

Demers **Alice** (?)

Born in Timmins, Ontario, she and her husband are the head of Arrowood wines from California.

Demers **André** (1902-1975) (A)

Lawyer and judge of the Superior Court of Quebec (1948-1975). Member of the Order of the British Empire (1946). Son of Louis-Philippe Demers. Grandson of Alexis-Louis Demers.

Demers **Anne (M^e)** (?)

M^e Anne Demers is appointed Administrative Assistant of the Barreau de Québec. A graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy (1986), a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Law (1989) at Université Laval and a member of the Quebec Bar since 1991. M^e Demers has more than five years of experience in administrative management. Until recently, she was coordinator of the Maurice-Couture Foundation.

*(Journal du Barreau, December 1, 1995),
Arbre du Mai, vol. 5, no. 2, page 16.*

Demers **Benjamin (Abbot)** (1848-?) (J)

Born in St-Romuald, Lévis County, on October 4, 1848, Benjamin was the son of Benjamin Demers, a farmer, and Félicité Carrier. He was educated in Quebec City, where he was ordained by Cardinal Taschereau on 7 Dec. 1873, curate at St-Raymond (1873-1874); prefect of studies at the Collège de Lévis (1874-1875); vicar at Pointe-aux-Trembles in Quebec City (1875-1876), at Baie-Saint-Paul (1876-1877), and at St-Denis-de-la-Bouteillerie (1877-1878); chaplain in the quarantine of Grosse-Ile (1878); vicar at Saint-Elzéar de Beauce (1878-1880); parish priest of Saint-Gilles (1880-1886) where he rebuilt the church in 1884; parish priest of Saint-François de Beauce (1886-1892), Lotbinière (1892-1894) and Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Québec (1894-1905); retired to the Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague boarding school in Quebec City from 1905 on. He is the author of "Notes sur la paroisse de Saint-François de Beauce", a volume of 150 pages (1891) and of "La Paroisse de Saint-Romuald d'Etchemin", an in-8 volume of 396 pages (1906).

Demers **Benoit** (J)

CEO of the Domedic group, which invented and put on the market a pillbox with an intelligence that emits an audible signal warning its user that the time has come to take his medication and allows the archiving of a wealth of data related to the taking of medications.

Published in "La Presse", October 26, 2009.

Demers **Bertrand-François, OMI (1922- ?)** (?)

Born in Fall River, MA, on August 9, 1922, he attended elementary school there. Having then attended High School and College at the Collège de l'Assomption in Worchester, Massachusetts during the years 1938 to 1941, he entered the Novitiate of the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate in Colebrook, New Hampshire, in August 1941. In 1942, he continued his studies at the Oblate Scholasticate in Natick, MA, and on February 6, 1948, he was ordained a priest by the future cardinal, then Monsignor John J. Wright DD, at St. John the Baptist Church in Lowell, Massachusetts.

After long missionary work in the Philippines (1948 to 1973), he worked as a preacher of closed retreats in Connecticut. In 1975 he became curate of St. Joan of Arc Church in Lowell and in 1977 pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh. He then served as director of closed retreats at Epheta Retreat House in Cumberland, Rhode Island (1980), chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina (1985), and in 1990 at St. Francis Xavier Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina. After a few years of rest, Father Demers arrived in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he ended his career as a chaplain at St Mary's Health System, Inc.

Arbre du Mai, vol. 10, no. page 23.

Demers **Claude** (?)

Quebec film maker to whom we owe the films: "L'invention de l'amour" (2000), "Barbiers, une histoire d'hommes" (2006) and "Les dames en bleu" (2009).

Demers **Clément** (1950-...)

(J)

Born in 1950, Clément Demers is an architect (OAQ, 1RAC), urban planner (OUQ, ICU) and project manager (PMP). After a 15-year career at the City of Montreal, during which he held various positions, including Assistant Director of the Urban Planning Department and Assistant Director of the Housing and Urban Development Department, he directed for 6 years the destiny of a paramunicipal corporation that realized, alone or with partners, office buildings, residential or cultural projects, representing total investments of more than \$800 million (in 2009 dollars). From June 1994 to January 2000, he held the position of Executive Vice-President of a company of the Caisse Real Estate Group of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. The Corporation was responsible for the development of a portfolio of 5.6 million square metres of industrial, residential, and commercial land.



Starting in January 1997, he was entrusted with the responsibility of working with Renée Daoust and Réal Lestage to set up the Quartier international de Montréal (QIM) project, which won 30 national and international awards, including the Project Management Institute's (PMI) Project of the Year 2005. This company manages, for the City of Montreal, the Quartier des spectacles - Place des arts sector project, which was completed from 2008 to 2012. Governor of the PMI-Montréal chapter, part-time full professor, and head of the master's program in project management (MGPA) at the Faculty of Planning at the Université de Montréal, Clément Demers has received several awards in recognition of his leadership in urban planning, project management, design and heritage enhancement.

