In 1938 the city adopted the current version of the official coat of arms, modified by chief archivist Conrad Archambault, to make them conform to the rules of heraldry.
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Buildings:

Louis-Archambault Building, 4350-4352, Saint-Denis Street, Montréal

“Édifice Louis-Archambault, Société des Artsisans Canadiens-Français” engraved on the stone of the building.


Louis Archambault, son of Louis and Marie Angélique Prud’homme, was born on March 7, 1829. Carpenter, entrepreneur and manufacturer, he founded the Société des artisans canadiens-français (Society of the French-Canadian Craftsmen nowadays called les Coopérants). He is the brother of Urgel-Eugène, founder of the École polytechnique (Polytechnic School).

The House of Archambault-Musique

The Maison de musique Archambault (an enormous music store) was founded by Edmond Archambault, born in L’Assomption on August 20, 1870, son of Zéphirin and Marie Délina Archambault.

The seven-story high building is still called Archambault Building nowadays. On the corner of the major downtown streets Sainte-Catherine and Berri, it was built in 1923 by the engineer Gaspard Archambault, son of Gaspard and Marie Louise Papin.


Among the numerous constructions of Gaspard Archambault in Montréal, there are the following: Dupuis Frères Department Store, the American Paper Box factory, the Haleyon apartments on Durocher Street, in Outremont, 2 schools and a few bank buildings.

Archambault School

Archambault School, Montréal, by J. Walker. - 1 etching: black ink; 14.3 X 19.3 cm.

Etching of the Scientific and Industrial School (Archambault School) (1873-1876), located on the premises of the actual Place des Arts, formerly known as Côté Street. In 1876, it changed his name for École Polytechnique (Polytechnic School).

http://www.archiv.umontreal.ca/Galeries/P0058/P0058FG/pages/P0058FC01071.htm

Do you know that...

The Reverend Joseph Papin Archambault S.J. son of Gaspard and of Marie Louise Papin had the honor to be appointed in 1917 and in 1942 to make the predication at the Commemorative festivities of the Montréal foundation.

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Montréal streets, parks and buildings related to the Archambault family

Streets:
In the draughtboard of streets in modern Montréal, one notices five streets named in honour of the close family of our ancestor. The street Edmond-Archambault, name to honor the founder of Archambault Musique (great department store related to music) is located in the Rivière-des-Prairies/Pointe-aux-Trembles district. The street Louis-Archambault, founder of the Société des artisans canadiens-français (Society of French-Canadian Craftsmen later renamed Les Coopérants). Jacques-Archambault Street, in the Pointeaux-Trembles district, was inaugurated by our association on February 15, 1988, to celebrate the third centennial of the death of our ancestor. Nicolas-Gervais Street, located at the corner of the Jacques-Archambault Street, in a new development in Pointe-aux-Trembles, was named in the honour of Nicolas Gervaise, son of Jean Gervaise and Anne Archambault. Nicolas was the grandson of our ancestor.

From March 18 to April 14, 2008, a contest was held in order to choose the name of six new streets in the Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve district, formerly known as Longue-Pointe. Anne-Courtemanche Street, to honor Anne Courtemanche midwife, pioneer in Nouvelle-France and wife of Laurent, grandson of our ancestor Jacques Archambault. The very important Saint-Urbain Street was built by Urbain Tessier said Lavigne (ca. 1624-1689), a settler born in Anjou (France). His craft was sawyer and he was married to Marie Martin creek (Saint-Martin creek (Saint-Antoine Street nowadays).

Parks:
We invite you to reread the issue of May, 2016 in which we presented parks named in honor of Archambault. Here is a reminder.

Adrien-D.-Archambault Park, on Nuns’ Island
Thus called in memory of Dr. Adrien D. Archambault, founder of the Goutte de lait (A drop of milk), a service for young and underprivileged mothers. He was also the founder of the Champlain Hospital and co-founder of the Federation of the Québec school boards.

Source: www.ville.montreal.qc.ca

Médéric-Archambault Park
Médéric Archambault was a business man living in Bout-de-l’Île, today Pointe-aux-Trembles.

