

LA PAROLE
Newsletter of the Acadian Museum
By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin
Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation, Inc.

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May 12, 2020

You are on the museum's email list to receive *La Parole*. If you know anyone who would like to receive it, please forward their name and email address to darylinb@plddo.com. If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please advise at the email noted.

- The Acadian Museum is closed due to the pandemic. but we have a vision! As part of our 31st anniversary, your tax-deductible contributions¹ can help fund these important projects:
 - Finding the [lost location](#) of our first Acadian settlement.
 - Promoting Acadiana as a World Heritage Site “twinned” with [Grand-Pré, NS](#).
 - Supporting our performance of *The Birth of Cajun Culture*, at the *Grand Reveille Acadien* (October 8, 2020).
 - Financing the transcription of [Dr. Jason Theriot’s](#) interviews for his upcoming book, *Frenchie: The Story of the French-Speaking Cajuns in WWII* (UL Press).
 - Digitizing our tapes of rare and valuable interviews.
 - Working to promote French immersion schools.
 - Continuing our [Living Legend](#) program.
 - Publishing this newsletter (*La Parole*).

You can donate [online](#) or by sending your check to The Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597, Lafayette, LA 70505.

- On May 7, Robert B. Vincent, attorney from Erath, Louisiana and of counsel with Perrin, Landry, deLaunay, was recognized as one of the Distinguished Alumni of Southern University Law Center. Shown following the presentation are Vincent (seated) as well as (left to right) Warren A. Perrin, chairman of the Francophone Section, Justice Jimmy Genovese, Louisiana Supreme Court and Judge Jonathan Perry, Third Circuit Court of Appeal, who made the presentation on behalf of the law school.

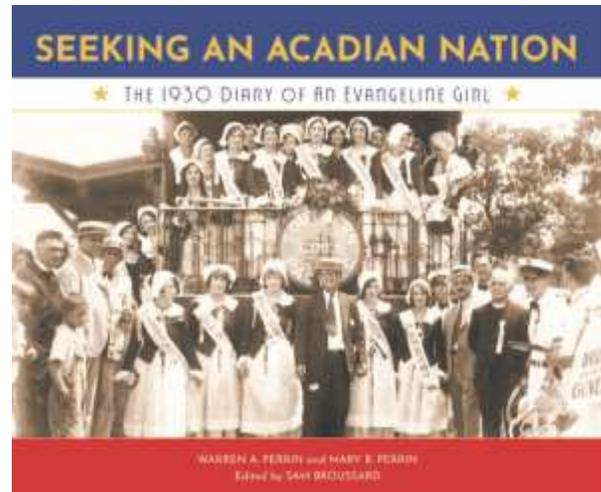


¹ The Acadian Museum is a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

- **Upcoming Presentations by Warren and Mary Perrin:**

October 3, 2020, Opening of the Grand Reveille Acadien, Frem Boustany Convention Center at the Heymann Performing Arts Center, Lafayette, La.

- Our latest book *Seeking an Acadian Nation—the 1930 Diary of an Evangeline Girl* was released in Canada during the last *Congrès mondial acadien*. With a cover artfully designed by Megan Barra, the book recounts the Acadian reunification efforts starting in the late 20th century and focuses on women’s contributions to those efforts, based on the diary of a Louisiana resident named Corinne Broussard. The following is a summary reprinted from the book’s preface:



In May of 2016, the Acadian Museum acquired a unique piece of history—a diary and large scrapbook assembled by Corinne Broussard during the historic 1930 visit to Grand-Pré by Cajuns. The Louisiana delegation, made up of 25 Evangeline Girls accompanied by 12 men, three of them priests, was led by Sen. Dudley J. LeBlanc. They embarked upon this epic journey to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the Acadian Deportation. It is believed that this was the first group of Cajuns to make the pilgrimage back to their ancestral lands in Nova Scotia since the Acadian Deportation and named by LeBlanc the First Pilgrimage of Louisiana Acadians to Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia.

Order your copy of our book(s) today!

By emailing at perrin@plddo.com or darylinb@plddo.com;

By calling (337) 456-7729;

By mailing to Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597, Lafayette, La. 70505;

By ordering on the Acadian Museum website.

