



De Laporte à St-Georges



Message from the President



Your Board of Directors and the local organizing committee in St-Michel-des-Saints were very active in the past few weeks in preparing our next reunion which will probably be one the most attended in our short history. The extended St-Georges family got spontaneously involved in the event which promises to be very interesting.

For strategic reasons, we had to move the day's activities to the Jean-Moïse Bellerose municipal hall at the center of the village. This hall contains several tall paintings of Madeleine St-Georges, the local postmistress, which were recently officially inaugurated. These paintings depict local historical scenes, often with local St-Georges personalities.

There is an abundance of artists in the St-Georges family. Diane St-Georges, the painter in watercolors who was the object of an article in one of our 1998 bulletins, will demonstrate her skills during the day. Several other members of that very artistic family will participate in the reunion, exhibiting handmade violins, stained glass and other sculptures. We will also hear their music. We will be honored by the visit of Bill St. George, a well-known painter in New England who has his own personal gallery on Newbury Street in Boston. Madeleine St-Georges, the painter, is also an history buff and will make a presentation on the history of the St-Georges family in St-Michel-des-Saints just before supper.

Registration will start at 10:00 a.m. There will be a corn roast at lunchtime and a meal prepared by an excellent local caterer will be served in the evening. During the day, there will also be an exhibition of various historical and genealogical archives, a slideshow of old or local photographs, a walking tour and a bus tour of the village and its surroundings.

Our main lodging center will remain the very beautiful Domaine du Lac Toro. However as August 14 falls right in the middle of the heavy tourist season, we foresee that we will probably need other hotels or motels in the area. Other available lodging is described in the registration documents or on our Web site. As we expect a larger attendance than in recent years, we encourage you to register early and especially to reserve your hotel room immediately if you intend to spend the night on site. We have already received reservations from Arizona, Utah, Boston, Vancouver and Manitoba.

Baxter D. Laporte, President
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Birthdays

From June to September

Our best wishes to those who have celebrated a birthday or will celebrate one soon.

June

- 2- Réjane Laporte
- 4- Henriette Jolicoeur-Vanier
- 6- Bernard Laporte
- 7- Gaétan Laporte
- 10- Gabrielle St-Georges
- 13- André St-Georges
- 14- Jacques St-Georges
- 15- Claude St-Georges
- 17- Aline Jolicoeur-Matte
- 18- Mark R Newton
- 20- Lyse Laporte
- 21- Marie-France Laporte / Richard St-Georges
- 25- Éric Fortier
- 26- Jean-Louis McDougal

July

- 1- Denise Laporte
- 2- Gaston Laporte
- 5- F. Jean-Marc Laporte / Richard Laporte
- 8- Philippe St-Georges
- 15- Tom Laporte
- 20- Marie-Thérèse Laporte / Michel Laporte
- 21- James E. Laporte
- 24- Yvon St-Georges
- 25- Madeleine Champagne St-Georges
- 28- Dr Pierre St-Georges
- 30- Léo F. Laporte

August

- 1- Me Danyel Laporte
- 4- Pierre-Yvon Laporte
- 7- Henriette Laporte
- 11- Charles Edouard Laporte
- 17- Lisette Laporte
- 21- Jean Laporte
- 29- Carmen Laporte Touchette
- 30- Evelyn St-Georges

September

- 1- Me Suzie St-Georges
- 2- Gilles St-Georges / Pierre-André Denis
- 4- Jean Laporte
- 7- Réal Laporte
- 10- Camille St-Georges
- 13- Christiane Laporte
- 17- Stéphanie Moreau / Pierre Laporte / Léonard Laporte
- 20- Diane St-Georges
- 24- Baxter D. Laporte
- 29- Sylvie St-Georges

***L'Association des Laporte et St-Georges
du Monde***

***The presidency
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Web site

<http://www.genealogie.org/famille/st-georges>

Saint-Michel-des-Saints



At the end of the nineteenth century, a great number of French Canadians, unable to earn a decent living on their farms, went to the United States, to work in the weaving factories of New England. Others, obeying the motto: "Go West, young man", tried their luck in Western Canada. That is how some Laportes went to form new rural communities in Manitoba. Today, the grandchildren of those Laportes are still numerous and very active in Western Canada.

Here, in the years 1880, the clergy were worried about their people going to the States. Because of a shortage of fertile farms, establishing new settlements was the answer to rural depopulation. In the Laurentian region, Father Antoine Labelle, and in the Matawinie, Fathers Provost and Brassard were entirely dedicated to promoting the establishment of new settlements.

