



LA PAROLE
Newsletter of the Acadian Museum
By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin
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August 10, 2017

- You are on the museum's email list to receive *La Parole*. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, please forward their name and email address to my secretary Darylin at: darylinb@plddo.com. If you no longer want to receive future issues, please advise at the email noted above.
- Randal L. Menard was inducted into the Order of Living Legends on July 28 at the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville. As established by the Queen's Royal Proclamation, on the 28th of July of every year there is a "A Day of Commemoration" of the Acadian Deportation, acknowledging Britain's role in the expulsion of French-speaking Acadians from Nova Scotia.


Warren A. Perrin, Randal Menard and Kermit Bouillion
- *Acadie Then and Now* was named the 2015 winner of the prestigious *Prix France-Acadie*. In Canada, the books in French or English editions may be ordered from Jacques Ouellet of *La Grande Marée* at email: jouellet@nbnet.nb.ca, or on the web at www.amazon.ca. In the U. S., call (337) 233-5832, or email perrin@plddo.com

- **Upcoming Presentations**

Warren and Mary Perrin

For more information, call (337) 233-5832, or email perrin@plddo.com

1. On Monday, August 12, H₂O La. Symposium at 1:00 PM at the Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise (LITE) Center, 537 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70506.
2. On August 13, Acadian Culture Day at Vermilionville Historic Village at 3:00 PM.


3. On September 26, Cajun Day in Rayne, Louisiana, at the RV Park at 6:00 PM.
4. On October 6, Gulf South History Conference, Pensacola, Florida

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- Not knowing that my friend would die on July 27, here is what I said on July 2 to honor DL Menard on the 55th anniversary of the recording of his famous song *The Back Door*. "DL, on behalf of the Acadian Museum, I express to you our highest respect and thanks. You appreciated the value of the Cajun culture and heritage of our state, and the need to protect and preserve it. You understood that the people of this area are some of the nicest, simplest, and most friendly people in the world. You saw that Cajuns showed a high degree of respect toward each other, for non-Cajuns and for life itself. Early in your life, it became very clear to you that it would be a real shame if that culture should ever change—or disappear. Twenty-seven years ago we founded the Acadian Museum in order to protect and preserve the Acadian culture which has existed for over 400 years in North America. You have been a loyal and reliable supporter of the museum and a leader in our efforts to protect and preserve our Cajun culture. For that, we thank you—and promise you that your support will never be forgotten."
- Fans know the late D.L. Menard for *The Back Door*, a 55-year-old, million-selling Cajun two step that still fills dance floors on its opening notes. But for fiddler Terry Huval, who spent 25 years with Menard on stage and in studios, airports and hotel rooms, Menard was an inspiration and friend filled with one-liners that could bring down the house. Huval recalls a return trip from Virginia, shortly after 9-11. Huval had successfully passed through airport security and looked back to see TSA agents pulling Menard aside. "Three

of the guards are around D.L. and his guitar case,” said Huval, leader of the Jambalaya Cajun Band. “One of them opens it up and picks up a pocket knife. “D.L. looks at them and says, 'Well, I be dang. I've been looking for that thing for three days.' Traveling with D.L. was always an adventure.”

- John Broven, author of *South to Louisiana: Music of the Cajun Bayous*, sent this link and information. There is a downloadable discography of Cajun recordings made between 1946 and 1989; it is newly compiled by British music researcher Nick Leigh: <http://www.bluesandrhythm.co.uk/cajun-records/>.
- Simon Thibault is on a crusade to prevent Acadian culinary culture from disappearing. In his new book, *Pantry and Palate: Remembering and Rediscovering Acadian Food* (Nimbus Publishing), the Halifax-based freelance  journalist explores his roots. "This is a book about Acadian food, but the root of it is very much in southwestern Nova Scotia, where I grew up," Thibault says. "Food is this amazing kind of cultural emulsifier that brings you to other places and other times, and that's important. "Acadians came from France and settled in fertile areas of what is now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, part of Quebec, and part of what is now Maine in the 17th century. They were deported by English conquerors in the 18th century. Some Acadians moved into more remote areas of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick while others fled to Louisiana, where their cuisine eventually became known as Cajun.
- This article appeared in Reuters online: “Our culture is dying: Rising waters menace more than land in Louisiana” by Ellen Wulforth - Thibodaux, Louisiana, July 5 (Thomson Reuters Foundation). Louise St. Pierre paints pictures of shacks and swamps on the insides of oyster shells - tiny scenes of Cajun culture she sees washing away amid the rising saltwater and periodic floods inundating southern Louisiana. "Our culture is dying," said St. Pierre, who lives in Lafourche Parish, where cypress trees are hung with lacy strands of Spanish moss and alligators lurk in bayous, the region's slow-moving swamp waterways. "It's not like it was." People are moving away from the parish, or county, some 60 miles southwest of New Orleans, faced with growing flood risks and unable to pay for insurance, which can reach thousands of dollars and is required by mortgage banks in high-risk areas.