Inauguration of the Streetcars of Montréal

The streetcars’ Company of Montréal, named the MONTREAL CITY PASSENGER RAILWAY, was incorporated in 1861. One started installing the rails in May, and the opening of the first line was on November 27, 1861. The line on Sainte-Catherine Street dates back to 1864.

A team of two horses that were frequently relieved pulled the cars; except on the hillsides, one used a team of four horses. The company employed three kinds of vehicles: the cars rolled on the rails in the summer, in the spring and the fall one used the omnibus, and, it was the turn of cars on runners in the winter of which straw covered the wooden floor. The fee was five cents for adults and three cents for children.

The streetcars stopped everywhere, depending on the passengers’ wishes. In the early hours, the conductor then stopped at each house and the rushed passenger descended resolutely on foot. When an important event pulled the people to the center of the city, the suburban commuters who left on foot generally arrived before those who wanted luxury took the streetcars. It was the good old days. Around 1892, the electrical streetcars replaced the streetcars pulled by horses, as we can see on the canvas of Adrien Hébert.

The “surintendant” of the Company of streetcars around the years of 1900 was T.-H. Robillard. His daughter M.-Zorâide married Joseph-Serge (Palmieri) Archambault, grand comedian of the Montréal scenery. He was the son of Joseph, the ex-mayor of Terrebonne. In 1937 Jean-Jules-Albert Archambault, son of Jean-Baptiste and Corrine Marcoux, was named chief engineer.

1 Source : Élé de Savail, 366 anniversaires canadiens.
Memories of the 400th birthday of Jacques Archambault
Montréal, October 3rd, 2004

Joseph Archambault
Alderman, from 1896 to 1900

“Son of Joseph Archambault and Tharsile Dufresne, he was born in Montréal (Notre-Dame Parish), on January 7, 1852. M. Archambault studied in the school of the Brothers of Christian Doctrine and finished his education in the Collège of Montréal. In 1867, he started working for Misters Bélisle and Haley, novelty merchants. He quit this job nine years later to accept a position at the prestigious department store Dupuis Frères.

“In 1878, he founded, with his brother Francis, the Archambault Frères store. This novelty store, on 1453, Sainte-Catherine east, became one of the most beloved in Montréal. This commerce lived on until 1900. M. Joseph Archambault works nowadays in the Public Works Department of the federal government. He was appointed justice of the peace under the Mercier administration.

“He got married on May 5, 1875, in the Sainte-Brigide Church, to Marie Louise Labelle, daughter of Joseph Olympe and Marie Louise Coursol. Marie Louise and Joseph had 15 children, 8 boys and 7 daughters, with 12 survivors.

Joseph Archambault represented the Saint-Jacques district at the Town Council of Montréal from 1896 to 1900 and each time he was elected by acclamation.

References : Histoire de la Corporation de la Cité de Montréal, 1903.

Pierre Azarie Monette dit Lamarche
Alderman

Azarie Lamarche, coach builder, was born in Saint-Jacques-de-l’Achigan, on December 16, 1850, son of Stanislas Lamarche and Victoire Archambault, daughter of Pierre and Sophie Coitou said Saint-Jean.

He elected on May 1st, 1890, representative of the Saint-Jacques district in the city council. After a few years of hard work, Mister Lamarche opened a car manufacture under the name “Montreal Carriage Works”, a thriving company. Mr. Lamarche was always taking care of issues related to our city. It was him who decided to have built the boulevard surrounding the Lafontaine Park. He was a representative during three years.

References: Histoire de la Corporation de la cité de Montréal, 1903.

Jean Jules Albert Archambault
Chief Engineer of the Tramway Commission of Montréal

Son of Jean-Baptiste Benoit (lawyer) and Corinne Éveline Marcoux, he was born in Montréal, on December 13, 1900. Jean Jules Albert was married in Montréal, (Notre-Dame Parish) on January 12, 1937, to Mable Quinn.

