

Bas-St-Laurent/Gaspesie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine Chapter

May 28, 2016 We did not have the quorum required to hold our 2016-2017 AGM or elections to replace the Treasurer. On the other hand, our guest speaker Jacques Belzile captivated us. A most interesting and unique outstanding athlete with 192 medals and 62 trophies won in his career. Jacques is a top athlete but has remained very humble despite all the honours he has received over the years.

May 21, 2016 We visited our members on site in Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatiere, Trois-Pistoles and Riviere-du-Loup. Nine people came to meet us to inform us of what they were interested in as activities. They made several suggestions for outings that could be organized in their area. We took the opportunity to gauge their interest in getting involved in the organization of one of these celebrations. Everyone seemed satisfied with this experience and, in the fall, we plan to do the same for our Gaspesie members.

Standing: Robert Gagnon, Director, Yves Gagnon, Member, Paul-Eugene Gagnon, Vice-President, Carmen Gagnon, Secretary Treasurer.

Right: 2 of our members: Isabelle Gagnon and Therese Gregoire-Gagnon.

Seated: Our President Christiane Gagnon and on the right Ernest Gagnon, genealogist member who accompanied us on this itinerary.



October 17, 2015 Activity held at the Rimouski Public Market.



June 17 and May 26, 2015 Meetings were held to inform us of the provincial AGM and their preparations for the 375th anniversary celebration to be held next August. Our finances were also on the agenda as well as the preparation of an activity that we will do in October.

April 25, 2015 Our AGM was held at the Lisette-Morin Library in Rimouski and our speaker was Mylène Gagnon (1012), agronomist. Robert was replaced by Christiane Gagnon (1008) as President. Ghislain Lavoie died shortly after, on May 22nd.

Board of Directors 2015-2016 Bas St-Laurent / Gaspesie / Iles de la Madeleine chapter.

From left to right: Christiane Gagnon, President, Paul-Eugene Gagnon, Vice-President, Robert Gagnon, Administrator and Carmen Gagnon, Secretary/Treasurer.



April 26, 2014 The AGM was held at the Congress Center of Rimouski and our speaker was Nick Gagnon (1013), a well-known businessman in Rimouski, who told us about his career. He is also very active in the community, and his company has recently received honours. We were honoured to have Benoit Gagnon, President of the National, present to talk about the 375th anniversary celebration. Robert remained as President and Ernest resigned from the Board. Our Vice-President, Ghislain Lavoie was on sick leave. The meeting ended with a dinner.

April 27, 2013 AGM held at the Agricultural Pavilion, 375 of the Cathedral in Rimouski, the Board was rebuilt with the appointment of a Vice President, a Secretary Treasurer and 2 Directors. See the picture on the right.

From left to right: Marie-Ange Belzile, Director, Ernest Gagnon, Past President, Christiane Gagnon, Director, Robert Gagnon (1009), President, Carmen Gagnon, Secretary Treasurer and Seated Ghislain Lavoie, Vice-President.



June 1-3, 2012 The members of the Organizing Committee, led by Ernest Gagnon, organized the rally from June 1-3 at the Hôtel Levesque in Riviere-du-Loup, including lunch. 58 people took advantage of this beautiful festive weekend. Guests were treated to a tour of the Berger Nursery in St-Modeste, a guided tour of the historic sites of Riviere-du-Loup: Manoir Fraser, the Heritage Hydroelectric Power Plant, Parc des Chutes and Parc de la Pointe. Everyone appreciated this tour for the quality of the organization, the company's high technology to preserve the environment and the high level of employee satisfaction. Three Gagnon members gave lectures, Jean-Claude Gagnon presented his new book entitled "Descendance de Robert Gagnon établie dans Kamouraska", Jean-Paul Gagnon gave us a portrait on the nobility of the Gagnon ancestors and the role they played in the society of nobles in France and Ernest Gagnon's theme was "Pourquoi parlons-nous français aujourd'hui? In the late afternoon, a cocktail and buffet accompanied by a conference by Paul Gagnon (1010) who was Premier Jean Lesage's private pilot as well as a pilot for water bombers, including the Canso and the famous CL-215 for forest fire prevention. The recreational evening was hosted by Ghislain Lavoie with singing and music and many door prizes were drawn. See the following pictures.