Price per book: \$50

U.S. Orders requiring mailing: \$60 (includes shipping)

Canadian/International Orders: \$87 (includes shipping)

For more information, send email to darylinb@plddo.com or call 337-456-7729.



- Shown above are representatives of some of Vermilion Parish’s organizations and museums who are planning the parish’s participation in an upcoming cultural event which will include all of the towns and many artistic, culinary, agricultural and historical organizations. Hosted by Allison Miller of the Vermilion Parish Tourism Commission, the meeting was held on February 19 to plan for the upcoming *Grand Réveil Acadien* on October 8, 2020, Pictured (left to right) are Warren Perrin, the Acadian Museum of Erath; Alison Miller, Abbeville Cultural & Historical Alliance/Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission; Charlene Beckett, Sam Guarino Blacksmith Shop Museum; Anne Henry, *Le Musée de Kaplan*; Dr. Elista Istre, Louisiana Military Museum; Lisa Broussard, *Le Musée de Kaplan*; Cathy Hair, Gueydan Museum; Daniel Duhon, *Le Musée de Kaplan* and the Maurice Villien Museum. Not shown but also attending was Mary Ellen Sonnier of The Depot.
- Phil Comeau informs us that there are four Acadian Odyssey Monuments in Québec and a fifth being planned. Details can be found [here](#).
- This appeared in *The Advocate* on February 16, 2020 under the headline “Statue Project Would Have Made Coach Proud.”

Just like his mentor Tony Robichaux, former University of Louisiana at Lafayette pitcher Phil Devey didn’t want to be the center of attention. He wanted less credit than he deserved for everything he did to organize, finance and pull off the unveiling ceremony of the larger-than-life monument to his treasured former coach... Much like Robichaux, he’s humble yet captivating and bold when speaking. In his address, Devey highlighted the history of the Acadiana region to issue a challenge to UL’s 2020 baseball team. A native of Quebec, Devey spoke of the original Acadian people

– the Cajuns – who migrated from Nova Scotia to Southwest Louisiana. “Those brave, proud, tough-as-nails families carry on in the bloodlines of guys like Connor Dupuy, Brennan Breaux, Austin Perrin, Gavin Bourgeois, Anthony Babineaux and, the ultimate of Cajun warriors, Tony Robichaux,” Devey said. “The name ‘Ragin Cajun’ was not created to be a cute slogan. It is who we are when we step across the white lines. It is who we become when we get knocked down. You have the honor of wearing ‘Cajuns’ across your chest. It’s time to be Cajun...”

- New Orleans-based Gina Forsyth is known for her Cajun-style wizardry on fiddle and guitar. With an alto voice as unique as it is soulful, unpretentious songs that cut straight to the heart, and a wicked sense of humor, her live performances are electrifying. Born in Florida and raised in Alabama, Gina grew up on hymns, country songs, and old time fiddle tunes. In the mid-1980s, she moved to New Orleans to study classical and jazz violin and quickly developed a passion for Cajun music. Now considered one of the best Cajun fiddlers in Louisiana (no small feat), Gina has performed widely at prestigious venues, including the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Rockwood Music Hall, and Tipitina's. She also toured and recorded with some of Louisiana's greatest Cajun bands.
- This appeared recently in *The Advocate*:

It’s official — King Gabriel LXXXI, James Harvey Domengeaux and Queen Evangeline LXXXI, Catherine Grace Zehnder, will reign over Lafayette Mardi Gras 2020. Second only to New Orleans, Lafayette Mardi Gras is an intense event ending Tuesday night with the Greater Southwest Mardi Gras Association Ball at the Frem Boustany Convention Center. The Carnival season began Jan. 6 with the Feast of the Epiphany. Domengeaux practices law with the firm of Domengeaux, Wright, Roy & Edwards and is a graduate of LSU Law School. He currently serves as an officer of the Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association and as an officer for *La Fondation Louisiane*, an organization that advances French language, culture and heritage. In his spare time, he is a sportsman and landscape photographer. Domengeaux said. “I hope people will remember the influence of French.” “*Je suis très content et très fier d’être Roi Gabriel*,” he said when asked for his royal wishes in French. “*Je souhaite tout le monde vont passer un bon temps pour le Mardi Gras*.”