He was appointed Chief Engineer in 1937. In 1942, he became Co-controller of transit for the federal government and in 1945, president of the Tramway Company, renamed Transit Commission of Montréal. In 1944, he was appointed president of the Technical Committee in charge of the study of the public transit issues and the construction of underground lanes in Montréal.
The Standard. In 1922, he presented an exhaustive study on the “examinations of babies”, during the VII Congress of French speaking physicians of North America. He acted as medical inspector and worked in the Health Department of the City of Montréal, division of the Hygiene of Children, from May 1921 to May 1925. He was secretary-treasurer of the Association of medical inspectors (1922-1925). In 1921, he was elected member of the Medical Society of Montréal, and in 1923, he was appointed treasurer of the Society. He wrote a medical paper for the Hygiene Bulletin, and published in the newspapers a study on the medical inspection of schools.

“Dr. Jean Ernest Paul Archambault was medical officer of the Victoriaville branch, of the Société des Artisans canadiens-français, (Society of the French-Canadian Craftsmen) founded by Louis Archambault (1929-1906)

“He was well-known and esteemed in Victoriaville and in the Eastern Townships. “Among his favourite hobbies are car rides, tennis and dodgeball. “Liberal allegiance in the political arena.”

References : Raphaël Ouimet, Biographies canadiennes-françaises (French Canadian Biographies).

Paul Wilfrid Archambault
Secretary of the lawyers of the City of Montréal

Paul Wilfrid was born in L’Assomption, on September 5, 1870. He was the son of Alexandre Archambault, lawyer and Member of Parliament of the riding of L’Assomption in 1861, and mayor of L’Assomption, from 1858 to 1870. His mother, Léocadie Homier, was the daughter of Jean-Baptiste, alderman of the city of Montréal.

“As a young boy, Paul Wilfrid studied in the college of L’Assomption and later on, at the college of Jesuits in Montréal in philosophy, and went on to study at the Université Laval. Accepted in the faculty of law, he studied in l’Université Laval and did his internship in the law firm of Rainville, Archambault and Gervais, during three years. In 1896, he was hired in the Corporation of the City of Montréal, as assistant in the Evaluation Office. His talent for law having been recognized, he was transferred in 1901 in the Law Department and was appointed Secretary of the assistant lawyers of the city. His superiors praise him highly as being an employee true to his duty, competent and honest.”

Paul Wilfrid was married on November 22, in 1893, in the Marie-Reine-du-Monde Cathedral of Montréal, to Édith Tremblay, daughter of André and Élisabeth Bouchard.

References : Histoire de la Corporation de la cité de Montréal, 1903 (History of the Corporation of the City of Montréal)

The law firm Rainville, Archambault et Gervais

The Honourable Henri Benjamin Rainville, head of the law firm Rainville, Archambault et Gervais, played a capital role in the municipal council of the City of Montréal. He was the representative of the Saint-Louis Division where he served non stop for 18 years, from 1882 to 1900. On July 18, 1876, he got married, in L’Assomption, to Eugénie Archambault, daughter of Alexandre and Léocadie Homier. Eugénie Archambault is the sister of Paul Wilfrid, secretary of the Lawyers of the City of Montréal.

Horace Archambault of the law firm Rainville, Archambault et Gervais, son of Louis and Élisabeth Dugal, was a teacher of commercial and maritime law at the Université Laval, in Montréal, in 1881 and became ten years later, dean of this institution. His father Louis, legal adviser and minister of Agriculture and Public Works of the province of Québec in 1868, owned a few buildings in the Old Montréal.
Jacques Archambault, first well digger of Ville-Marie

Son of Antoine and Renée Ouvrard, Jacques Archambault was born in 1604 at L’Ardidilliè, the hamlet which is now part of the community of Saint-Xandre, near La Rochelle (Charente-Maritime), France.

During the 17th century, religious services, baptisms, marriages, and burials were celebrated at Dompierre-en-Aunis (known today as Dompierre-sur-Mer).

Jacques Archambault married Françoise Toureau around 1629, and from 1630 to 1644 she gave him seven children, two sons and five daughters, one of which died at a young age in France.

