

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

December 2024

[Museum News](#) | [Louisiana News](#) | [Acadie](#) | [Lagniappe](#)

MUSEUM HRS Tue.-Fri. 1-4 pm, Sat. 10-12

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Editors: B. Perrin, M. Lagacé, R. Bernard. **Sponsored by:** Francophone Section of La. State Bar Association. Acadian Museum is a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Holidays in Vermilion Parish / Stay at Our Guest House



Vermilion Parish is a great place to visit during the holidays and here's an event guaranteed to

get your family in the Christmas spirit: Abbeville's Annual Christmas Stroll on Thursday, Dec. 5, will be a family-oriented evening of strolling, visiting, shopping, and dining with music, Santa Claus, white lights—all within the beautifully decorated downtown historic district. Free admission 5:30-8 pm in downtown Abbeville.

The Perrin Farm in Henry, LA is only five miles from Abbeville and from the Acadian Museum in Erath. Situated in a bucolic setting, our Cajun family farmstead has been converted from a family retreat to a rural farm guesthouse. Our Party Barn accommodates up to 100 persons for parties, family reunions, crawfish boils, weddings, and more. To reserve, email perrinfarm18@gmail.com.



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MUSEUM NEWS

Acadian Museum: Archives of Cajun History for the Past, Present and Future



*Marion Crackower, PhD. -
Louisiana State University*

Our November 15 fundraiser was a great success, with appearances by Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, Olympic Medalists Mondo Duplantis and Hollis Conway, and UL Olympic Weightlifting Hall of Famers. Among the speakers was Dr. Marion Crackower, who described our mission very succinctly:

Cultures that don't find their place in archives will eventually disappear. A search on the Internet revealed that Cajun archives shine through their almost total non-existence. However, every society possesses an archival process. Cajuns are no exception.

Given the oral nature of the culture and the sparsity of the Cajun writings, Cajun archives have taken a different form. These are found in local museums such as the Acadian Museum of Erath, which fills a historical gap by carefully collecting and curating Cajun traces and by-products that reveal their culture. It would be sad for History not to preserve America's happiest way of life!

You can read news about the fundraiser [here](#) and see photos of the event below:

(SWIPE UP TO CONTINUE)

Fundraiser Photos



*Lt. Gov. Nungesser (R)
with Erath Veteran
Robert Doré (L).*

*Paris Olympics
gold medalist
Mondo
Duplantis (C)
with Erath
natives Terry
Segura (L) and
Daniel
Bourgeois (R)*



*Olympic medalist Hollis
Conway (L) with
Museum chairman
Warren Perrin (R)*

La Table Française – Come Speak French

South Louisiana locals meet regularly to improve their language skills. CODOFIL has a [list](#) of these events, but here are some of our favorites:

- **Arnaudville:** Last Saturdays, 9:30 am, Arnaudville Community Center. mavisfruge@aol.com
- **Broussard:** 2nd Fridays, 8:30 am, Valsin Broussard House, 408 W. Main St. (337) 445-3478
- **Erath:** Fridays, 10 am, Erath City Hall (337) 254-8522
- **Lafayette:** Wednesdays, 7 am, Dwyers, 323 Jefferson St. legauth@bellsouth.net; 2nd Thursdays, 5:30 pm, Petroleum Club galatiolais@gmail.com
- **Lake Charles:** First Fridays, 4 pm, Central Library, 301 W. Claude St. jerrie_abshire@hotmail.com
- **Loreauville:** Tuesdays, 7 am, Main Cup Coffee Shop, 101 N. Main St. joeroe@att.net
- **Maurice:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10 am, 218 Chief Fred Ave. (337) 652-0166
- **Metairie:** Wednesdays, 6 pm, *Parlons Café*, 1001 Metairie Rd. (504) 982-0800
- **New Iberia:** Thursdays, 8:30 am, Cane River Pecan Company, 254 W. Main St. (337) 519-7942
- **New Orleans:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, 1519 Jackson Ave. [Click here for info.](#)
- **Rayne:** Thursdays, 9:30 am, Bernard-Bertrand House, 1023 The Blvd. wjthibodeaux@yahoo.com.
- **Scott:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 1 pm, Begnaud House, 110 Benoit Patin Rd, thesavoybandb@yahoo.com
- **Thibodaux:** Tuesdays, 5 pm, Jean Lafitte Center, 314 St. Mary St. mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com.
- **Ville Platte:** Mondays, 2pm, at the Hundred Fold Coffee Shop on Coreil St. jfsoileau@gmail.com
- **Via Zoom:** Mondays, 9 am. To connect to the meeting, contact mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com