- In an e-mail, Dr. Jason Theriot sent us this excerpt from an interview about former Abbeville Mayor Roy Theriot, which aired on the North American Francophone Podcast:

Rod Theriot [phonetic] was also a World War II veteran. He was one of the big boosters of the Cajun culture... he pushed it, and he called attention to the rest of Louisiana. And then suddenly the rest of the United States realized that there was a distinguished culture here in South Louisiana, primarily through the foods, but the military people realized that there was also another valuable thing here, and that was the linguists.

We have shared our materials regarding former Abbeville Mayor Roy Theriot with Jessica D. Bergen for her historical research on her dissertation.

- Funeral Services were held February 29 for Ray Abshire, a well-known Cajun accordion player. Abshire, who died on Mardi Gras at the age of 68, was owner/operator of Magnolia Torque and Testing, Inc., but probably was best known as a Cajun musician who played with many artists, including the legendary Balfa Brothers.



- For 22 years, the New Orleans French Film Festival has offered local Francophiles a tantalizing taste of cinema from the continent. This year, however, organizers put a bit more emphasis on the “New Orleans” part of the festival’s name. While its 21-film slate will include the usual mix of imported French dramas and documentaries – including the latest from filmmakers Agnès Varda, Xavier Dolan, and the Dardenne brothers — no fewer than three paid tribute to the French-infused culture of South Louisiana. All three were followed by post-screening discussions with the filmmakers.
- On May 1, Amelie Tucker, a student at New Orleans McDonough Charter School, interviewed me for a paper that she is writing on the Cajun French language. Her grandfather is Archie Chauvin, one of my best friends from the hamlet of Henry.

- Melissa Bonin presented an artist talk and poetry reading (French and English) on March 25th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at 912 Coolidge Blvd., Lafayette, La. The event was part of Achilles Creative Series and was free and open to the public. For more information, (337) 534-8491.



- Mary Perrin (left) and Beverly Fuselier are co-authors of a book, in its final editing phase, that will be published by the UL Center for Louisiana Studies, on healing traditions of Acadiana. They are shown here at Vermilionville on February 29, attending the Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners' lecture series. The event featured speaker Jerry Hale, who spoke on the growing of traditional Acadian Brown Cotton.



- The 22nd edition of *Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie* (RVF) took place March 1-31 with activities held for all age groups across Prince Edward Island. RVF is part of the events surrounding the *Journée Internationale de la Francophonie* (March 20), which is organized every year around the world to promote the French language and its numerous cultural expressions.



For part of the month, RVF hosted a program of French-language activities, shows, and cultural events throughout the province. This year's RVF theme, "At the Centre of Change" focused on many facets of the environment, including climate-related, social, communal, and cultural. Since the year 2020 also marks the 300th anniversary of the arrival and permanent settlement of French and Acadians on Prince Edward Island, the P.E.I. schedule of events for the 22nd RVF also reflected on this historic event.

- The Pétanque Tournament set for March 21st and hosted by *Célébrons la semaine de la francophonie!* was cancelled due to the pandemic. The French game of pétanque, also known as boules, was to have been celebrated over a 16-day period in South Louisiana. The traditional French game is played by rolling boules (iron balls), on special hard-packed clay courts, grass, or other hard outdoor surfaces.
- The Bodin Reunion (2020) which was to have been held on April 4 at the Baldwin Community Center was cancelled. Any questions, contact: Larry Bodin at 337-828-9536.
- We received this email from Daniel Paul:

Click [here](#) to read news about refurbishing the Coast Guard Ship Edward Cornwallis. Cornwallis was the British Governor who issued a Proclamation in 1749 for the scalps of the Mi'kmaq. If you agree that the ship should be renamed, make your views known to the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, via [email](#). Info about Cornwallis can be found [here](#).

- We received this email from John T. Landry:

For Your Consideration: A place for remembrance and respect will be created for veterans and their loved ones at the new *Moncus Park* on Johnston Street in Lafayette. This beautiful space will serve the needs of many different types of veteran events, including memorial ceremonies, military weddings, holiday celebrations, and much more. The memorial will honor all veterans, past, present, and future. Donations can be made online by [clicking here](#). Please consider memorializing your service to your Country, or that of a friend or loved one. *Semper Fi*.

- Sadly the former mayor of Sunset, John Olivier, the “longest-serving mayor in the United States” has died. He served on the CODOFIL board for many years.
- Michael Vincent sent this email: “Hi everybody! I wanted to let y’all know there is a Vincent family reunion on October 8th in Abbeville. Please spread the word!”