Labourer and wine grower, the ancestor lived from the revenues of the land and from the vines. Some researchers have in fact found the existence of a sale contract that stated that he had sold three barrels of white wine to Hiérôme Bonnevye, a merchant from La Rochelle, France, on August 15th 1637. This detail confirms the fact that Jacques Archambault lived from the produce of the land.

As far as we know, upon his arrival at Québec, Jacques was hired by Le Gardeur de Repentigny to run his farm starting on October 16, 1647. There was an urgent need being felt in Ville-Marie, Jacques Archambault felt instantly obliged to say good-bye to Québec. On February 15, 1654, the colonist accepted an offer of 600 livres from M. de Maisonneuve in exchange for a promise that he would settle in Montréal. They had granted him a parcel of land in Montréal (in the country), and a lot in the city on November 17, 1652, three days after that of Cap-Rouge. The lot was 2 acres by 15 acres and superimposed over the actual plans of the streets of Vieux-Montréal, it was situated between Saint-Jacques Street to the south and Ontario Street to the north. Towards the east it went along Saint-Laurent Street and towards the west, it finished slightly east of Place d’Armes and a bit to the north, and a bit east of Saint-Urbain Street. The lot in town adjacent to the parcel of land, stretched from Saint-Jacques Street towards and almost to Notre-Dame Street. The lot measured two acres wide by one acre in length. (See map on page 35 du bulletin 78).

In the years of 1650, “Montrealers” witnessed the formation of a coalition of Iroquois Nations who had every intention to attack Ville-Marie. They also witnessed the Governor, Mr. de Maisonneuve taking every necessary measure to set up a strong defense against the dreadful Iroquois attacks.

Constructed of wood and situated at the extre-mity of a point formed by the confluence of the little River Saint-Pierre and the Saint-Laurent – which is known today as Pointe-à-Callière, the little primitive establishment of Ville-Marie was exposed to the attacks by the “savages”.

It was during this dangerous context that Mr. de Maisonneuve had Jacques Archambault build a well, five feet in diameter (1.52 m), “in the fort at Place d’Armes”. Jacques guaranteed at least two feet (60 cm) of steady water in the bottom of the well. The contract signed before the notary Bénigne Basset on October 11, 1658 stated that the well digger would receive for his work 300 pounds and 10 jars of brandy.

It was the first well dug on the island of Montréal. He dug several afterward for various customers.

In 1984, the Association des Archambault d’Amérique organized a big party (holiday) to inaugurate the replica of the well at Pointe-à-Callière. This is what wrote Pierre in the Newsletter of July, 2008.

Joseph Louis Archambault, Legal Counsel – City of Montréal

Patriotic son of Joseph Napoléon Azaric Archambault and Aurélie Mongeau, he was born in Varennes on June 19, 1849, and married in Montréal Cathedral on June 19, 1873, to Ernestine Rolland, the daughter of Senator Jean-Baptiste Rolland.

Upon completion of classical studies at Saint-Hyacinthe College, he obtained a Bachelor’s degree from McGill University and as a student in the Law Offices of Sir George Etienne Cartier, awarded a law degree in 1871.

Appointed to the King’s Council by Ottawa in 1887 and by Québec in 1908, Joseph Louis Archambault became one of the Deans of the Montreal Bar. He celebrated his 50th anniversary of practicing law in 1922. During his long career, he practiced in all courts of law, repeatedly called upon to appear before the Privy Council. Deputy Attorney-General for several years, was appointed counsel for the City of Montréal in 1898. He was Bar President of the Montréal District in 1913, and was Crown Counsel in the famous Demers trial, accused of murder. Between-whiles was involved in journalism and politics, literary and social works, and contributed articles to various journals; also published an historical drama “Jacques Cartier” (1879). Legal Studies at Laval University in Montréal (1880); Municipal Institutions “The Canadian Bar to the Privy Council” (1889); two studies “The Bourgeoisie in Canada” (1894); “The Criminal Forum in Canada” (1895); “Studies of Judicial Customs” (1897). Biographie canadienne-francaise, 1924, p. 128.