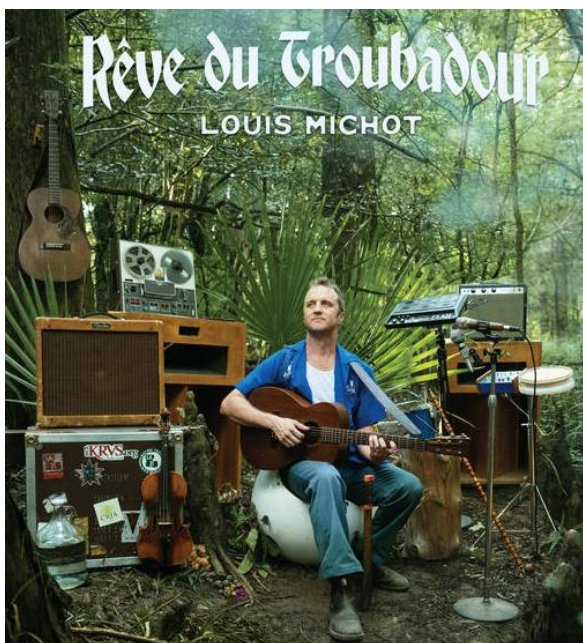
Vermilion Parish Students Vying for French Immersion Scholarship in Nova Scotia



The *Acadian Centre Acadien* and the Abbeville Cultural & Historical Alliance announced this year's Russell Gaspard French Immersion Scholarship for participation in French immersion study in Nova Scotia this summer.

Vermilion Parish resident high school students 15 years or older are eligible to apply for the five-week session (June 29 to Aug. 2, 2025) at Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point (Pointe-de-l'Église), Nova Scotia. The scholarship covers tuition, books, room, board, and transportation (a \$4,600+ value). Upon their return, recipients will also be required to provide volunteer hours at the *Acadian Centre Acadien* and Abbeville Cultural & Historical Alliance Museum and the Giant Omelette Celebration next November. Applications can be obtained by contacting Lloyd Doré at 337 893-5400 or L3Dore@doretax.com. Completed applications are due by Jan. 31, with interviews scheduled on Feb. 8 at the museum in downtown Abbeville.

French Events in New Orleans



The [Nous Foundation](#) of New Orleans has several events scheduled this month with a Francophone flavor:

On Dec. 14, they will present a program titled “Sing in Creole with the Baby Dolls.” Known for their vibrant costumes and iconic presence in Mardi Gras parades, the Baby Dolls will make their debut performance of nearly lost Louisiana Creole music in a remarkable display of Afro-Creole tradition, language, and artistry. Their performance will take place in the gardens of the [Historic BK House](#), 1113 Chartres St., at 10 am.

On Dec. 20-21, they will cosponsor a concert by Louis Michot at the Contemporary Arts Center, 900 Camp St. This special two-night event will feature the Grammy Award-winning musician presenting his latest album, [Rêve du Troubadour](#), through performances and multimedia visuals in French and English.

For details write: bonjour@nous-foundation.org

Filmmaker Phil Comeau Wins Again



Phil Comeau with Isabelle Thériault, the new Minister of Tourism, Heritage, and Culture in New Brunswick.

Our good friend and onetime collaborator Phil Comeau just

racked up another score in New Brunswick where he was declared winner of the 2024 Visual Arts Award as part of the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for High Achievement in the Arts. The award literature explained why:

Phil is a documentary and fiction filmmaker whose work has been screened at film festivals around the world, winning over 700 awards. A key figure in Acadian cinema, Phil's films bear witness to contemporary *Acadie*. Examining history, culture, and identity, his work is a remarkable fresco, tracing the resilience and emancipation of a people.