Huguette Belzile, Secrétaire



Robert Gagnon, Conférencier



Armand Gagnon, Trésorier, assis Ernest Gagnon



Fernande Moreau Gagnon, Administratrice



Ernest Gagnon, Président conférencier généalogiste



Jacqueline Gagné à l'accueil des participants et à la vente de livres de généalogie



Fernande-Morneau Gagnon et Pierre Gagnon



Arnaud Gagnon, Ernest Gagnon notre Président, Raymond Gagnon et Pierre Gagnon le trésorier et registraire de l'association



Jacqueline Gagné et Pierre Gagnon



Huguette Belzile, Raymond Gagnon et Fernande Morneau-Gagnon



Marie-Angèle, Ernest et Benoit Gagnon



Paul Gagnon, Pilote et conférencier

Antonio Gagnon genealogist, founding member of the association and guest of honour who donated his genealogical database to the association. To his right is Benoit Gagnon, president of the association.



April 21, 2012 Chapter AGM at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Trois-Pistoles. The guest speaker was veterinarian Germain Gagnon, who received several awards for his work and volunteer work. In addition to his profession, he has always taught courses. He was the brother of the late Father Maurice Gagnon. The theme of his conference was "Veterinary Medicine by an Old Veterinarian". It was very interesting and entertaining. Twenty-four people attended this meeting. During the election, Robert Gagnon was appointed President to replace Ernest Gagnon who became the outgoing President, the 4 appointed directors are: Marie-Ange Belzile, Germain Gagnon, Marie-Lise Gagnon and Gaetane Gagne.

March 13, 2012 Death of a co-founder of the chapter, Father Marcel Belzile.

March 2012 Benoit Gagnon, assisted by Ernest Gagnon, presented a project to participate in Radio Canada's "Thief Package" program. Eight family associations participated, the earnings were distributed equally among the family associations according to an established protocol. Ernest Gagnon represented the Gagnon-Belzile families. The project was torpedoed at the end by a Project Selection Committee.

January 7, 2012 The Organizing Committee for the Annual General Meeting met at Le Bec Fin Restaurant in St-Pascal to undertake actions and take decisions for the realization of the event from June 1 to 3.

December 2011 At a meeting of the Chapter Board and the Association's members in La Pocatiere, an organizing committee was set up to prepare for the Provincial Association's AGM to be held on June 1, 2 and 3, 2012 in Riviere-du-Loup. The hosts will be the Board of Directors of the BSL / Gaspesie / Îles de la madeleine Chapter. The committee was composed of six members of the chapter, namely: Ernest Gagnon, committee chair, Raymond Gagnon, Arnaud Gagnon, Huguette Belzile, Fernande Morneau-Gagnon and Ghislain Lavoie, all members of the BBSL / Gaspesie / Îles de la madeleine Chapter Board, as well as Henri Gagnon and Benoit Gagnon of the provincial association. The committee will be operational until after the election of the next Chapter Board, and at the close of the event's financial statements, as new Chapter directors will be appointed at the Chapter's general meeting in April. The future president will be kept informed of the progress of the events and will be able to participate.

September 11, 2011 As we had planned last May, we visited Pepinière St-Modeste for an 'Open House' at this government institution that was celebrating its 50th anniversary. Ernest Gagnon is a pioneer in this great government department that shines internationally. This organization is a flagship of the Quebec Provincial Government through its Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife. Several members of the Bas-Saint-Laurent chapter association, accompanied by members of their families, took advantage of this opportunity, which was offered free of charge. Based on the comments received, many were impressed by the the technology used and developed in this government enterprise.



June 10, 2011 Death of Father Maurice Gagnon, a co-founding member of our Chapter.

June 3, 2011 AGA of the Association's Board of Directors in Dolbeau-Mistassini, Ernest Gagnon, President of the BSL Chapter and member of the Association's Board of Directors, has agreed that the next Association's AGM will be held in Riviere-du-Loup on June 1, 2 and 3, 2012.