References : Biographie canadienne-francaise, 1924, p. 128.

Joseph Louis died in Montréal in 1925.

Jean Ernest Paul Archambault

Health Services, City of Montréal

Son of the barrister Joseph Louis and of Ernestine Rolland, Dr. Jean Ernest Paul Archambault was born in Montréal, (Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur Parish) on July 13, 1893. He got married in Saint-Agapit, Lotbinière, on November 29, 1921, Yvonne Brochu, daughter of Alfred and Alphonse Méthot.

“After his classical studies (pre-university level for overachiever boys only, at religious institutions, and abolished in 1964) at the Sainte-Marie College in Montréal, he went to university and obtained his degree in medicine in 1919. When he was a student, he was secretary and vice-president of the circle d’études Pasteur (Learning Circle), and as such, he delivered lectures on medical subjects. He collaborated with the university newspaper L’Escholier and published many poems under the pen name Jean Parpaux, as well as medical columns under the name Esculape. In 1918-1919, he was an intern at the Notre-Dame Hospital in Montréal. He was later hired in the Otorhinolaryngology Department of l’Hôtel-Dieu, under the supervision of Dr. Albert Lasalle (1919-1921). On March 19, 1919, he was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine of the Université de Montréal.

“He signed many scientific texts and articles, among which we should underline the one for the Société médicale in 1923, on the heredo-syphilis, article that was reproduced in the newspapers, among which...
had the local archives set-up files of the Press’ clippings with the intention to select the documentation relating to the administration and history of the City of Montréal. One then talked about adding a collection of descriptive and historical articles on Montréal. The report of 1935 gave us the significance of the newspapers clippings:

“With the abundance of information, this list would be, I imagine, appreciated by researchers who will give a discrete tribute to the journalists of which their every day writing finished in the end by constituting a very creative source of information for their works’ preparation on facts, and gestures of the everyday life on main events which occurred from day to day of a public character”
Conrad Archambault. Annual report from the Municipal Archives, 1935.

One did not only have to select articles from the newspapers but one could also withdraw a collection of documents on any given subject from the archives, and one could also choose photographs. In a letter of April 17, 1952, addressed to Louis Martin-Tard of the newspaper Le Petit Journal, Conrad Archambault mentioned that “… our documentation is not only made up of various notes, as the readers’ think, but also whole articles and photographs and even sometimes, complete chapters extracted from reviews or from magazines (sic)!”

These files were divided into three types: general subjects, streets and buildings, and biographies. One also found in these files besides articles from the newspapers, printed forms, documents of records and of course photographs. Since 1989, the files contained only newspapers clippings.

Seventy years after their creation, the Division of the Management of Documents and the Archives still can select articles drawn from the big daily Montréal newspapers such as: the Press, Le Devoir, Le Journal de Montréal and Le Gazette.

Thanks to the archivist Conrad Archambault, the total represented beyond 7,000 files now available mainly on microfilm. The original documents that are preserved from the micrograph are included in the files in the clerk’s office.

Conrad-Archambault Conference Room

A commemoration at place D’Youville, in Montréal

The highly historic locations of the birth place of Montréal was the show place for an unforgettable celebration held on October 20th 1984. That day marked the unveiling of the replica of the well that was dug in the autumn of 1658 — before Sainte-Catherine’s day — by our divine and dowsing ancestor, Jacques Archambault. About 250 of the descendants attended the ceremony that was held at Place D’Youville which had been decorated in colours and flags representing the Province of Quebec and the City of Montréal. The music of the era with its files and its drums was provided by the “Compagnie franche de la Marine” and by the “Régiment de Maisonneuve” band. A feast and dance was held following the event at the Louis-Jolliet’s Maritime Station at the old harbor.

Camille Archambault the first President and the Founder of our Association spoke at this occasion recalling the historical context of the digging of the well, the almost superhuman work of the founders of Ville-Marie, Maisonneuve, Jeanne Mance, the Governor of Montmagny, Father Vimont, the owner of a shipping company Pierre du Puiseaux, and Mrs. de la Peltrie. He had also mentioned that the fort had been demolished in 1682.