(Source: Rosario Demers)

Demers **Daniel**

(E)

Son of Gérard Demers and Fleur-Ange Denault, Daniel Demers has been appointed President and Chief Operating Officer of Boréal Insurance Inc. An actuary by profession, Mr. Demers is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and the Canadian Institute of Actuaries.

Journal "Les Affaires", 4 November 1995.

Demers **Daniel Papillon-** (?)

Born on March 18, 1955, he first acted as a union representative for a sector of municipal employees in Montreal (1983). In 1988, he became secretary-treasurer of the Syndicat des fonctionnaires municipaux de Montréal and in 1998, he was elected its president. During the municipal reform, he was responsible for negotiating the first collective agreement in the new city. Its major challenge will be the improvement and harmonization of 29 collective agreements. He will resign from this position (sic?) ...

Demers **David** (1861-1924) (A)

Co-owner of the La Prairie general store for several years, David Demers was also a politically influential man and very active in the social life of his city. He opposed the freshwater monopoly of Médard Demers (a descendant of Étienne).



Demers **David** (1812-?) (?)

Tradesman (blacksmith) from Napierville. A patriot apprehended on 14 Nov. 1838, he was accused of participating in the insurrection of 1838. Convicted by court martial, he was sentenced to hang on 19 March 1839 and pardoned on 2 Dec. 1839.

Demers **Dominique** (?)

Born in Hawkesbury, Ontario, in 1956, she is a well-known author who turned to children's literature in which she specialized (PhD in children's literature at the Université de Sherbrooke). As a journalist, she has won the Jackman Award, the Judith Jasmin Award, the Air-Canada Award and the Paul-Henri Lapointe Award. She has also won numerous literary awards for her children's novels. Finally, she tackled the world of cinema which will use some of her works.



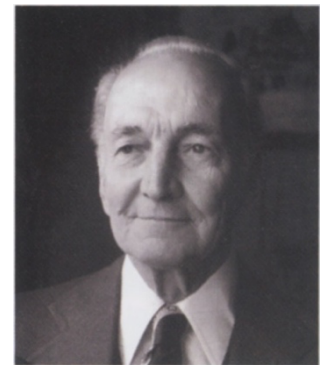
Inspired by a biographical note under the direction of Claire Fafard.

Demers **Edouard (The Abbot)** (1831-1892) (J)

Born in St-Pierre-les-Becquets, Nicolet County, on 12 Dec. 1831 to Joseph Demers and Luce Spénard, he was ordained at Quebec on 20 Feb. 1859. First curate at St-Jean-Baptiste de Québec (1859-1861), then at Jeune-Lorette (1861-1862), he was then parish priest of Ile-aux-Grues (1862-1871), Mont-Carmel de Kamouraska (1871-1872), Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (1872-1884), and Saint-Philippe-de-Néri (1884-1892). He died on 9 June 1892 and was buried at Saint-Philippe-de-Néri.

Demers **Edouard** (1901-1983) (J)

Born on April 30, 1901, he was the son of Eugène Demers and Marie Olivier. He distinguished himself through his exceptional commitment to the farmers of his region. During the crisis of the 30s, he was particularly affected by the state of poverty of the "inhabitants" of his parish. With a small group of farmers, he set out to create a union of potato producers to counter the lack of sales of this product, which was competing with the "classified" potatoes of producers in the Maritime provinces. The operation was a success. In 1939, the group was transformed into a cooperative society and, after a complicated legal imbroglio, it took the name of Société coopérative agricole de St-Nicolas Sud. A little more educated than the other farmers, Édouard was appointed manager of the cooperative, a position he held for thirty years and he was certainly one of the pioneers of the agricultural cooperative movement in Quebec. In addition to his duties as manager of the cooperative, Édouard Demers accepted the presidency of the school board. Before the vast movement of education reform, he took the initiative of centralizing in the village all the small rural schools. It thus marked the beginning of a major change in school policy.



Demers **François-Xavier** (1791-1862) (A)

Born in Montreal to Alexis Demers and Catherine Roy, he pursued his classical and theological studies at the Séminaire de Montréal and was ordained at Quebec on 9 Oct. 1814. Serving at Saint-Charles-sur-Richelieu (October 1814 to April 1815), at Châteauguay (from April to July 1815), he was then parish priest of Bonaventure serving the area from the coast to Percé (from July 1815

to September 1819). He then served as parish priest of Saint-Luc-sur-Richelieu (Sept. 1819 to Sept. 1821), Saint-Grégoire de Nicolet (Sept. 1821 to Sept. 1831), Boucherville (Sept. 1831 to March 1832), Saint-Marc (March 1832 to Oct. 1834), and Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu (Oct. 1834 to 14 May 1862), where he rebuilt the presbytery in 1835. He was also appointed grand vicar to the bishops of Quebec (1834-1836), Montreal (1836-1852), and Saint-Hyacinthe (1852-1862). Honorary canon of Montreal from 1841 to 1862, he was appointed apostolic missionary by the Pope on 13 June 1852. His superiors were full of praise for him, and he can be said to have been one of the most prominent Canadian clergy priests of his day. He died in Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu on May 14, 1862.

