Tribute to the Builders of Saint-Lazare

Commemorative Booklet

1875



150e Saint-Lazare

Honoring our founders

The founders we honour on this 150th anniversary of our beautiful community remind us that our town has grown through a continuous thread of transmission. Each generation has helped shape Saint-Lazare, drawing inspiration from the courage and vision of those who came before them.

This passing of the torch, sometimes quiet, but always present, is at the very heart of Saint-Lazare's story. It lives in the repeated gestures of a devoted grandmother, in the civic involvement of a father, and in the dreams of a young person committed to their community.

What these builders have left us lives on in the collective memory we share and in the daily actions that continue to guide us.

As mayor, I am constantly reminded of the richness of this legacy. It inspires the choices we make to protect our land, support our families, and build a future that remains true to who we are.

This legacy is also reflected in the engagement of today's citizens, in the ideas they bring forward, the projects they lead, and the connections they foster. The spirit of those who shaped our community is very much alive: it evolves, adapts, and finds new expression as it is passed on to future generations.

On this evening dedicated to them, we honour their contributions with gratitude, and with the sincere desire to carry forward what they began, with just as much heart, vision, and respect.



Geneviève Lachance
Mayor of Ville de Saint-Lazare

Tribute to the Builders

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Paul Lavigne
President du *Comité des Fêtes du 150e de Saint-Lazare*

To the Builders

On Saint-Lazare's 150th anniversary, we have the honor and the duty to pay tribute to those who, through their courage, vision, and dedication, helped shape our town and rooted the values that unite us today.

Coming from cultural, political, social, educational, or economic backgrounds, these builders left a lasting mark on their era through meaningful actions and deep commitments. Through their work, they helped lay the foundations of a strong, united community—one that takes pride in its identity. They passed on more than just concrete achievements: they left behind a legacy of integrity, resilience, and humanity.

We also express our deepest gratitude to the spouses, children, and families of these exceptional individuals. Behind every accomplishment stands a circle of loved ones who offered their support—sometimes quietly and discreetly, but always with admirable loyalty. Their presence was, in many cases, the cornerstone of countless successes.

On this September 27, 2025, we gather in dignity and heartfelt emotion to honour the memory and contributions of the men and women who paved the way. Their imprint lives on in our daily lives—in our streets, our institutions, and our community spirit.

May their commitment and example inspire future generations to, in turn, build a Saint-Lazare worthy of its dreams.



On behalf of *Société historique de Saint-Lazare*

Donald Simpson
President of *Société historique de Saint-Lazare*



Pierre Rozon
(1726–1789)

Pioneer of Côte Saint-Louis and ancestor of all Rozons in America

Born on October 10, 1726, in Saint-Germain-de-Villevoque, in the Champagne region of France, Pierre Rozon was the son of Claude Rozon and Claudine Brionne. In search of a new beginning, he sailed for New France in 1750 aboard the ship La Catin. He served as a soldier in the Compagnies Franches de la Marine, joining the Sabrevois company. Involved in the Seven Years' War, Pierre fought on these distant lands and took part in key events that shaped the future of the colony.

After the war, he chose to remain and settle permanently in New France. On November 11, 1765, in Vaudreuil, in the parish of Saint-Michel, he married Marie-Catherine Leblanc, dit Lacombe, daughter of Louis Lacombe and Marie-Anne Bouin. Their union was fruitful, producing eleven children. Through their many descendants, Pierre and Marie-Catherine became the ancestors of all the Rozons in America, deeply rooting their lineage in North American soil.

After his military career, Pierre embraced the life of a farmer. In 1776, he settled on Côte Saint-Louis, occupying lot number 13 North, one of the first land concessions in the area. This fertile land would see several generations of his family grow, many of whom still reside in Saint-Lazare today.

Pierre Rozon died on August 25, 1789, at the age of 63 years and 9 months, on his land in Côte Saint-Louis, within the seigneury of Vaudreuil. He was buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Michel in Vaudreuil, leaving behind a legacy as the founder of a great pioneering family.



Ebenezer Grout
(1779–1853)

Pioneer of Côte Saint-Charles and veteran in service to his community

Ebenezer Grout was born on April 9, 1779, in Charlestown, New Hampshire. He was the son of Solomon Grout, a farmer, and Ruth Putnam. In 1803, he married Abigail Clarke in Rockingham, Vermont, daughter of Hezekiah Clarke and Abigail Hutchins. The couple had six children, two of whom were born on Côte Saint-Charles, in the seigneury of Vaudreuil.

In 1811, Ebenezer settled with his brother Solomon on the newly granted lands of Côte Saint-Charles. Both became the first censitaires (tenant farmers) in the area, where they devoted themselves to agriculture.

A veteran of the Anglo-American War of 1812, Ebenezer served in the 1st Battalion of Vaudreuil. During the Rebellions of 1837, he again took up arms, this time as a corporal in the Loyal Vaudreuil Volunteers, defending the established order.