The ceremony of October 20th, 1984 recreated the sessions of the signature of the contract of the digging of the well by the contracting parties of the 17th century.

In the photo, are three members of the Association wearing period costumes who happily agreed to participate in a small re-enactment of the event. They held the role of the three main persons involved. On the left the mason Maurice Archambault representing the well digger, our ancestor Jacques Archambault; in the centre, Jean-Paul Archambault representing Mr. de Maisonneuve, and at the right, Notary, Mr. Paul Archambault, representing the Lawyer, Bénigne Basset.

The archivist and author of the present work, Pierre Archambault, was the principal organizer for the commemoration. In the photo, he is shown inserting a metallic cylinder in curb of the well there were. In the container a copy of the contract that was granted to the ancestor, and the details of the day’s activities. Pierre was in the company of the mason Maurice Archambault who sealed the opening with the last stone on the well.
The well of Pointe-à-Callière was reproduced in the original dimensions of the one of the 17th century. It was because of the generosity of the members of the Association des Archambault d'Amérique, who remembered, and made its construction possible, with the close cooperation of the City of Montréal and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs at that time.

In addition to its symbolic presence, the well also had a practical aspect. To the top of the well was fitted a fountain to which the passer-by's and visitors could stop and quench their thirst. President Camille offered a demonstration.

The curb of the well which was sent to the Museum of the Archaeology and the History of Montréal, at la Pointe-à-Callière, conformed to the characteristics of the original, with the exception of the gray granite plate which concealed the orifice. The text inscribed, is in the memory of the ancestor Jacques.

A member who returns to us
Claude Archambault
Lévis

Conrad Archambault
Chief Municipal Archivist of the city of Montréal

Born in Montréal (Saint-Jacques Parish), December 23, 1893, son of Joseph Archambault and Alexina Drouin, he received his primary education at St. Benedict's Parish School. He pursued his business studies at École Saint-Louis in Montréal, and classical studies at the Jolliette Seminary.

Employed as an accountant at Windsor Station, he left that post in 1913 for the City's Office of the Treasury, then in March 1914, on the bequest of Mr. P.L.N. Beaudry, he joined the newly created staff of Municipal Archives. Taking an active role in the organization of this department, Mr. Archambault found a unique opportunity, regarding the laborious classification of all municipal documentation, to acquire an experience that should enhance successive developments within the administration, and assist it in dealing with research of past municipal issues. After having conscientiously fulfilled his duties as book-keeper, recording secretary and deputy archivist, M. Archambault was promoted on March 30, 1933, to Chief Archivist, replacing M. P.L.N. Beaudry.

Active member of several social organizations, Mr. Archambault was, since 1915, a friend of notary J.-R. Langevin, instigator of the first food drive for the benefit of Franco-Ontarians. He has since organized other food drive for the poor assisted by the Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Society. He held the position of Secretary of Special Counsel St. Alphonse Liguori in that same society. He was also director of the snowshoe club “The Buccaneer”, member of the Knights of Columbus, Society of Artisans founded in 1876 by Louis Archambault, Society Saint-Jean-Baptiste and was once member of the A.C.J.C. His favorite sports are: swimming and snowshoe.

Mr. Archambault was single and left at 10659, avenue Péloquin in Montréal.

He got married at Notre-Dame-du-Très-Saint-Sacrement in Montréal on August 6, 1938 to Georgianna Toupin.

Note: in the source text, Conrad is said single man. This text was written in 1937, before its marriage.

Source: OUIMET Raphael, ed, French Canadian Biographies, Thirteenth Edition, Montréal, 1937, 461 p. 149. The text has been reformatted and typographical errors have been corrected.
http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/quebechistory/encyclopedia/conradarchambault.htm

And the work of Conrad Archambault continues still nowadays. Here are some interesting historical elements to be known.

Treasures found in files from Press' clippings
Brief History

Here is what Conrad Archambault wrote in his 1933 report.

