



**DIARY**

October 16: **Visits to a cranberry farm, an Armand Vaillancourt exhibit and a chocolate maker!**

November 12: **Film Day (with a special avant-premiere!)**

December 7: **Christmas Lunch at Le Bordelais**

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**NEWSLETTER** VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2 SEPTEMBER 2008

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**SUMMER ON THE RIVER**

*By Colette Gendron*

Last June 26, forty-nine brave Club members and friends showed up fully prepared – hats and caps, salads and sandwiches, drinks and salsa – on the dock in Lachine for a not-too-shabby picnic cruise.

It was sunny that day (believe it or not). Nothing hinted that the calm, comfortably warm day might be the last of the summer. Anyway, we were there to enjoy it!

There was just time for a drink to get in the mood, and we were off! The *Escape* (yes, that was the boat's name) broke the waves of the majestic St. Lawrence for a trip around Lac St-Pierre. We had the ship all to ourselves and it was a perfect outing. We all enjoyed a good dose of fresh air, with pâté and crackers, and a lot of chat. We must admit, however, that some of us came back a little the worse for wear: sore jaws from laughing and talking so much!



**A HERON, A LOON  
– AND GOLF, TOO!**

*By Anthony Kent*

The Atlantide Golf Club is a real oasis in the farmland of Ile Perrot, just to the west of Montreal. The golfers loved the scenic course and the non-golfers relaxed and chatted under parasols on a charming patio. We sat beside a tranquil

lake, with a high fountain sparkling in the sun, enjoying the antics of a graceful blue heron and a hyperactive diving loon.

More than eighty participants, including club members, NFB staff and a generous group of sponsors, enjoyed the excellent buffet dinner. We all applauded the awards to the honorary president of the tournament, **Alex Murdock**, and the successful golfers:

The winning foursome: **Fernand Bélisle, Gilles Deschênes, Gaston Giroux, and Yves Morin**, with a score of 63.

Second place: **Denis Archambault, Lew Browne, Jean Cabral and Marc Lacroix**, with a score of 66.

Third place: **Roger Hart, Sue Gourley, Mike Mitchell and Ginny Stikeman**, with a score of 67.

Highest score (81): **Michael Averill, Alf Gorman, Mike McKennerey and Giles Walker**.

Nearest to the hole: **Raynald Simard**.

A vast array of attractive prizes stretched along the wall on several tables, awaiting selection by the lucky winners of a series of draws. After a delightful day, we reluctantly headed home on a perfect summer night.

Many, many hours of organizing took place behind the scenes and we are all extremely grateful for the excellent planning by the members of the committee - and for the generous collaboration of Lew Browne at the NFB.



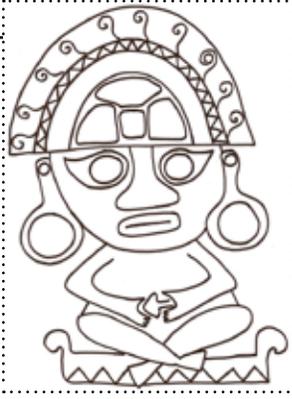
◀ Olmeca, Museum of Anthropology  
▼ Janine at Orizaba

See article on page 2



◀ Photos from the golf day  
▼ ...and from the cruise  
and more photos on page 2 of the french text.





*Part of the series*

## **LIFE AFTER THE NFB**

### **JANINE IN THE LAND OF THE ZAPOTECs\***

*By Colette Gendron*

In June on this year's Club cruise I told Olivier Fougères of my plans to visit Mexico this winter. His response: "Then call Janine Edoïn—she knows Mexico like the back of her hand!" Well, no sooner said than done!

I didn't know Janine that well, but I had a very positive memory of her from when she worked in Human Resources. She had always seemed friendly and willing to listen. I felt perfectly at ease calling her up.

For her retirement, Janine had a cherished dream: to spend each winter down south. And if you're going to dream, you might as well dream big . . . Janine didn't just want to spend half a year in the sun: she saw herself owning and running a B&B. So, armed only with her courage—or was it recklessness?—she sold her house and bought a small apartment in Montreal. Unfortunately, though, the transaction wasn't enough to fund her dream. But did she let that stop her? Not our Janine. She simply redefined her initial idea.

Janine loved the long beaches and sunny skies, but was never one to spend hours broiling in the hot sun. The trick, then, was to find some suitably interesting activity to keep her enjoying the warm climate.