- In Halifax, Nova Scotia, on July 28, 1755, British Governor Charles Lawrence signed the deportation order setting in motion *Le Grand Derangement*. From 1755 to 1763, it is estimated by historians that 7,000 – half of the entire ethnic population of the Acadians – perished during their diaspora from disease, starvation, and neglect, as well as from violence by the British. In 2003, Queen Elizabeth II signed the Royal Proclamation decreeing that every July 28th the world should pause to remember the suffering of the Acadians during the Acadian exile. By symbolically declaring an end to the Acadian exile, the Royal Proclamation stated: “...we acknowledge these historical facts and the trials and sufferings experienced by the Acadian people during the Great Upheaval.”
- Sunday, August 13, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Acadian Culture Day – FREE day at Vermilionville Historic Village. Mary and I will make a power point presentation at 3:00 pm. Every year Vermilionville hosts this free event for the public to explore how the Acadian community maintains its heritage. This year’s Acadian Culture Day will focus on "Where We Come From," and activities are planned throughout the day. Visit their web site for details: <http://www.vermilionville.org/>
- Tuesday, August 15–National Day of the Acadians
The National Day of the Acadians is observed each year on August 15 on the feast day of the Assumption of Mary. It was during the first National Convention of the Acadians held at Memramcook, New Brunswick, in 1881 that the Acadian leaders received the mandate to set the date of this celebration.
- Acadian Memorial events for August 15
121 S New Market St. - St. Martinville, Louisiana For additional information refer to their website at <http://www.acadianmemorial.org/>
- The Breau Family Reunion will be held August 17, 2019, at the *Congrès mondial acadien 2019* (CMA 2019)
Dolores Breau of Memramcook, New Brunswick, has graciously agreed to organize a Breau reunion. Please contact Dolores with ideas and suggestions. Email: Breaureunioncma2019@gmail.com.
The link to the *Congrès mondial acadien* (CMA 2019) for all information. <http://www.cma2019.ca>

- Nunu’s in Arnaudville - <http://www.nunucollective.org/> NUNU Arts and Culture Collective, 1510 Bayou Courtableau Hwy, Arnaudville, LA. Visit their website and their Facebook page for monthly events. In particular, the last Saturday of each month they host a French Table from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon “Coffee and homemade treats served alongside fun topics encouraging group conversation. A true cultural immersion experience. No cost.”
- Sadly, Dean Louder has died. Louder started coming to Louisiana as a professor at Laval University in the early 1970's with his "Projet Louisiane" and was a great friend of Louisiana and *La Francophonie* all over North America. He wrote and edited numerous books that talked about French in Louisiana. Among them were *Du Continent Perdu à l'Archipel Retrouvé*, *Le Québec et l'Amérique française* and *Franco-Amérique*. *Franco-Amérique* includes a long article by Richard Guidry about French in Louisiana. See: <http://revue.leslibraires.ca/actualites/les-disparus/deces-de-dean-louder-l-amoureux-de-la-francophonie>.
- Maglieaux’s Downtown Grille recently held its grand opening with a free concert for its patrons. Non-dining music lovers were welcomed. Owner John Richmond invited Grammy-winning singer/musician Jo-El Sonnier to perform.
- CODOFIL, *Rive Oueste, Trente-huitième-Anniversaire* (38th anniversary) Cajun Reunion will be held on August 13th at The Four Columns, 3711 West Bank Expressway, Harvey, LA. For more information, Joseph “Floyd” Boudreaux, (504) 888-1232.
- *Café Joie de Vivre* commemorated July 28th at their evening event. There was music and food at *Café Joie de vivre* in *Pont-Breaux* (Breaux Bridge).
- Gordon Schoeffler and I will participate in UL's Center for Louisiana Studies-led examination of the impact of water on our state's economy, coastline, cultures, and peoples is fast approaching. Reserve your seat for August 14, 2017, at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/h2ola-an-examination-of-louisianas-relationship-with-water-tickets-35989536673>. The Keynote Speaker will be noted author and activist John M. Barry and the full program is available on the registration page. Conference Chair Dr. Liz Skilton has ensured a day-long symposium of stimulating discussion and contemplative presentations. The panels offer a wide variety of perspectives and contexts of the state's relationship with water, touching on history and geography, music, art, literature, and film,