Demers **François-Xavier Edouard** (1818-1884) (E)

Born in Longueuil, Chambly County, on 10 Feb. 1818 to Joseph Demers and Marie-Anne Thuot-Duval, Abbé Demers was educated at Sainte-Thérèse and ordained in Montreal on 20 Dec. 1856. Vicar in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan (1856-1860), then in Sainte-Geneviève-de-Pierrefonds (1860-1872), he was then parish priest of Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines (1872-1884) where he founded a convent in 1883. He died on July 15, 1884 in Terrebonne.

Demers **Georges-Aimé (L'abbé)** (1861-1896) (A)

Born in Henryville, Iberville County, on July 7, 1861, to Alexis L. Demers and Marie Goyette, Georges-Aimé Demers was educated at Saint-Hyacinthe where he was ordained on March 16, 1889. He was appointed curate at Saint-Liboire (1889-1891), then at Henryville (1891-1892). He ended his too short ministry at Saint-Jude (1892-1895) where he was stricken with the disease that was to be fatal to him. Retired to Henryville in 1895, he succumbed to pulmonary phthisis on 10 Feb. 1896.

Demers **Hector** (1878-1923)

Lawyer, poet of the École littéraire de Montréal and author of: "Les voix champêtres" in 1912.

Demers **Jacques** (1944- ?) (J)

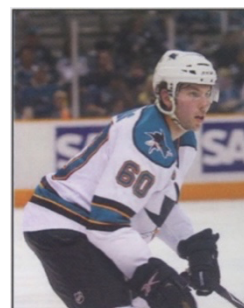
Hockey player and coach born in Montreal, in the National Hockey League since 1979. He managed the Quebec Nordiques (1979-1980), St. Louis Blues

(1983-1985), Detroit Red Wings (1986-1990) and Montreal Canadiens (1992-1995). He led the Montreal Canadiens to the Stanley Cup (92-93). He also managed the Tampa Bay Lightning (1997). He won the Jack Adams Trophy (1987-1988). In 2009, Jacques Demers was appointed to Ottawa as a senator by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.



Demers **Jason** (1988- ?) (?)

Born on June 9, 1988 in Dorval (Montreal), Jason Demers is a hockey player who is used as a defenceman. In the QMJHL, he made his debut with the Moncton Wildcats (2004-2005), then with the Victoriaville Tigres (2006-2008). He then played for the Worcester Sharks of the AHL before being signed to the National League by the San Jose Sharks.



Demers **Jean-François** (1960-...) (J)

Born on April 29, 1960, he is the son of René-Robert Demers and Denise Laurier. Freelancer for the written gastronomic and wine press. Professor and lecturer on the world of wine, of tasting and gastronomy. Sommelier of the Faculty of Oenology of the University of Bordeaux. Member of the International Tasting Jury and member of the International Federation of Wine Journalists and Writers.



Demers **Jean (Louis)** (1732-1813) (J)

Son of Louis Demers and Thérèse Gagnon, Jean Demers was ordained a priest in the Recollet order, under the name of Father Louis, in the parish of Saint-Nicolas, September 24, 1757. Father Louis was the uncle of Vicar General Jérôme Demers (another religious figure of Saint-Nicolas). The Recollets exercised the curial ministry. In this capacity, Father Louis served Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse, Bécancour, Deschailons, Gentilly and Saint-Pierre-les-



Becquets. In 1789 he became superior of the Recollets in Montreal. He died at the General Hospital of that city on 2 Sept. 1813, aged 81 years and eight months. He is buried in the parish church of Montreal. He was the last priest

of his order in Canada. Almost immediately after his death the British government confiscated the property of the Montreal Recollets. On March 11, 1963, a small street in Montreal was named after him.

Arbre du Mai, vol. no. page 12 and vol. no. 3, page 20.

Demers **Jean-Paul** (1910-1971)

(E)

Jean-Paul was born in Saint-Isidore de La Prairie on November 10, 1910, to Olivier-Johnny Demers and Alma Simon. He completed his classical studies at the Séminaire de Philosophie des Pères de Saint-Sulpice in Montreal, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1933. That same year, he entered the postulancy of Everell, near Quebec City. He received the habit on September 30, 1934 and completed his theological studies in Thibar and Carthage from 1935 to 1938. He was ordained on June 11, 1938. In 1938, he was first vicar in Entebbe, Uganda, then in January 1940, vicar in Mitala Maria. In April 1943, he became professor and bursar at the minor seminary of Bukalasa. In 1946, he succeeded Father Cabana as diocesan bursar in Entebbe. It was in this service that he found death. On January 25, 1971, while accompanying a colleague to Entebbe airport, he found himself caught in the crossfire of a skirmish during the coup d'état fomented by Amin Dada. Mortally wounded, Father Jean-Paul Demers died at the age of 60 years and two months.



Arbre du Mai, vol. 9, no. 3, page 24.

Demers **Jérôme (L'abbé)** (1774-1853)

(J)

(To fully understand the personality of such a great character as Jérôme Demers, one would have to write a biography of several hundred pages. However, as this is not the purpose of this book, we will limit ourselves to the simple sketch that follows, convinced that the curiosity of the prospective reader will push him to consult more exhaustive writings on the subject.)