"The village of Saint-Michel-des-Saints was founded by Father Léandre Brassard, in 1863. He went for the first time in September 1862; he was in the company of his brother Louis-Moïse and of Father Provost who was to found Saint-Zénon in 1870. They went up L'Assomption River, up to its source and then on Cyprès River (now Matawin River) to "Lac des Pins" and to a place named the Guilmour farm – probably a forestry development. Once there, they decided to come back to Roberval fall, a short distance from Lac des Pins. Father Brassard decided he would establish the village on this spot. The fall would supply power for the future mill. The mill was the first building in the small settlement, along with a dwelling on Mount Roberval. The first settlers followed. On December 10, 1863, Father Brassard planted a cross where the church was to be built, near Mount Roberval. The next day, the first settler arrived with his family; he was David St-Antoine, from Saint-Gabriel-de-Brandon.

If the settlers hoped to survive on their farms, finally, the forest would be their real way of earning a living. Before the founding of Saint-Michel-des-Saints, companies were already exploiting the forest here and the wood industry provided the new and often unskilled farmers with a little money. Thus the population grew rapidly. However, this growth was because of the forest and not because of a will to fulfil the rural dreams of Fathers Brassard and Provost.



Population of Saint-Michel-des-Saints in front of the first church
(Collection Municipalité Saint-Michel-des-Saints)



The church today.
(Official web site www.saint-michel-des-saints.com)

Saint-Michel-des-Saints...

The first church

The first church was built in 1883, 20 years after the founding of the village. It was blessed on June 18, 1883, by Mgr Fabre, bishop of Montreal. Before that date, the chapel in the manor of Mount Roberval was the place of worship. Father Brassard was opposed to the church being built in the centre of the village. He wished it were built on Mount Roberval so the village would develop around the fall. Moreover, it was usual to build the village church on a hill. The first church was torn down and rebuilt in 1924, to meet the needs of an increasing population. The bells were installed on October 9, 1949.

Melançon Academy

The Academy was built in 1908 for the sum of \$5 000. The parish priest blessed the building on the last Sunday of September. At that time, there were 136 students. Four nuns took up residence and dispensed schooling and education to the children. Each one of these nuns received the sum of \$150 a year as salary. The school was named Melançon, to honour the parish priest of that time, Gustave Melançon, because “we were heartily welcomed by the kind priest who invited us to eat with him”. These words were those of Mother Superior, Sister Marie-Septimie, from France, who arrived in Canada in 1903. This part of the country impressed her greatly. She wrote: “Before starting classes we went on a picnic and went blueberry picking. I had to fight black flies but they won the battle and I had to retreat, bearing the scars of the battle.”



*Second presbytery
(Private collection, Gilles Rivest))*



*Today, the Municipal office and CLSC
(Official web site www.saint-michel-des-saints.com)*

First presbytery

It is one of the oldest houses in the village. It was built in 1887. It was initially built near the first church, where the municipal offices stand today. In 1904, it was moved opposite the church to make room for a new presbytery. In 1924, during the reconstruction of the church, the second floor was transformed into a chapel.

Mount Roberval manor



Mount Roberval rises about 150 – 200 feet above the fall, according to different sources from the beginning of the settlement. The manor was built for Father Brassard. It was the very first presbytery. Father Brassard lived there until his death on November 27, 1891. One station of the “Way of the Cross” burned down in 1940 and, on March 19, 1941, the chapel burned down completely. An oratory was built over Father Brassard’s grave. In 1996, the house was sold and is now a bed-and-breakfast.”

The preceding text is taken from: “Saint-Michel-des-Saints, circuit historique”, by Mr Gilles Rivest, with the author’s permission.



"Art is the language of the heart... and its way of expression is that of the soul."

-Antonio St-Georges, (1919-2003)

Antonio St-Georges

By : Diane St-Georges

Antonio, son of Louis St-Georges and of Anna-Maria Beauséjour, was born on February 5, 1919 in Saint-Michel-des-Saints. He was the eldest son of a family of 19 children: 11 boys and 8 girls. On July 6, 1946, he married Hélène Clarke; 9 children were born to them, 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. On the first of July 2003, he passed away at the age of 84. From now on, his numerous literary and artistic works will testify to the important cultural heritage he left his many descendants and the communities where he devoted himself during his life.

On February 2, 2002, the "Ateliers de Création et d'Animation de la Haute-Matawinie", along with the municipality of Saint-Michel-des-Saints, honoured him by naming the public library: "Bibliothèque Antonio-St-Georges". In the Foreword of his last book, published in April 2002 and titled: *"Antonio St-Georges se raconte"*, he wrote these words which faithfully reflect the man my father was: *"I simply wish to let my heart and my soul tell you how much I loved my life and particularly all my beloved ones. Notwithstanding the worries and hazards which were mine, I do not regret a single moment of my life, because trial as well as success are never pointless and the challenge they represent unavoidably brings us to measure our valour"*.