law and politics, and a concluding panel on the first anniversary of devastating local floods. For more information please email clsresents@louisiana.edu.

- CODOFIL helped launch two new French immersion programs at Mamou and Ville Platte Elementary schools. These programs will help students stay in touch with their French heritage while encouraging them to learn French. The program will begin in the fall with kindergarten and first graders who will stay in the program through eighth grade.
- Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser traveled to Canada July 16-July 19 to promote Louisiana as a tourist destination for French Canadians. On the trip, he met with leaders in Quebec and Montreal where they signed the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. This agreement will re-strengthen the bond between the French Canadians and Louisiana through education, Francophonie, culture and youth.
- The federal government is spending \$1 million on dozens of projects that celebrate Acadian culture in Atlantic Canada. Canadian Heritage Minister Melanie Joly was in Moncton, N.B., to announce funding for 59 projects for National Acadian Day events in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. The projects include the *Festival acadien de Caraquet* in New Brunswick and Grand-Pre 2017 in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley.
- Many thanks to Gail Dehart for helping to facilitate a wonderful donation to our museum of these two beautiful display cases. We will use them to display and preserve the Madame Dronet and Gladys Clark textile exhibit.
- Cajun music and food fans descended on Burton Coliseum as the Cajun French Music Association hosts its 30th annual Cajun Music and Food Festival. The two-day festival featured some of the best Cajun music in the area, including performances by Kevin Naquin and the Ossun Playboys, Donny Broussard, and Geno Delafosse and French Rockin' Boogie.
- Rosaireville's (New Brunswick) own Lisa LeBlanc has landed on the shortlist for the Polaris Music Prize for her album *Why You Wanna Leave, Runaway Queen?* This is the first time LeBlanc has been recognized by the Polaris Music Prize as one of its 10 finalists. The



Acadian singer-guitarist-banjo player made a fearless, rousing effort on her award-nominated sophomore album. She sings about getting through bad relationships, surviving breakups and reflecting on her own mistakes.

- Mark your calendar for Monday, August 14, 2017, for another exciting session of *Acadiana Memories*. It is an interactive history program where we reminisce about people, places, and events of long ago. The program is held on the second Monday of each month. This month they will talk about the epic story of Ada Bonner LeBouef and Dr. Thomas E. Dreher of Morgan City and their subsequent legal battles. At the time, it was the most talked about court case in the country. The program is from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the conference room at Hospice of Acadiana located at 2600 Johnston Street, Lafayette.

- *The Festival Acadien de Clare* is bringing back some staple events and has created new ones for this year's World Acadian Day celebration on August 15th. Favorite events like the opening ceremonies, parade and dinner theatre will once again be held this year, alongside some new events. A rappie pie contest will be held, along with a storyteller event and the Fiddler's Night will be making its long-awaited return.



- A Canada 150 quilt stitched by members of the *La Guilde Acadienne de Clare* (Clare quilt guild) was the star attraction when the 13th annual Expo-Couvertes (quilt expo) opened on July 24 at the historic Sacred Heart (Sacre-Coeur) Church in Saulnierville, Digby County. Hosted by the guild, the five-day exhibit is expected to attract hundreds of visitors and will feature an estimated 200 works of fabric art, including upwards of 150 quilts that have been created by artisans from across Nova Scotia to be donated to Ronald McDonald House.