For years before she retired, Janine had taken Spanish classes; and though it had been just for fun, she had acquired a certain fluency. Fast forward to retirement . . . With her interest in foreign languages as keen as ever, she decided it was time to perfect her Spanish. Why not do so on location, as it were? She set about researching language schools and asking her friends for advice, and eventually settled on Oaxaca, Mexico, as her starting point.

She enrolled in classes that offered a range of complementary cultural activities in the afternoons. Not only would this let her put her morning's learning into practice, she would also get to explore different facets of the country. And since she would stay with a host family, she would be guaranteed a real immersion.

Delighted with her first foray, Janine decided to repeat the experience the following year, asking to be billeted with the same family. And that was where it all started. A true bond began to form between Janine and her Mexican hosts, growing stronger with each passing year—to the point where

today, ten years on, she is considered a member of the family. Over time, her circle expanded: she got to know other family members and made friends in Oaxaca. She regularly returns to see them, often for many months at a time, and them in turn come to Montreal. All in all, Janine truly made herself at home with her host family!

In a city like Oaxaca, where cultural activities abound, there's no time to get bored. Janine eventually enrolled in writing workshops and began writing news articles. She has promised to resume the experience this year with a Mexican friend. Who knows: maybe one year, we'll have a chance to see her work . . .

Her friends, both Mexicans and travelling Québécois, constantly invite her on sightseeing trips. By now she has visited many regions of Mexico, including Chiapas, the Yucatan, Querétaro, Puebla, Veracruz and Mexico City. Janine has graciously agreed to share her Mexican favourites with us (see box).

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\*Zapotecs: an indigenous cultural and linguistic group in the mountains of Oaxaca State in Mexico. In the 16th century, prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the Zapotecs had one of the most highly developed cultures of Central America, a region that encompasses Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Today, most Zapotecs live in rural communities scattered over the mountains of Oaxaca, where they continue to uphold many of their pre-Columbian traditions.



#### **ADDRESSES IN OAXACA**

In Oaxaca: Café La Antigua—a good place to relax and have a coffee ([www.cafelaantigua.com.mx](http://www.cafelaantigua.com.mx))

Hotel La Casa de Los Frailes—very well located for seeing the town on foot ([www.casadelosfrailes.com](http://www.casadelosfrailes.com))

If you like mountain hikes, how about trekking in the Sierra Madre? Recommended guide: Carlos Enrique Rivera ([www.trekkinginoaxaca.com.mx/](http://www.trekkinginoaxaca.com.mx/))

## OAXACA IN A FEW WORDS

Oaxaca de Juárez, or more simply Oaxaca, is the capital of the Mexican state of the same name. The region is home to the major Zapotec archaeological sites of Monte Alban and Mitla.

Oaxaca is without a doubt one of Mexico's loveliest cities. Set in a wide valley, it owes its renown to the beauty and harmony of its architecture, its wealth of cultural traditions, its varied local cuisine and—thanks to its geographic location—its year-round pleasant climate.

As with all Mexico's communities, the *zocalo* (central town square) is the heart of the city, and features a bandstand where concerts are given daily.

But it's the Oaxaca market, teeming and colourful, that best expresses the region's personality. Here you can find crafts from all over the state, as well as a huge variety of typical dishes.

The graceful layout of its streets, the harmony of its colonial buildings, plazas, gardens and monuments, the charm that exudes from every corner and the warmth of its residents make Oaxaca an extraordinarily agreeable place to be.

Adapted from *Oaxaca: Archaeology, Colonial Art, Traditions* (Monclém Ediciones)

## A TYPICAL DAY AT THE INSTITUTO CULTURAL OAXACA (ICO)

language school ([www.icomexico.com](http://www.icomexico.com))

9 am to noon: classes based on the student's level (there are six). More advanced students can take literature or film courses.

Noon to 1 pm: group conversation on a given topic

1 pm to 3 pm: free time for lunch, either at a restaurant or with the host family

3 pm to 5 pm: cultural workshops. Each workshop lasts for two weeks and is held from Monday to Thursday. There are many options, including Mexican history, the painters of Oaxaca, and Mexican arts and crafts (food, ceramics, weaving, dance, film and kite-making).

5 pm to 6 pm: a language exchange (*intercambio*) with a local resident—30 minutes of Spanish conversation and 30 minutes of French or English conversation.

Your conversation partner can also accompany you to the nearby villages; you just have to pay for transport and a meal for two.

Friday afternoon: various activities, including lectures on architecture, concerts and musical performances

Saturday and Sunday: excursions to the surrounding villages are available for a modest fee. Destinations include Teotitlán del Valle (weaving/carpets), San Bartolo Coyotepec (Doña Rosa's Oaxacan black pottery), and the ruins of Monte Alban.