A man committed to his community; he was appointed in 1848 as one of the very first stewards (marguillers) of the new Methodist church of Côte Saint-Charles. The following year, in 1849, he was also named keeper of the public enclosure for the county of Vaudreuil, a key role in local life.

Ebenezer Grout passed away in Saint-Lazare on March 12, 1853, at the age of 73 years and 10 months. He was buried in the cemetery of St. James Anglican Parish in Hudson.



Jean-Baptiste Poudrette dit Lavigne (1821–1902)

Donor of Saint-Lazare's first church and builder of his community

Jean-Baptiste Poudrette dit Lavigne was born in Pointe-Claire on April 8, 1821. He was the son of Jean-Baptiste Poudrette dit Lavigne and Pauline Dandurand, known as Marcheterre. On October 5, 1847, he married Célanie Pilon in the parish of Saint-Michel in Vaudreuil. She was the daughter of Dominique Joachim Pilon and Christine Lalonde. Together, they had seven children.

In 1872, Jean-Baptiste was elected parish councillor for Vaudreuil, a position to which he was re-elected in 1875. That same year, he took a foundational step for what would become the municipality of Saint-Lazare by donating the land on which the first church, rectory, and cemetery of the new parish would be built.

In 1877, he became one of the very first municipal councillors of Saint-Lazare, a position he held until 1884. He also served as a marguiller (church steward) for the parish of Saint-Lazare from 1878 to 1880.

A merchant by trade, he owned a flour mill located on Duhamel Street, a property that once belonged to the seigneurs of Vaudreuil. Through this business, he played a key economic role in the young community.

Jean-Baptiste Poudrette dit Lavigne died in Rigaud on January 15, 1902, at the age of 80 years and 9 months. He was buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Sainte-Madeleine in Rigaud.



Dr Donald Plaistowe McNaughten
(1833–1888)

First physician of Saint-Lazare and veteran of the Fenian Raids

Donald Plaistowe McNaughten was born on December 18, 1833, in Beverly, Yorkshire, England. He was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan Cameron McNaughten and Anne Plaistowe. On September 20, 1865, he married Jane Steel McIntosh in Blythswood, Glasgow, Scotland. She was the daughter of Alexander McIntosh and Eliza Steel. Together, they had six children.

A trained physician before his arrival in Canada, Dr. McNaughten became the very first doctor to practice in what is now Saint-Lazare, then known as Côte Saint-Charles, in the seigneury of Vaudreuil. He practiced medicine there from 1866 to 1885, becoming a vital figure in the young community.

Active in public life, he served as municipal councillor for the parish of Vaudreuil from 1866 to 1870, during a time when Saint-Lazare was still under that jurisdiction. He was also a veteran of the Fenian Raids, during which he served in the Vaudreuil Rifle Company.

Around 1885, Dr. McNaughten left Saint-Lazare with his family and settled in Carillon, where he continued his family life.

He died in Carillon on December 3, 1888, at the age of 54 years and 11 months, and was buried in the cemetery of Christ Church Anglican Parish in St-André-d'Argenteuil.



James Wilson
(1843–1937)

Veteran of the Fenian Raids and pillar of the Protestant community in Saint-Lazare

James Wilson was born on June 4, 1843, on Côte Saint-Charles, in the seigneury of Vaudreuil. He was the son of Robert Wilson, a farmer, and Mary Lancaster. Following in his father's footsteps, he too became a farmer on the same land.

On November 27, 1865, he married Caroline Simpson at Erskine Presbyterian Church in Montreal. She was the daughter of Isaac Simpson, also a farmer, and Sarah Lancaster. The couple had nine children, all of whom reached adulthood — a rarity at the time.

Between 1867 and 1871, James Wilson served in the Vaudreuil Rifle Company, also known as the Como Rifles. In this capacity, he was a veteran of the Fenian Raids, a period of defensive tension that marked Canadian history.

In 1888, he became a trustee of the Protestant schools of Vaudreuil County, actively contributing to local education. He also served for many decades as a marguiller (steward) of the Methodist church on Côte Saint-Charles. When the church was destroyed by fire in 1905, he was among those responsible for its reconstruction, continuing his unwavering dedication to the community.

James Wilson passed away in Saint-Lazare on November 2, 1937, at the remarkable age of 94 years and 5 months. He was laid to rest in the cemetery of the United Church of Côte Saint-Charles — a place to which he had devoted much of his life.



Joseph Edmond Chevrier
(1849–1925)

Mayor, churchwarden, and justice of the peace — a builder of Saint-Lazare

Joseph Edmond Chevrier Chevrier was born on March 31, 1849, in the seigneury of Vaudreuil. He was baptized in the parish of Saint-Joseph-de-Soulanges, located in Les Cèdres, and was the son of Antoine Chevrier and Marie Sauvé — both well-rooted figures in this dynamic rural region.

On March 11, 1888, he married Marcelline Ménard in Saint-Lazare. Their union gave rise to two children, further anchoring his family ties within the community.