Jérôme Demers was born in Saint-Nicolas to Jean-Baptiste Demers and Geneviève Loignon. Illustrious figures such as his father (farmer, notary, and militia captain) and his uncle Jean Demers (Superior of the Recollets)* surely influenced his cultural orientation and career choice. His studies at the Séminaire de Québec led to his ordination in 1798, but his intellectual curiosity and hard work made him an eminent professor, a revered superior, an outstanding educator, a man of science, an architectural theorist, and a writer.

His influence was such that he even occasionally became an adviser to bishops and several political figures. Undermined by illness in 1841, he had to retire from public life and keep the chamber until his death in 1853.

*Based on the article by Rosario Demers,
L'Arbre du Mai, vol. 16, no. 1, page 25.*

Demers **Jocelyn (M.D.)** (1940- ?) (J)

Born in Drummondville, February 17, 1940, to Alphonse Demers, telegraph operator and Aurore Guèvremont. Classical studies at the Séminaire de Saint-Hyacinthe from 1953 to 1961. In 1966, after obtaining his doctorate in medicine from the Université de Montréal and his license in professional practice from the Royal College of Physicians of the Province of Quebec, Dr. Demers, keenly interested in pediatrics, undertook nine years of postgraduate studies to specialize in this discipline. To do this, he spent a year of residency at the Saint-Vincent de Paul Hospital in Sherbrooke in internal medicine; three years of pediatric practice in an international cooperation program under the stewardship of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), at the Tunis Hospital, Tunisia; then one year as Resident III in Pediatrics, at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Sherbrooke; finally, from 1971 to 1973, resident in Pediatric Hematology at Sainte-Justine Hospital, Montreal where, in 1973, he obtained two prestigious certificates from the Collège des Médecins du Québec, one as specialist in Pediatrics and the other in Hematology. Then, from 1973 to 1975, he attended the famous Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, California, where he obtained this time a Fellowship in Hematooncology. Back in Canada, Dr. Demers began practicing his specialization. He was successively attached to two Montreal hospitals: first, at the Montreal Children's Hospital where, from 1975 to 1977, he worked in pediatric hematology-oncology; then, in 1977, he held the same position at Sainte-Justine Hospital, but as head of department in 1985. Concurrent with his medical practice, he was Assistant Professor of the Clinic at McGill University and, from 1986, Associate Professor of the Clinic at the Université de Montréal. In addition to his professional activities, Dr. Demers also plays an active role in various associations, committees, and boards of directors in Quebec. Associations interested in the well-being of patients benefit in particular from his time and expertise. He is the co-founder of the Leucan Association (Association of parents of children with leukemia or



cancer) and, since 1978, he has held the position of vice-president of this association. An invited speaker at various scientific meetings or assemblies, Dr. Demers has been invited to speak and, to date, has presented more than fifteen conferences on various topics related to his specialization. In the same vein, he has participated in television programs for Télé-Métropole and Radio-Canada. Married to Ginette Gingras on June 22, 1965, he is the father of three children.

Demers **Joseph** (1861 - 1936) (J)

Son of Édouard Demers and Olympe Rousseau, Joseph was born in Laurierville in 1861. He married Marie Roberge also in Laurierville on September 30, 1885. He arrived in Kingsville (Thetford Mines) on December 17, 1889 and immediately worked to open a general store and then undertook trade in wood and coal. Very early on, he became involved in the life of the community: this is how he became an alderman, then mayor (1897-98). He was even elected Liberal MLA for Mégantic from 1912 to 1916. A member of the Knights of Columbus, he was also involved as director and promoter of the Saint-François hydraulic company, as a member of the Club Canadien and the City Club. He died on August 16, 1936.

*Based on the article by Johanne Demers,
Arbre du Mai, vol. 15, no. 2, page 7*

Demers **Joseph** (1871 - 1940) (A)

Son of Alexis-Louis Demers and Marie Goyette, Joseph married Berthe-Julie Gravel on January 8, 1896 in Arthabaska. A lawyer by profession, he replaced his brother Louis-Philippe as member for St-Jean-d'Iberville. He then became mayor of St. John (1909) and a judge of the Superior Court from 1922 until his death in 1940.

Arbre du Mai, vol. II, no. I, page 16.

Demers **Joseph (Rev. Father Celestin)** (1875-?) (J)

Born in Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets on 9 June 1875 to Nolasque Demers and Desneiges Monfet, he studied at the Séminaire de Montréal and entered the Franciscans in 1897. In 1898 he took his vows under the name Frère Célestin. Ordained in Montreal by Bishop P. LaRoque on 3 July 1904, he was professor

Demers **Linda** (1954-) (J)

Born in Montreal in 1954, she is the daughter of Bernard Demers and H el ene Vendetti. A demographer by training, she also holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology. Consultant for the "United Nations Population and Development" project in Burkina Faso, she then returned to Canada to work at the Secretary of State, then returned to international development as a population advisor to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). In 1992, Linda also represented the United Nations Population Funds in Vietnam and Ethiopia. In 1998, she became UNFPA resident representative in Mongolia, where her performance earned her the award for best statistician in 2001. In 2002, the University of Mongolia awarded her an honorary doctorate in economics.

