

Raymond Laberge

Châteauguay

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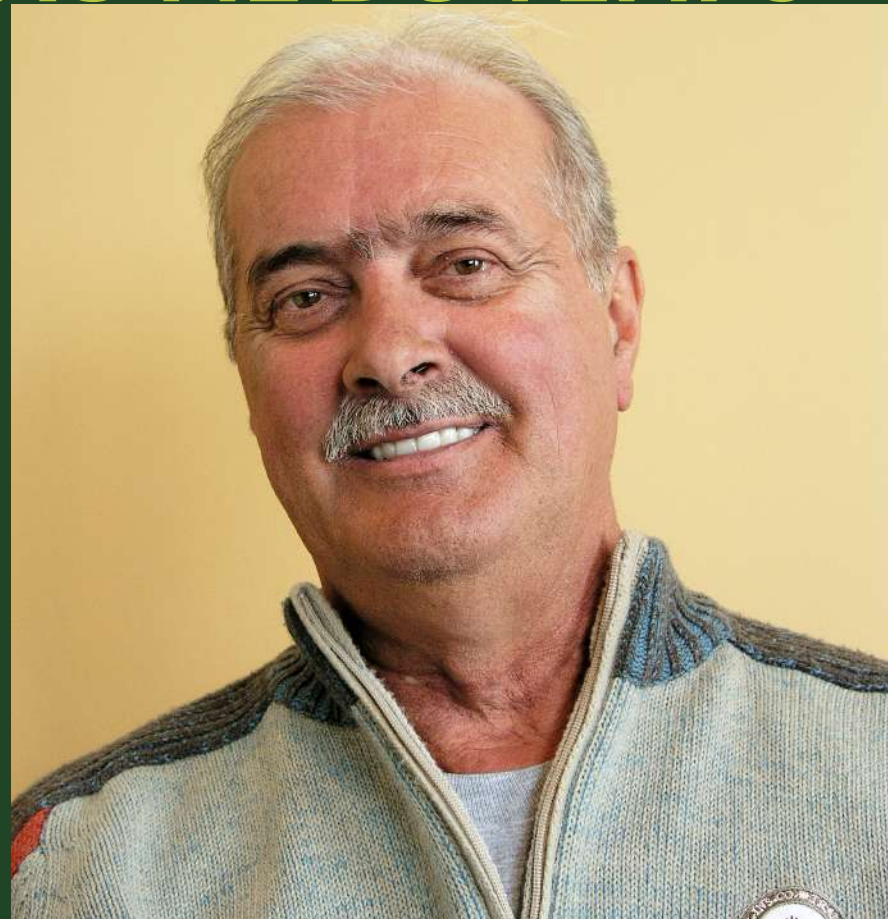
AU FIL DU TEMPS

Châteauguay se raconte...

par Raymond Laberge

The cover of Châteauguay se raconte,
a reference book on the history of Châteauguay.

Raymond Laberge did not claim to be either a writer or an historian, but he was keen on sharing the importance of the past through his handwritten texts. His sister Suzanne typed his texts and his wife Jocelyne revised them. Teamwork was an important part of the writing process.



Raymond Laberge

"I tried to do my best to leave my mark in Châteauguay."





Short biography

Raymond Laberge was born on October 28, 1941, on boulevard Salaberry Sud. Most of his youthful adventures had the river as a background, which was the theatre of many stories of pirates and fishing. Surrounded by his two older brothers, his younger sister and many friends, Raymond took advantage of nature. A “specialist” of water bodies and fishing areas, he started at a very young age to offer his services to vacationers as a guide.



Raymond Laberge (left) fishing with his brother (right).

In September 1954, Raymond finished his elementary school studies at the École Modèle and began his classical education at the Séminaire de Valleyfield. He was a serious student and made friendships that he kept throughout his life. While at the Seminary, he decided to become a teacher, which led him to study teaching and school administration in 1962 at the Université de Montréal.

