brochure to about one hundred families, chosen at random, in each of the western provinces inviting them to join our Association. Unfortunately, this initiative produced no result. We then believed that the best way to recruit members was by personal contact as demonstrated by Alexa, Jean-Louis and other members of our association. We announced that Etienne in France had just published *La France des Charbonneau(x)*. Many Charbonneaus should be interested in buying such a book, knowing that the National Geographic Institute in France had registered 57 sites bearing the surname Charbonneau.



was attended by forty-four people. We met at the Bistro restaurant. After the meeting and a meal, we had the pleasure of visiting the Chateau Montebello. City Counselor, Yves Michel Allard, responsible for Art and Culture, a long-standing friend of Claire, was our guide. At this Annual General Meeting, the Association presented Yves, former Board member, with a souvenir plaque in recognition for the innumerable services rendered during his eight years on the Board, six of which were as treasurer.



Chateau Montebello

Our Annual General Meeting was held in Montebello in the Ottawa region and



## 2004-2005



From left to right: Armand, Maurice, Michel and Roseline

New Charbonneaus joined our team on the Board of Directors. Gilles still had the presidency, Claire was vice-president, Jean-Guy was treasurer and Roseline, aunt to Gilles and Gisèle was our new secretary. The new administrators: Armand, Maurice and Michel.

That year, we began the story of Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau who left Quebec in the mid 19th century and spent the remainder of his life in the Canadian North West. He witnessed many events in that region.

We announced our next rally. It was to be held in 2005 in the region of Montreal and the theme was to be: In Olivier Charbonneau's Footsteps.

Yvon Charbonneau, our guest of honour at the Hull-Ottawa rally in 2000, was named ambassador for education, science and culture at UNESCO in Paris.

We announced that Monseigneur Joseph-Charbonneau Square in Montreal would be enlarged and that an inaugural ceremony would be held in 2005.



A new grand production entitled *L'Écho d'un peuple* was offered for the first time in Ontario close to the Quebec border. Odette was part of the cast and invited us to attend their first season performance.

We published an article on Toussaint Charbonneau and his participation in the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 1805.

Other Charbonneaus were in the news: Christine Charbonneau, daughter of one of our most faithful members, Lucille, lives in Costa Rica and she invited us to come to her island: Christine's Island. Her hope was to have campers and construction volunteers help clean up the debris remaining after the hurricane Ceasar destroyed her home, her camping facilities and her artwork in 1994, and reconstruct her dream of creating a tropical excursion-camping experience

Jean Charbonneau of the Association des Charbonneau du Vieux Continent completed a genealogy chart 2.4 meters long. It is the history of a Charbonneau family from the south of the Vendée Region in France. We published the news.

Thomas Charbonneau, son of Deputy Yvon Charbonneau, played in a world tournament of young

football players in Plougastel (Finistère) in the south of Brittany.

Jean-Louis Charbonneau and his wife, Alice Cyr, were proclaimed Quebec Agricultural Family of the Year at the Union of Agricultural Producers Annual Meeting in Quebec City. An article on the subject appeared in the July 2001 newsletter.



Claire was surprised to receive a fascinating present from Ramona Teisan, association member living in California. The gift was a beautiful, handcrafted doll representing Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau, Toussaint Charbonneau's son, and created for the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

Jean-Baptiste is wrapped in a fur piece and secured to a wooden frame designed to allow a child to be carried on one's back during an expedition. Claire, with Ramona's approval, gave the doll to the Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique.

Our association numbered 196 active members. Our revenues decreased due to a lack of new registrations.

Once again we were all invited to a sugaring-off party at St. Esprit, the same location as last year's very successful event with more than 100 participants.

Claire wrote a long article entitled *Genealogy, a Hobby that Became a Passion*. Susan from California sent us a short description of a trip she took with her husband John to Antarctica and enclosed a card full of pictures.

Our 2005 rally reunited 70 people of which about twenty were American members. We gathered in the hospitality suite of the hotel on Friday night and the following two days were spent following in the footsteps of Olivier.

