



CHEMINS DU POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES

September 2021

Footsteps in the borough (arrondissement) of **Point-Aux-Trembles** within the city of Montreal, Quebec, of **Jean Beauchamp** my 7th great grandfather.

Footsteps to Point-Aux-Trembles history museum with an amazing set of exhibits that describe the early history of the parish, fort and village.



Parc du Fort-de-Pointe-aux-Trembles

Ce parc est situé à l'emplacement précis où était construit, dès 1674, le fort de Pointe-aux-Trembles qui abritait les premiers bâtiments de la municipalité, dont l'église et son presbytère.



Entretien : 311

Accès interdit de 23 h à 6 h

Fort-de-Pointe-aux-Trembles Park

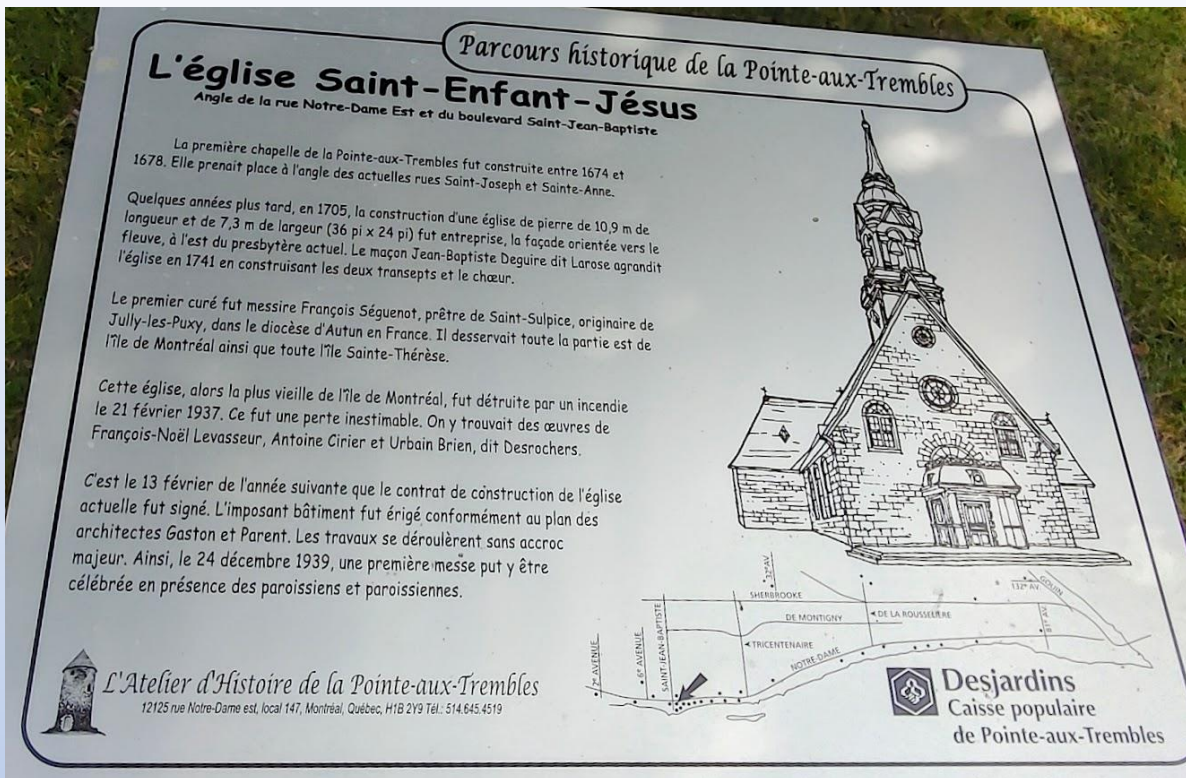
This park is located on the precise site where the Pointe-aux-Trembles fort was built in 1674 and which housed the first buildings of the municipality including the church and presbytery.



SAINT-ENFANT-JESUS-DE-LA-POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES

The present-day church was built during 1938 and 1939 after a fire destroyed the previous church. It was closed when I visited the area.





The corner of Saint Joseph and Sainte Anne streets today.