His novel *"Emery à l'imparfait"* is a faithful picture of his life and glimpses of days gone by. Emery is my father himself; he borrowed the name from his godfather and grandfather, on his mother's side, Emery Beauséjour. His books of poetry are true literary jewels and a few of his poems are now in the *"Anthologie de la poésie IV, la Concertation régionale des Commissions scolaires et la Direction régionale du ministère de l'Éducation, p. 52-53"*, an Anthology of poetry to use in the schools of our province.



A compilation of vocal pieces chosen among the ones he composed during his life and titled: *"Je chante mes humeurs d'âme"* inspired many choirs under his direction. In 1988, in Rome, as a member of the *"Choeur de Lanaudière"*, he directed his works in the presence of Pope John Paul II. When he retired, he was afraid he would get bored having nothing to do. All by himself, he learned the art of making violins. He was a skilled craftsman, and when he reached the age of 82, he had already made 82 violins. Then he took courses in watercolour painting, cabinet making and more. His thirst for knowledge

could never be appeased, it seems; neither age nor illness could curb his enthusiasm. Mrs Louise Courteau, editor of *"Aux sources de mon âme"* writes: *"His mind is as solid as granite and his soul reaches up to the sky, just like the humble birch trees of our vast Northern forests. One day, his heart faltered, that need be no obstacle! Because of his unconditional love, his spirit will never falter. Long after"*

the autumn of his life is over, the violins made by this poet and musician will sing the wonders of his life, filled with love, devotion and praise of his Creator”.

Antonio St-Georges...

Antonio St-Georges published:

Aux sources de mon âme
Je chante mes humeurs d'âme
De fleurs et de ronces
Émery à l'imparfait ou un lambeau de notre histoire
Humeurs d'âme
Anthologie de la poésie 1V
Antonio St-Georges ...se raconte



If you want to learn more about Antonio through his works, his books will be available at the next meeting of the Laportes/St-Georges in Saint-Michel-des-Saints on August 14, 2004.

The Laporte-St-Georges in St-Michel

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Cléophas St-Georges, son of Olivier “Laporte dit St-Georges” settled in Saint-Michel, on a farm near the village. His brother Philippe also settled in Saint-Michel where he lived for the rest of his life. After a few years in Saint-Michel, Cléophas went back to the United States, where he died.

Cléophas' son, Louis, after many trips back and forth to the States, settled definitely in Saint-Michel in 1925. He lived there and raised a numerous family of 16 children. Antonio, Louis' son, also had a numerous family: 9 children. So you can easily imagine that the St-Georges are many in the region. A good fairy probably touched them with her magic wand, because they are all gifted with artistic talents: music, singing, painting, sculpture, etc.

Wherever they are now, they greatly contribute to make the life of those around them more enjoyable.



Dear friends,

After having written our newsletter for four years, I think it is time for me to let somebody else do the job. New ideas, new sources of inspiration, will give a fresh start to the bulletin. I hope you enjoyed reading my texts as much as I loved finding historical topics and writing about them. Thank you to all those of you who helped me, in one way or another, to make the bulletin worth while during those four years. I hope many of you will be willing to take over. I am anxious to read your texts!

Gabrielle

World Association of Laporte's & St.-Georges
 Registration form for the reunion of August 14, 2004
 Municipal Hall Jean-Moïse Bellerose in St-Michel-des-Saint
 (St-Jacques street, at the corner of Brassard)
 Please complete with block letters.

Surname: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ Postal code: _____ Member number (if any) : _____

Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____

Fax: _____ Day: _____ Evening: _____

E-mail: _____ Date of birth: _____

Father-Surname/Name: _____ Mother-Surname/Name: _____

Persons accompanying you (maiden name for ladies)-Surname/Name: _____

FEES				
Members	- before July 31*	Registration fee & Corn Roast lunch	25\$ /couple____, 15\$ /person____ 7\$ /children under 12 X _____	_____
		Dinner and conference	15\$ /pers. X _____ persons 11\$ / children under 12 X _____	_____

	- after July 31*	Registration fee	30\$ /couple____, 20\$ /person____ 7\$ / children under 12 X _____	_____
		Dinner and conference	20\$ /pers. X _____ persons 11\$ / children under 12 X _____	_____

Non-members	- before July 31*	Registration fee & Corn Roast lunch	30\$ /couple____, 20\$ /person____ 7\$ / children under 12 X _____	_____
		Dinner and conference	20\$ /pers. X _____ persons 11\$ / children under 12 X _____	_____

	- after July 31*	Registration fee	35\$ /couple____, 25\$ /person____ 7\$ / children under 12 X _____	_____
		Dinner and conference	25\$ /pers. X _____ persons 11\$ / children under 12 X _____	_____

Total amount:				_____

Bring your own beer and wine

* Postage will be proof of the date you replied.