We visited Old Montreal and Boucherville where the *Société d'Histoire des Îles Percées* guided the group, visit personalized around Olivier and his three sons who inhabited Boucherville in the XVIIth century; Pointe-aux-Tremble where Jean, Olivier's son settled, and St. François-de-Sales where a mass was celebrated by Lucien Charbonneau followed by a luncheon, the Annual General Meeting, a visit of the cemetery, as well as the Berge Olivier-Charbonneau and the site where Olivier lived until his death. Upon our return to the hotel, cocktails were served and each participant was given a sou-

venir album of this event. The week-end ended in the dining room of the Hotel Gouverneur on Charron Island.



Above : Old Montreal  
Below, St. François-de-Sales Church



On the left, the Pointe-aux-Trembles mill and St. Famille Church in Boucherville. Below, Ramona's family at Berge Olivier-Charbonneau and other participants in Old Montreal.



On the left, our ancestor, Olivier Charbonneau's plot. Below, cocktail at the hotel.



## 2005-2006



*Carole*



*Thérèse*

Our new executive was composed of: Gilles, President, Armand, Vice-President, Thérèse, Secretary and Jean-Guy, Treasurer. The administrators were Carole, Michel and Gisèle. A new year was beginning.



From left to right: Lucien, Danièle and her father Louis-Philippe, all members of Monseigneur Charbonneau's family.

Monseigneur Joseph-Charbonneau Square was now enlarged and restored and we were invited to the unveiling of a commemorative art-work representing the life of Monseigneur Charbonneau, Archbishop of Montreal from 1940 to 1950. The work of art is that of Patrick Coutu, artist-sculptor, designer and photographer. Many members of the enlarged family of Monseigneur Charbonneau were present at this event that took place in the presence of a member of the executive committee of the City of Montreal, the Episcopal Vicar and many managers of the Place Ville-Marie building. Claire and Lucien, Odette's brother, made short speeches in the name of the Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique.

We reproduced an article which had appeared in the Association des Charbonneau du Vieux Continent newsletter relating the visit of a group of fifty Charbonneaus of France to UNESCO, in Paris, while Yvon Charbonneau was residing there as Ambassador of Canada. This article gave us a good idea of his functions and the importance of Unesco in the world. The guided visit by Yvon was much appreciated by the French group.

We made our members aware of the work accomplished by our Vice-President, Armand, who settled in the High Laurentians after he retired. He transferred to his computer a genealogy data base that was written on file cards by a priest who was then 82 years of age and that contained 600,000 entries. After seven years, this work was almost completed and very soon keeping this data base up to date will be Armand's only preoccupation.

In Memoriam: We mourned the passing of a great benefactor of our association, Jacques of Wendover in Ontario. He was present at all of our activities and he will be missed by all. Two other Charbonneaus also passed away: Honorius, former mayor of Mount-Saint-Hilaire and Dorian, father to Joan Mustard, one of our members.

We published an article on the coureurs des bois (runners of the woods) mentioning the Charbonneaus who had covered vast regions in the heart of a continent that was still to be discovered: America.

Elisabeth, Olivier's daughter, married André Syre. We published a short biography of her husband who died tragically in 1689, victim of the Iroquois, leaving only one descendant. The Cyr family in Quebec descend from this single child. Elisabeth was remarried to Joseph Barbeau, the godfather of her son, and they gave life to eight children.



There were some Charbonneaus living in icy surroundings: Claudine, daughter of Gilles and Gisèle, was now living in Yellowknife, working as an educator in a French day nursery. Others living in that area were featured in an article.



Jean-Marc

Other members passed away during the year of 2005: Jean-Marc, Thérèse's husband and father to Denis Charbonneau of the apple orchard in Mont-Saint-Grégoire left us. Jean-Marc was a participant in the 1999 trip to France. Odette, who still mourned the death of her brother Jacques, was once

again bereaved. Her Aunt Lila died as well as one of her sisters, Lucienne, who was also with us on our trip to France. Denis, a member of our Board of Directors for a few years, mourned his father Roland, nephew of Monseigneur Joseph Charbonneau.

