

31st Family Gathering 1997

September 1st 1997
Trois-Pistoles, Quebec

A very successful day.

Following this meeting held on September 1st, 1997, at Trois-Pistoles, Quebec, the members of the Administrative Council of the Association of the Ouellets-tes of America wish to sincerely thank all of the people of Trois-Pistoles for their support, collaboration and participation in the activities of the day. More than 200 people from various regions of Quebec, New Brunswick, Ontario, Maine and Massachusetts were present at the 31 st meeting of the Association. Among them were Jeremie, 2 years old and Adelaide , 89 years old,. Were also present Mgr Gilles Ouellet, now retired in Trois Pistoles, and Mr. Gilles Ouellet from Rimouski who both attended the very first meeting of the association thirty-one years ago at St-Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. During all these years of meeting only once was the sun not with us. It was in late 1970.

The days activities proceeded well under the watchful eye of the President Richard Ouellet, mayor of Saint- Simon . A meal was served by the very capable staff of the restaurant Le Gondolier, owned by Francis Ouellet.

The Président and animator during the banquet, Jeannine Ouellet recalled the presence of the Ouellets in Trois-Pistoles as early as 1804 : that of François Ouellet and Françoise D'Amours.

In 1822, that of Céleste Ouellet and François Saucier and 1823 that of Victoire Ouellet and Henri Saint-Pierre.

A great-great-great grandson of the ancestor, Rene Houallet, was the notary Jos Ouellet , the first notary of Trois-Pistoles in 1816. He practised his profession for 49 years until 1865. His great-great-granddaughter Madeleine married Thomas Ouellet in 1966 in Saint-Guy-de-Rimouski.

In order to commemorate this meeting the Association of the Ouellet-tes of America presented a plaque at "La Maison du Notaire", a historical house erected in 1842 This building has become a Center of Arts and Crafts. The house was occupied by the Notary Herve Rousseau until 1964, The house is open to the public daily from June till October. The entrance is free.

Following a draw for door prizes , about forty Ouellets-tes were able to tour Trois-Pistoles and take in its tourist attractions which included the filming areas of a popular series called "Bouscotte" presented on Radio-Canada.

The following were elected to the Administrative Council during the Annual General Meeting: Jeannine Ouellet, Président from , Rivière-du-Loup, Pauline Huot-Ouellet, Vice-Président from Saint-Pacôme, Gisèle Ouellet, treasurer from La Pocatière, Alphonse Ouellet, Director General from Lévis, Victoire Ouellet-Fortier, Administrator from Saint-Romain, Lionel Ouellet, Administrator from Saint-Pascal, Richard Ouellette, Administrator from Sherbrooke, and Florent Ouellet, Administrator from Lévis. A meeting of the members of the « Club des 100 » took place in the presence of Jeannine Ouellet, President and of Réjean Ouellette, responsible of the club. This club was created with the aim of promoting the development of the Association. One hundred members each donating \$ 100.00 will allow the creation of a

fund that will be available for the development in the future of special projects:

Continue the development of the Internet site

Formulate the history of the Ouellet-te family

Publish the family dictionary

Computerize the secretarial work and accounting and the magazine

The day ended with a Mass at the historical Notre-Dame des Neiges Church of Trois-Pistoles., the fifth to be inaugurated in 1888 and erected according to the exterior plans of architect David Ouellet and the interior plans modified and executed by architect Joseph-Pierre Ouellet. Mgr Gilles Ouellet Archbishop of Rimouski and Father Gerald Ouellet , Curator of the Diocese of Granby and Pastoral Animator of the Association co-celebrated the Mass.

Melodious songs and music accompanied the moment of giving thanks and honour to the ancestors raised strong emotions throughout the group attending. Mgr Ouellet was agreeably surprised at such a display of emotion. This day will be inscribed in the annals of the Association and will certainly be long remembered by the participants.