Alain Demers, L'Arbre du Mai, vol. II no. 1 page 20.

Demers **Louis-Benjamin (The Abbot)** (1838-1888) (J)

Born in Saint-Nicolas on June 5, 1838, he was the son of Modeste-Basile Demers and Christine Olivier. He was privately educated in Beauharnois and New Orleans, Louisiana. He was ordained in the Diocese of Chicago in 1869 and served as Holy Minister in the Dioceses of Chicago, Oregon, and New York. He was appointed parish priest of Saint-Fortunat, Quebec, then in the northern part of New York State, where he died in April 1888.

Demers **Louis-Joseph** (1857- 1905) (J)

Born on May 3, 1857, he was the son of Louis Demers and  El onore Paquet. Businessman and printer, he owned newspapers in Quebec City: Le Canadien (1880-1889) and L' v nement (1883-1901) He was also co-founder and president of "La presse associ e du Qu bec".

Demers **Louis-Julien** (1848-1905) (J)

Born on December 9, 1848, he was the son of Benjamin Demers and F licit  Carrier. He married Elmina Giroux, on October 30, 1883. A merchant in Saint-Romuald, he was elected as a Liberal member of the House of Commons in the government of Wilfrid Laurier for the first time in a by-election in L vis County. He was subsequently re-elected in the elections of 1900 and 1904. He died in Quebec City, April 29, 1905

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as well as those of two of his uncles, Louis-Marc Demers, priest of the African Missions, and Jacques Demers, diocesan priest of Montreal.

L'Arbre Mai, vol. 14, No. 1, page 13.

Demers **Mario** (J)

He is the inventor of Kin-Ball, a sport in which three teams compete handling a huge ball two meters in diameter. He lives in Charny and he aims for the Olympic Games and the worldwide recognition of this sport.

Arbre du Mai, vol. 11 No. 1, page 26.

Demers **Médard** (E)

Born in La Prairie on March 19, 1824, he was the son of Jacques Demers and Marie-Josephte Cayé dit Biscomet. He married successively Flavie Bourassa, Marie Brosseau and Césarine Goulet. Captain of the ferry "La Prairie" which shuttled between Montreal and La Prairie, he was also an important player in the politics of his municipality.

Demers **Michel** (J)

Born in Saint-Nicolas, he was the son of Charles-Édouard Demers and Florence Demers. After his medical studies at Laval University, he practiced for ten years in Lourdes-de-Blanc Sablon and Charny II then held the position of medical editor at the Ministry of Employment and Social Solidarity. Rising in rank in the cadets from 1968, he commanded for five years the Corps de Cadets de Charny. In 1982, he joined the ranks of the Reserve within the 55th Medical Company, which he commanded from May 1990 to July 1996 when he assumed the position of Chief Medical Officer of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti. Commander of the Régiment de la Chaudière from 1998 to 2000, he was then transferred to Land Force Quebec Area Headquarters as Senior Reserve Staff Officer. Promoted to colonel in 2001, he held the various positions of Deputy Chief of Staff. A great humanist and philanthropist, he has been involved in various organizations and charitable causes. In June 2006, he was awarded the Order of Military Merit by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.

Modeste Demers, son of Michel Demers and Rosalie Faucher, was born in Saint-Nicolas on October 11, 1809. He received the priestly consecration of Bishop Signay, on February 7, 1836. Immediately after his ordination, he was appointed curate at Trois-Pistoles, where he remained until April 1837. He then agreed to go and work in the Red River colony under Bishop Joseph-Norbert Provencher. The following year he was again chosen to accompany Father François-Norbert Blanchet to Oregon in the posts of the Hudson's Bay Company. In this region, Abbé Demers' work was most varied and consisted of making long and arduous journeys, celebrating numerous baptisms, and giving rudiments of religious instruction to the First Nations. His gift of tongues facilitated his contacts with the different tribes. It is reported that within a few months he managed to master seven languages or dialects. He was the first missionary to enter what is now British Columbia. After 1844, Father Demers ministered in Oregon City under Bishop Blanchet. In 1846 he was appointed bishop of Vancouver Island and administrator of the diocese of the Queen Charlotte Islands and New Caledonia. It was in this capacity that he was consecrated on November 30, 1847, in Oregon City. The new bishop sensed the difficulties of his new assignment. The region apparently had few resources and was barely touched by Christianity. Before moving to his new diocese, Bishop Demers tried to raise funds and obtain missionaries. He made long trips to Europe, particularly in France, where he managed to find several missionaries, but he was disappointed with the public's response to his request for funds. He arrived at his episcopal see in 1852 and from then on faced problems to which he tried, throughout his life, to find solutions: the meagre resources of his diocese, his dependence on random financial sources and an acute need, at times, for competent English-speaking priests. In 1858, during the gold rush, Bishop Demers succeeded in persuading the congregation of the Sisters of St Anne and the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to come and work in his diocese. Under the aegis of the Sisters, a girls' school, an orphanage, and later a hospital were built in Victoria. The Oblates founded a boys' school and continued Bishop Demers' missionary work among the Indians of Vancouver Island and the Fraser River. In 1866, although afflicted by rheumatism and