Three members were present at the Federation of Founding Families convention. Its theme was: *The role of family associations in commemoration activities*. We reported the content of this convention in our newsletter and decided to do more to talk about Franco-Ontarians who constantly have to fight to survive as French-speaking individuals.

We encouraged our members to drive to Casselman, in eastern Ontario, to see the grandiose show "*L'Écho d'un peuple*", a musical that related four centuries of French history in America, the arrival of the first French-speaking people in Ontario, and their struggle for survival as Francophones.

Our most senior member, Alice, from French-speaking Ontario was now 104 years old. She still had 10 living children, 27 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

Robert Charbonneau, French Ontario T.V. producer, was the object of an article since a new TV series was to begin in the summer called *Destination Nor'Ouest*.

We also produced a list of all Web sites on Franco-Ontarians, the list of historical and genealogy societies in French Ontario and the list of internet sites where commemorative plaques could be found in Ontario.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in St-Eustache at Nid'Otruche. Fifty people were present. This ostrich farm belongs to Nicolas Charbonneau. After the meeting, we enjoyed a meal of ostrich kebab on rice and green salad with fresh herbs as the main course, followed by a visit of the site.

Our annual fee was increased from \$18 to 20\$ for the following year.

## Année 2006-2007

For a second consecutive year, the Board of Directors remained the same. Gisèle was always responsible for the newsletter, Marthe Lemieux was the translator, Thérèse and Yves proof-readers and Claire was a collaborator.

A new forum for discussion was now instigated on the official Charbonneau Association website and we invited our members to react by sending informa-

tion, comments, or questions on genealogy. Our webmaster was now Michel Roger, Director Carole's husband. He also edited our newsletter.

We tried to get on our feet financially by putting our promotional articles for sale by mail. Our recent financial statement revealed that there would be only \$270 left in our bank account at the end of the financial year.

Gisèle found a Charbonneau in Sainte-Julienne who told her that he had no relatives here in Canada because he arrived in Quebec in 1951 from Laval (Mayenne) France, Loire region. He married Lucille Bélanger and their descendance is assured as they have three children: two boys and one girl and a few grandchildren that will ensure their Charbonneau lineage.

Étienne Charbonneau of the Charbonneaus from the Old Continent invited all Charbonneaus of America to come to their first gathering that would be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2007.

On the weekend of October 13, 2006, 73 family associations were invited to the Federation of Founding Families Salon for the Greater Montreal Area held at Carrefour Laval. Our Association set up a display at a kiosk. Many personalities took the microphone, welcomed us and mentioned the Charbonneaus as pioneer family of Laval. This show afforded a greater visibility for our association and many people visited our kiosk to obtain information.

In Memoriam: We were saddened to hear of the death of our board member Carole's mother, who died at the age of 76. Alexa, Teresa, Fred, Joseph and Mary Ann lost their sister Rita, who died at the age of 82. The family paid a tribute to her by saying that she had been a mother, a sister and an adorable friend that they cherished a great deal..

We wrote an article about Gaston Charbonneau, the man who had made popular the famous slogan *Parole de Charbonneau, c'est ce qu'il vous faut!* which could be translated by *Word of Charbonneau, this is what you need!* Seven children were born out of his union with Raymonde Lavoie, and they have 17 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Now retired from their business, Charbonneau Floral, the couple enjoy their retirement by visiting former clients and friends and travelling.

The Charbonneau Association from the Old Continent announced that they intended to approach the mayor of Marans in order to create a memorial to

mark the city's participation in the establishment of New France. Possible projects: the erection of a stele, the naming of an important street of the city, or a "Charbonneau Square". Many projects could materialize. Mayor Bernard Bouchereau was favourable to such an idea.

The Board of Directors organized a rally-meeting held in the region of Gatineau instead of our habitual sugaring-off party. For the past few years, the members from Ottawa-Gatineau had to travel to the region of Lanaudière to attend the spring activity. We thought it would be an occasion for other regions of Quebec to visit our cousins from the Ottawa area in 2007.