Renowned for his ability to tell compelling stories that resonate with audiences, Phil unearths characters that move while demonstrating a rare talent for simplifying complex historical events. For his contribution to Acadian culture and cinema, Phil has received numerous honours including the Order of Canada and the Order of New Brunswick, and was promoted to the rank of *Officier de l'Ordre des arts et des Lettres de la France* in 2022. His independent film, *Belle-Île en Acadie*, has earned him a Guinness World Record for the most awards won by a documentary.

"To make a good film," Phil says, "You have to be able to move people. For me, a work of art that makes you feel nothing is a waste of time. There must be something to think about ... so that, when you look at it, you start to think and feel."

Our 2014 book *Acadie: Then and Now* was compiled largely if not mostly with Phil's help and benefited

from his broad knowledge of Acadian history and culture.

A Francophone Oasis in the Frozen North

Our Canadian/Acadian co-editor Mario Lagacé alerted us to this amazing fact: Where in Canada do you think use of the French language is growing the most? Would you believe the Yukon?

According to Radio-Canada, Yukon is also the most bilingual territory in the country, after Quebec and New Brunswick. Check out [this video](#) on the subject (in French) and Yukon's bilingual legislation [here](#).

Une Acadienne deviendra lieutenant-gouverneure du Nouveau-Brunswick



Louise Imbeault

New Brunswick has an Acadienne as its new Lieutenant Governor. You can read about it [here](#) and [here](#) (*en français*).

A Hidden Acadian Connection in Ontario



Our Acadian co-editor Mario Lagacé says he was trying to find connections between Acadie and the Franco-Ontarian mining town of Sudbury because he noticed that the French-speaking residents there have a “twang” that is slightly Acadian. Then he found this article by Isabelle Bourgeault-Tassé describing how her Acadian grandmother built a monument there to the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Bella did not know it, but she was the descendant of a daughter of Acadie, one of six generations of daughters named Isabelle. Recent genealogical

research... revealed this bloodline and traced it to violent events of Canadian history.

[She had] inherited the oral histories, real and imagined, of the *Grand Dérangement* from her grandmothers. The Great Upheaval of 1755 saw the expulsion of about 10,000 Acadians by the British from Acadia, today the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. “The unborn ripped from women’s bellies, the blare of bagpipes as Acadians were marched onto boats,” Bella told my mother. Although her telling was inconsistent with history, the trauma of generations was evident in her stories.

To read it from the beginning, click [here](#).

New Monument in Annapolis Royal Marks a Key Location in the Acadian Diaspora



The Acadian Odyssey monument installed at Fort Anne National Historic Site in Annapolis Royal.

This article by Jason Malloy appeared in the Annapolis Valley Register:

A crucial piece of Acadian history will soon be displayed on a monument over-looking the wharf where part of it occurred.

The 10,000-pound Acadian Odyssey Commission monument commemorates the Great Upheaval, also known as the *Grand Dérangement* and Acadian Expulsion, which saw nearly 10,000 Acadians deported from the Maritime provinces between 1755 and 1762. British authorities gave the order on July 28, 1755.

At 5 a.m. on Dec. 8, 1755, Acadians were separated from family members, forced at gunpoint to board seven ships from the wharf in Annapolis Royal and sent to Anglo-American colonies, England and France. In total, 1,664 men, women and children were deported from Annapolis Royal.

To continue reading, click [here](#) or you can read more details on the [Mapannapolis](#) Facebook page [here](#).

Parks Canada Honors Beausoleil with New Plaque in Moncton, NB



Dawn Arnold, Bernard Thériault, Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc, Ginette Petitpas Taylor, and Michel Cyr at the new plaque

This release by Parks Canada appeared on the Newswire.ca website:

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Veterans Affairs and MP for the Moncton area commemorated the national historic significance of Joseph Broussard *dit* Beausoleil with a special ceremony to unveil a plaque at Bore Park in Moncton, NB.

The Government of Canada, through Parks Canada and the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, recognizes important people, places and events that have shaped this country as a means of helping Canadians reconnect with their past. By sharing these stories with Canadians, we hope to foster understanding and reflection on the diverse histories, cultures, legacies, and realities of Canada's past and present. The commemoration process is largely driven by public nominations. To date, more than 2,260 designations have been made.