Please return with your check to:

World Association of Laporte's & St.-Georges
 2-1527, Avenue de Gentilly
 Chambly, QC, Canada J3L 5V8

For more information:

Baxter D. Laporte (514) 344-4487 in Montreal
 (baxter@total.net) or Madeleine St-Georges
 (450) 833-6258 in Saint-Michel-des-Saints.

Our web site:

<http://www.genealogie.org/famille/st-georges>

REUNION 2004

Don't forget

Saturday, August 14

In St-Michel-des-Saints

Jean-Moïse Bellerose Municipal Hall

St-Jacques St. (corner Brossard)

Route 131 from Joliette

(Registration starts at 10:00 a.m.)

- **Live demonstration by water color artist Diane St-Georges**
- **Exhibition of paintings, wood and stained glass sculptures, and music by St-Georges artists**
- **Exhibition and slideshow of historical and genealogical photos and archives**
- **Presence of St-Georges / Laporte participants from the U.S.A. and Western Canada**
- **Bus & walking tour of the village**
- **Corn roast at lunch**
- **Presentation on local St-Georges history by Madeleine St-Georges**
- **Dinner served by an excellent local caterer**
- **Door prizes**
- **Drawing of reproductions of paintings by St-Georges artists**

Hurry, reserve before July 31

(see registration form or call 514-344-4487)

P.S. It is highly recommended that those who wish to spend the night in the village reserve a room early because the reunion will be held in the high tourist season. Bring your own beer and wine.

Lodging in St-Michel-des-Saints

« Official » Reunion Headquarters :

Domaine du lac Toro

E-mail: "domaine du lac toro" <info@lactoro.com>

Web Site: <http://www.lactoro.com/index.htm>

Telephone: 1-888-505-TORO ou 1-450-833-2000

(\$80 per person + taxes double occupancy, including breakfast and gourmet four course dinner)

Other hotels or condos:

Motel Au Vieux Moulin à Scie (city center overlooking river)

340, rue St-Maurice

St-Michel-des-Saints, QC J0K 3B0

Tel.: 450-833-6656

Rooms: \$55 + taxes (single) - \$65 + taxes (double)

Condo-apartments with full kitchen: \$77 + taxes (1-2 persons)

\$122 + taxes (3-4 persons) - \$10 per additional person

NO MEALS INCLUDED

Hôtel Montagnard

180, chemin Mont-Trinité

St-Michel-des-Saints, QC J0K 3B0

Tel.: 450-833-5467, Fax: 450-833-5948

Toll free: 1-877-833-5467

Web site: www.motelm.com

Rooms:

\$55 + taxes (single) = \$63.26 total

\$65 + taxes (double with queen bed)

\$69 + taxes (double with 2 double beds) \$10 + tax
per additional person

NO MEALS INCLUDED

Condos-apts with full kitchen & fireplace

3 persons : \$115 + taxes = \$132.27 total

4 persons: \$120 + taxes = \$138.03 total

5 persons: \$125 + taxes = \$143.78 total

6 persons: \$130 + taxes = \$149.53 total

NO MEALS INCLUDED

Hôtel Central Benoit

510, rue Brassard

St-Michel-Des-Saints, QC, J0K 3B0

Tel.: 514-833-1331

About \$60 + taxes per room

(near the reunion hall but noisy bar)

Motel L'Orignal

7911, chemin Brassard,

St-Michel-des-Saints, QC

J0K 3B0

Tel.: 450-833-2999

<i>Auberge Entre Deux</i> 89 Ch Du Lac Taureau St-Michel-Des-Saints, QC, J0K 3B0 514-833-6003	<i>Motel Au Pied De La Chute Enr</i> 134, chemin du Lac Taureau St-Michel-Des-Saints, QC, J0K 3B0 514-833-5250
<i>Motel Le Sportif</i> 7770, chemin Brassard St-Michel-Des-Saints, QC, J0K 3B0 514-833-5896	<i>Centre Nouvel-Air Matawinie</i> Chemin du Lac à la Truite St-Michel-Des-Saints, QC, J0K 3B0 514-833-6371 (www.matawinie.com)

WE URGE YOU TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS QUICKLY BECAUSE THE REUNION FALLS IN HIGH TOURIST SEASON AND LODGING IS BEING BOOKED QUICKLY. BETTER TO RESERVE NOW AND CANCEL LATER IF NECESSARY.