Gisèle spent a lot of time researching the Internet to find Charbonneaus who made history, or distinguished themselves in various ways. She dedicated a complete newsletter to them and did not forget those who died on the battle field. We are proud to bear the same name as they, whether they were musicians, mayors, deputies, educators, farmers, doctors or members of the armed forces.

Claire accepted the invitation to attend the Association of Charbonneau du Vieux Continent's first rally in Vendée. She took pamphlets on Quebec with her and invited the cheerful assembly of 160 participants to come to Quebec in 2008 assuring them that our association would be most pleased to welcome them. She published a report of her participation in this one-day rally.



Étienne from our sister association in France related his encounter with two Charbonneaus he met while he was walking on the Compostelle trail: Claude and Maude of Saint-Faustin-Lac-Carré in the Laurentians. He used this occasion to let them know of our association for the first time. This couple spent two and a half months on the trail.

Our Annual General Meeting was held at Vignoble Roche des Brises in Saint-Joseph-du-Lac on September 9, 2007. An election was held to fill four positions on the board of directors. The meeting was followed by a gastronomical buffet, a tour of the winery and a tasting of the wine produced. We offered a

souvenir plaque to Gilles for the eight years he was member of the board of directors and a flower bouquet to Gisèle. Gisèle was previously given a plaque during a former mandate.



*Gilles, Thérèse et Gisèle.*

## 2007-2008



*Carole, de Grenville*



*Pierrette*

Our Board of Directors began a new term. Michel was elected president, Armand remained vice-president; Thérèse was beginning her third year as secretary; Jean-Guy, as treasurer for a fifth year. The administrators: Carole from Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, Carole from Mascouche and Pierrette from Montreal.

We began the year with the sad news of the death of

Gisèle on October 17, 2007, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She devoted six years of her life to the association as administrator and as person in charge of the newsletter. She insisted on being present at our 2007 Annual General Meeting despite her illness.

For 2008 we announced the visit of a group of Charbonneaus from our sister association in France. Claire's message during their first rally the previous year seemed to have interested many participants. The board of directors in France began publicizing this trip among its members.

Even though she was not a member of the board of directors, Claire replaced Gisèle to continue the newsletter with the help, for one publication, of Carole and Louis-Philippe, Odette's son. In order to decrease the cost of printing and posting, one bilingual edition was published. Our anglophone members appreciated this initiative and were incorporating new French words or expressions into their vocabulary.

Our annual fee rose from \$21 to 25\$ in order to improve our financial situation. Despite this increase, we mentioned that most family associations asked for a \$30 annual membership fee.

Our sister association in France informed us that the inauguration of Place Olivier Charbonneau in Marans would be held December 8, 2007, following their annual general meeting.

We finally received news from France that a group of 43 Charbonneaus would be visiting Quebec for one week at the beginning of July. We invited our members to set aside July 2 as a suitable date for a friendly gathering at the Berge Olivier-Charbonneau which would be followed by a dinner at a Montreal restaurant.

Some Charbonneaus were in the news: we published an article about Louise being appointed Northwest Territories Supreme Court Judge. She is the daughter of Maurice and Monique, two faithful members of our association. We also published an article about their son Paul, solar astrophysician at the University of Montreal Department of Physics. Finally, we paid tribute to Francine Charbonneau, a talented aquarellist who regularly participates in many painting symposia.

Vice-President Armand wrote an article about the settling of the Charbonneaus in the Kiamika Valley in the High Laurentians. The settlement dated from 1892.