Saint-Enfant-Jesus Church

Corner of Notre Dame East and Saint-Jean-Baptiste Boulevard

The first church in Pointe-aux-Trembles was built between 1674 and 1678. It was at the corner of Saint Joseph and Sainte Anne streets. Several years later, in **1705**, the construction of a stone church, 36 feet long and 24 feet wide was undertaken, the front facing the river, east of the actual presbytery. The mason Jean-Baptiste Deguire dit Larose enlarged the church in 1741 by building the two transepts and the choir. The first parish priest was Francois Seguenot, Saint-Sulpice priest, originally from July-les-Puxy, in the dioceses of Autun, France. He served all eastern part of Island of Montreal and all of Sainte-Therese Island. This church then the oldest on the Island of Montreal was destroyed by fire on February 21, 1937. It was a priceless loss. The works of Francois-Noel Levasseur, Antoine Cirier and Urbain Brien dit Desrochers were lost. The following year on February 13, the construction of the current church was started. The imposing building was erected according to the plan of architects Gaston and Parent. The work progressed without a major hitch. Thus, on December 24, **1939**, the first mass was celebrated in the presence of the parishioners.



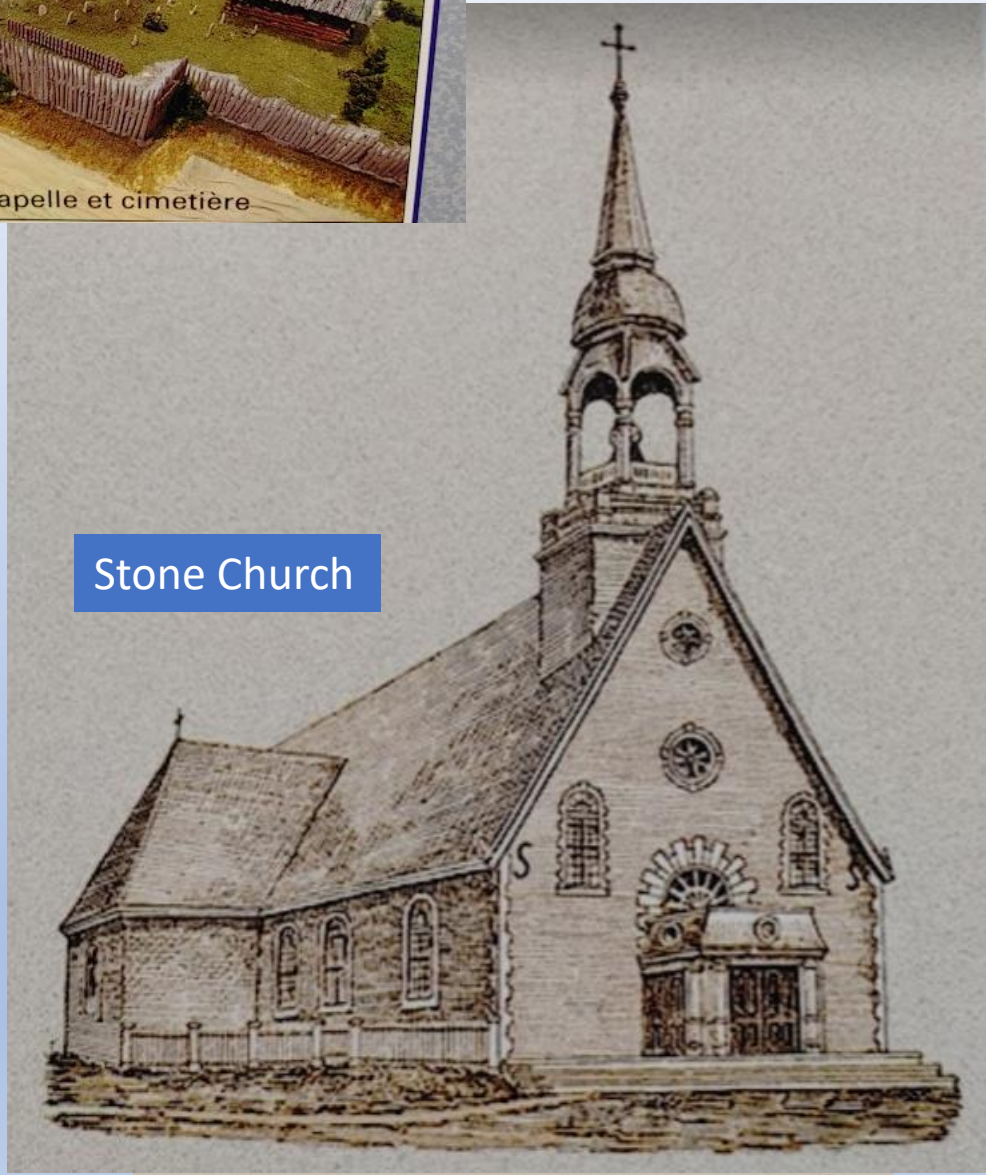
Chapel in the fort

EGLISE SAINT-ENFANT-JESUS

And my family history

There was a chapel in the fort built 1674 to 1678, then a stone church as built between 1705-1710. It was enlarged in 1741. Here is a partial list of the significant events for my ancestry that took place in the parish church:

- 22/11/1676 Baptism Jean Beauchamp –Pierre’s older brother –my 7th great uncle
- 27/07/1679 Baptism Pierre Beauchamp –my 7th ggf
- 1684 Wedding Francoise (G1) Hurteau + Antoine Monet
- 22/06/1686 Baptism Francois Beauchamp –Pierre’s younger brother –another 7th great uncle
- 1691 Baptism Anne Monet my 8th ggm
- 1699 Wedding Pierre Beauchamp my 7th ggf + Angelique Leclerc
- 1700 Burial Jean Beauchamp my 8th ggf
- 1708 Wedding Anne Monet my 8th ggm + Jacques Fisseau
- 1712 Baptism Jean Baptiste Beauchamp my 6th ggf
- 1723 Baptism Marie Louise Ficheaux my 7th ggm



Stone Church

Église Saint-Enfant-Jésus, 1705-1710



The former Convent of the Congregation of Notre-Dame –it has been converted to the Municipal Hall. It is located beside the church



THE MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS LEGACY in POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES.

It is likely that the children of my ancestors Jean Beauchamp and Jeanne Loiselle were taught by the sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame.

Vers 1678, Marguerite Bourgeoys (1620-1700) envoie à Pointe-aux-Trembles deux Sœurs de la Congrégation pour instruire les petites Pointelières. En 1690, une école en bois y fut construite avec une croix en fer forgé dont nous présentons ici la copie.

Les Sœurs y enseignèrent jusqu'en 1975 soit pendant 297 ans.

Around 1678, Marguerite Bourgeoys (1620-1700) sent two sisters of the Congregation to Pointe-aux-Trembles to teach the little Pointelières. In 1690, a wooden school was built with a wrought iron cross, a copy of which we present here. The sisters taught there until 1975, that is 297 years.



THE MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS LEGACY in POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES.

At Pointe-aux-Trembles there is a parc and a school named after Marguerite. My ancestress Jeanne Loiselle is also named as one of her first students in the very first school that Marguerite established in Ville Marie (Montreal). On the far left is a picture of the Marguerite Bourgeoys Park. Adjacent to the Park there is a school named after her.



THE POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES WINDMILL



Left: The Pointe-aux-Trembles windmill, it has been restored. It is only open to the public during the weekends (I visited on a Thursday). Directly above: This is a cut-out model viewed at the Pointe-aux-Trembles History Museum. Above and to the right: This is the view of the St. Lawrence river from the Windmill site. Photos taken on September 9, 2021.



The History Museum is located at 12125 Notre Dame Street (in Pointe-aux-Trembles).

To the right is a picture of the model of the Fort of Pointe-Aux-Trembles in 1693.

At the workshop there were many, many interesting storyboards about the early history of Pointe-Aux-Trembles, which I have summarized in the following slides.



Maquette du fort de la Pointe-aux-Trembles en 1693, par Claude Belzil
Atelier d'histoire de la Pointe-aux-Trembles



Musée d'histoire de la Pointe-aux-Trembles



This is the model (maquette) of the Fort viewed at the Pointe-aux-Trembles History Museum on September 9, 2021.



LOCATION OF LOTS WITHIN THE FORT THAT WERE GRANTED TO MY 8th GREAT GRANDFATHER JEAN BEAUCHAMP

Bazinet dit Tourblanche, Antoine I (1693) 34; (1705) 37
Bazinet, Joseph I (1712) 41; (1713) 38; (1723) 47
Bélisle dit Lamarre, Henri (1720) 14; (1727) 17
Beauchamp, Jacques I, Marie Dardenne (1693) 8; (1693) 19
Beauchamp, Jacques II (1712) 40; (1713) 54
Beauchamp, Jean I (1693) 23; (1693) 29; (1697) 30
Beauchamp Pierre I et Jacques II (1694) 8; (1697) 27
Beauchamp, Pierre I (1698) 42; (1712) 14; (1694) 19; (1709) 22; (1718) 52
Beaudry, Louis (1697)... 27
Beaudry, Toussaint I (1693) 18; (1693) 31
Beaudry, Toussaint II (1698) 5; (1728) 39

Attached to the model of the Fort Pointe-aux-Trembles was a list of names, dates, and lot numbers for land concessions granted to the habitants. I took a picture of the Beauchamp listings. Jean Beauchamp was granted lots 23 and 29 in 1693 and lot 30 in 1697. (I had found the notary records previously). Here are details for lot 29 and 30.