- I was to have been honored by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for my lifetime contribution to the promotion of the humanities but the event has been postponed. Join the LEH and Lt. Governor Nungesser for the 2020 Bright Lights Awards Dinner, which will be held later. Tickets to the Bright Lights Awards Dinner are \$150 per person with tables available for \$1,500 (\$2,500 sponsorship level) per table of ten. For information on the event, including details, tickets, and the auction, visit [the event page here](#).
- This appeared in the *Daily Iberian* on March 8, 2020:

The Loreauville Board of Aldermen is slated to vote on a resolution in support of the Acadian Odyssey Monument at Monday’s regular meeting. The monument, which has long been discussed in relation to the New Acadia Project, is placed in areas significant to the historic Acadian migration [to] Nova Scotia in the 1800s. The Loreauville area is thought to be the location of the first Acadian settlement in Acadiana. The international project has been led for many years by Jean Gaudet. The large beautiful bronze cast monuments are manufactured in Canada.

- The planting of two lemon trees and a preview of a plaque that will be placed nearby in Baton Rouge’s A. Z. Young Park helped commemorate the cultural and musical contributions of Amédé Ardoin (March 11, 1898 – Nov. 3, 1942), who is credited with helping create the framework for Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco music’s evolution in the early 1900’s. Held on

Thursday, March 12, 2020, the ceremony near the State Capitol added to the recognition of Ardoin, whose statue by sculptor Russell Whiting was installed in 2018 outside the St. Landry Parish Welcome Center. Ardoin's death at age 44, from what some say was a racially-motivated beating, led to his family's efforts to keep his music and legacy alive.

- This quote from Herman Fuselier, Executive Director of the St. Landry Parish Tourism Commission, appeared on KLFY.com:

You may not have heard of Amédé Ardoin before, but more than likely you've heard something inspired by his music. His statue was erected in Opelousas a couple of years ago, but his effect on the mind of musicians has been felt for generations. Ardoin was born on March 11, 1898, between Eunice and Basile. He left a tradition of family farming to become one of the first in Acadiana to perform and record what would become known as French Cajun or Creole music. When Amédé would play in the dance halls, the women would break down and the men would stop fighting. His music was just that powerful.

- Falling after Christmas, New Year's, Epiphany, Candlemas, Shrove Tuesday, Fat Thursday and the other feast days, Mid Lent was the last winter feast day of the traditional Acadian calendar. In the past, it was particularly popular, as it took place right in the middle of Lent. Lent is an austere period of fasting in the Roman Catholic calendar typically associated with penance and bodily mortifications. The fast takes place during the seven weeks (40 days) before Easter. Daily life changed abruptly after the festivities of Shrove Tuesday, and the number of religious rites and observances increased exponentially, as a West Pubnico, Nova Scotia newsprint correspondent for the *L'Évangéline* reported in 1935:

We have left games and amusements behind us and entered a period of penance. The Wednesday morning mass and the evening Way of the Cross attracted large crowds, and a good many people received ashes. We have the Way of the Cross and the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday and Friday evening during Lent.

Mid Lent is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of Lent. Like Easter, it is a moveable feast, taking place on a different date every year, but always between February 26th and April 1st. Many people would take advantage of Mid-Lent day to "break the fast," temporarily leaving aside their penances and even indulging in a bit of merrymaking, such as card playing, music, dancing, and consuming of sweets and various dishes that they would have to do without during the rest of Lent. Of course, there was also the masquerade, which would perhaps include the annual visit of Mid-Lent revelers or even Mi-Carême herself.



David Deveaux receiving sweets from the black-gloved Mi-Carême in 1982

Photo: Ellen Deveaux

Like Santa Claus, Mi-Carême would sometimes visit discreetly, without even being noticed. She would leave sweets for the children somewhere in the yard, for example on top of the woodpile where they had carefully placed their caps, hoping to have them filled with presents. However, this mythical figure would usually arrive at the door of the family home to hand-deliver the sweets to the children. She would usually offer them treats such as brown-sugar fudge, toffee, cookies, and even apples.