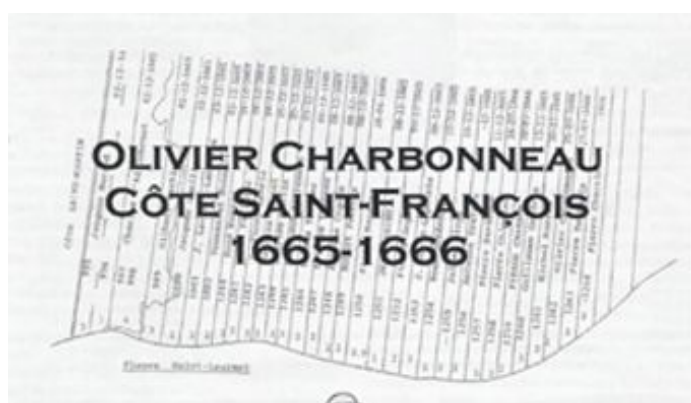
We celebrated spring's arrival by organizing a sugaring-off party at La Petite Coulée, in St. Esprit, in the Lanaudière region. About 35 members attended. We published an article on the Charbonneau house



With the Charbonneaus of France in front of the Charbonneau house on Mille-Îles Boulevard, in Laval.

where a lineage of eight generations lived from 1733 to 1962. This house is located at 8740 Mille-Îles Boulevard. We announced that it would now be restored by the city of Laval.

We published some news concerning our ancestor Olivier. In a work entitled *Une mémoire retrouvée* (A Memory Revisited), written by Claire LeRoux, Olivier's family was considered as pioneer family in Longue-Pointe (Côte St-François), a district of present-day Montreal, where he received 30 acres from the Sulpicians on July 25, 1666.



The Charbonneaus from France arrived in Quebec on the first of July and on the following day, one hundred Charbonneaus from Quebec welcomed them at Berge Olivier-Charbonneau. Welcoming speeches, an exchange of gifts between associations, friendly contacts over a glass of wine, a tree-planting to mark this meeting forever, and a time for chats and exchange of information ensued. The day ended all too soon at a Montreal restaurant. Thérèse, our secretary, was the chief organiser of this successful meeting.





After the welcoming ceremony (while a famous Félix Leclerc melody with words composed by the Charbonneaus from France was sung), an oak tree was planted to mark the spot where this meeting took place. At the bottom, the two boards of directors were reunited for the first time. Friendly contact over a glass of wine.

Our next Annual General Meeting was held September 7, 2008, at the restaurant owned by Daniel Charbonneau *Les péchés de Pinocchio*, an excellent restaurant in Magog, south of Montreal. Approximately forty people were present. Thérèse did not renew her mandate and received a flower bouquet as an expression of appreciation for her involvement over the past three years. It was also adopted to increase our annual fee to \$28 U.S. for American members.



Thérèse's departure



Daniel and his companion



Some participants at the 2008 Annual General Meeting

## 2008-2009



The new board for the coming year was composed of: Michel, Président, Armand, Vice-President, Monique, Secretary and Jean-Guy, Treasurer. The directors: Carole, Pierrette and Odette (replaced by Claire following Odette's departure to Europe).

We planned a gathering to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Olivier's arrival in New France and this rally would be held in the city of Quebec.

Some Charbonneaus were in the news: we related the story of Lucille's father (Lucille, a faithful member of our association) who raised a family of eleven children while he was mayor of a municipality and owner of a dairy farm in Rosemere. Charbonneau Park and Charbonneau Street were named in his honour.

Étienne sent us an article about a visit he made with his group while they were in Montreal. They went to Mary Queen of the World Cathedral to visit the resting place of Bishop Joseph Charbonneau. What a fortunate coincidence! The one chosen to guide them was Benoît Morrier, a young priest whose grandmother was a Charbonneau.



Mary DeLaine (left) and Claire Charbonneau

Mary DeLaine Sherbenou and her husband James Allcock arrived in Montreal from Virginia. Claire served as their guide for a day and the three followed in the footsteps of Olivier, tracing the same route that was organized for the 2005 rally participants in Montreal. An account was published in the newsletter.

Our French cousins announced that, following the planting of an oak tree on Berge Olivier-Charbonneau while they were in Quebec in 2008, they will do the same in Marans at the time of their Annual General Meeting on December 6, 2008.