increasingly suffering, Bishop Demers again left Victoria for an important three-year tour of South America, the eastern United States, Quebec and France, always looking for priests and funds for his diocese. He returned to Victoria for a time in 1869, but returned almost immediately to Europe to attend the ecumenical council held at the Vatican in 1870. While in France, on his way to Rome, the bishop was seriously injured in a railway accident and never fully recovered. He suffered his first attack of paralysis in January 1871. A second stroke was to take his life on 21 July 1871 at his home in Victoria, only days after British Columbia entered Canadian confederation. He was 62 years old and had thirty-five years of priesthood, including twenty-five years of episcopate.

Article by Denyse Demers, Arbre du Mai, vol. 4, No. 1, p. 13.

Demers **Nazaire (Pierre)** (J)

Born on February 5, 1867, he was the son of Jean-Baptiste Demers and Émérance Dion. He married his cousin, Alexina Demers, daughter of Louis-Toledo and Caroline Paradis, on October 25, 1892 in Saint-Patrice-de-Beaurivage. A great figure of Saint-Gilles, he was the owner of a cheese factory, a butter factory and an aqueduct. Later, he would also have been a hotelier, general merchant and postmaster. He died around 1954.

Demers **Noël-Étienne (The Abbot)** (1845-?) (A)

Brother of Father Joseph-Marie (see above), Noël-Étienne was born in Ste-Geneviève-de-Pierrefonds on December 23, 1845. He was the son of Jean-Baptiste Demers, baker, and Marie-Louise Paquin. He studied at Sainte-Thérèse and at the Séminaire de Montréal, where he was ordained by Bishop C. Larocque on 26 May 1869. First employed at the archdiocese of Montreal (1869-1874), he was then curate at St-Jacques-de-l'Achigan (1874-1875), Sainte-Brigide de Montréal (1875-1877), St-Jacques-le-Mineur (1877-1879), parish priest of Ormstown (1879-1893) from where he founded Howick. He was then parish priest of Rigaud (1893-1898) before retiring to Sainte-Brigide in Montreal in 1898.

Demers **Patrice** (?)

At 27, Patrice Demers already has an impressive curriculum. While at nineteen he hesitated between psychology, magic or cooking, six years later he became pastry chef and co-owner of the restaurants **Les Chèvres** et **Le Chou** after working in several great restaurants. He also launched, at Éditions de l'Homme, the series of books "Tout un chef!". He also participates occasionally in some cooking shows on television.



Demers **Patrick** (J ?)

Born in 1969 in Saint-Eustache, filmmaker Patrick Demers dreamed of making films since he was a teenager. At the age of twenty-two, freshly graduated in cinema, he went around the world alone by participating in the series Destination Monde (SRC) where he made his first reports. After a few years working as a director in television and advertising, he returned to his first love in 1999 directing short films (*Discharge, Dans un sputnik, etc.*). Then in 2010, he directed his first feature film, *Jealous*, a Hitchcockian film popular in several festivals.

Demers **Paul-Arthur** (J)

Born on November 6, 1916, he was the son of Joseph-Émile-Victor Demers and Marie-Louise Bélanger. On October 14, 1954, he married in Victoriaville Blanche Gilbert who, for fifty years, would be the woman of his life. A lawyer by profession, but also curious about his ancestral origins, he devoted himself to his research to the point of earning the unofficial title of the first great researcher of the origin of the Demers families. His altruistic side prompted him to be the founder of what would become his great pride, the Association des familles Demers Inc. His philanthropic side made him contribute generously to the achievements of our association. Thus, he did not hesitate to install commemorative plaques at his own expense and to multiply the steps that allowed him to establish the foundations of the history of the Demers of America. A colourful and persevering character, he knew how to express his ideas loud and clear. In short, he was not of the race of those who criticize, but rather of those who charge ahead and achieve things.



Demers **Philippe**

(A)