To continue reading the news release, click [here](#). or read the ICI-Radio-Canada [news story in French here](#).

Normandy Honors WWII Acadian Heroes



Commemoration ceremonies during Acadian Week

Did you know there is an annual *Semaine acadienne* (Acadian Week) in Normandy, France where Acadian people are recognized for their contributions to WWII? This article by Victoria Walton, which appeared on the CBC website, talked about one family's experience there:

Names like Gallant, Haché and Blacquiere appear on headstones, lit up in blue to symbolize their Acadian heritage. But these graves aren't in the Acadie region. They're in the Normandy region of northern France, where Acadian people's contributions to the Second World War were recognized this past summer during the annual *Semaine acadienne*, or Acadian Week.

"This year it was a 10-day event. That's really a celebration and a commemoration of Acadians that went over during World War II," said Karine Gallant, who travelled to Normandy with her family in August 2024 for the annual event.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

La France et la Louisiane : L'Autre relation spéciale



Those interested in the special ties that bind together Louisiana and France might be interested in [this discussion](#) (in French).

Quebec Acadians Dine Together



Members of the Acadian Federation of Quebec

Our friend Yvon Godin asked us to include this in the current issue:

Des membres de la Fédération acadienne du Québec se sont réunis le 24 novembre 2024 à Montréal pour partager un clam chowder. L'occasion était de se rencontrer avant les Fêtes et ils étaient originaires de l'Acadie, du Québec, et de la France.

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Other Interesting Stories (In French)



French ambassador to Canada, Michel Miraillet, talks about organizing a CMA in France (Photo: Radio-Canada)

You may be interested in

other stories we found. These are in French but—if viewed in the Chrome browser—can be easily translated into English:

[Will France Host the Congrès mondiale acadien someday? Et pourquoi pas?](#)

[A New “Acadian Highway” on the Isle of Martinique Honors Acadians Who Settled There](#)

[A Century Old Tradition of Carpet Weaving Could Disappear in the Acadian Town of Cheticamp, NS](#)

[Podcast About Canadian Regiments that Took Part in the American Revolution](#)

[Remembering the First Congrès mondiale acadien in 1994](#)

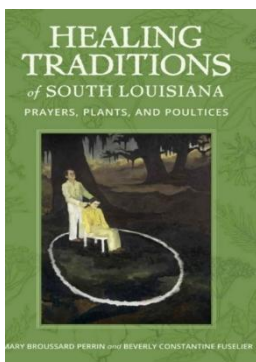
[Acadian Author Antonine Maillet Honored with New Stamp in Canada](#)

[Acadian Parliamentarians in Ottawa Launch Their New Association](#)

LAGNIAPPE

“Healing Traditions” Gets Rave Reviews

Our book *Healing Traditions of South Louisiana* is the most comprehensive history available today of the healing arts from the dawn of civilization to present times, including details on the mystical arts of the Cajun



traiteur as well as the plants supporting their magic ([read more](#)). The following note was sent in by one of our readers:

I just want to say how much I love the book *Healing Traditions of South Louisiana*. My mom went to Lafayette a few months ago and met you and purchased a copy of the book for us. I pick it up often and love not only the knowledge and lost wisdom it contains but also your style of writing! Feels more like a conversation than a textbook doling out information.

A very good friend of mine is part Native American from Gueydan and has always spoken of "traiteurs" and extolled their deep healing powers and lamented the fact that so few of them still remain, much to our detriment. I know she will treasure your book, and I look forward to passing it on to others as well. My parents and I have also read *Acadie: Then and Now* and I learned so much, and have recommended it to others for years. Thanks for all you do. In gratitude, Jessica.