In Memoriam: We lost three important members of our association: Louise, co-founder of our association and member of the first Board of Directors for two years; Roger, veteran of the Second World War; and Wilbrod, member from inception, having served as Board member for two years. The three had participated in our trip to France in 1999.

Other Charbonneaus were in the news: Pascal Charbonneau, a young tenor, was part of the cast of the rock opera *Starmania* presented in Quebec, an event that took place within the context of Quebec City's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This production was now in Montreal and we encouraged our members to attend the show.

Another magnificent performance was that of Odette Charbonneau, notary, residing in St.Sophie in the Low Laurentians who ascended Mount Kilimandjaro, a difficult climb that lasted 11 days. In the company of Pierre Bruneau, a well-known television newscaster, she reached the summit with 27 other Quebecers, as a publicity effort for the Pierre Bruneau Foundation.

We published an article about Marc, son of Gérard from St.Jovite, who was studying to become a permanent deacon. We let our members know of the responsibilities that were to be his once he had accepted permanent deaconship in the Catholic Church.

Jonathan Charbonneau authored the summer play *Une Chance qu'on s'aime!* (Thank heaven we love each other!) He is the son of Jean Charbonneau and Audette Savas, faithful members of our association.

In Memoriam: We announced the loss of Claire, wife of Louis-Philippe in Ottawa; of Alice, our senior member who died at the age of 106; of our Board member Pierrette's sister, Yvette, as well as the passing of our genealogist Lynne-Marie's mother.

Our spring gathering was held in Papineauville in the region of Ottawa at the Brazeau Sugar-shack. Thirty-two members and friends met to chat while having a traditional meal with plenty of maple syrup on the menu. Several Charbonneaus from Ontario that we had not seen for a while were present.

We were forced to announce with regret that we could not go ahead with plans to commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Olivier's arrival with his family in New France. The poor economic situation, the financial crisis and the cost for a week-end in Quebec City forced us to cancel this activity.

We encouraged our members to become members of the Board. They had until the end of June to let us know of their interest. While this call was made, we announced for the first time an upcoming summer theater activity to attend a performance of Jonathan Charbonneau's play *Une chance qu'on s'aime!* which was to be followed by a dinner in a nearby restaurant.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on September 13, 2009, at the Mother House of the Sisters of the Notre-Dame Congregation, where we had founded our association fifteen years ago.

We once again called for new participants on our board of directors. There were very few new members at this meeting and the members voted, as an inevitable result, the dissolution of the Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique after being informed by Charles of all necessary procedures. Our association came to an end from lack of new blood.

# 2009-2010

The 2008-2009 Board of Directors remained in place for the length of all procedures leading to the dissolution of the Association.

We published a fall newsletter advising our members of the dissolution of the association. We know that certain members wished to remain in contact with one other. A possible newsletter published occasionally on the Internet is a possible avenue. We invited our members to send their E-mail addresses to Claire Charbonneau at [charboc@videotron.ca](mailto:charboc@videotron.ca). Furthermore, we promised a special souvenir newsletter to be published during the spring of 2010 relating the 15-year history of our association.

In the fall newsletter, we promoted an activity organized on November 22, 2009, by the *Société généalogique canadienne-française* to commemorate the arrival of the St. André ship in 1659 in the port of Montreal with the families from Marans on board. Many conferences and lecturers were announced: *Contexte de vie en France en 1659* (The Context of Life in France in 1659) by Gervais Carpin; *La traversée* (The Crossing) by Gilles Bachand; *Qui étaient les passagers* (Who were the Passengers) by Josée Mongeau; *Jeanne Mance et les religieuses des Hospitalières de Saint-Joseph* (Jeanne Mance and the Religious Hospitallers of Saint-Joseph) by Sister Thérèse Payer, HSJ, and *Contexte de vie à Montréal en 1659* (Context of Life in Montreal in 1659) by André Lachance.



