



Les Chabotteries

Association des Chabot

N° 47 Summer 2019

Irène Fournier Chabot, A great lady



*Irène Fournier Chabot with Canada's Governor General,
Ms Adrienne Clarkson, At the Order of Canada Investiture Ceremony,
at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, on May 14 2004*

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☞ Table of contents ☞

Message from the President3

Irène Fournier Chabot, A pioneer of the fransaskois community 4-8

Memories of My Chabot family at Armagh, in the Bellechasse County.9-11

words of Eugenie, my mother¹12-13

Menu du Midi..... 14

Annual general assembly and brunch15

Our next general assembly will be held in Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse16

Message from the President



First, I would like to wish you a very nice and warm summer, full of sunshine. For those who were at the last general meeting, we have recovered, thanks to our generous donors, the Association is

no longer in the red. We have a lot of projects in mind. We will unveil them later. It is time to reserve your place for the next meeting to be held in Saint-Lazare (see pages 14,15 and 16 of this review) in the beautiful region of Chaudière-Appalaches.

We have, I believe, caught up with our database, it is now up to date, we hope. There were some errors that occurred following the death of Jean-Louis. Claudette and Clément contacted all the members to verify the situation. If you notice any errors or problems, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible so that we can correct them.

As you know, there are only four of us managing the association, it is much more difficult to do everything. That's why, I cry out from my heart, we need help if we want the association to continue to exist.

Without your help, the association is in danger. Whether it is with the Board, the writing of the texts, the information and all that relates to the magazine, we need reinforcement. Nobody is obliged to work full time. Only a few minutes of your time could avoid closing your association which is in great danger if we do not have the necessary help. This could be the end of this beautiful dream. If nobody shows up.

We would not like the meal and the general meeting of September 15, 2019 to be the Chabot's last meeting, which could happen if you do not get involved. For my part, I would like to have the opportunity to do more, but I have to make a living. I cannot do more for the moment.

It is with great sadness that I call for help, I join all those who believed in and who put so much energy into the association of the CHABOT.

I think it's time for you to say that you love your association, you have to come forward as soon as possible.

The Chabot are sincerely too proud to let their association die this way.

The Board of Directors wishes a very happy birthday to all their members, their spouses and parents, who have aged (or become younger!) by one year during the last quarter. Good health and long life to you!

The Board of Directors also offers its deepest condolences to those who have lost a loved one.

Irène Fournier Chabot, A pioneer of the fransaskois community



Irène Fournier was born in Montreal on June 25, 1930, during the Great Depression. Her father, Aristide Fournier, was a farmer in Ferland and her mother, Pearl M. Kemp, formerly a teacher, worked with the ladies of Sainte-Anne de Ferland. During the 1960s, Pearl Fournier helped establish the Federation of French-Canadian Women in the Diocese of Gravelbourg. Later, she helped spread the movement in northern Saskatchewan, Alberta and even Manitoba. The influence of her mother would be crucial in Irene's long volunteer journey.

For many French-Canadian women in Saskatchewan, social involvement began first and foremost with the parish: the local club of the Ladies of Sainte-Anne, the Ladies of the Altar (the first female organization founded at Saint-Jean-Baptiste parish in Regina) or another local religious women's organization. Like many of her contemporaries, Irene Fournier Chabot began her social action in her native Ferland parish, before shining on the provincial and national scenes.

Irène Fournier married the love of her life, Alfred Chabot, in Ferland on November 15, 1950. Alfred Chabot, born December 20, 1919 in Ferland, is the second child of a family of 12, son of Joseph Louis Edmond Chabot and Laura Dion, both from St. Claire de Bellechasse, Quebec.

During the 1950s and 1960s, while raising her children, she supported her husband's involvement in various Francophone movements in the province, such as the FCAC, the Association of Commissioners of Franco-Canadian Schools in Saskatchewan (ACEFC), French radio, etc. Like her mother, Irène Fournier Chabot was involved with the Ladies of Sainte-Anne, the League of Catholic Women of the Diocese of Gravelbourg and eventually the Federation of French-Canadian Women.



Journey of loving and strong-willed woman of actions



She joined the directorate of CFRG-AM, the French radio station in Gravelbourg, from 1958 to 1970. She was president of the Ferland School House from 1959 to 1964 and was a member of the Advisory Council of Saskatchewan Community Colleges, Southwest Region.