Son of Charles-Émile, farmer, and Amanda Desranleau, Philippe was born in Saint-Sébastien, in the Richelieu Valley, on April 28, 1919. Curiously, he was the great-grandson of Alexis-Louis Demers, MP from 1881 to 1886. Philippe studied at the Séminaire de Saint-Hyacinthe and at the veterinary schools of Oka and Saint-Hyacinthe. He obtained his doctorate in veterinary medicine from the École de Saint-Hyacinthe. On November 14, 1948, in Bedford, Missisquoi County, he married Jacqueline Fortin, stenographer, daughter of Jacques Fortin, notary, and Laurette Nadeau. They had two children. André and Danielle. Philippe practiced veterinary medicine in Shawinigan from 1948 to 1966. For a time he was president of the College of Veterinary Medicine of the Province of Quebec. For four years, he was alderman of the municipal council of Shawinigan-Sud and then mayor of that municipality from 1957 to 1962. He entered provincial politics and was defeated as a Union Nationale candidate in Saint-Maurice in 1962. He ran again in 1966 and was elected to the Union Nationale in the government of Daniel Johnson (father). In December 1969, Philippe became parliamentary assistant to Premier Jean-Jacques Bertrand, who succeeded Daniel Johnson. Philippe was appointed director general of the Union Nationale in 1970 and was re-elected that year, but was defeated in the following elections, those of 1973. He tried his luck, but unsuccessfully, in the federal political arena by running as a Progressive Conservative candidate in Champlain County in the 1980 election. Following his electoral defeat, the government appointed him Assistant Director General of the Regional Offices and Laboratories Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture in Quebec City. In 1981, he became director of the Jardin zoologique de Québec, a position he held until his retirement in 1990. Philippe died in Charlesbourg on March 4, 1999, at the age of 79. He is buried in Saint-Michel Cemetery in Shawinigan-Sud.

Arbre du Mai, Vol. II, No. 1, page 18.

Demers **Pierre**

(A)

Born on January 23, 1769 in Montreal, he was the son of Michel Demers and Marie-Claire-Louise Dumouchel. He married Véronique Lefebvre in Ste-Geneviève-de-Pierrefonds on October 1, 1798. Along with Joseph Papineau, Pierre was one of the first pioneers of the Petite-Nation and among the first inhabitants of Papineauville. He died on January 26, 1836 in Rigaud.

Demers **Robert**

(?)

Born in 1937, Robert Demers became a financial lawyer, Liberal activist, legal advisor and friend of Premier Robert Bourassa. Robert Demers undoubtedly had the confidence of the latter, since in October 1970, after the double kidnapping of Pierre Laporte and James Richard Cross, he was mandated by the Prime Minister to resolve the impasse. He proceeded with tact and deftness during difficult negotiations with FLQ representatives, particularly lawyer Robert Lemieux.

Demers **Rock**

(J)

Rock Demers, producer of the famous Contes pour Tous, is also at the origin of several institutions that have marked the evolution of cinema in Quebec. His peers paid tribute to him during the 5th Soirée des Jutra, broadcast on Radio-Canada Television on February 23, 2011. After launching film clubs in educational institutions during the 50s, Demers participated in the creation of the first film magazine, *Images*. He was also one of the founders of the Montreal World Film Festival, of which he was executive director from 1962 to 1967, and of the Cinémathèque québécoise, created in 1963.



In the late 1970s, he worked to set up the Institut québécois du cinéma, an organization dedicated to the development of private industry. But it is first and foremost as a film distributor and producer that this pioneering craftsman helped introduce Quebecers to foreign cinema, and conversely, to make known several Quebec films and filmmakers in dozens of countries around the world. The adventure began in 1965 with the creation of Faroun, a distribution company for children's films that was also used to distribute arthouse films. Rock Demers has received dozens of awards and prizes during his career. But he welcomes this Jutra-Hommage with great emotion because it is a recognition that comes from the Quebec film industry and that it bears the name of a filmmaker he knew well and whom he salutes as one of the greatest among us.

Demers **Rosario**

(J)

Born in Saint-Nicolas, he is the son of Edouard Demers and Germaine Pâquet. Professor in Cameroon, Africa, from 1966 to 1976, then trainer in international cooperation from 1977, he founded in 1984 the office of CECI (*Study and International Cooperation*) in Haiti. In October 2008, he received the first prize from CECI for his significant contribution to this organization. On June 10, 2010, Mr. Demers, president and co-founder of "*La Table de concertation du faubourg Saint-Laurent*", received the *Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Seniors*, in the presence of the Honourable Pierre Duchesne.



From the articles of L'Arbre du Mai of May 2009 and December 2010.

Demers **Sébastien**

(J)

Born around 1982 in Saint-Hyacinthe, Sébastien is known in the boxing world in the super-welterweight category under the nickname "Double-Trouble". A tough pugilist, he has several victories to his credit and a world championship meeting in Europe.

Demers **Serge**

(?)

Born in 1944, he was director of the action network of the Vallières-Gagnon group of the Front de Libération du Québec. He was sentenced to eight years and ten months in prison for manslaughter in connection with the death of Thérèse Morin, killed on May 5, 1966 in Montreal, in the explosion of a bomb delivered by Gaétan Desrosiers to the office of the shoe manufacturer La Grenade, whose employees were on strike. He was one of 23 inmates whose release the FLQ demanded in exchange for that of James Richard Cross in 1970.