- Sadly, former French President Jacques Chirac, who once worked as a cabbie in New Orleans, died on March 19th. An article by John Pope, posted on September 27, 2019, told about Chirac's unique connection to Louisiana:

If you flagged down a taxi in New Orleans during the early 1950s, your driver might have been a future president of France. Jacques Chirac, who died Thursday in Paris at age 86, used his income as a cabbie to help pay his expenses during a two-year stay in New Orleans while he was working on a postgraduate thesis about the port. New Orleans originally was going to be just a stopover during the young man's 1953 road trip around the United States, according to a 2003 story in the (Lafayette) *Daily Advertiser*. But, the newspaper said, Chirac was so taken by the city's post-World War II growth that he changed his thesis topic to concentrate on the port and stayed for two years. The *Times-Picayune* printed an abridged version of his thesis — part of an account of his stay in New Orleans — on the front page of the Jan. 12, 1955, issue. Chirac signed a copy of the story for Warren Perrin, president of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, who hung it in his office.

Chirac loved New Orleans' jazz scene in the mid-20th century. The article noted that he also operated a forklift for Anheuser-Busch and prepared turkey sandwiches and banana splits at a Howard Johnson's outlet. Pope stated in the article that, "although he professed his love of the United States in a *Time* magazine interview, the feeling toward the French leader cooled in some parts of Louisiana in 2003 when he came out against the United States' military involvement in Iraq."

In 2001, during a visit to France by a Louisiana delegation led by Louisiana's First Lady Alice Foster, President Chirac was invited to return to Louisiana to help celebrate the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase. I had been appointed by Governor Mike Foster to serve on the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission charged with organizing the cultural

commemoration of the sale of the Louisiana Territory to the United States. As many Americans were upset with France's opposition to the Bush Administration's invasion of Iraq, they protested by dumping French wine in the streets and started calling French fries "Freedom fries." There was even talk of rescinding Chirac's invitation to the celebration in December of 2003; however, the French leader said he would not be able to attend. At the commemoration event—which turned out to be very successful—France was represented by French Ambassador to the United States Jean-David Levitte, who was France's Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2000 to 2002 and Ambassador to the U.S. from 2002 to 2007. Since I had known Levitte for several years in my role as president of CODOFIL, I enjoyed hosting him in New Orleans, but was very disappointed that President Chirac was not also present.

- Christine Savoie learned to sew in the fourth grade for a 4H project. She learned from her mother, who learned from her mother. "I come from a Cajun family where everyone knows how to sew," Savoie said. The 24-year-old isn't a seamstress, but she used the skills she has to make face masks for local hospitals. Hospitals nationwide are facing a shortage of personal protective equipment because of the coronavirus pandemic, including face masks and gloves. "My calling wasn't to be a nurse," Savoie said. "But I think we're all called to help people."

A graduate student studying history at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Savoie said she's had more free time since her classes moved online because of the coronavirus outbreak. She first heard about the effort to sew masks from a friend who pointed her to a Lake Charles group that was doing the same. Sewing with Savoie is a nonprofit organization founded by Christine Savoie of Lafayette, Louisiana. This organization is partnered with the Acadian Heritage and Cultural Foundation, Inc. and aims to deliver as many handmade face masks as possible to healthcare professionals and others who need them. Since she cannot make all these masks herself, she called on everyone who can sew to aid her, adding that she will provide materials to those in Louisiana who want to make the masks. You can follow her on Facebook at [Sewing with Savoie](#) or send her an email at sewwithsavoie@gmail.com. Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to Acadian Heritage and Cultural Foundation, Inc., or by [using this link](#). Her work was featured in [this segment](#) on the CBS Morning News.

- Cap-Pelé, New Brunswick, sent 1/4 of its masks (1000) to their sister city, Broussard, Louisiana, to help its citizens protect themselves.