“It did take us a few years to realize that to satisfy some demands linking to the history of the past, however, one often had to rely on the newspapers of the time to obtain the required information.”

Conrad Archambault, Annual report from the Municipal Archives, 1933.

In 1933, at the instigation of his superior, Conrad Archambault, the son of Joseph and Alexina Drouin,
Coat of arms, flag and symbols of the City of Montréal

Coat of arms

The Montréal coat of arms was adopted in 1833 by the city councillors of the time. It was modified 105 years later and that version remains in use today. In fact, this crest was the only city emblem until 1981 when a stylized logo was developed. Both the coat of arms and logo now represent Montréal, although traditionally, the crest is reserved for special uses.

“Argent, a cross gules, quartered of the first a fleur de lys azure; of the second a rose gules, stemmed, foliated and pointed vert; of the third a thistle of the same, flory purple; of the fourth, a trefoil of vert, Timbré a beaverouchant on a branch natural. The shield surrounded by a spray of maple leaves vert.”

Form of shield — Following the example of the province, Montréal, whose history and beginnings are identical to it, has adopted the French form of shield.

The field — The field is silver to recall the old coat of arms which was created by the first mayor of Montréal, Jacques Viger.

Heraldic cross — The heraldic cross is emblematic of the Christian motives and principles which governed the founders of the city.

National emblems — The field is quartered to contain four floral designs each of which represents the ethnic origin of the Montréal population in the 19th century.

These emblems are:

- The fleur de lys, of the Royal House of Bourbon. This is shown in the first quarter of the shield and represents the French settlers who were the first to claim the island of Montréal.
- The Lancastrian rose which occupies the second quarter. It stands for the English component of the city’s population.
- The thistle, which is shown in the third quarter, represents those of Scottish descent.
- In the fourth quarter is the Irish shamrock, likewise indicative of the fact that many of Montréal’s early settlers and their descendants are of Irish blood.

The device on the scroll — The motto “CONCORDIA SALUS,” salvation through harmony, is inscribed on the scroll below the crest. This arrangement is also the same as on the arms of the province of Québec arms.

The maple leaves — Montréal’s coat of arms, like that of Québec, is surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves. They are the leaves of the sugar maple (Acer saccharum) and they symbolize the amicable relations between the various elements of the city’s population.

The beaver — Mounted over the shield is a beaver representing the industriousness of Montrealers who have worked to develop our city.

Thanks to Mrs. Josée Salvas planning counselor for the authorization to use the Coat of Arms of the City of Montréal and its description.

December 29th, 1895

first Public Session of the Montréal Literary School

On November 23, 1895, La Presse newspaper announced the founding of the Montréal Literary School. The school’s officers were: Germain Beaulieu, president; Louis-Dominigue de Montigny, secretary-archivist; Jean Charbonneau, correspondence secretary; and W. Dumont, treasurer (replaced several years later by Louis-Joseph Béliveau).

Initially they met monthly, then twice a month, and finally weekly.

In 1897, the following courses in arts and sciences were offered: Botany (E.-Z. Massicotte); Natural History (Germain Beaulieu); Philosophy (Jean Charbonneau); History of Literature (H. Desjardins); Poetry (Joseph Melançon); History of Canada (Georges-A. Dumont); Architecture (Arthur de Bussières); and Esthetics (Albert Ferland).

“The same year, in September 1897, the rumor of a love story became reality, to everyone’s joy! The announcement was made of the marriage between Louis-Joseph Béliveau and a charming young brunette by the name of Bernadette Archambault. He was 23 years of age, and she, 20.

Louis-Joseph Béliveau was well known for several years as a prolific author. Following the romantic tradition, he published his diverse poetry and his prose in Le Monde Illustré (“The Illustrated World”). At the Montréal Literary School, he built a solid reputation for his excellent presentations, his respect for the French tradition, and his practical outlook. It was not by chance that he was given the responsibility of administering the tight budget of the School, as Treasurer. In July 1896, he founded the Librairie Béliveau-Archambault (bookstore), at 1617 Notre-Dame Street, Montréal, later to become the Librairie ancienne et moderne (the Ancient and Modern Bookstore).

