

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

February 2026

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MUSEUM HOURS

Tue.-Fri. 1-4 pm —Sat. 10-noon

Group tours, call 337 456-7729 (weekdays) or 337 501-3049 (weekends or no answer).

HELP PROMOTE CAJUN CULTURE!

Your tax-deductible donations¹ help:

- Find the [lost location](#) of the first Acadian settlement
- Archive rare tapes and interviews
- Give inspiring [talks and presentations](#) to clubs and civic groups
- Support French “immersion” and other cultural programs
- Expand the museum collection.

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EDITORS: Bruce Perrin, Mario Lagacé, and Ryan Bernard.

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Acadians Were Immigrants Too (and were welcomed with open arms)

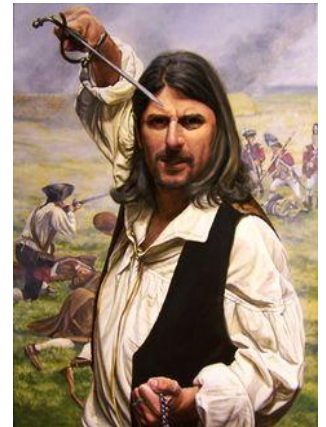
On the topic of immigration, in a recent [letter to the editor](#) Morgan Landry wrote that the Acadians “did not come here illegally, as some people presume.” The letter contained many factual errors, which I hoped to clear up with my own letter stating the historical facts:

There are clear parallels between the first Acadians who arrived in Louisiana in 1765 and many refugees today. They were led by Beausoleil Broussard, a central figure of Acadian resistance. Broussard devoted much of his life to resisting British rule. He was declared an outlaw, with a bounty placed on his head.

In 1755, British authorities ordered a deportation of the Acadians. As leader of a paramilitary resistance, Broussard waged a violent guerrilla campaign. The conflict was devastating, claiming the lives of his wife Agnes and their five sons.

After the war ended, Broussard led 202 Acadians to Louisiana. French administrators under Spanish rule recorded the Acadians’ unexpected arrival and provided shelter and supplies. Shortly after resettling along Bayou Teche, Broussard died in Oct. 1765.

Cajuns live in Louisiana today because British forces expelled our Acadian ancestors. Families were separated and sent to distant, unfamiliar places. Acadians descendants who know their history understand the plight of their ancestors, which explains their enduring generosity toward others facing the same fate.



*Beausoleil Broussard
as depicted by artist
Herb Roe*

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

203 S. Broadway, Erath, Louisiana 70533 | (337) 456-7729 | [acadianmuseum.com](#)

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

Clifton Chenier Tribute Wins a Grammy

Our friend CC Adcock wrote about the recent Grammy win of a project he sponsored:



What an honor it was to make a record honoring one of our greatest heroes—King Clifton Chenier—with a team of musicians who drink from the same well of inspiration and love each other deep down in their souls! What’s better than that?! Everybody played with all their heart and soul. Big congrats to everybody involved—especially to producers: Joel Savoy, Steve Berlin, and John Leopold for the vision and ability to make it happen.

New Book by Local Artist Melissa Bonin



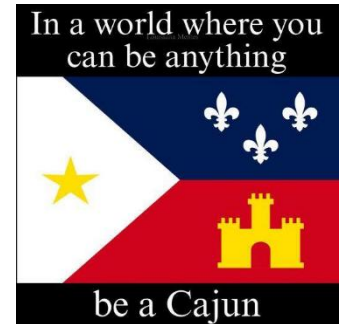
Artist Melissa Bonin with Jan Swift of the Discover Lafayette podcast.

An article by Adam Daigle appeared on The Advocate website:

Local artist and author Melissa Bonin recently published a 160-page book, [When Bayous Speak/ Lorsque les bayous parlent](#), which pairs her poetry with paintings spanning more than two decades. She spoke with Jan Swift of the Discover Lafayette podcast. You can listen to [their conversation here](#). The book includes ... years of work, while the paintings represent some of her most personal and enduring pieces.