Demers **Télesphore-Jacques**

(E)

Born on May 11, 1834, he was the son of Louis-Ludovic Demers and Émilie Robert. In his early twenties he set out for the West. After passing through San Francisco, he stopped at Fort Colville, where he married a young Native American, Clara Rivet, on June 16, 1857. From there he reached western

Montana, to Frenchtown, where his extraordinary business acumen quickly amassed a great fortune. The fur trade, mines, herding, hotels, general stores, everything was so successful that almost half of Frenchtown belonged to him. In addition to business, he was interested in the politics of his region. The best proof of his great success lies in the fact that at only 44 years old, wishing to retire, he wanted to dispose of his possessions, but he found no one rich enough to buy them! At the age of 45, his wife having died, he married Léonie Gamot, 17, on February 6, 1880, in Missoula. He founded a settlement that became **Demersville**, but two reasons caused his project to fail. First, Téléspore-Jacques died on 18 May 1889, and then the railway project that was to ensure its prosperity was modified to go further, which irretrievably condemned the new town in favour of another agglomeration called Kalispell.

Demers **Tristan** (?)

Born on September 19, 1972 in Montreal, Tristan Demers is an illustrator and cartoonist of great renown throughout the French-speaking world, especially thanks to his famous character "Gargoyle" that he created when he was only ten years old.

Publication of numerous albums, forays into the advertising market, numerous participations in television shows, illustrations of many magazines, his works are countless. He has also represented Quebec at numerous comic strip festivals in Europe and even Africa.



Demers **Urgel (Father)** (1876- ?) (J)

Born in Saint-Joseph-de-Lac, Deux-Montagnes County, on May 8, 1876, he was the son of Hercule Demers, a farmer, and Arthémise Dumoulin. He studied at Sainte-Thérèse and at the Séminaire de Montréal, where he was ordained by Bishop Bruchési on 21 Sept. 1901.

Demers **Yves** (?)

An accountant born in Laval in 1938, he was a Liberal member of the House of Commons from 1972 to 1984.

Demers **Yvonne**

(J)

Born on April 14, 1902, she was the daughter of Arsène Demers and Mélina Dallaire. Following a vow in gratitude for her cure from tuberculosis, Yvonne became a nun with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. Sent to China at the age of 25, she remained there for twenty-five years, working tirelessly on her mission, overcoming difficulties of all kinds and suffering many bullying and imprisonment incidents during the Japanese invasion, then by the Communists. Expelled from China with 13,000 other missionaries, she continued her mission in Malaysia. She did not return to Canada until 1964, but continued to take care of foundations and ended her career with visits to the sick and elderly. She died in Ottawa on January 6, 1984 after 61 years of religious life.



From an article by Réal and Johanne Demers, Arbre du Mai, vol. 8, No. 2, page 15.

Demers **Denis (Villeneuve)**

(J)

Son of Jean Villeneuve and Nicole Demers, Denis Villeneuve, filmmaker and director of the film *Incendies*, received the Jutra Award for Best Film and Best Director in 2011. This film was even nominated for an Oscar among the best foreign language films.

From an article by Lise Nadon-Brunette Arbre du Mai of May 2011.

Macha Grenon and Denis Villeneuve



Interesting Demers links

Links with a Quebec Prime Minister, Johnson

The Prime Minister, Daniel Johnson Sr., married Reine Gagné, daughter of Horace Gagné and Laretta Demers. The latter was a descendant of **Étienne Dumay**. Also, the daughter of Daniel Johnson and Reine Gagné, Diane Johnson married Michel Demers, son of Jean-Guy Demers and Aurore Daoust and descendant of **Jean Dumay**.

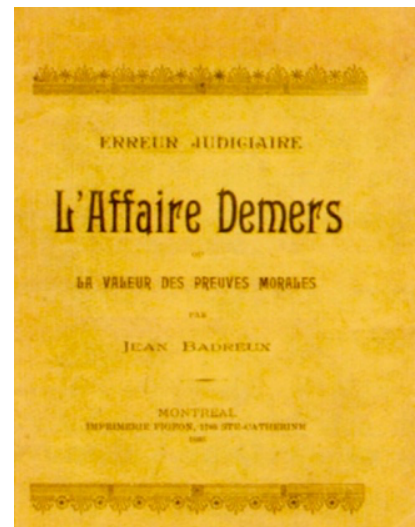
Madonna

The famous superstar Madonna is a descendant of **Étienne Dumay**. She is the daughter of Marie-Louise Fortin and Silvio Ciccone. Marie-Louise Fortin is the daughter of Elsie Fortin and Willard Fortin. Elsie Fortin is the daughter of Marie-Louise Demers and Henri-Guillaume Fortin. Marie-Louise Demers was the daughter of Eustache Demers and Louise Massé.



The Demers Affair - A novel

Henri Roullaud, born in Roubaix on April 4, 1856, died in Montreal on August 4, 1910. He came to Canada in 1889 and married a Lévis woman, Elmire Bégin, with whom he had three children. Journalist and friend of Louis Fréchette, he published, in 1895, under the pseudonym of Jean Bâdreux, a mini-detective novel entitled **L'Affaire Demers**. Despite the name of Demers contained in the title, we must point out that the content and characters of this book are purely fictitious and have no connection with Demers who existed.



Montreal Canadiens – Hockey

A certain Tony Demers was part of the Montreal Canadiens roster at the same time as some prestigious players like Elmer Lach and Toe Blake who can be seen at the bottom right.