“Bernadette Archambault was the daughter of Urgel-Eugène and Azilda-Félonise Robitaille. Urgel-Eugène was the director of the Académie commerciale catholique de Montréal (1859), director and superintendent of the Commission scolaire de Montréal (1873), and one of the founders of the École polytechnique. Urgel-Eugène Archambault was the brother of Louis, founder of the first insurance company in Québec (la Société des artisans canadiens-français, later to become “Les Coopérants”).

“The marriage was performed on September 21, 1897, at Notre-Dame cathedral in Montréal, in the beautiful Sacré-Coeur chapel. Several members of the Montréal Literary School attended the ceremony, including the renowned poet Émile Nelligan.

“Under the circumstances, a wedding gift was certainly called for. The members of the School presented Louis-Joseph with an album, whose pages would be filled with their literary creations. Louis-Joseph took great pride in referring to this gilded black book, right to the end of his life, as his wedding souvenir album. Ten authors provided poetry and prose for the album: Albert Ferland, Jean Charbonneau, Arthur de Bussières, Émile Nelligan, Gustave Comte, Georges-A. Dumont, E.-Z. Massicotte, Henri Desjardins, Germain Beaulieu and Pierre Bédard. This album now serves primarily as a valuable document of the Montréal Literary School as of 1897.

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“By 1900 the School had reached its zenith, and began its decline, with its meet-
ings often drawing only four or five members.

Nonetheless, the School continued for another thirty-three years, though less ac-
tive, becoming more of an intimate academy, but remaining passionate for the
arts, with a certain discrete influence.

Notice of Marriage, October 2, 1897

Our illustrious correspondent, Monsieur L.-J. Béliveau, bookseller, Notre-Dame
Street, having chosen his loving wife, Mademoiselle Bernadette Archambault, daughter of Monsieur Urgel-E. Archambault, director of the catholic school of
the Plateau, gave to her his name and his heart on September 21, in the Sacré-
Coeur chapel of Notre-Dame church.

We wish the young newly-weds tremendous happiness, and hope that Monsieur
Béliveau will continue his beautiful contributions to Le Monde Illustré.

Did you know that…

The French novelist and biographer Henri Troyat published in 1994 a biography of Charles Baudelaire. Troyat tells us that the poet's mother's name was Caroline Archimbaut-
Durays. Lets recall in parentheses that Archimbaul, name formed by the mispronunciation of Archambault, is of the same origin as our surname. Charles's father, a retired officer of the Senate, married his second wife Caroline on Sep-
tember 9, 1819. Charles was born April 9, 1821.

Yves Archambault, the illustrator

Yves, the son of Jean, a painter and a Jazz singer and Lise Proulx\(^1\) was born on September 08, 1958 in Montréal. Yves has been the creator of the posters for the Montréal Jazz Festival for 15 years now.

The President of the Festival who has asked Yves to design a special poster for its' 25th anniversary, had written “we have found an artist who has a very strong notion of what a poster really is”. In 1999, Yves won the Lux trophy of the illustrator of the year.

Gilles Archambault, Chronicler of Jazz

Gilles Archambault, the son of Paul and Colombe Poirier\(^2\) was born on September 19, 1933 in Montréal. Director of the Radio-Canada for more than 25 years, Gilles has a passion for music, and Literature. He hosted many Jazz broadcasts on the radio, and collaborated with reviews, and the press.

Gilles Archambault, the animator, and author, admitted that the Jazz was a part of all of his adolescent years. “As an ado-
lescent, I listened to this music because it had a swing. It was then the style of the great bands such as Glen Miller, and of stars like Duke Ellington. I had the chance of growing up in this musical world since one would let me listen to the records even if they were played 78 times, which they were quite breakable, and one could easily scratch.

“It's a way of rocking, an intelligent and uncompromising way, a taste for jazz at that time,” he said.

Despite of his modesty, all or almost the entire world knows Gilles Archambault. It was taking advantage of the radio, and his passion for Jazz that he had reached fame.