In 1965, Raymond began teaching at Saint-Jude school with his former teacher, Alfred Dorais, who was then the principal. Four years later, he held the position of principal at the Pie XII school, today known as the de la Rive School. It was at that time that he began to found his “large family garden.” He had two children and five grandchildren.



Raymond Laberge, Principal at PIE XII school in 1970.

After many years in school administration, Raymond decided to renew his commitment to teaching in the field by accepting the position of assistant principal. He had the opportunity to get involved with the teaching staff and contribute more actively to the education of students. He ended his 32-year career in the school environment at the L'Accore school when his state of health forced him to retire.

Still inhabited by an insatiable desire to learn and share his knowledge, Raymond Laberge decided to invest himself in his new passion, writing. Ranging from his patriotic manifesto and his guide to growing ground cherries to his *Les Grands Châteauguois* series, there were few topics that he did not touch on. In 25 years, he wrote an average of two books and many articles per year, for which he conducted extensive research. Although his fragile health slowed him down and sometimes immobilized him, Raymond never let himself be defeated until he passed away on August 16, 2017.

His huge legacy to the region's history now allows him to be part of the Les Grands Châteauguois family himself.

Anecdotes

Fishing often occupied Raymond in his free time. For awhile, he and his brothers even gave their catches to the fish farm in Saint-Faustin, which came to collect them with its tanker truck.

In 1992, Raymond was chair of the committee supporting the Châteauguay library project, of which the objective was to equip the municipality with an attractive building, better adapted to the needs of citizens and accessible to all.

In 1999, Raymond founded the Commando de l'entretien et de la restauration des croix de chemin to maintain and restore roadside crosses, which led him to write his booklet on the croix de chemin. This initiative is continuing today at the Société du Musée du Grand Châteauguay.

Raymond Laberge gave his books to the Société du Musée du Grand Châteauguay, of which he was an honorary member. Today, they are an important source of information for the team at the Maison LePailleur museum.

Timeline

October 28 1941	Birth of Raymond Laberge in Châteauguay.
1954	Beginning of his education at the Séminaire de Valleyfield.
1962-1965	B.A. at the Université de Montréal.
1967	Marriage of Raymond Laberge and Jocelyne Paquette.
1965-1969	Beginning of his career as a teacher at Saint-Jude school with Grade 7 students.
1969-1978	Principal of Pie XII school and then of Saint-Jude school.
1970	Wrote his first novel for young people, <i>Un monde de fraîcheur</i> .
1978	Ville de Châteauguay presented him with a Civitas award at the Gala des personnalités du Grand Châteauguay.
1978-1990	Assistant principal at Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption school and then at Gérin-Lajoie school.
1983	Named honorary citizen of Ville de Châteauguay for his involvement in education.
1989-1992	In charge of the publication of <i>Entre guillemets</i> , the newsletter of the Commission scolaire de Châteauguay.
1992	Teaching Coordinator for the Commission scolaire de Châteauguay.
1991-1997	Assistant principal for secondary 3 at Louis-Philippe-Paré high school, then L'Accore school before retiring.
2001	Ville de Châteauguay gave him a volunteer Merit award for writing.
2002	Representative of Ville de Châteauguay in Cambrai, twin city in France.
2005	Named an honorary member of the Société du Musée du Grand Châteauguay (SMGC). That same year, Raymond was sworn in by the SMGC as Frère Chasseur during the activities of the National Patriots Day.
20 octobre 2012	Induction of Raymond Laberge into the Châteauguay Hall of Fame as a Builder of “Arts & Culture.”
16 août 2017	Death of Raymond Laberge.
11 mai 2019	The Châteauguay library is renamed Bibliothèque Raymond-Laberge.



When he worked at the Saint-Jude school, Raymond created Agro Jeunesse, a project that encouraged young people to participate in maintaining a garden, flowers and trees on the school grounds. This way, students learned to garden and appreciate the importance of nature.