A man deeply committed to civic and religious life, Joseph Edmond Chevrier began his public involvement as marguiller (churchwarden) of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare from 1882 to 1884. He quickly demonstrated strong leadership qualities and joined the municipal council, serving from 1891 to 1894. Building on this experience, he was elected mayor of Saint-Lazare, a role he fulfilled with dedication for eight consecutive years, from 1894 to 1902.

Beyond his municipal engagement, his influence extended to the regional level. He was appointed prefect of the County of Vaudreuil from 1895 to 1896, during which time he played a key role in coordinating regional affairs. In 1899, he was also awarded the prestigious title of Justice of the Peace by the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, in recognition of his integrity and sense of justice.

Joseph Edmond Chevrier passed away in Saint-Lazare on March 8, 1925, at the age of 75 years and 11 months. He is buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, at the heart of the community he helped build and strengthen.



Joseph Rozon
(1853–1942)

Entrepreneur, builder, and mayor of Saint-Lazare

Joseph Rozon was born on March 23, 1853, on Côte Saint-Louis, in the seigneury of Vaudreuil. He was the son of Joachim Rozon and Félicité Larocque, members of an early pioneering lineage that helped establish the region's founding families.

On September 11, 1876, Joseph married Olivine Cousineau in the parish of Marie-Reine-du-Monde in Montreal. She was the daughter of Joseph Cousineau and Eulalie Paiement. Together, they had seven children, raised with strong family values and dedication to hard work.

A respected businessman, Joseph Rozon ran several local enterprises with energy and determination. He played a key role in the development of Saint-Lazare during a period of significant transformation. As a seasoned entrepreneur, he served as the principal contractor for the construction of Saint-Lazare's very first Catholic church — a lasting structure that would become the spiritual heart of the community.

From 1883 to 1888, he served as mayor of Saint-Lazare. During his tenure, he helped lay the administrative and civic foundations of the municipality, promoting the growth of essential services for its residents.

Joseph Rozon passed away in Saint-Lazare on July 17, 1942, at the age of 89 years and 4 months. He is buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, at the heart of the community to which he dedicated his energy, vision, and commitment — leaving a lasting mark on the local landscape.



John Simpson
(1855–1919)

Wartime mayor and devoted servant of Saint-Lazare

John Simpson was born on December 6, 1855, on Côte Saint-Charles, in the seigneury of Vaudreuil. He was the son of Isaac Simpson, a farmer, and Sarah Lancaster. Like his parents, he became a farmer himself and remained unmarried throughout his life.

Deeply involved in public affairs, John Simpson was elected municipal councillor of Saint-Lazare twice: first from 1892 to 1900, and again from 1903 to 1907. He was then elected mayor of Saint-Lazare, a position he held from 1907 to 1916. He led the municipality during a pivotal moment in history — the outbreak of the First World War occurred during his time in office.

His influence extended beyond the local level: in 1908, he was appointed prefect of the County of Vaudreuil, assuming broader responsibilities at the regional level. As early as April 12, 1902, the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec had already entrusted him with the role of Justice of the Peace, a position he carried out diligently until his death in 1919.

John Simpson passed away in Saint-Lazare on January 24, 1919, at the age of 63 years and 2 months. He is buried in Hudson, in the cemetery of the Anglican parish of Vaudreuil–St. James, alongside several other notable figures from the local Protestant community.



Me Eugène Lafleur
(1856–1930)

Internationally renowned lawyer and builder of Forest Manor

Eugène Lafleur was born in Longueuil on April 12, 1856, son of Reverend Théodore Lafleur and Adèle Voruz. On March 16, 1896, he married Marie-Alice Voruz in Geneva, Switzerland. The couple had four children: two sons and two daughters.

A brilliant student, he began at the High School of Montreal and then pursued law studies at McGill College, where he graduated in 1880. Admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1881, he went on to have an exceptional legal career.

In 1885, he founded a law firm that would become McCarthy Tétrault, one of the most prestigious in the country. A specialist in international law, he argued over 300 cases before the Supreme Court of Canada, and 30 times before the Privy Council in London, the highest authority of the British Empire.

A law professor at McGill from 1890 to 1909, he was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1899 and served as bâtonnier (president) of the Montreal Bar from 1905 to 1906. In 1921, he received an honorary doctorate from McGill and became professor emeritus.

In 1912, he built Forest Manor, a mansion on a 120-acre estate in Saint-Lazare, where he lived until 1921. This residence, located at 2913 Côte Saint-Charles, remains a testament to the past.

In 1924, Prime Minister Mackenzie King offered him the position of Chief Justice of Canada, which he humbly declined. Me Eugène Lafleur died in Ottawa on April 29, 1930. His funeral was held in Montreal, and he was buried at Mont-Royal Cemetery.



Napoléon Giraldeau
(1862–1949)

Dedicated secretary-treasurer and economic pillar of Saint-Lazare

Napoléon Giraldeau was born in Rigaud on December 5, 1862, son of François-Xavier Giraldeau, a farmer, and Olive Vallée. He attended primary school at the Commissioners' School from 1869 to 1876, then completed a commerce course at Collège Bourget in Rigaud from 1876 to 1880.