- “It was just a wonderful day,” said Marc Surette, vice-president of the Kespu’kwitk Métis Council, which organized the July 22 event. “(There were) people from all over. We had people from Manitoba, we had people from Louisiana.” Tourists who may have stopped by that day to see the Acadian historical village opted to stick around to enjoy the music and perhaps learn about Métis culture and heritage, Surette said. Sponsored by the



federal government's Department of Canadian Heritage, the day was a chance to celebrate Métis pride while also commemorating Canada's 150th birthday.

- The Voice of the Wetlands Festival released its 2017 band lineup last week, and it features local acts Tab Benoit, Josh Garrett, Jeff McCarty and over two dozen more Louisiana artists. The three-day festival held each year in October features live music, Cajun cuisine and Louisiana crafts. The festival, which will run from Oct. 13-15, was started in 2004 by Cajun blues musician Benoit to raise awareness of Louisiana's disappearing wetlands. The festival kicks off every year with its Friday Night Guitar Fight, which will feature Tab Benoit, Josh Garrett, Colin Lake and Ed Wills jamming and battling on stage.
- Vermilionville is continuing to host monthly workshops that will allow you to learn crafts from our master artisans. On the first Saturday of every month (exceptions do occur), we will highlight a different craft from the old Acadian, Creole and Native American ways of life. Topics will range from woodcarving to textiles to foodways and many things in between. To register, visit Vermilionville.org, or contact the staff at 337.233.4077 or at Vville@BayouVermilionDistrict.org.
- Beverly Fuselier, Mary Perrin, Tina Vidrine and MaryAnn Armbruster are the master gardeners who oversee the Healer's Garden at Vermilionville. They serve as stewards and docents when tourists come through, explaining the medicinal properties of elderberry, monglier and other *remèdes*. Fuselier and Perrin also serve privately as *traiteuses*. But you won't find them in the Yellow Pages. *Traiteuse* — *traiteur*, if you're a man — are folk healers who combine Catholic prayer and traditional folk medicine and are considered an important part of Cajun tradition. Fuselier and Perrin believe their talents are a gift from God and will treat anyone who asks, regardless of faith. Their prayers are kept secret to safeguard their efficacy — Perrin has one in a native dialect that is untranslatable — and while practitioners may differ in their ritual styles or treatment, all utilize a spiritual component.
- We did a total repair and repainting of the Acadian Museum exterior. Here are three views of the finished work. Thanks to Robert Vincent and the Erath Fourth of July Association for donating \$500 to the project.



- Sadly, Kathy Hebert died. Kathy was the wife of John Hebert, president of the Hebert Association.
- Spearheaded by *Société Nationale de l'Acadie* (SNA), the international commemoration of the deportation of the Acadians project aims to highlight, in a manner both tangible and permanent, the Odyssey of the Acadian people in Canada. The project covers the period of the deportation, from 1755 until the beginning of the 19th century, which is categorized in three steps: the establishment of the Acadians, the deportation and the return. The Acadian Odyssey Commission, created in 1999 by SNA, aims to achieve three objectives: the commemoration of the deportation, the awareness of the history and culture of Acadians, as well as the promotion of contemporary Acadie. To achieve these objectives, the commission has unveiled a series of commemorative monuments. Since 2005, 13 monuments have been unveiled throughout New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Québec, Louisiana and in Miquelon (France).
- What were the real reasons for the American Revolution? While taxation was one of the causes that fueled discord between the colonials and the Crown, other grievances—including the Acadian Deportation—also loomed large. Here are four of them:
 1. A Constitutional Crisis
 2. Disputed Claims on the Continent
 3. Religious Tensions and Resentment of Canada
 4. Social Engineering Gone Wrong—the Acadian Deportation



Popular history has often overlooked the fact that in the decades leading up to the American Revolution, Britain's imperial impulses resulted in several clumsy attempts at social engineering that no doubt dampened colonial support of the Crown. Perhaps first among these was the Great Upheaval (also known as the Expulsion of the Acadians), which involved the Crown expelling some 14,000 French-speaking settlers (Acadians) from Nova Scotia. The dubious policy, implemented out of fear of a French uprising, was a disaster for everyone—not just for the Acadians ripped from their homes. The Crown's attempt to resettle the Acadians, who were Catholic, in the Thirteen Colonies was met with outrage and suspicion. But images of Red Coats forcing families onto ships undoubtedly made a dark impression on colonialists. The policy was both senseless and an abuse of power, a dangerous omen for an imperial power attempting to govern a fiercely independent people. Read more at the site below by Jon Milimore: <http://www.intellectuالتakeout.org/article/4-reasons-colonists-rebelled-against-britain-besides-high-taxes>.