## BEST OF MEXICO

By Janine Edoin

**Oaxaca:** the museum of anthropology, ethno-botanical gardens, Santo Domingo church. The corridors and gardens of the Camino Real hotel, a former convent, are also worth a visit—particularly the 'laundry room,' Los Lavaderos. ([www.caminoreal.com/espano/index.html](http://www.caminoreal.com/espano/index.html))

**Puerto Escondido:** for birdwatching, the Chacahua and Manialtepec lagoons.

About 74 km west of Puerto Escondido is the **Parque Nacional Laguna Chacahua**. You can tour the lagoon in a small motor launch, watching the birds that hunt among the mangroves. The bird population is biggest during the winter months, when migratory species arrive from the frozen north.

One of the easiest day trips from Puerto Escondido is the wildlife preserve of **La Laguna de Manialtepec**. This lagoon about 14 km from the center of town is a birder's paradise, with pelicans, hawks, hummingbirds, and spoonbills in the surrounding mangrove forests. Although an inexpensive half-day tour from Puerto Escondido is the most convenient way to visit, you can also drive or take public transportation and hire a boatman to the lagoon's beaches and restaurants.

**Chiapas:** the village of Zinacantán and a visit to the Lacandona forest

**Mexico City:** The museum of anthropology and the Frida Khalo museum in Coyoacan

**The Querétaro region:** the 'magic village' (*pueblo magico*) of Tequisquiapan ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/tequisquiapan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/tequisquiapan))



## NOOKS AND CRANNIES OF THE NET

*A new column in which we share with you curious,  
amusing or unusual Web sites.*

If you like song, especially *old* French-language song, then <http://www.chanteurs.org/> is the site for you. Founded by a young Swiss, this Web radio continuously broadcasts (ad-free!) the works of francophone artists of the past: some you'll know, some you won't. You can also hear or read short bios of each artist.

This site won't win any awards for graphic design...but that's not what it's about. If you need a French synonym, want to broaden your vocabulary or just need to decide between two similar words then visit the dictionary of synonyms at <http://elsap1.unicaen.fr/dicosyn.html>. It's wonderfully easy to use and offers a dazzling array of synonyms as well as definitions. Indispensable.

Ever been on a plane seat near the galley and been kept awake by the flight attendants chatting? Or on a seat constantly jostled by the bathroom lineup? Then you need <http://www.seatguru.com/> This shows you the layout of the main airline companies' various types of planes .

If you've ever visited Rome you may (or may not) have wondered what it looked like when Constantine I was emperor. On this site <http://www.romereborn.virginia.edu/> you'll find a painstakingly assembled digital model of the city on the notional date of June 21, 320. Both photos and videos are offered.

South Africa's most popular cartoon strip is entitled Madam & Eve. Madam is the white employer of Eve, the black "domestic maintenance assistant." Along with other characters in the strip, they give us an idea of everyday life in post-Apartheid South Africa. <http://www.madamandeve.co.za/>

*100 km  
and over contest*

Do you live more than 100 km from the NFB's Montreal offices?

If so, keep an eye on the Club's Web site [www.clubonf.ca](http://www.clubonf.ca) between now and September, because we're devising a contest especially for you!

## ACTIVITIES?

Over the last few months we've held as diverse a series of activities as possible, but we're still on the lookout for more ideas. So let us know if anything comes to mind – garage sales, parachuting, base jumping, a Caribbean cruise... However outlandish your suggestion, we'll welcome it and try to make it happen.

Just e-mail us at [info@nfbclub.ca](mailto:info@nfbclub.ca) or write a letter to the Club mailing address.

Looking forward  
to hearing from you!

## RECENT LOSSES

We mourn the loss of the following Club members:

Allan Palmer, on July 28

John T. Howe, on August 18

## THE CLUB IN NUMBERS

We wondered if you knew that:

- The Club has 260 paid-up members on...
- 3 continents: Europe, America and Oceania and in ...
- 5 countries: Canada, the U.S., New Zealand, France and Great Britain
- 50% of our members live within 100 km of the NFB in Montreal
- ...and in November 2008 the Club will turn 14 years old!

For up-to-date info on our activities, please consult our Web site at <[www.clubonf.ca](http://www.clubonf.ca)>.