On August 19, 1884, he married Eudoxie Thauvette in L'Île-du-Grand-Calumet, daughter of Joseph Calixte Thauvette, a general merchant, and Scholastique Séguin. The couple settled in Saint-Lazare, where their eldest son Eugène was born in 1885. They had a total of ten children, including Hector (1886) and Alma (1889).

At age 27, on January 20, 1890, Napoléon was appointed secretary-treasurer of Saint-Lazare, a position he held steadily for 47 years until 1937. His annual salary rose from $90 to $225 during this time.

Simultaneously, he played a major role in the local economy. In 1902, he became manager of the Provincial Bank of Canada branch, predecessor of the National Bank, a post he held until his death in 1949. His daughter Yvonne succeeded him.

He was also co-owner of the municipal aqueduct alongside Napoléon Chevrier, Honoré Denis, Léon Lauzon, Johnny Denis, and Dr. Ozias Paiement, contributing to the vital development of infrastructure.

Committed to the parish, he served as marguiller (churchwarden) of Saint-Lazare from 1914 to 1916.

Napoléon Giraldeau died in Saint-Lazare on February 5, 1949, at the age of 86 years and 3 months. He rests in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare.



Dr Ozias Paiement
(1865–1908)

Dedicated physician and pillar of the Saint-Lazare community

Ozias Paiement was born in Les Cèdres on November 8, 1865, son of Joseph Paiement and Odile Lalonde. He pursued his studies at Collège de Montréal, then at Université Laval, where he earned his medical degree in 1892.

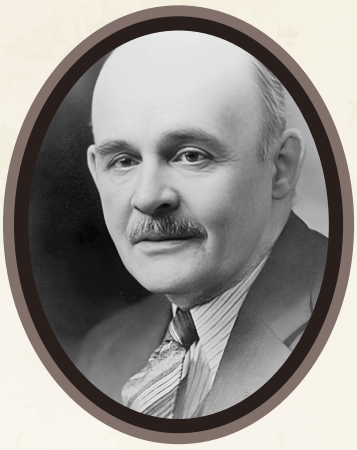
On January 31, 1893, he married Obéline Lafrance in Les Cèdres, daughter of Zénon Lafrance and Luce Leroux. Together, they had four children.

A committed physician, Dr. Paiement practiced medicine in Saint-Lazare from 1894 until his death in 1908. Known for his skill and availability, his presence was a valuable support to the growing community.

In 1905, he was appointed Justice of the Peace by the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, a role that reflected the trust placed in his integrity and sense of justice.

In addition to his medical and judicial duties, he was co-owner of the municipal aqueduct alongside Napoléon Chevrier, Honoré Denis, Léon Lauzon, Johnny Denis, and Napoléon Giraldeau, thus contributing to the development of Saint-Lazare's essential infrastructure.

Dr. Ozias Paiement died in Saint-Lazare on September 7, 1908, at the age of 42 years and 8 months. He was buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, where many other key figures of local history also rest.



Dr Dionel Bellemare
(1880–1950)

Physician, veteran, and committed politician

Dionel Bellemare was born in Yamachiche on March 25, 1880, son of Adrien Bellemare, a farmer, and Sévérine Milot. He began his studies at the Séminaire de Trois-Rivières, then continued his education at St. Dunstan's University in Prince Edward Island and Laval University in Quebec City. He earned his medical degree in 1905 and first practiced in Saint-Lazare, then in Vaudreuil.

On April 27, 1912, he married Marie-Ombeline-Alice Lafrance in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, in the parish of Sainte-Cécile. She was the widow of Dr. Ozias Paiement and daughter of Zénon Lafrance and Luce Leroux. The couple had three children, all born in Saint-Lazare.

During the First World War, Dr. Bellemare served as a captain in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, providing care for soldiers and becoming a veteran of the global conflict.

Active in municipal politics, he was a councillor in Saint-Lazare in 1915 and 1916, then elected mayor in 1917. Later, he served as mayor of Vaudreuil from 1931 to 1934, before being appointed prefect of Vaudreuil County in 1934.

At the provincial level, he ran unsuccessfully as a Conservative candidate in Vaudreuil in 1935. The following year, he was elected as a member of the Union Nationale party, serving until 1939, after which he did not seek re-election.

Dr. Dionel Bellemare died in Montreal on November 1, 1950, at the age of 70 years and 7 months. He was buried in Vaudreuil, in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Michel, on November 4, 1950.



Armandine et Norbert Martel
(1887–1958) (1881–1960)

Founding couple of an iconic family farm in Saint-Lazare

Norbert Martel was born in Saint-Lazare on March 15, 1881. He was the son of Octave Martel and Anastasie Gareau. Armandine Brabant was born in the same town on September 13, 1887, daughter of Joseph Brabant and Delphine Daoust.