May 21, 2011 At the Chapter AGM in Trois-Pistoles, Fernande Morneau-Gagnon, our correspondent at La Gagnonniere for the column "Les Gagnon et Belzile en manchettes", introduced us to guest speaker Robert Gagnon, whose theme was "Abuse of Elders". A special thank you was extended to Father Marcel Belzile for the article he published in La Gagnonniere about his first hour accomplice, Father Maurice Gagnon. The meeting was composed of 28 members. There have been changes in the directors, Gilles Ouellet and Rachelle Belzile have left the Board.

1st row from left to right: Marie-Lise Gagnon and Marie-Ange Belzile directors, Huguette Belzile secretary.

2nd row from left to right: Germain Gagnon, guest speaker, Raymond Gagnon, vice-president, Ernest Gagnon, president, Fernande Morneau-Gagnon and Arnaud Gagnon, treasurer. Absent from the photo are the outgoing president, Father Marcel Belzile and Gabriel Gagnon, a member of the association who was the official photographer for the occasion.



May 16, 2010 The Board met at Le Gondolier restaurant in Trois-Pistoles. A brunch preceded the meeting to get to know each other and to fraternize. Thanks were addressed to Marcel and Marie-Ange Belzile for their years of involvement in our chapter. As a sign of gratitude, they were given a work by Dûmat, an artist from Trois-Pistoles.

April 11, 2010 The AGM was held at the Lévesque Hotel in Riviere-du-Loup. A hearty brunch preceded the deliberations. Father Marcel Belzile was replaced as President of the Chapter by Mr. Ernest Gagnon (1007), a genealogist from Riviere-du-Loup. The guest speakers were Jean-Paul Gagnon, a genealogist who traced the history of the genealogy of the Gagnon de France nobility back to the 13th century. These noble Gagnon noblemen had influence over the royalty. Jean-Claude Gagnon spoke to the audience about the genealogy of the Gagnon and Belzile settled in the Lower St. Lawrence. Jean-Louis Gagnon captivated the audience with his lecture entitled "Vie en Mouvance". More than 80 people attended the event.



Left: Genealogist Jean-Claude Gagnon in front with the white jacket, and to his right Marcel Belzile the outgoing President and Jean-Louis Gagnon, genealogist.



Right: Mr. Ernest Gagnon during his presentation.

The new Board of Directors

1st row from left to right. Rachele Belzile, administrator, Father Maurice Gagnon, administrator, Ernest Gagnon, president and Raymond Gagnon, vice-president.

2nd row from left to right. Gilles Ouellet, administrator, Fernande Morneau-Gagnon, administrator, Father Marcel Belzile, outgoing president, Huguette Belzile, secretary, Germain Gagnon, administrator, Arnaud Gagnon, treasurer and Marie-Ange Belzile, administrator who took the picture.



Photo on the left,
J-Louis, Ernest, Raymond et Arnaud Gagnon

2006 In St-Clement near Riviere-du-Loup, 200 people gathered for the provincial Association's AGM, The rallying song had been composed by J. - Germain Masse.

August 23, 1998 A corn roast was held at the home of Daniel Gagnon, a member of Isle Verte. He showed his farm to the 30 people present and then served them a hearty meal on the terrace.



Photo on the left, Daniel and Monique with their 2 sons.

May 3, 1997 A Eucharistic celebration was held in Trois-Pistoles and 259 people attended. A rallying song was composed by Suzanne Belzile, one of the sisters of Father Marcel Belzile and Marie-Ange Belzile who was also a member of the Board. This song was under the aria of "In all the cantons". This meeting brought in a profit of \$1,389.

1995 A celebration was organized at the sugar shack of Marie-Ange Belzile-Roy's husband in St-Fabien but unfortunately only four people came to enjoy this beautiful day.

June 6, 1992 In the basement of the East Rimouski church, a mass was celebrated and later a cocktail was served followed by a dinner, a musical evening with Danielle Thériault and the music group Recto Verso (Serge and Laura) which was appreciated by the 53 active members of the association and the 48 non-active members. There was a visit to the Sisters of Saint-Rosaire and Rimouski museums and a tribute was paid to Sister Alphonsine.