Miller, Eric  
 Mireault, Hugette  
 Mitchell, Mikael  
 Kanentakeson  
 Möller, Hans  
 Montagne, Ghislaine  
 Moquin, Henri  
 Morin, Andrée  
 Murchison, Louise  
 Murdock, Alexander  
 Nemtin, Bill  
 Newell, Jackie  
 Noiseux, Colette  
 O'Brien, Patricia

Scott, Cynthia  
 Siegel, Lois  
 Simard, Francine  
 Simpson, David B  
 Spence, Louise  
 Spence, Robert  
 Spencer, Michael  
 Stikeman, Virginia  
 Stoddart, Jarvis  
 Szasz, Eva  
 Tanguay Kappel,  
 Marielle  
 Tasker, Rex  
 Taylor, Anne

## MEMBERS 2008-2009

### THE CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

#### Many thanks to our sponsors!

The Executive Committee would like to sincerely thank Lew Browne, Purchasing Manager, for his highly successful collaboration with the NFB suppliers. Due to their generous contributions, the Club has managed to set aside additional funds for future activities. More specifically, we wish to thank the following sponsors:

Applied Electronics, AVID Technology, BDI Impressions, CEV Inc, CNST PST Inc, CSI Leasing Canada, Datrox Technology, Fuji Photo Film Canada, Global Magnetique, Grand & Toy, Maxell Canada, National Car Rental, Nexcap Finance Corporation, Softchoice, Sono Video, Sony Canada, Support Communication, Techicolour Creatives Services, Telus, Toshiba Canada, Vision Globale et Xerox Canada.

#### *The beginning of the list is on page 6 of the french text.*

Kirk, Patricia  
 Labelle, Jacques  
 Lachapelle, Jean-Pierre  
 Ladouceur, Roland  
 Lafortune, Serge  
 Lanari, Josée  
 Largie, Elaine  
 Laurier, Marylyn  
 Lauzé, Réjeanne  
 Lavoie, Monique  
 Le Floch, Diane  
 Lefebvre, Jean  
 Legault, Ronald (Pete)  
 Lesage, Richard  
 Letourneau, Monique  
 Low, Colin  
 Lussier, Lorraine  
 Lynes, George  
 Maguire, Guy  
 Malacket, Marcel  
 Marcali, Michael  
 Marginson, Karen A.  
 Marion, Huguette  
 Marks, Isobel  
 Martindale, Diane  
 Masaites, Robert  
 Masciotra, Diane  
 Massy, Claude  
 McKennirey, Michael  
 McNabb, Susan  
 Métayer, Lucille  
 Michaud, Richard  
 Millar, David

Ouellette, Lyse  
 Overy, Louise  
 Packwood, Keith M.  
 Palmer, Allan  
 Paquette-Fowler, Réjane  
 Paré, Laurence  
 Parent, Claude  
 Parent, Huguette  
 Patel, Ishu  
 Payette, Linda  
 Payne, Marcelle  
 Pearson, George  
 Pelletier, Claude E.  
 Pelletier-Sirois, Nicole  
 Pétrowski, André  
 Pilon-Marleau,  
 Fernande  
 Plouffe, Jacques  
 Poirier, Anne Claire  
 Polger, David  
 Poulsson, Andreas  
 Provençal, Claire  
 Provost, Marguerite  
 Rainville, Roseline  
 Raymond, Marguerite  
 Renaud, Claire  
 Rennick, Edna  
 Reyes, Betty (Edilberta)  
 Ricard, Jacques  
 Richer, Gabriella  
 Richmond, Terry  
 Rousseau, Venise  
 Roy, Gilles  
 Roy, Hortense  
 Ryan, Terrence  
 Sawyer, Dennis  
 Schieman, Arnold

Teodori, Val  
 Thériault, Frances  
 Thomas d'Hoste, Michel  
 Thomson, Andrew  
 Todd, Rose-Aimée  
 Tonto-Donati, Marie  
 Tougas, Jacques  
 Trecartin, Whitman  
 Tremblay, Gilles  
 Tremblay, Marie-Pierre  
 Trolliet, Philippe  
 Trudel, Doris  
 Trudel, Francine  
 Turcotte-Fortier,  
 Marcelle  
 Turgeon, Mireille  
 Vallée, Maurice  
 Verrall, Robert  
 Vincent, Peter  
 Virgilio, Joseph  
 Virgo, Helen  
 Walker, Giles  
 Weintraub, William  
 Williams, Judy  
 Wilson, James  
 Wong, Germaine Y.G.  
 Wong, Margaret  
 Wynne, Frances  
 Yetman, Chesley