On February 27, 1905, Norbert and Armandine joined their lives in marriage in Saint-Lazare. Together, they had fourteen children, building a large and close-knit family.

Passionate farmers, they operated the Martel farm for several decades—a prosperous family enterprise founded in 1927 that remains one of the oldest farms in the town today.

Engaged in local politics, Norbert served as a municipal councillor in Saint-Lazare from 1922 to 1925. He was also involved in religious life as marguiller (churchwarden) of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare from 1930 to 1932.

Armandine distinguished herself as a major figure in the rural community. In 1943, she became the very first president and founding member of the Saint-Lazare Circle of Farm Women, embodying the spirit of solidarity and dynamism among the agricultural world.

Armandine Martel passed away in Saint-Lazare on May 25, 1958, at the age of 70 years and 8 months. Norbert joined her shortly thereafter, on February 23, 1960, at the age of 78 years and 11 months. Both rest in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, at the heart of the community they profoundly influenced.



Joseph Leduc
(1889–1967)

Cultivateur engagé et homme public dévoué de Saint-Lazare

Joseph Leduc Leduc was born in Saint-Lazare on June 18, 1889, son of Pascal Leduc, a farmer, and Victorine Crevier. On July 26, 1909, he married Marie-Joseph Couturier in Saint-Lazare, daughter of Désiré Couturier, a farmer, and Donalda Leduc. The couple raised a large family of eight children, all born in their hometown, growing up to the rhythm of the seasons and rural life.

A farmer and dairyman, Joseph Leduc was distinguished by his perseverance and spirit of service. His carefully tended lands testified to a deep attachment to the land and to the agricultural vocation.

Highly involved in public life, he began as a municipal councillor from 1917 to 1920, before becoming mayor from 1923 to 1927. His years in office were marked by constant efforts to modernize infrastructure and improve the quality of life for residents.

His commitment did not end there. Joseph served as secretary-treasurer of the municipality from 1937 to 1961, a role he fulfilled with rigor and loyalty. Additionally, he was syndic of the Catholic parish from 1946 to 1955 and secretary of the Catholic school board, actively contributing to the development of education and parish life.

Joseph Leduc passed away in Saint-Lazare on July 27, 1967, at the age of 78 years and one month. He rests in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, leaving behind the memory of a man of heart, deeply rooted in his community.



Appolinaire Turcotte
(1895–1983)

Carpenter-tinsmith, entrepreneur, and committed churchwarden

Appolinaire Turcotte was born in Sainte-Famille on Île d'Orléans on November 8, 1895. He was the son of Pierre Turcotte and Célina Lachance. On June 11, 1923, he married Laura Baulne in Saint-Lazare, daughter of Télésphore Baulne and Armantine Pigeon. Together, they had nine children, the last three born in Saint-Lazare.

A skilled carpenter and tinsmith by trade, Appolinaire worked notably for Seagram in Lachine. He also contributed to the construction of the famous slides at Malo Beach, a small island in Lake Saint-Louis near Lachine, showcasing his expertise and involvement in important local projects.

In 1939, he co-founded the Saint-Lazare COOP Cannery alongside Alphonse Martel, Albert Ménard, Wilfrid Martel, and Théotime Martel, demonstrating his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to the community.

Following this venture, Appolinaire purchased master strawberry plants from the Ministry of Agriculture in Saint-Hyacinthe. He cultivated them on his land to reproduce and sell annually. His plants, numbering approximately 200,000, were regularly redistributed on Île d'Orléans, helping sustain a local agricultural tradition.

He also served as churchwarden (marguiller) of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare from 1949 to 1951, marking his engagement in community and religious life.

Appolinaire Turcotte passed away in Saint-Lazare on May 3, 1983, at the age of 87 years and 6 months. He is buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, at the heart of the community he served all his life.



Anatole Denis
(1902–1992)

Local entrepreneur and committed pillar of the religious community

Anatole Denis was born in Saint-Lazare on December 9, 1902, son of Honoré Denis and Virginie Constant. On January 29, 1938, he married Rose-Aimée Lauzon in Saint-Lazare, daughter of Léon Lauzon and Marie-Rose St-Denis. Together, they had two children, to whom they passed on their attachment to family values and community.

A savvy businessman, Anatole took charge of the village general store in 1928. Through his vision and understanding of local needs, he gradually transformed the establishment into a furniture store, meeting the expectations of a growing and changing population. His business became a cornerstone of local economic life.

At the same time, Anatole served as postmaster of Saint-Lazare. In this key role, he contributed to the smooth operation of communications and the vital connection between the region's residents.

Deeply involved in parish life, he generously offered his hangar to host religious services after the church fire in 1942. He also played a leading role in rebuilding the church, notably financing part of the liturgical furniture as well as the new bells.

Anatole Denis passed away in Saint-Lazare on September 27, 1992, at the age of 89 years and 10 months. He was buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare. His memory remains closely linked to the village's history, marked by service, faith, and a deep community spirit.