- Update on discouraging the use of the pejorative term "coonass": The most insulting and derogatory term levied against Acadians is the term "coonass." The use of this offensive term re-affirms negative stereotypes and its vestiges of pre-civil rights era racial discrimination. This insulting slang was never a proud or complimentary term affixed to the Acadian people; we will not tolerate the use of this racial slur which has pejorative connotations. Although the slang's genesis is unknown, the word "coonass" has existed since at least the early 1940's, according to historian Dr. Shane K. Bernard. Not until the rise of a national ethnic pride and empowerment movement during the late 1960s and early 1970s, however, did the Cajun people, led by former U.S. Congressman James Domengeaux, the first president of CODOFIL, finally speak out against the use of this ethnic slur. Since then, many Cajuns have been successful in discouraging the term's use, both by non-Cajuns and fellow Cajuns alike. Happily, on August 4, Facebook suspended Cajun musician Jamie Bergeron for violation of community standards by utilizing the objectionable pejorative. He has used the term to promote his music and products. Hopefully, this may give him some pause to not disparage our cultural pride for personal commercial gain.
- A group of French students from Vermilion Catholic High School in Abbeville, Louisiana are participating in a unique educational cultural exchange with a high school in Abbeville,

France. At the end of May, VC French teacher Judy Lapeyrouse and a group of her students traveled to France to participate in the first half of an exchange with Saint Pierre Catholic High School in Abbeville. Each Louisiana student was hosted by a “twin” from Abbeville, France. On November 16, 2017, fifteen students and two teachers will arrive from Abbeville, France and will be hosted by the VC students and their families for 11 days. Prior to coming to Louisiana, the French students will learn about the Acadian Exile from Nova Scotia. In Louisiana, the students from the two Abbevilles will visit the Acadian Museum in Erath, the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, and other local cultural sites. The group from Vermilion Catholic is seeking assistance to defray the costs of showing their French “cousins” our Acadiana area. A donation of any amount would be appreciated. If you are able to offer assistance, donations can be sent to Vermilion Catholic High School, 425 Park Avenue, Abbeville, LA 70510, Attn. Abbeville Exchange. *Merci mille fois!*

- We enjoyed Jim Bradshaw's column about Amand Broussard, son of Joseph Beausoleil Broussard, and want to share it with you: <https://www.stmarynow.com/news-local-state-columns/jim-bradshaw-broussard-who-overcame-much-adversity>.

- These two Vermilion Catholic students of Abbeville, Louisiana were in French Immersion this summer at St. Anne's University, Church Point, Nova Scotia and hosted for a meal by the Trahans at their summer home there. They are shown here, left to right, Henry Nguyen, Ray Trahan, Brenda Trahan and Taylor Schaefer.



- Grand-Pré is preparing to immerse summer visitors in a little-known legacy of Canada's early heritage: the extraordinary relationship between the first European settlers to these shores, and the ancient Indigenous inhabitants of Mi'kma'ki. Grand-Pré



2017, a three-day festival from Aug. 10-13, will mark a grand reunion of the Acadian and Mi'kmaq cultures, and a celebration of the fellowship and harmony forged between them more than 400 years ago. It seems appropriate in 2017, a year of reconciliation dialogue, we reignite that relationship as we look forward to the next 150 years,” says Morley Googoo, the Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief for Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, in a phone interview. Googoo says the inspiration for the event came from a walk he took two years ago at the Grand-Pré UNESCO World Heritage Site's view park, where

he read the plaque that spoke about the alliance between the Mi'kmaq and the Acadians — one that helped the Acadians survive in North America.

- *I Love to Imagine* is a vibrant story about Charli, an imaginative girl who exercises her ability to take readers on wonderful adventures. Charli loves visiting with Grandma in Louisiana; she knows that she can always expect to eat good food there. However, it's Grandma's delicious chocolate chip cookies that warm Charli's heart. Readers can enjoy Grandma's special treat at home with the help of her delicious cookie recipe that can be found in the book. Children are also encouraged to write and illustrate their very own story. Will they decide to expand Charli's story? English and French versions are available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).