And then she could be found in various positions within the women's movement, at the local, regional and national levels. From 1973 to 1979, she accepted the positions of vice-president and representative of the four western provinces on the Board of Directors of the Federation of French-Canadian Women, headquartered in Ottawa. She would return as the provincial representative for Saskatchewan from 1987 to 1989.

In 1977, she became the first woman to hold the chairmanship of the ACFC (French-Canadian Catholic Association) of Saskatchewan, succeeding Clotaire Denis. She would hold this position for six years. It would be a period of great transition for the Francophone community in the political arena, with the establishment of the Official Minority Language Office, the beginning of the Mercure affair, the repatriation of the Constitution, the adoption of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the holding of a first referendum in Quebec in 1980. It will also be a period of cultural evolution for the Fransaskois: adoption of the Fransaskois flag, creation of the Fête fransaskoise, etc.



Irène Fournier Chabot would then be the Saskatchewan representative on the Canadian Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, from 1978 to 1981. She would also sit on the Court Challenges Program, from 1985 to 1990, a well-known program of the Fransaskois community, mainly in the education area.



In 1983, she gave up the chairmanship of the ACFC, but she was far from having ended her social involvement in the Fransaskois community. The following year, she accepted the chairmanship of the Collège Mathieu Board of Directors, a position she held for more than ten years. After the school burned down in 1988, she supported the director of the institution, Florent Bilodeau, while it was decided to rebuild in Gravelbourg.

Irène Fournier Chabot was very involved with the Amicale du Collège Mathieu. She kept the alumni database up to date and supervised the publication of the Trait d'Union, the Amicale newsletter.

She would also be found at the first Fransaskois provincial consultation committee for the first Canada-community agreement with the Fransaskois community; volunteer for five years at L'Eau vive (a fransaskois newspaper), chair of the Advisory Committee for the Official Language Minority to the Saskatchewan Minister of Education; member of the Liaison Committee of the Center for Bilingual Studies at the University of Regina; founding member and board member of Télé-Canada; member of the Regina Arts Center Board of Directors, and more.

She was also guardian of the thousands of files of the FFCF (Federation of French-Canadian Women) and she was dreaming of publishing a history about this organization... one maybe dedicated to the memory of her mother, Pearl M. Kemp, the person who had given her a taste for social and community involvement.

Showered with awards



The work of "aunt Irène", as the members of the Fransaskois community liked to call her, was highlighted by numerous honours: Ordre des francophones d'Amérique, in 1982, Order of La Pléiade (Order of the International Assembly of French-speaking Parliamentarians), in 1987, member of the Compagnie des Cent-Associés francophones, in 1992, member of the Order of Canada, in 2004, Order of Merit of Saskatchewan, in 2005...

Irène Fournier Chabot has left her mark in the history of the Francophonie here and in the hearts of those who have had the chance to rub shoulders with it. She deserves a place of honour in the pantheon of Fransaskois leaders.

A great Fransaskoise

Irène Chabot can be considered one of the great figures of the Fransaskois community. Michel Vézina had the opportunity to work with her at the Saskatchewan French-Canadian Cultural Association and then at the Collège Mathieu Corporation.



According to him, she can be defined and remembered according to the following words: involvement, friendship, feminism, faith, education, French language, warm reception, contact with people, team, curiosity.

He will remember this lady who when she came to the offices of the FCAC (Saskatchewan French Cultural Association) in Regina or those of the Collège Mathieu in Gravelbourg, took the time to go around and meet the people who worked there, inquiring about health, family, work, and what was happening.

One of the roles she probably excelled in was coordinating the Collège Mathieu Foundation office. She had all kinds of connections and knew who had passed through Mathieu College. "And it was good because we regularly received visitors, often former students or staff of Collège Mathieu, or their parents, looking for traces of the past. If she did not have the information, she would eventually find it and people would never forget how they had been received.

Since retiring from Ferland, she had been calling us regularly, to be on the cutting edge of French-speaking news and adored it when someone would visit her at home. I will always keep the memory of a great Fransaskois." said Mr. Vézina.



One last homage for this great lady

Members of the Fransaskois community, coming from all over the province to join the family of Irène Fournier Chabot, paid a last tribute to this great Fransaskois, at the St-Jean-Baptiste Church in Ferland on January 29th, 2018.