Eugène Boileau
(1903–1991)

Businessman, political leader, and committed builder of Saint-Lazare

Eugène Boileau was born in Saint-Lazare on June 22, 1903, son of Jules Boileau and Rosina Daoust. On September 16, 1937, he married Thérèse Montpellier in Saint-Lazare, daughter of Orphir Montpellier and Marie-Joseph Gauthier. Together, they had two children.

An insurance broker and owner of a funeral home, Eugène Boileau was also a fervent supporter of the Liberal Party. He engaged in a notable political rivalry with Eugène Leroux, contesting the mayoralty of Saint-Lazare for nearly two decades.

He served as mayor three times: from 1945 to 1948, from 1953 to 1956, and from 1958 to 1964. His vision and leadership contributed significantly to the development of the municipality. Concurrently, he was appointed prefect of Vaudreuil County on several occasions—in 1947, 1953, and 1964.

Involved in local religious life, he served as churchwarden (marguiller) of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare from 1952 to 1954. During the church's reconstruction, he actively participated in organizing bingo events to raise funds for the project.

Eugène Boileau passed away in Saint-Lazare on October 5, 1991, at the age of 88 years and 4 months. He is buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, leaving behind a rich political and community legacy.



Eugène Leroux
(1904–1980)

Committed merchant and municipal leader of Saint-Lazare

Born in Les Cèdres on October 28, 1904, Eugène Leroux was the son of Ferdinand Leroux and Virginie Sauvé. On October 20, 1930, he married Jeannette Brabant in Saint-Joseph de Soulanges (Les Cèdres), daughter of David Brabant and Joséphine Denis. The couple had four children.

A proud supporter of the Union Nationale, Eugène Leroux engaged in a notable political rivalry with Eugène Boileau, contesting the mayoralty of Saint-Lazare for nearly twenty years. He began his municipal involvement as a councillor in 1938 before serving as mayor of Saint-Lazare from 1949 to 1953, and again from 1957 to 1958. In 1953, he was also appointed prefect of Vaudreuil County.

An entrepreneur at heart, he owned a general store at the Saint-Lazare depot, where he operated as an Esso retailer and postmaster. He also ran a funeral home in the village, strengthening his central role in the community.

During the church's reconstruction, Eugène Leroux was actively involved in fundraising and contributed financially, demonstrating his deep attachment to the parish and the town.

He passed away in Saint-Lazare on August 4, 1980, at the age of 75 years and 9 months. He rests in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, where his memory endures among those who shared his commitment.



Stanley Roy Wilson
(1909–1975)

Entrepreneur, veteran, and community pillar of Saint-Lazare

Born in Saint-Lazare on February 4, 1909, Stanley Roy Wilson was the son of Robert Isaac Wilson, a carpenter, and Leah Melina Simpson. He married Olive McBain, daughter of George McBain and Edith Vivian. The couple had no children.

A veteran of the Second World War, Stanley served with honor in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps. Upon his return, he founded a contracting and manufacturing business, employing several dozen locals in his workshop on Côte Saint-Charles. Later, after retiring from contracting, he opened a school bus company, continuing his commitment to local development.

Involved in municipal life, he served as a municipal councillor from 1956 to 1958. Additionally, he was churchwarden (marguiller) of the Methodist Protestant Church of Côte Saint-Charles.

An active community member, Stanley was the master of the Hudson Masonic Lodge in 1948. In 1966, during the relocation and reconstruction of the Côte Saint-Charles church on a new foundation, he stood out as one of the principal volunteer workers, demonstrating his deep attachment to his community.

Stanley Roy Wilson passed away in Saint-Lazare on October 12, 1975, at the age of 66 years and 6 months. He is buried in the cemetery of the United Church of Côte Saint-Charles, where his memory remains alive.



Norman Cooper
(1914–1996)

War pilot, entrepreneur, and aviation pioneer in Saint-Lazare

Norman Cooper was born on December 16, 1914, son of Joseph William Cooper and Margaret McMillan. On June 15, 1940, he married Ethel Waters in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, daughter of Sydney Waters and Lilian Stormont. Together, they had four children.

During the Second World War, Norman served as a pilot officer trainee in the Royal Canadian Air Force. His active military service reflected his courage and sense of duty to his country.

After the war, he returned to civilian life and became co-owner, with his brothers, of a Ford garage in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, where he worked as a mechanic and entrepreneur.

In 1962, driven by his passion for aviation, Norman purchased a wooded plot on Sainte-Angélique Road in Saint-Lazare. He gradually developed an airstrip on the land, which would become Saint-Lazare Airport—a lasting landmark in the local identity.

In 1967, he founded Cooper Aviation, a family-oriented business specializing in aircraft maintenance and pilot training. The company grew into an important player in general aviation in the region and remained active until 2025, sustained by several generations of the Cooper family.

A respected pioneer and prominent figure in Saint-Lazare's development, Norman Cooper passed away in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue on November 4, 1996, at the age of 81 years and 11 months. He is buried at Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal. His legacy lives on in the collective memory of aviation enthusiasts and the citizens of Saint-Lazare.