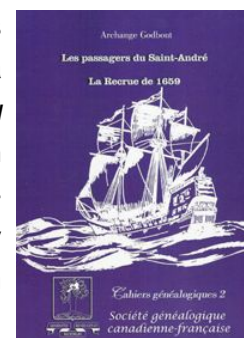
Act of Dissolution



Some of the participants at the November 22nd symposium, with many Charbonneaus or descendants of Charbonneaus

On November 9, 2009, our Treasurer Jean-Guy, upon having satisfied the requirements of the government, received an official notice to the effect that the Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique was now dissolved.

There were sixteen Charbonneau inscriptions at the November 22<sup>nd</sup> symposium, the largest representation of descendants on the St. André list of passengers. A proud gathering, we occupied several tables in the dining room and our presence was mentioned by our lecturers. The organizers proceeded to the launching of a book entitled *Les passagers du Saint-André* (The Passengers on the St. André) a re-edition corrected and augmented by many genealogical notes resulting from recent research.



Finally, a few members of our defunct association met at Monique's home in January 2010. On this occasion, our last treasurer, Jean-Guy, deposited all correspondence exchanged with Revenue Quebec and the Enterprise Registrar to satisfy the usual formalities. He also deposited all expenses incurred since our last Annual General Meeting, the sums needed to publish our last special newsletter in the spring being left in the bank account.



Monique, Jean-Guy and Pierrette

We took advantage of this last meeting to reward Jean-Guy with a souvenir plaque for his 11 years of service on the Board of Directors of which seven were spent as treasurer. This meeting was followed by a pot-luck luncheon with Thérèse, Colette, Charles and Sandra joining us for the occasion.



Here then is the end of the history of the Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique.

We wish to thank very sincerely all of our supporters throughout these years, Charbonneau members, old and new, and friends, from Quebec, English Canada, from the United States and from elsewhere in the world who believed in us and have made this project possible. Your encouragement ensured our association's survival all these years.

Our many thanks to those also who have shaped the Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique year after year by their implication on the Board of Directors. From one to five years of service, let us remember the work of Henri, our founder, Jean-Marie, Louise, Gérard, André of St. Jovite, André of Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, Wilbrod, Michel of Jean's lineage, Denis, André from Ontario, Éric, Roseline, Maurice, Thérèse, Carole from Grenville et Pierrette. From five to ten years of service, we recognize and appreciate the work of Odette, Monique, Yves, Charles, Gilles, Gisèle, Armand, Michel of Gatineau, Carole of Mascouche. Two other members have been the faithful guardians of the association with a presence of more than ten years: Jean-Guy and Claire. We

also wish to express our heart-felt gratitude to Michel Rogers of Mascouche, Carole's husband, who has for many years printed our newsletter and who is still responsible for updates to our website until next fall.

We cannot remain silent regarding the gigantic task of translating our newsletter which began the second year of our existence. We salute the excellent work of Yves, Denis, Monique, Claire and Sandra Dickson. Without them, without their voluntary contribution, our anglophone members would not have enjoyed this precious means of communication within their family association.

This document was prepared by Claire, who researched it, assembled its contents, wrote it and translated it into English with the help of Denis who translated the first 17 pages. Sandra spent many days reviewing, correcting, unifying both parts of this newsletter and finally twice proofread the final version. Thanks to the generous contribution of all three, our English-speaking members can enjoy this proud 15-year historical account of our *Association des Charbonneau d'Amérique*.

## To All of You, Goodbye!



Finally, this newsletter would not have been possible without the precious help of Étienne, founder of the *Association des Charbonneau du Vieux Continent*, former President and presently Secretary-Archivist, in charge of the newsletter for his own association. Week after week, for months, he received texts and photos, corrections or added material by E-mail which he used to create the layout of this newsletter as well as that of the French edition. So many hours he devoted to the benefit of all the members of our association! Without his priceless support, this newsletter would not have been possible. Thank you to this great friend of all Charbonneaus from this side of the Atlantic. Thank you Étienne!

## **L'association des Charbonneau d'Amérique**



**A beautiful  
history  
that lasted  
15 years**

**1994 - 2009**

Fred Charbonneau from Michigan  
also feels he has  
a family resemblance to Olivier.  
What do you think?