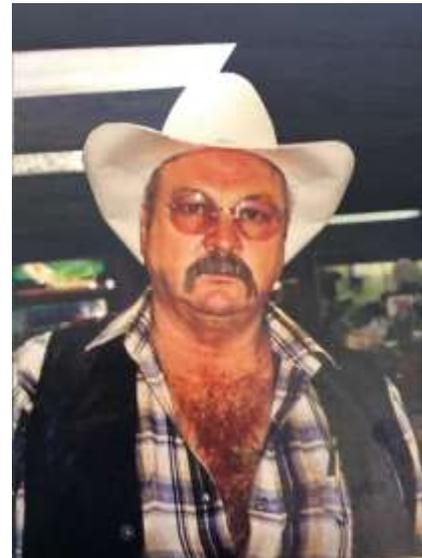
- We received this from the *Attakapas Gazette's* president, Jim Phillips:

Dear Readers, This will most likely be the last newsletter and I will be closing down the [Attakapas Gazette website](#) if we do not raise approximately \$400 in the next few weeks. We have been functioning on a financial shoestring, many hours over many years of unpaid volunteering and goodwill. We have come to a point where The Attakapas Historical Association bank account has been stretched to the point where it simply does not have enough to cover the yearly Internet service fee that is coming due the first of May. We have one small recurring monthly donation and recently we received a couple small donations – thank you, you know who you are – but these small donations are not enough to meet this once per year large expense. Please consider making donations at this time if you are able. If you haven't discovered the wealth of rich historical, genealogical, and folklore material in the Attakapas Gazette yet, [here is a link](#) to the archives which will continue whether the website and newsletters continue or not, thanks to the hard work of a couple folks who spent a lot of time digitizing the material from the originals: The Attakapas Gazette 1966-1994 Since each original page was digitized, you will see each issue in its original form and be able to "digitally turn the pages." You can download the entire collection in many formats, and search the material just like google. Thank you. I am proud to have helped bring the Attakapas Gazette into the modern world and make it accessible via the Internet – especially at times like these when we are relying on the Internet more than ever to keep our human spirits vital. To donate, please [click here](#).

- The Cajun Nation honored the life and legacy of Dr. Ray P. Authement at a memorial on April 10 at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Authement, the former president of the University of Louisiana, died on April 5. Motorists entered the circular driveway in front of Martin Hall, the University's main administrative building, located at 104 E. University Ave. To maintain social distancing, the public remained in their vehicles while viewing the tribute. Dr. Authement was very supportive of promoting French in Louisiana and under his leadership the university expanded the Center for Louisiana Studies and created the PhD program in Francophone Studies.
- From Lycée français de la Nouvelle-Orleans:

Katrina Greer, a former parent and strong supporter of Lycée, left this earth a few days ago. She was the owner and founder of The French Library on Magazine Street, and was instrumental in the growth of our library at the Johnson Campus, thanks to several generous book donations. She leaves behind a loving husband, Jabari Greer, former Saints player, and three young children. To them, her family, and her friends, including Lycée parents and staff, our deepest and most sincere condolences.

- Ronnie Miguez, 70, a life-long resident of Abbeville, Louisiana, died on April 19, 2020, at Abbeville General Hospital after a brief illness. He was born on February 13, 1950, to Vernice Miguez and Avia Ortemond Miguez. For many years, Ronnie drove 18-wheelers across the country. He enjoyed hunting, cooking Cajun dishes, country music, trucks, speaking Cajun French, and was particularly fond of his collection of cowboy hats. In 1990, Ronnie helped a group of volunteers renovate the old Bank of Erath which was transformed into the Acadian Museum of Erath, now one of the most-visited historical venues in Vermilion Parish. Some of his co-volunteers included Iry J. Melancon, Henry “Lolly” Perrin, Robert Vincent, Warren Perrin, Aldon “Shug” LeBlanc, and Canadians René Babineau and Wilfred Doucet. For 18 years, he volunteered to be in charge of the maintenance of the museum’s operations and he was also often called upon after hours to open the facility and lead a tour for unexpected international visitors in his native French. In July, 2005, as part of the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Acadian Deportation, Ronnie was one of the directors from the Acadian Museum who toured Canada. During the trip, Ronnie was called upon to prepare Cajun dishes for large crowds in Montreal, Quebec City, Moncton, and Halifax. His memory will live on forever in the hearts of those who loved him. *Bon voyage et merci beaucoup pour votrê soutien pour preserver notre culture Cadien.*



- This mural, painted by Colette Bernard, is in New Iberia on Bridge St. right before it crosses the Bayou Teche and becomes Duperier. Colette had been a French Immersion student for seven years and now attends Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where she studies art.



- The following appeared as part of [a story](#) in *The Advocate*.