Léo Paul Gareau
(1919–2011)

Carpenter, entrepreneur, and pioneer of Saint-Lazare

Born in Saint-Lazare on March 25, 1919, Léo Paul Gareau was the son of Joseph Gareau and Marie-Louise Chevrier. From a young age, he worked for farmers, helping with milking, grain threshing, and woodcutting. He also found work on the railroad and took on wood-splitting contracts.

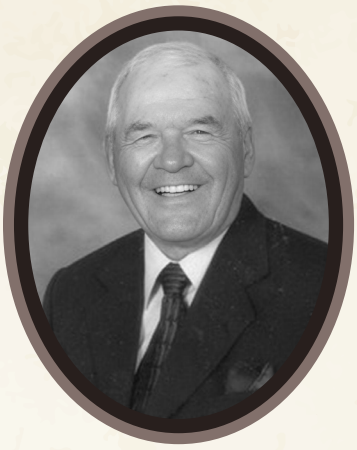
In 1940, at the start of the Second World War, he underwent military training. In 1941, he contributed to the war effort at the munitions factory in Les Cèdres.

A skilled carpenter and joiner, he built his own home on the family lot in 1942. Around 1944, he constructed a barn in Vaudreuil, catching the attention of a contractor from Beaurepaire. He then built more barns and launching ramps for the Beaconsfield Yacht Club. On May 25, 1945, he married Laurette Huneault in Saint-Clotilde.

In 1948, he built a sawmill equipped with a press axle. During winter, villagers brought their logs there to be cut. This mill became the core of a growing business dealing in building materials, hardware, plumbing, and paint. A recognized contractor, he built several houses in Saint-Lazare, Vaudreuil, and Île Perrot. He served as a churchwarden of the parish from 1956 to 1958, donating the kneeler covers. A member of the Knights of Columbus since 1951, he entered politics in 1960 with the Quebec Liberal Party.

In business, he diversified: cement blocks (1959), roof trusses (1960), a bowling alley with Roland Bédard (1961), and a Massey Ferguson dealership (1968). He also supplied bricks for the Polyvalente Cité des Jeunes.

He died in Pointe-Claire on April 11, 2011, at the age of 92, and was buried in Saint-Lazare.



Roland Bédard
(1929–2022)

Municipal leader, entrepreneur, and builder of Saint-Lazare

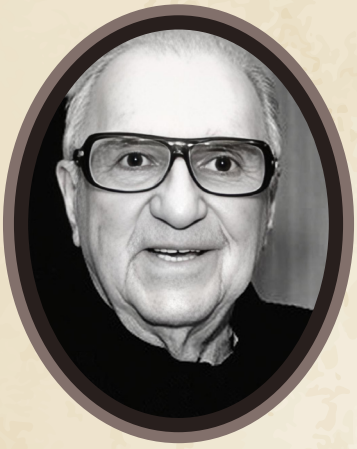
Born in Saint-Lazare on July 11, 1929, Roland Bédard was the son of Séraphin Bédard and Marie Alice Chevrier. On August 11, 1951, he married Pierrette Beaudoin in Montreal, daughter of Raoul Beaudoin and Rose Quintal. The couple had seven children, establishing a family deeply rooted in the Saint-Lazare community.

Early on, Roland engaged in public life. He was elected municipal councillor of Saint-Lazare from 1961 to 1963, before becoming a churchwarden of the Catholic parish in 1966. His leadership skills led him to the mayor's office, where he served from 1967 to 1975. In 1969, he was appointed prefect of the Vaudreuil County, extending his influence beyond the municipality.

A contractor by trade, Roland Bédard played a key role in residential development in Saint-Lazare, actively contributing to the transformation of the municipality's urban landscape. He participated in the economic and residential growth of the region, emphasizing the importance of balanced and well-planned expansion.

Alongside his public and professional duties, he remained strongly connected to the land. He lived on his family farm at the corner of Sainte-Angélique and Poirier Streets, blending rural life with community involvement.

He passed away in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield on July 12, 2022, at the venerable age of 93. Roland Bédard rests in the cemetery of the Catholic Parish of Saint-Lazare, at the heart of the community he helped build and enrich. His legacy remains alive in the collective memory of its citizens.



Maurice Chartrand
(1930–2021)

Businessman, cultural builder, and iconic figure of Saint-Lazare

Born in Saint-Clet on January 17, 1930, Maurice Chartrand was the son of Roméo Chartrand and Thérèsa Sureau. On April 10, 1950, he married Jeanne Turcotte in Saint-Lazare, daughter of Apollinaire Turcotte and Laura Baulne. Together, they had seven children.

Maurice took over the general store acquired by his father, Roméo Chartrand, known as the Napoléon Lavigne establishment. For many years, this versatile business combined a general store, hotel, restaurant, bar, and tavern, becoming an integral part of the community's daily life.