Poor International Relations Bring Louisiana Job Losses

This was sent from my friend Joe Dunn, who is an Honorary Consul of Canada and a former CODOFIL director:



In my experience as someone who works daily in international relations both in tourism and other capacities, I'm constantly reminded that the general public is woefully unaware not only about how international issues affect Louisiana, but how local issues affect Louisiana internationally. To name just a few:

2003: French President Jacques Chirac was uninvited from the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial events due to France's stance against military intervention in Iraq.

2020: During the COVID travel restrictions, the French Ambassador to the United States had to personally intervene to request that the White House allow French immersion teachers into the US to fulfill their contracts to Louisiana schools.

2022: Louisiana was uninvited as the guest of honor to a festival in Belgium after the "trigger law" banning all forms of abortion went into effect following the Supreme Court ruling.

Today, international tourism to Louisiana, especially from Canada, has PLUMMETED over the past year, resulting in revenue and job loss for many Louisianians.

Michael Doucet Named LEH 2026 Humanist of the Year



We heard from lieutenant-governor Billy Nungesser that the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) has awarded Michael Doucet, founder of the musical group BeauSoleil, with their 2026 Humanist of the Year Award. The news release had this to say:

A Louisiana singer-songwriter and native of Scott, La., Michael Doucet is the founder of BeauSoleil, a Cajun band formed in 1975 in Lafayette. BeauSoleil, or BeauSoleil with Michael Doucet, tours internationally and is among the best-known Cajun bands globally, having been featured on film soundtracks, talk shows, and at music festivals across the world.

BeauSoleil has received 13 Grammy nominations and was awarded the 1997 Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album and the 2008 Grammy for Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album. BeauSoleil helped put Cajun and Zydeco music on the map globally and continues to tour across the country.

New Acadiana Café Offers Global Cuisine with Louisiana Flair in Artist Community



George Marks serves salads at the new Cafe NuNu (photo by Robin May)

An article by Joanna Brown appeared on The Acadiana Advocate website:

The town of Arnaudville, located 30 minutes north of Lafayette at the intersection of Bayou Teche and Bayou Fuselier, has long attracted a thriving community of artists and craftspeople.

Louisiana artist and sculptor George Marks, who is an Arnaudville native, founded NUNU Arts & Culture Collective more than 15 years ago to showcase local art and music in a collaborative setting. Housed in a former lumber yard off the scenic Courtableau Highway, the volunteer-run organization hosts language tables, local and visiting bands, artist exhibitions, a gallery shop, residency space — and now, a small café that highlights the creativity NUNU Arts & Culture Collective is known for.

"Through the years, we've had all these partnerships with different groups from all over," said Marks. "They would come in and always want to cook for us and share their cuisine with us. Everybody leaves a piece of them behind, and that's kind of what makes Louisiana so special. We're a cultural gumbo."

Advocate subscribers can continue reading [here](#).

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. [email](#)

Broussard: 2nd Fridays, 8:30 am, Valsin Broussard House, 408 W. Main St. (337) 445-3478

Dulac: 3rd Wednesdays, Parish Library, call (985) 563-2014

Erath: Fridays, 10 am, Erath City Hall or Library. [email](#)

Lafayette: Wednesdays, 7 am, Dwyer's Cafe, [email](#); or 2nd Thurs, 5:30 pm, Petroleum Club. [email](#)

Lake Charles: First Fridays, 4 pm, Central Library, 301 W. Claude St. [email](#)

Loreauville: Tuesdays, 7 am, Main Cup Coffee Shop, 101 N. Main St. [email](#)

Maurice: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10 am, 218 Chief Fred Ave. (337) 652-0166

New Iberia: Thursdays, 8:30 am, Cane River Pecan Co., 254 W. Main St. (337) 519-7942

New Orleans: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, 1519 Jackson Ave. [details](#)

Rayne: Thursdays, 9:30 am, Bernard-Bertrand House, 1023 The Blvd. [email](#)

St. Martinville: Wednesdays, 10 am, Longfellow-Evangeline State Park, 1200 N. Main. 337-394-3754

Scott: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 1 pm, Begnaud House, 110 Benoit Patin Rd. [email](#)

Thibodaux: Tuesdays, 5 pm, Jean Lafitte Center, 314 St. Mary St. [email](#)

Ville Platte: Mondays, 2 pm, Hundred Fold Coffee Shop on Coreil St. [email](#)

Via Zoom: Mondays, 9 am. To connect to the meeting, contact [email](#).

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

Un nouveau livre d'André-Carl Vachon

A friend of the museum, André-Carl Vachon, has just published a new book on Acadian history. This description was posted on the Facebook page "[Histoire du Québec et de ses régions](#)":



Entre 1755 et 1763, à la suite de l'ordre de déportation des Acadiens par le lieutenant-gouverneur Lawrence, 1,935 Acadiens ont cherché refuge en Nouvelle-France. Ces réfugiés provenaient essentiellement de la région du fort Beauséjour et de l'île Saint-Jean. Bien qu'ils soient accueillis favorablement par les Canadiens, leur intégration n'a pas été sans heurts.

Ce livre retrace leur périple, leurs difficultés et les défis auxquels ils ont eu à faire face. Il contient également une liste exhaustive des bateaux et de ses passagers qui se sont réfugiés au port de Québec. L'ouvrage fait aussi mention des 156 Acadiens qui ont combattu auprès des Canadiens et de l'armée française lors de la bataille des plaines d'Abraham. Découvrez qui étaient ces miliciens acadiens et quel a été leur rôle dans cet événement historique.

Lisa LeBlanc recevra les insignes de chevalière de l'Ordre des arts et des lettres



(Photo Radio-Canada archive © Alex Pittet)

An article by Justin Dupuis appeared on the Radio-Canada website talking about an award given to our good friend and museum supporter, the acclaimed musician Lisa LeBlanc:

Lisa LeBlanc recevra les insignes de chevalière de l'Ordre des arts et de lettres lors d'une cérémonie qui se déroulera vendredi, à Rogersville.

Cette distinction, remise par la France à des artistes français et étrangers qui contribuent au rayonnement des arts et de la littérature, lui sera remise dans la salle de spectacle qui porte son nom.

L'artiste originaire de Rosaireville a dit être honorée de savoir qu'elle recevra cette distinction dans la communauté qui l'a vu grandir.

«Je l'ai su par le maire de Rogersville, a-t-elle déclaré en riant au micro de *L'heure de pointe Acadie* jeudi. Ç'a été toute une belle surprise, je n'y crois toujours pas, c'est incroyable de pouvoir avoir cette distinction, c'est fou.»

Pour en savoir plus, [cliquez ici](#).

La selle de Ron Turcotte utilisée lors de la Triple couronne à l'encan pour 2 M\$ US



La selle de Ron Turcotte (Photo: Max Touhey)

Cet article de François LeBlanc a été publié sur le site web de Radio-Canada:

La selle utilisée par l'Acadien Ron Turcotte pour monter le cheval Secrétariat lors de la conquête de la Triple couronne en 1973 sera mise à l'encan le 12 mars prochain à New York.

Sa valeur est estimée entre 1,5 million et 2 millions \$ US, selon les documents publiés par la maison d'encan Christie's, qui est responsable des enchères. En dollars canadiens, la selle pourrait donc être vendue entre 2 et 2,7 millions \$.

Ce n'est pas tous les jours qu'une pièce de l'histoire néo-brunswickoise attire autant d'attention que des objets de collections légendaires, comme une ceinture de championnat de Mohammed Ali, un maillot de Wayne Gretzky, une guitare de Kurt Cobain ou le manuscrit du film *Rocky*.

Pour en savoir plus, [cliquez ici](#).

Le Berceau de l'Acadie, Cradle of Acadia



(L-R) Robert Surette and Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc

My old friend Robert Surette recently sent this photo of him and Ronnie-Gilles LeBlanc standing beside an interpretive panel installed in 2024 at Allain's Creek, across from Fort-Anne, near where the villages of Beauséjour, Saint-Michel, and Sainte-Marie were once located.

Robert is co-founder, of the group “*L'Association des Familles Acadiennes de Port-Royal 1632-1755*” established in the spring of 2021 with his wife Diane Doucet Surette. Ronnie-Gilles is a former archivist with Parks Canada who has been a researcher of Acadian history for years and is currently writing a biography of Beausoleil Broussard that will include new research on the Acadian icon.

Robert's group has been diligently working to have the former Acadian region known as Port-Royal referred to as “*le berceau de l'Acadie*” (cradle of Acadia). In 2023, they held the first July 28 official deportation commemoration event (per the [Queen's Royal Proclamation](#) of 2003) in Annapolis Royal, where 1,664 Acadians were

deported. This led to the erection of an Odyssey Monument in 2024 on the grounds of Fort-Anne.

Here's Your Chance to Help Make and Commemorate Acadian History

Our friend, Robert Surette (mentioned in previous article) also approached us with an urgent plea for help with a new proposed landmark in Nova Scotia:

A bilingual proposal document will be forwarded to senior management at Parks Canada at the end of this month. The proposal is to erect a permanent memorial on Parks Canada land at Fort Anne [at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia] to commemorate the first Acadian parish in Acadie, located in Port Royal.

Given that the site was once home to the Church of Saint-Jean-Baptiste, it is an ideal location for a permanent memorial to the first French/Acadian families of Port Royal. As you are aware, this is where most of these families built and attended church services, and where many of our relatives are buried.

We encourage you to help us acquire letters of support from museums, Acadian families, associations, groups and Louisiana politicians, as well as media celebrities. We would be very grateful to receive letters of support addressed to our group before the end of February.

Kind regards,

Robert Surette

L'Association des Familles Acadiennes de Port-Royal 1632-1755 (AFAP)

94 Marshland Road

Belleisle, Nova Scotia, Canada B0S1A0

<https://afap063.wixsite.com/association/contact>

New Video from an Acadian Museum



We couldn't resist sharing this beautiful new video from our sister organization, the *Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos*. [Click here to view it.](#)

Le leader de la francophonie néo-écossaise Claude Renaud est décédé

*Claude Renaud
(Radio-Canada archive)*



[Cet article](#) de François Pierre Dufault a été publié sur le site web de Radio-Canada:

Les organismes acadiens et francophones de la Nouvelle-Écosse sont en deuil du leader communautaire Claude Renaud... Originaire de Montréal, l'ancien ingénieur chimiste s'est installé à Halifax en 1983... Rapidement sensibilisé aux défis de la francophonie en milieu minoritaire, il s'est impliqué dans sa communauté d'adoption afin de promouvoir et d'assurer le droit de vivre en français.

Dans un communiqué, le Conseil communautaire du Grand-Havre (CCGH), dont il a été membre fondateur et président pendant huit ans, salue son engagement indéfectible, son intégrité, son humilité et la profondeur de sa réflexion.

LAGNIAPPE

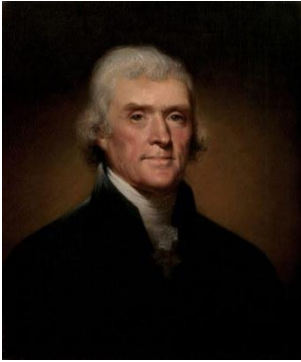
Acadian Heritage Tours Now Available



Living Legend [Claude Boudreau](#)'s Canadian tour company, *Les Voyages DiasporAcadie*, is offering two Acadian Heritage tours in English this year. From May 29 to June 12, you can walk in your Acadian ancestors' footsteps in the Acadian Ancestral Tour of France and in early September you can discover the Acadian Islands of Cape Breton, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon and the Magdalen Islands all in one tour!

For more information, write to Claude at diasporacadie@gmail.com or visit www.diasporacadie.com. More than 1500 Acadians & Cajuns have traveled with DiasporAcadie since 2011.

Revisiting the Genesis of French Louisiana



Thomas Jefferson (White House Historical Association).

To my attorney friends and friends who know attorneys: All attorneys are invited to attend my presentation at LSU Law School at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Here is a summary of my talk:

Revisiting the Genesis of French Louisiana: Why the Civil Code, Not Common Law, Triumphed

In 1682, explorer Cavelier de La Salle claimed Louisiana for France, naming it after King Louis XIV. Over time, control of the territory shifted—from France to Spain, back to France, and then it was sold to the United States by Napoleon in 1803. Yet, through these changes, the French language, law, and culture persisted, forming the foundation for Louisiana’s unique legal system based on civil law rather than common law. This survival was shaped by the actions of leaders and the enduring cultural identity of the Acadian and Creole populations.

Watch French Films on LPB



A new French film series is being hosted by my good friend Dr William Arceneaux, the founder of *La Fondation Louisiane* and director of the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting:

LPB Presents: Cinéma Français is a late-night showcase of classic French cinema. Each film is introduced by Dr. Arceneaux, who shares historical context, cultural insight, and a touch of humor with upcoming features on Feb. 8, 15, and 22.

"You don't have to speak French to enjoy these films; each includes English subtitles," said Arceneaux. "Beyond that, they represent some of the finest moments in French cinema, featuring legendary performers such as Yves Montand, Emmanuelle Béart, and Simone Signoret. These films are meant to be enjoyed by audiences across Louisiana." More details are [here](#).

Viewers can also explore more French-language programming on the [LPB YouTube channel](#) as well as children's programming on the LPB PBS KIDS 24/7 channel. An extensive archive of French-language content can be found in the [Louisiana Digital Media Archive](#).

Celebrating La Nouvelle Année

The Perrin family celebrated the New Year and my niece Melanie Perrin's birthday with food, drink, target practice, and football at our farm in Henry, La.



La Parole co-editor Bruce Perrin with his parents, Mary and Warren Perrin.

Stay At Our Guesthouse!



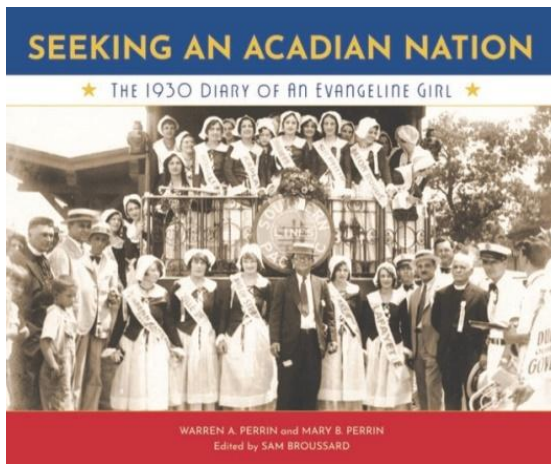
Vermilion Parish is a great place to visit during the winter months. It is known as a “birding paradise.” There are many fabulous Cajun places to visit where you can still experience French being spoken by the locals.

The Perrin Farm in Henry, LA, is only five miles from the Cajun food mecca of Abbeville, and an easy ride to 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 for parties, family reunions, crawfish boils, weddings, and more. To reserve, email perrinfarm18@gmail.com.

Warren with his niece, Melanie Perrin.



Visit the Boutique and 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
- Histories of [Vermilion](#), [Iberia](#), and [St. Landry](#) parishes by Warren Perrin
- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions

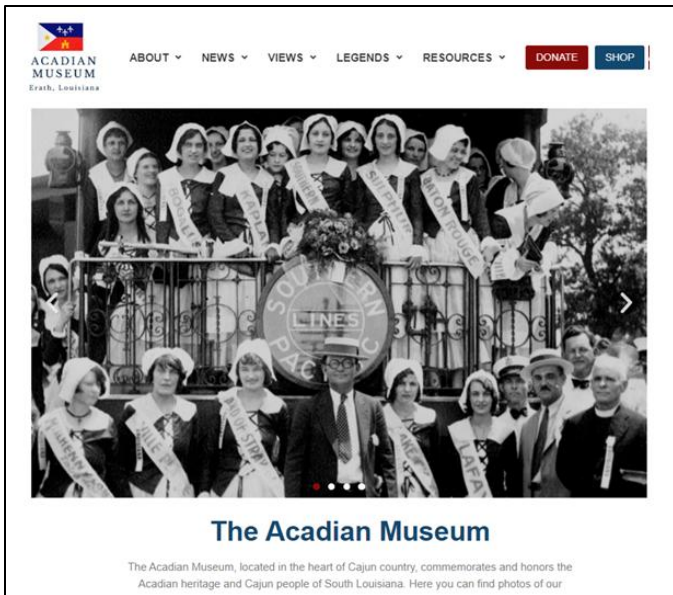
Would You Like a Group Presentation?

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 playing at Lake Peigneur near New Iberia, LA