The members of her family were hardly surprised at this important presence at the funeral. The memory of this mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and aunt, was commemorated in grand style.

"It's very moving to see the impact Grandma had on the community." said one of her granddaughters, Mylène Hopf.

Despite the circumstances, two of her grand-daughters gave her a humorous tribute, telling ten events and lessons in the life of their grandmother. Besides being a big joker, they will remember that she was a great worker. The work had to be done.

After the funeral service, Roger Gauthier, a friend of Irène Fournier Chabot, and new president of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise (ACF), dug into his souvenirs and told an anecdote from the days when he was a director at Radio-Canada.

"Irène was a very involved woman and it was often necessary to interview her. Obviously, when we wanted to do an interview, the director had the responsibility to call her. And Irène, she liked to talk. So, we'd wonder who was going to call her, because we knew that it would take at least half an hour of conversation to get a five-minute interview."



Françoise Sigur-Cloutier, the outgoing president of the ACF, mentioned that it was a duty to honour this Fransaskoisie pioneer. Ms. Chabot has been an example of perseverance and pride for many people she has encountered.

The text was created by Diane Chabot Pard, using fragments from the following sources:

<https://www.francopresse.ca/2018/02/11/irene-fournier-chabot-1930-2018-parcours-dune-femme-de-coeur-de-tete-et-daction/>

<http://www.acielouvert.ca/Actualites/au-revoir-160tante160-irene>

<http://archive.gg.ca/media/doc.asp?lang=f&DocID=4110>

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/bonjour/honours-and-awards/saskatchewan-order-of-merit>

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/805873/ordre-francophones-amerique-fransaskoisie-marie-france-kenny-recipientaire-quebec>

https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC7CKCH_femmes-dinfluence-irene-chabot-canada150?guid=177e35df-f38e-4a4b-93b3-a7024d3f8dbf

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ir%C3%A8ne_Fournier-Chabot

<https://leau-vive.ca/Nouvelles/irene-fournier-chabot-1930-2018-1>

<https://fransaskois.info/deces-de-madame-irene-chabot-n577-t15557.html>

<http://musee.societehisto.com/irene-chabot-n372-t618.html>

<http://www.saskinfojustice.ca/prix-honorifique-mercure/irene-chabot>

Photos : Pierre-Émile Claveau, Eau vive's archives, and several others.



Diane Chabot Pard, member number 9

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Memories of My Chabot family at Armagh, in the Bellechasse



Every summer for a number of years, my father Aime Chabot brought our family to Armagh in the Bellechasse County to visit with his family. We always stayed with my Grandparents for two weeks at the end of August. These were some of the best memories of my life.

My father Aime Chabot, my mother Celine Charlebois and their children: Philip, Paul et Mark

We didn't have a car so we went on the train from Hamilton, Ontario. My father worked for the Canadian National Railway. It took 2 days to get to Armagh

stopping in Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City and finally on the mail run train that stopped at local villages. The conductor always let my brothers and I sit up front in the engine with the Engineer. The last few years we went, we had to travel by bus as the train had stopped running from Quebec City.

My Grandparents Louis Chabot and Anais Therrien Chabot, lived on the main road (Rue. Principale), in the village of Armagh. They had retired from the farm and moved to the village. They both lived long productive lives 91 and 90 years respectively.

My grand-pere was a tall, very rugged and outdoor type of a man. He had a mustache and smoked a pipe. When I close my eyes, I can see him rocking in his chair by the wood stove, pipe in hand, beaming with pride as we tried to talk him with our limited French. He would go for a walk every day around the village and he would take us with him. It was very safe as there were very few cars in the village. A real treat was a stop at the store to buy candy.

My grand-mere Anais Therrien and my grand-pere Louis Chabot

My grand-mere was a tiny thing not much taller than us boys. She was full of energy and always made time for us demanding boys. I'm sure she was sad to see us go after our visit but she probably welcomed the rest as we could be quite demanding of her time.





My favorite time with her was when she would take me out to her big garden out back to help her with her chores. She taught me how to steal the small potatoes from under the plants for our supper. She loved to give us cookies from the jar on the kitchen table.

My grand-mere Anaise Therrien with her grandchildren Philip and Paul

We slept upstairs in one bedroom and my parents slept in the room next. There was a big stuffed owl with its wings out as in flight. My older brother Paul and I loved to look at this magnificent bird but my younger brother Mark was afraid to be in the room by himself. I think it belonged to my uncle Cajetan. He was an avid sportsman and loved to hunt and fish.