Fiddler Harry LaFleur, founder of the Cajun French Music Association and a musician who played with legendary artists like Nathan Abshire, Dennis McGee and Ira LeJeune died this week. He was 86. An obituary published by the funeral home said he founded the CFMA, which was dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Cajun music and culture, in 1984. It started with 30 members and grew to more than 2,000 families, with seven chapters that extended as far west as Southeast Texas.

- We received this email from Jean Gaudet:

Had a promising telephone conference yesterday with [MapAnnapolis](#) (Heather LeBlanc) and our FAVA delegate Robert Surette concerning steps to bring Acadian presence and historical recognition to the Parc Canada historical site of Port-Royal -- Annapolis Royal.

- I received this email from Dr. Jean-Douglas Comeau:

I hope that you are all well and that you have been able to keep ‘*le méchant virus*’ at bay! Ici ça va bien. La vie est encore belle à la Baie Sainte-Marie. Both our French immersion sessions are cancelled for this summer... for the first time since 1972! Prenez soin de vous autres, Mary et Warren!

- [This article](#) appeared in Canada’s newspaper, *The Chronicle Herald*, under the title “This is Acadie - P.E.I. celebrating 300 years of French being spoken.”

Pierre Poirier had a loaf of bread to thank for getting him out of prison. It was the summer of 1755. Recently wed and living near what's now Sackville, N.B., Poirier was one of many Acadian men in his region invited to a British-run information session regarding land. Georges Arsenault, a P.E.I. historian and descendent of Pierre, confirmed that this was just a ploy. "Once they got there they were imprisoned," he said. The men were held at Fort Lawrence, N.S. during what was the beginning of what has since become known as the Great Upheaval. For about three months, Pierre waited to be forcibly deported, while his wife, Marguerite, fled to escape the same fate. They were just some of the many early Acadians whose plight played a role in shaping the Maritime Provinces. This year, Prince Edward Island is celebrating the tricentennial anniversary of these first French settlers. "In 1720, that's when the first settlement was opened on the Island," Arsenault said. "French has been spoken on the Island for 300 years." It might mark the first time this centennial is recognized on P.E.I. That's because it wasn't until the 1960s that the French language started to become more celebrated across the Maritimes – a shyness that may have been influenced by the hardships their ancestors faced, Arsenault said.

- We received this email from Dr. Florent Hardy:

Let's celebrate LOVELY LOUISIANA!

Happy Birthday Louisiana
April 30, 1812 - April 30, 2020

On February 20, 1812, President Madison signed the congressional act granting statehood to Louisiana, which officially became the 18th state on April 30, 1812.

- The following lines appeared on the Canadian Broadcasting (CBC) website under the headline "[New course explores nuances of Acadian language, culture](#)":

A new course at the University of New Brunswick aims to help students navigate the sometimes confusing waters of Acadian French dialects. Nina Savoie-Colwell, who developed the course, said it came about because some of her students commented on the peculiarities of the Acadian dialects of the French language.

While they share many similarities, there are differences between the French ... spoken in France, Quebec [or] New Brunswick. Savoie-Colwell said a lot of these differences are because Acadian dialects can be isolated and are often influenced by the local culture.

For example, the French spoken in Saint-Quentin may be influenced by the lumber industry, while the French spoken in Shippagan would be influenced by the fishing industry. Savoie-Colwell said there are also words that would be considered archaic in France that are still used in New Brunswick because of the isolation of the language in the province.

- [An article](#) in Canada's *Chronicle Herald* discusses the tourist situation in southwest Nova Scotia's Yarmouth area:

This part of the province was hit hard from the absence of ferry service last year and had been counting on a strong tourism season this year. But COVID has added further difficulty. Like all parts of the province, major summer events have been cancelled or postponed throughout the region.

"It just shows that we need to continue to ... diversify our tourism products as much as possible," says YASTA executive director Neil MacKenzie. "We're always going to be hopefully connected to the United States and have that access to that market because when we don't have it we suffer greatly."

One area YASTA continues to eye is culinary tourism [which] goes beyond sitting around a restaurant table. It's also about an experience. "Visitors and travellers aren't

just interested in eating, they also want to know who caught it, how was it harvested. They want to learn about the process,” MacKenzie says. He also says ‘staycations’ are something the industry has to focus more on too – enticing people living in the province to explore the province.

- We wish to thank all frontline workers during this time:

