



Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

Winter 2002-2003

Message from Curator/Director

Greetings from Brenda Trahan Comeaux:

I am genuinely honored to have been selected the new Curator/Director of the Acadian Memorial. I look forward to working with and sharing my contributions in the pursuit of the preservation Acadian/Cajun History, Heritage, and language of our ancestors.

I am a native "Cajun" of Vermilion Parish, but now reside in Lafayette. I graduated from Indian Bayou High School and from the University of Louisiana Lafayette. I am married to Ray Trahan and we have two sons and six precious grandchildren.

Having an interest in my own Acadian Family history, I was instrumental in the organizing of the Comeaux Family Association for the "Congres de Mondial 1999 Louisiana". Today I continue to serve the association as both Secretary and Publicity Chairperson.

With the dream of making contact with our Canadian Acadian ancestors (especially Comeau(x) cousins), I traveled to Nova Scotia, to New Brunswick, and to Manitoba, Canada. I met and now have wonderful contacts with Comeauxs and other Acadian descendants of these regions. In 2001, I was selected for a ULL/France teaching assignment in Paris, France. While in France, I was able to visit the chateau of the first Comeaux who migrated to and settled in Acadia (Nova Scotia). These experiences underscore the importance in reaching and making contacts with all our Acadian Cousins, and learning of our roots. These events have changed my life, and brought home the realization that no matter years of separation nor the distance of the separation, we are all cousins who share the same history, language, and heritage.

Growing up in a French speaking family, I was fortunate to have parents (Comeaux and Boudreau) and grandparents (Boudreaux, Trahan, Broussard and (continued on page 2)

Changing of the Guard

November 13, 2002 signaled a change in leadership at the Acadian Memorial. The change resulted when Jolene Adam, the Curator/Director, chose to return to school to achieve a career in graphic design. Miss Adam made her decision in May, and remained with the Memorial until a new Curator/Director could be hired. The new Curator/Director, Brenda Trahan Comeaux, was chosen from a list of twenty-one applicants



Jolene Adam, past Curator/Director, Brenda Comeaux Trahan, newly selected Curator/Director, and Christy Maraist, President of the Acadian Memorial Foundation.

(continued from page 1)

Abshire) who encouraged their children to speak the French Language, and instilling in them the importance of Acadian family traditions. As a young child I was fascinated by the history of the Acadians, their struggle during their deportation. I have always maintained pride in being an Acadian/"Cajun", and stressed the importance of promoting our heritage.

I am very excited about this opportunity to work in St Martinville, "the birthplace of Acadians" in Louisiana. The Acadian Memorial's tribute to the Acadians is a story that needs to be shared. My vision is to relate this story of historical elements with the wonderful works already established at this Memorial. Our Acadian ancestors fought and struggled to find a home in a land that would accept them. Acceptance was achieved! This Acadian Memorial stands as a testament to their struggle and their victory.

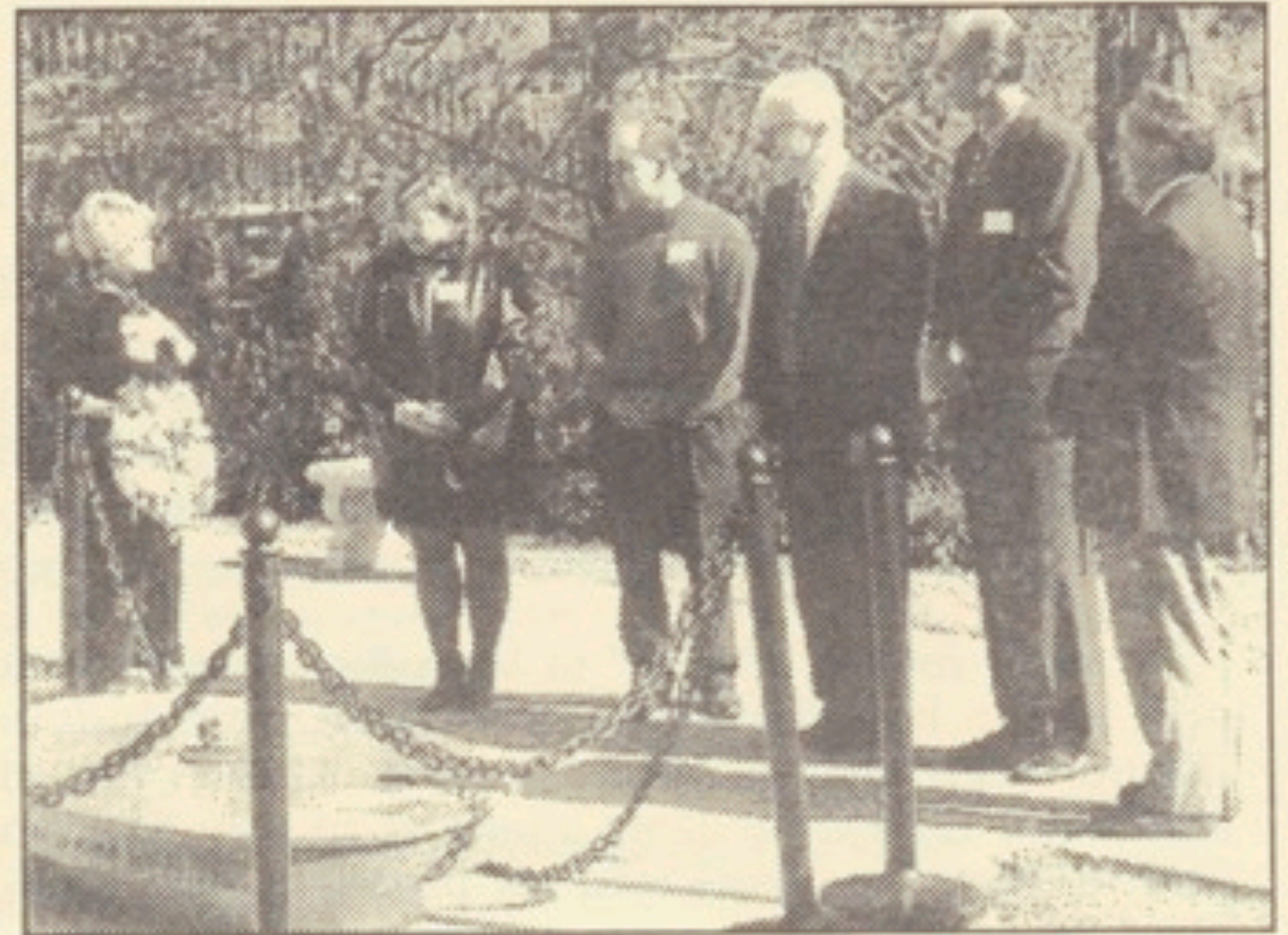
Working collectively with this community, I plan to foster the memorial of the Acadians they so deserve. This romantic, charming city invites the reciting of the saga of the Acadians through the Acadian Memorial, the St Martinville Cultural Heritage Center, the Evangeline Oak, St Martin de Tours Church (the Mother Church of all Acadians), the Tourist Information Center, the Longfellow-Evangeline State Commemorative Area, and much more. This community is rich in its cultural, history, and heritage. Come listen to the history and feel the experience! "Vivez l'histoire des Acadiennes".

Each day, as I walk pass the Eternal Flame of the Memorial Garden, I feel proud, strong, and empowered! I invite all of you to visit this most poignant tribute to the first Acadian settlers in Louisiana (Attakapas). Come to St Martinville; ask for me. I look forward to meeting you and discussing these ancestors of ours.

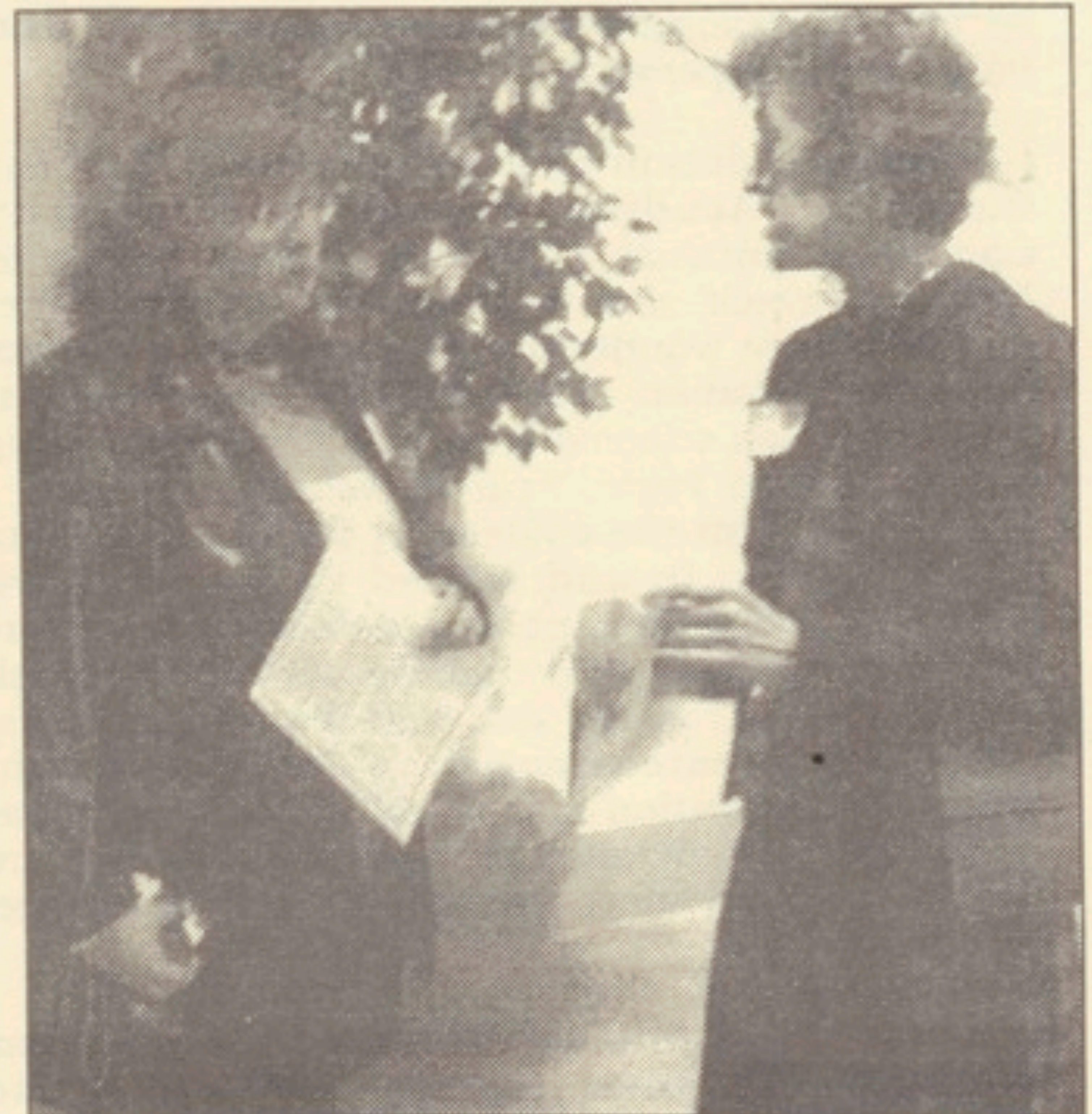
Nova Scotia Promotes CMA 2004

The Honorable Neil LeBlanc, Minister responsible for Acadian Affairs and Finance for the Province of Nova Scotia, recently had the opportunity to meet with Acadian/"Cajun" cousins during his November mission to Louisiana to promote the upcoming "Congres de Mondial Nova Scotia 2004".

Mr. LeBlanc and his delegation, Vaughane Madden (Director of CMA 2004), and Real Samson (Acadian Affairs of Nova Scotia) offered a number of presentations to various organizations. Those included CAFA (Confederation of Associations of Families Acadian), a trade lunch at the International Trade Club of Lafayette, a visit to St Martinville, a tour of Evangeline Oak Square, and luncheon given by the Acadian Memorial staff, Mayor Eric Martin, and the City Council of St Martinville.



Brenda Trahan, Vaughane Madden, Councilman Mike Fuselier, Hon. Neil LeBlanc, Mayor Eric Martin, and Real Samson.



Vaughane Madden, Director CMA 2004 and Sarah Roy, Director of "Congres Mondial Choral Group".



Putting a Face on Acadian History

One of the elements of the Acadian Memorial is a 12 by 30 foot mural by Robert Dafford. The figures represent actual persons documented as Acadian refugees who arrived in Louisiana. Some models are direct descendants of the figures they portray.

Each figure represented on the mural has quite a story to tell: stories of life in Acadia/Nova Scotia, of traditions, of international politics which eventually led to deportation. They tell of being refugees, outcasts and victims, of separation and death, of survival and reunion. **To honor their suffering and tell who they really were is the mission of the Acadian Memorial.** Their individual stories need to be told to the school children who come on field trips, to the Acadians themselves, and to the many international tourists who visit the Memorial each year.

In order to fulfill this mission, the Acadian Memorial Foundation is seeking a grant which would implement the design, fabrication and installation of an audio interactive exhibit. Mr. Jules Babineaux at Exhibits, Etc. has proposed to fabricate the following: a digital audio playback system which would play 1st person tutorials on six different characters in the Mural; a lighting system that would be synchronized with the audio, spotlighting the character speaking. Here are excerpts from some of the stories that would be told.

- **Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil** escaped deportation and led a resistance movement against the British from 1755 to 1758. They survived with the help of the Micmac Indians. Finally, realizing that continued resistance was futile; he surrendered and begged provisions for his starving comrades. After imprisonment in Halifax, he chartered a schooner and brought 600 refugees from Nova Scotia to Louisiana in 1764. He settled at Attakapas.

- **Olivier Terriot**, an Acadian shoemaker exiled in France recruited 1,500 Acadian colonists for Louisiana. These exiles had been deported to England and France thirty years earlier. This group sailed to Louisiana in 1785 on seven ships commissioned by Spain.

- **Elizabeth Thibodeaux Brasseaux**, widowed mother of seven children was exiled to Maryland. She supported her family by becoming a beggar. She and her family arrived in Louisiana in 1767 after she petitioned officials to pay their passage

- **Joseph and Jean Baptiste Semer**, father and ten year old son from Grand-Pré, were separated in 1755 and reunited in Attakapas in 1785.

These are only a few of the many stories that need to be told. This project would be the first phase of telling them all. For the visitors to the Acadian Memorial, this proposed audio interactive exhibit will put a memorable face on Acadian history!



Babin



Comeau



Doucet



Forest

The Tiles that bind

The Acadian Memorial has recently received a grant from the Acadiana Arts Council. This grant will help fund eight Acadian Family Crests, which will be done in mosaic. John Albert Landry, artist, architect, restaurateur, and President-elect of the Acadian Memorial Foundation, is chairman and artistic director of this project.



Hebert

These mosaic plaques will be 3 1/2 feet by 3 1/2 Feet. Only a few of the crests are displayed on this page. They should be beautiful when done in colorful tiles and will be a fitting tribute to the Acadian Families they represent. They will also be a spectacular addition to the Acadian Memorial.

The grant will fund 50% of the cost of the first eight family crests. Therefore, the Board of Directors has decided the fair way to present this to the public is to offer the first eight to be sponsored for a cost of \$500 each. After that, the full cost will be \$1,000 each. The mosaics will be crafted in the order in which they are sponsored. Please hurry if you wish to include your family in the first group.



Landry

In the spirit of fairness, we plan to start taking calls at 9 a.m., Monday, February 3, 2003. Call Gail at the Acadian Memorial (337) 394 2258. Many families have already expressed an interest in sponsoring a crest. Only the first eight will get the matching funds from the Acadiana Arts Council Grant.

Is it time for renewal? Check your mailing label

Won't you join us?

Your membership dues in the Acadian Memorial Foundation go directly to supporting the Memorial and sharing the memory of the 3,000 exiled Acadians who settled Louisiana. For example, member dues have helped the Foundation fund...

- the award-winning Acadian Memorial **web site** at www.acadianmemorial.org: Our link to schools, genealogists and others who want to learn about Acadians in Louisiana.
- **exhibits**, like those at the Museum of the Acadian Memorial: These help visitors understand why we honor the Acadians who came to Louisiana.
- **equipment**, like the window coverings the AMF purchased to protect the Acadian Memorial mural and to darken the conference room—now visitors to the AM multimedia center can really benefit from videos and presentations.
- **souvenir products** that bring more visitors to the Memorial or help people learn about Acadians. Sale of these items gives even more financial aid to the Memorial. (See the order form in our newsletter, call us, or visit the on-line boutique at www.acadianmemorial.org).

Choose your membership.

Your dues are tax deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3).

Name of member(s):

* **Corporate Sponsor** \$1000 / year

*~ **Lifetime Membership** \$ 500

(for one person or a couple)

* **Acadian Heritage** \$ 200 / year

(for family associations)

*+ **Of Acadian Descent** \$ 100 / year

(for one person or a couple)

Family Membership \$ 25 / year

(for a couple and any children (list names))

Individual Membership \$ 15 / year

(for one person)

*These members receive a certificate recognizing their support of the Memorial.

~Lifetime members also receive a limited edition, signed and numbered print of the Memorial mural!

+To qualify for an "Of Acadian Descent" membership, submit one to four Acadian family names from your ancestry. Your certificate will recognize you (or you and your spouse) as descendants of these families.

All members receive the *Calling All Cajuns* newsletter, special announcements about upcoming events, entry passes, and voting privileges at the annual meeting.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State _____ Zip _____ email: _____

Enclose your check payable to the Acadian Memorial Foundation or use your visa card:

card number _____ expiration date _____

Mail to: Acadian Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 844, St. Martinville, LA 70582

Donors to Acadian Memorial in 2002

The Acadian Memorial Foundation proudly acknowledges the contributions of the following Organizations and individuals who have given of themselves to support and further the goals and achievements of this, the Acadian Memorial.

Regions Bank
Riviana Foods
St Martin Parish Government
St Martin Bank and Trust
Wal Mart
Arceneaux Ford
Terrie Alvarez
Inez Gauthier
Preston Guillotte
Hebert's of the World

The Board of Directors would also take the opportunity to say thank you, and to all we would wish a "Happy New Year".

Que la Paix, l'Espoir	(May peace, hope
Et l'Amour	and love
Soit avec vous	be with you
Aujourd'hui demain	today and tomorrow
Et Toujours !	and Always)



Members of the Board of Directors who attended the Memorial changing of guard. From left to right: Eddie Richard, Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc, Christy Dugas Maraist, Mitch Conover, Albert "Al" Landry, Pat Resweber, Eoise Simon Bryant, Inez Gauthier, and Larry Comeaux. Members not available for photo were: Judge Allen Babineaux, Raymond Hebert, Carlin Trahan, Marcelle Bienvenu, Katheryne Gerami, and Mayor Eric Martin.

Correction and apology

In the previous edition of "Calling All Cajuns" the editor, in his haste made a major "BooBoo". The error listed Jim Viator as the star of Moliere, when in fact it was Robert Landreneau; Mr. Viator starred in Couzan Dud, portraying Dudley J. LeBlanc. I would add, both were magnificent in those roles, and I again apologize for the error.



Mayor Eric Martin presents Appreciation Award to Christy Maraist, President



Above and Below: Acadian Memorial Float wins 1st Place in "Business Category"



Left to right: Janie Bulliard, Jolene Adam, Patricia Resweber, Larry Comeaux, Christy Maraist



Left to right: Patricia Resweber, Christy Maraist, Eloise Bryant and Gail Maretta



From: left to right: Brenda Comeaux Trahan, Patricia Resweber, Hazel Comeaux, Tina Fuselier, Mayor Eric Martin and Mike Fuselier

Acadian Memorial Souvenirs



Cajun T front / devant



Cajun T back / dos

Mural T-shirt - full color mural on 100% white cotton. Acadian Memorial name in English on front, *en français* on back. Youth M or L. Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL. **\$18**

T-Shirts



mural T front / devant



mural T back / dos

Cajun T-shirt - "Cajuns of Acadian Descent". Lists some Cajun surnames on the back and Memorial logo on front. **\$15**

TO ORDER: Visit our on-line boutique at www.acadianmemorial.org OR call (337) 394-2258

Pins / Épinglettes



Acadian descent pin

Acadian Descent Pin - lapel pin dark blue with gold Eternal Flame logo "Of Acadian Descent/ *De descendance acadienne*". Wear it in memory of your Acadian ancestors. **\$ 5**

Flags / Drapeaux



Acadian national flag



Acadiana flag of LA

Acadiana Flag of Louisiana

- a. 3ft x 5ft nylon with grommets **\$30**
- b. 3in x 5in nylon on mini-pole **\$ 3**

Acadian National Flag from Canada

- a. 3ft x 6ft with hanging sleeves and loops **\$30**
- b. 4in x 6in on wooden pole **\$ 5**

If you have an * or your label is high lighted it's time to renew your membership.

The Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 844
St. Martinville, LA 70582