My father showed us the potty under the bed and of course we were fascinated and made sure we filled it up every morning. Whenever we stayed with family we always looked under the bed and we were never disappointed, there was always a potty. I didn't know this until later but every morning when we rushed downstairs my Grandfather was always sitting in his chair by the stove. We thought he slept there but he was just on duty making sure the stove was going to keep us little guys warm in the night. It was cool at night in late August.

True to our nature, we explored everywhere and got into mischief daily. There was a pipe rack on the wall in the hallway and of course we took one and took turns pretending we were my Grandfather. One day we found the wood crib and the cold storage under the house. The firewood was dumped in there in a big mess. We threw it all back out and stacked it neatly against the house. Needless to say my grand-pere was a little upset and my father had to put all the firewood back in the cellar. We only wanted to help.

The highlight of our trip was travelling around Bellechasse to visit with my father's family. We didn't have any family in Hamilton so it was very special to us meeting Aunts and Uncles and our cousins. Even though we had limited French speaking and fairly good understanding, we managed to communicate with our cousins and we got on quite well. My favorite place was at my uncle Amable's farm. My father took us fishing in the stream that he fished in as a boy. We caught many little brook trout and my aunt grilled them for our supper. My aunt took us blueberry picking and we were told to watch out for snakes. Being boys, we spent more time hunting for snakes than we did picking berries. My brothers and I loved the farm animals and being able to be up close and even to touch them. We even got to go and get them out in the fields when it was time to milk them. The cows knew when and where to go. I don't think they needed us to get to the barn.

We went to see my Uncles sugar shack, with my father and we always brought a few cans of syrup back home with us. My father remembered where there was a natural spring that he drank from as a boy. We had a drink and it was very cold but good. My brother and I even had a lick from one of those blue salt blocks. It was very salty.

We visited many other villages and farms over the years and met many family members. I loved every minute of our times in Quebec. As I grew older and my Grandparents grew older we didn't travel every summer to visit. My father knew that it was hard on my Grandparents to entertain us for 2 weeks and our family had many other commitments like sports for us boys. These memories are always with me and I feel blessed to have had these experiences.

My father continued to go back to Armagh but mostly for funerals and once when my grand- mere was very sick.

My wife Dorothy and I have stopped at the village twice in the last few years on our way to visit the east coast. We were only there for a short time and I showed her the village and the church. My French language skills are not good so we didn't get to communicate to well.

I will work on my French language skills as we are planning to visit again in the near future.

It is with tears in my eyes that I wrote these memories of the past in Armagh.



Philip Chabot, member 524



No more excuses

All can help, distance is no longer an obstacle with all the media of today, there is the Internet, email, Skype, teleconferencing etc. With new technology, we are all next to each other.

There are many ways to help the Association to talk about what has been accomplished our ancestors lived facts write your families, help us to translate texts, make corrections, contact the Key Chabot, talk about the exploits of your children in all areas and still many other ways.

As you can see Chabot Association can continue to live and grow if it has the assistance of members they love.

The words of Eugenie, my mother¹

A horrifying childbirth

Curious, a little nosy and snooping everywhere, more than once I heard mom mention in a low voice this event (her mother's first) one truly incredible, beyond all likelihood ... She had learned the whole truth, she said, much later, after her marriage, thanks to the late confidences of relatives.

It must have been around 1882, a year after my parents' wedding. Mom², a tiny woman weighing less than 100 pounds (45 kg), was pregnant and was about to give birth. Her pregnancy had not been easy, especially in the last few months when her belly had reached astonishing proportions announcing the arrival of a robust offspring.

When the first contractions were felt, Dad went to get the village midwife and galloped to get the doctor in Sainte-Claire, if I remember correctly. It was a multi-kilometer race that would take him more than two hours. In the meantime, the midwife had prepared all that was needed to facilitate the doctor's task while monitoring the progress of the labour. Seeing the efforts of poor Rose-Délina to swallow her pain, this experienced woman understood that this birth would not be a sinecure. Also, while trying to calm the parturient with words of comfort, compresses and massages, she was eager to see the disciple of Aesculapius arrive³.