Later in the day, a tribute was also paid to Eudore Belzile to highlight his contribution in the cultural field from the point of view of continuity and development. His achievements prove his dynamism. His professional experience is varied as an actor, director and performer in theatre, television and film, where he was a director, performer and author at Radio-Canada. He has also narrated and coached actors for Radio-Quebec and has been a theatre instructor at U.Q.A.R. He has also served on the Board of the "culture de l'Est du Quebec". During the evening there was a draw for a laminated board and elections to appoint the officers of the Executive Committee Board to the Provincial for 1992-93. The planning of this meeting took place on June 1, during the board meeting at the presbytery of Nazareth.

April 1 and 27, 1992 The Board established a provisional agenda, each task was confirmed by the person in charge and a person in charge was appointed for the verification and application for permits, reservations and authorizations. The nominees were Maurice, Alphonse and Hermance Gagnon, Gustave and Marcel Belzile as well as Marie-Ange Belzile-Roy and Claire Belzile-Gagnon. Newspapers and radios were contacted for advertising and Mauritius had the ad published in the parish leaflets.

February 15, 1990 At the meeting in Isle-Verte, some activities were announced that will take place in Quebec City on August 10, 11 and 12 at the reunion of families bearing the Gagnon or Belzile family name. A telephone line should be set up to allow for the rapid dissemination of our information to members. Our capital was \$1,664. after receiving the rebate and paying the June 1989 holiday fees. The Provincial Executive and Board praised us for their AGM held on June 10, 1989. The people of Riviere-Ouelle responded well to our invitation and participated in large numbers. In short, it was a memorable day even if the weather was not on our side.

July 4, 1989 The chapter's assets totalled \$2,342.20, and in November, there were 70 members and more have since been added.



Also in 1989, a retired couple, Maurice Saint-Pierre, genealogist and Aurore Gagnon, bound 63 volumes of 250 pages each with press clippings and newspapers from the BSL and Gaspésie on history, genealogy and current events. Mr. Saint-Pierre was Vice-President of the Genealogical Society of



Rimouski and also had an obituary file of the Sisters of the Holy Rosary with their name and date of birth, the name of the nun in the congregation, her date of death and the names of her parents.

June 10, 1989 Our Chapter hosted the Provincial AGM in Riviere-Ouelle at the Tricentennial Hall. Three hundred people came to celebrate. At this gathering, Father Marcel Belzile (1006) was appointed the 2nd president of our chapter until 2012. Many activities took place during the day, such as: guided tours of historic sites, heritage homes, museums and a visitor centre, wine of honour, BBQ dinner, presentation of the Gagnon and Belzile, mass, genealogists around the room, arrival of the ancestors in canoes, reunion evening, musical evening with dance opening by 2 couples, campfire, departure for Quebec City. Jean-Luc Loignon, a descendant of Jeanne Loignon who was the wife of Jean Belzile, the ancestor of the Belzile, was present at the activity.



June 3, 1989 Continuation of the meeting held on June 25 in Rivière Ouelle to develop a program and also to form a local committee in preparation for the celebration of the next 10.

May 25, 1989 The Board met at Germain Gagnon's in La Pocatiere to plan the great August 1990 celebration that will take place at Mont Sainte-Anne in Quebec City to meet those who have inherited the name of this great family for 350 years. Suggestions were interesting such as: Outdoor activities, country dinner, mass, reunion evening, unveiling of a commemorative plaque, arrival by boat of ancestors and Indians, etc.

May 11, 1989 Sixteen people attended the information meeting held at the presbytery of Nazareth, including Gustave Belzile, secretary-treasurer, directors Claire Belzile-Gagnon, Therese Gagnon, Marcel Belzile and Germain Gagnon, who drew a portrait of the journey of the ancestor Robert in Riviere-Ouelle. On May 2, a letter was sent to Pierre-Antoine Gagnon to obtain the permit for an alcoholic beverage and a campfire, and an invitation was sent to the mayor of Riviere-Ouelle, Mr. Raymond Levesque, and we took the opportunity to ask him to pay for the wine of honour and if possible provide us with a room. Jacqueline Gagnon drew up a list of tasks to be completed by 13 volunteers from Riviere-Ouelle to ensure the success of the June 89 celebration. She also contacted Jacques Levesque to offer him a sum of 300 \$,

for organ music and Ti-Gus Gagnon will play some pieces. A guided tour of the historic sites will be led by Roger Martin.