Over time, under Maurice's leadership, "Chez Maurice" evolved into a true regional institution. Renowned for its festive atmosphere, dance floor, and musical programming, the venue attracted a broad clientele, both local and regional, hosting established artists as well as emerging talents. The family business continues to be carried on by the third and fourth generations, thus perpetuating a living legacy.

Alongside his commercial involvement, Maurice Chartrand was an active contributor to community life, notably as a major donor during the reconstruction of the Saint-Lazare church.

In honor of his impact on the town, a square in the village core now bears his name: Place Maurice Chartrand.

He passed away on September 5, 2021, at the age of 91 years and 8 months, and is buried in the cemetery of the Catholic Parish of Saint-Lazare.



Bernard Charlebois
(1939–2024)

Municipal administrator, builder, and visionary mayor of Saint-Lazare

Born in Saint-Lazare on October 29, 1939, Bernard Charlebois was the son of Almanzar Charlebois and Marie-Anne Liboiron. After completing his primary education in his home parish, he pursued classical studies at Collège Saint-Henri. From a young age, he helped his father deliver mail throughout the municipality.

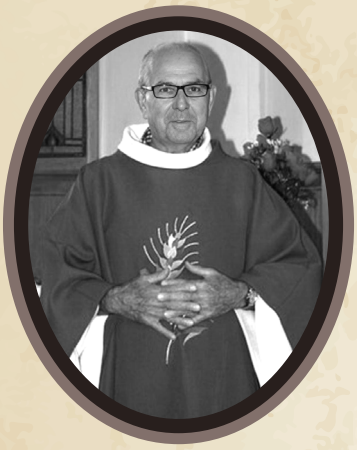
On December 3, 1960, he married Lise Leduc in Saint-Lazare, daughter of Lionel Leduc and Yvette Poirier. The couple had two children.

Bernard Charlebois dedicated much of his life to serving his community. Initially employed by Bell Canada, he simultaneously built a remarkable career in municipal administration. He served as secretary-treasurer of Saint-Lazare from 1962 to 1975, then was elected mayor, a position he held for twelve years from 1975 to 1987.

During his leadership, several major projects came to fruition. He actively contributed to the creation of the Fire Department, the construction of the first fire station, and the acquisition of the municipality's first fire truck. Thanks to his vision, the city also purchased the former Immaculée-Conception school, which was transformed into the first city hall.

In 1975, he presided over the centennial celebrations of Saint-Lazare. From 1982 to 1987, he became the very first prefect of the MRC of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, where he applied his organizational skills and regional leadership.

He passed away in Vaudreuil-Dorion on February 6, 2024, at the age of 84. His ashes are kept by the family and will eventually be interred in the Catholic cemetery of Saint-Lazare, in the heart of the town he so deeply loved and served.



Gérald Sareault
(1944–2023)

Priest of Saint-Lazare for 35 years, man of faith and community builder

Born in Saint-Lazare on February 21, 1944, Gérald Sareault was the son of Gérard Sareault and Germaine Poirier. He completed his primary education in his home parish, then classical studies at Collège de Valleyfield before pursuing commercial training at the Saint-Michel school in Vaudreuil.

From 1961 to 1973, he worked in banking at the Canadian National Bank, where he was assigned to various branches. In 1974, he made a major career change by beginning theological studies at the Grand Séminaire de Montréal and was ordained a priest in 1978.

His ministry began at the parish of Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Dorion, where he served until 1982. He then worked as a pastoral agent at the Cité des Jeunes secondary school in Vaudreuil from 1982 to 1984.

In 1984, he returned to his home parish as pastor, a position he held until 2019—35 years during which he profoundly shaped the spiritual and community life of Saint-Lazare residents. During this time, he also served the parishes of Saint-Polycarpe (1995–2004) and Saint-Joseph-de-Soulanges (2005–2019), which Saint-Lazare joined in 2009.

A committed man, he was the instigator and founding member of La Source d'Entraide of Saint-Lazare and treasurer of the Société historique de Saint-Lazare.

In honor of his dedication, a square in the village core now bears his name: Place Gérald-Sareault.

He passed away in Valleyfield on July 25, 2023, at the age of 79 and is buried in the cemetery of the Catholic parish of Saint-Lazare, at the heart of the community he so faithfully served.

Thanks!

Members of Comité Hommage aux bâtisseurs de Saint-Lazare:

Paul Lavigne, President of Comité des Fêtes du 150e de Saint-Lazare
Donald Simpson, President of Société historique de Saint-Lazare
Anick Chevrier, Vice-President of Société historique de Saint-Lazare
Robert Rozon, Board Member of Société historique de Saint-Lazare
Jacky Connelly, Member of Comité des Fêtes du 150e de Saint-Lazare
Yolande Charlebois, Volunteer

150e Saint-Lazare

Tribute to 26 builders who have left their mark on the history of our community.

*This commemorative booklet is presented to you on the occasion of the **Tribute to the Builders Evening** on September 27, 2025, held as part of **Saint-Lazare's 150th anniversary celebrations**.*



In collaboration with the Société historique de Saint-Lazare