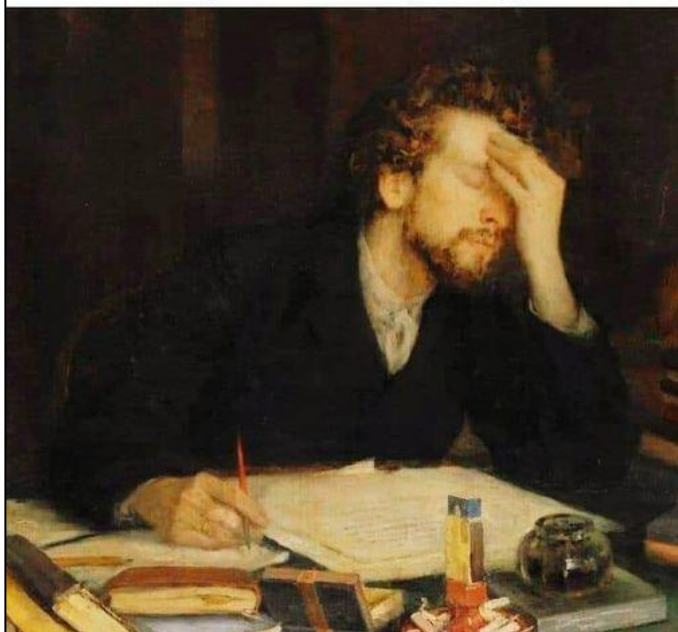
To order the book, call (337) 456-7729, or visit our [museum boutique](#).

Best of the Internet

Through the indefatigable efforts of our coeditor Mario L., here are some recent best memes:



Me during my French exam wondering what is the gender of a washing machine

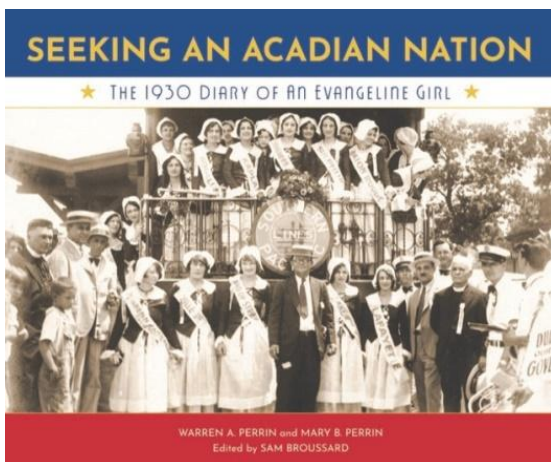


Cajuns when seeing "cajun" restaurants outside of Louisiana



FIRST LOUISIANA ASTRONAUT ON THE MOON

Visit the Boutique / Get Cool Stuff !



Another way to support the museum is by visiting our [online boutique](#) and purchasing one of our books or souvenirs. Here's just an example of what you will find:

- [Acadie Then and Now: A People's History](#) with articles by Cajun and Acadian authors from around the world, edited by Warren Perrin, Phil Comeau, and Mary Perrin
- [Acadian Redemption](#) - *From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation* by Warren Perrin
- [Healing Traditions of South Louisiana](#) by Mary Perrin and Beverly Fuselier
- *A Century of Acadian Culture, Erath (1899-1999)* by General Curney Dronet
- [The USL National Championship Weightlifting Teams](#) by Warren Perrin
- Histories of Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes by Warren Perrin
- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.

Would You Like a Group Presentation?

As you can see from our [event calendar](#), the Acadian Museum gives regular presentations to groups around the region, and we would be happy to speak to your group. Here is a sampling of topics—or [click here](#) for a complete list. Send all requests to info@acadianmuseum.com.

- Acadian History and Culture
- The Queen's Proclamation – History of an Apology to the Acadians
- Folk Healing Traditions and the Traiteurs of South Louisiana
- The Development of Cajun Music
- Acadian Resistance Fighters and Beausoleil Broussard
- Louisiana: the French Renaissance: 1900-2000
- Longfellow's Evangeline: The Birth and Acceptance of a Legend
- Acadians' Role in the American Revolution
- Frenchie: Cajuns' Contributions in WW II
- Post Deportation Migrations of Acadians 1755-1800

Come and Visit—In Person or Online

You can read more about us on our website at

www.acadianmuseum.com or

stop by the Museum at 203 S. Broadway Street in Erath, LA.

Museum hours are Tuesday-Friday 1-4 pm and

Saturday 10 am-noon.



You can also see our extensive collection of historic Cajun- and Acadian-themed videos at

www.youtube.com/@acadianmuseum



The late D.L. Menard at Lake Peigneur near Delcambre, LA