April 13, 1989 Meeting of the organizing committee for the June 10 celebration at Gerard Gagnon's sugar shack in St-Gabriel Lallemand. There has been a division of labour for the preparations for this celebration Germain will summarize the history of the Gagnon and Belzile families. We are looking for young people who will dress up as period costumes to personify the ancestors.

April 2, 1989 Meeting at Mr. Lemieux's sugar shack in Isle-Verte on St-Arsene Road. The dinner as well as the tasting of the maple taffy were included in the package.

March 16, 1989 The Board met in Riviere-Ouelle with the local committee of people living there to help organize the June 10 rally. The elected chairperson of this committee was Louis-Jacques Gagnon. The profits will remain with us. Several suggestions were made regarding the activities of the day. Marcel will take care of the animation and talk to Jean-Pierre Gagnon of the Apollo choir. 16 people were present. On February 25 there was a meeting at the presbytery of Isle-Verte. A summary of the 1988 Provincial AGM was read. We're planning the April outing to the sugar shack. The Board was composed of Maurice, Marie-Ange and Germain Gagnon as well as Marcel and Gustave Belzile and Claire Belzile-Gagnon, who were welcomed to replace Therese Gagnon. Our capital was 81,40 \$.



May 25, 1988 Marie-Paule Gagnon received the winning prize in the "La plume d'argent" literary competition. This 500 \$ prize was awarded to her by His Eminence Cardinal Paul-Emile Leger at the launch of his book "Les demoiselles Salustre". This mother of seven children was born in Riviere-Ouelle and retired from teaching. In addition to her prize, she was printed 4,000 copies of his volume published by Quebec Agenda. She also received a tribute from her colleagues and it was Jean-Yves Fortin who presented her with an honorary plaque at an intimate celebration held at the La Pocatiere library.

April 10, 1988 There was a meeting at Charles-Eugene Deschenes' sugar shack in St-Gabriel. On March 17 in Nazareth, Maurice, Marcel and Gustave had completed the final preparations for this celebration. On February 20, meeting at the St-Yves presbytery, Monique Jenniss-Belzile or Claire Belzile-Gagnon was suggested to replace Therese Gagnon who resigned due to an inability to continue her work on the board. Planning was done for the outing that will take place next April.

December 6, 1987 A first gathering was held in the basement of the St-Yves church with meals and mass. 150 people were present. This celebration was very successful thanks to the work of Father Maurice Gagnon and the members of his board of directors as well as with outside help. The head office of the BSL / Gaspésie / Îles de la Madeleine chapter was located at 549 St-Germain Street East in Rimouski East. When the bank account was opened, the capital was 107,00 \$. Maurice Gagnon, Marcel and Gustave Belzile were authorized to sign the bank bills. A decision was made to hold 4 meetings per year. There was a posthumous tribute to Louis de Gonzague Belzile (1011) agronomist, photo opposite. He was Gustave's father who was secretary-treasurer.



November 16, 1987 The first regional committee was formed. Father Maurice Gagnon was elected president, Gustave Belzile the secretary-treasurer and the five directors were Therese and Germain Gagnon, Marcel Belzile, Marie-Ange Gagnon-Belanger and Monique Jenniss-Belzile.



September 29, 1987 Date of foundation of the Bas St-Laurent / Gaspésie / Îles de la Madeleine chapter, in the basement of the St-Yves church by Gustave Belzile and Father Maurice Gagnon (1004) who was appointed the 1st president of our chapter. One hundred and fifty people attended. The meeting began with prayer. We watched the video of the Gagnon-Belzile gathering on August 17, 1985. Notary Louis-Jacques Gagnon announces that the next gathering is scheduled for 1990. He made a presentation from the Quebec association for the summer 90 celebration and Germain Gagnon made a presentation on the origins of the Gagnon and Belzile families. Three people became members the same day among the twenty-seven people present.