Arrived at full speed in his own cabriolet, just behind dad, he hurried to mom's bedside, who was moaning and drenched with sweat. Like the midwife, he immediately knew,



after examining her and checking the baby's progress in the birth canal, that this childbirth, unless a miracle occurred, would inevitably end with the death of the baby or of the mother. At that time, the Catholic religion ordered doctors to "let nature take its course". But few doctors (fortunately for my mother and me!) followed this precept and they acted according to what medicine and their conscience dictated to them. He therefore decided, with the wise help of the midwife, to sacrifice the child, whose survival was unlikely,

and keep the woman alive.

But the subsequent events are barely recountable and, like mother, my belly and my whole body get tense, at the recollection. It's horrible! It makes one sick and draws tears⁴ ... Using a scalpel, it is piece by piece that he cut and removed from the vagina of mother the poor child already dead after long hours of fruitless labour.

Despite all that she had suffered (without anesthesia, probably just a little chloroform), despite her immense pain, she survived and three years later, delivered a girl, Anna. Six other girls followed, the last, Célanire, born in 1900.

Mother, of course, never told us about this event, out of modesty certainly, because at that time, prudery prevented us from addressing these subjects, and also so as not to frighten us, her daughters, ahead of our own marriages and at childbirths.



The family of Marcel Chabot and Rose-Délina Goupil.

Back row: Marcel with Eugénie (1894) on his lap, Anna, the eldest (1885), and Rose-Délina holding Marie-Laure (1897)

Front row: Alphonsine (1890), Félixine (1887) and Albertine (1892)

Missing is Célanire (1900) who was not yet born when the picture was taken.

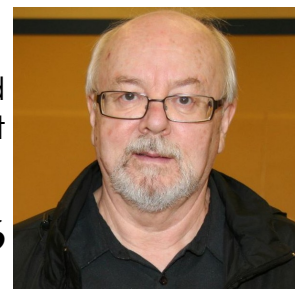
1. Daughter of Marcel Chabot and Rose-Délina Goupil, Eugénie was born in the Petit Buckland rank, at the southernmost end of the parish. She and father were distant cousins and probably had to get a special dispensation to marry in the church.

2. Rose-Délina Goupil, from Saint-Gervais, the neighbouring parish; where the couple's marriage took place on November 8, 1881.

3. If mother mentioned his name, I have forgotten it.

4. I suppose that caesarians were rarely done at the time, if at all. And maybe that in this case, location, facilities and circumstances did not allow for it.

Marcel Chabot, membre n° 96, printemps 2016





Lunch Menu

Soup

Vegetable broth



Salad

Chef's salad

Cabbage salad



Main dish

Marinade

Pork loin

Teriyaki

Beef

Garlic



Vegetables

Baked potato

Various vegetables



Desert

White cake

Chocolate cake

Coulis



Hot beverage

Coffee

Tea



A glass of wine (red or white) will also be offered.

Enjoy your meal!

Annual general assembly and lunch

When:	Sunday, September 15, 2019
Where :	Le Salon des Bâtitseurs 128, rue de la Fabrique Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse, Qc, GOR 3J0
Cost:	35.00 \$ per person Free for children under 12

Program

9 h 30	Reception
10 h	Welcome and visit of Chabot genealogy stands
11 h	Lunch
12 h	Annual General Assembly and elections
14 h 30	Socializing between members – Meeting ends

Reply Coupon (must be sent by September 1st, 2019)

Name _____ Surname _____ Membership _____
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City/town _____
State _____ Postal/Zip _____
Tel. _____ - _____ e-mail _____
Allergies _____
Number of persons : Adults _____ Children under 12 _____
Please return your coupon along with your cheque or money order (to the order of Association des Chabot) to : Association des Chabot 1200, boul. Alphonse-Desjardins CP 46084 Lévis (Québec) G6V 8S3
You may also register online and pay by Paypal. Please consult the Association's website.



Our next general assembly will be held in Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse At the salon des Bâtisseurs



Whether coming from the West or the East on Autoroute 20, take exit 337 toward highway QC-279 (the exit for Beaumont, Saint-Charles and Saint-Damien)

Upon coming to the stop on Avenue Rousseau (QC-279), turn left (if coming from the West) or right (if coming from the East), onto QC-279 S

Follow QC-279 S for 24.5 km

Turn left on Rue Saint-Georges

Drive 700m

Turn right on Rue de la Fabrique

Drive 120m, your destination is on the left hand side

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