THE FORT MODEL with LOT 23 (top), LOTS 29 and 30 (bottom) highlighted



Close up for lots 29 and 30

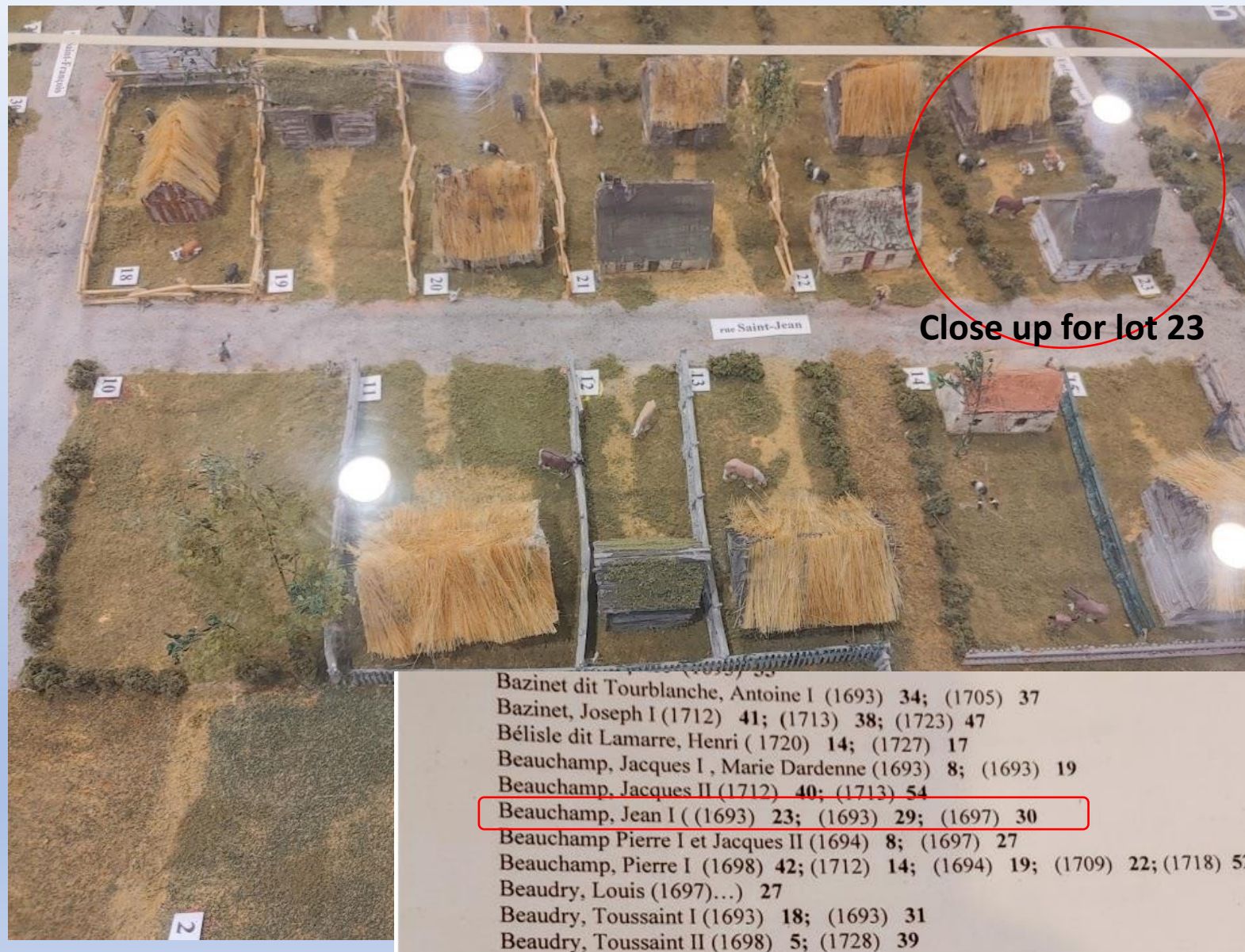
LOCATION OF LOTS WITHIN THE FORT THAT WERE GRANTED TO MY 8th GREAT GRANDFATHER JEAN BEAUCHAMP



THE FORT MODEL with LOT 23 (top), LOTS 29 and 30 (bottom) highlighted

Review of the Beauchamp names listed at right:

Two brothers Jacques I and Jean I were French-born pioneers who came to New France in the 17th century. Note that lot 8 originally granted to Jacques I is also shown as granted to Pierre I and Jacques II—shows the succession in the family, as Jacques I died in 1693. And lot 19 also shows as being granted to Jacques I and then to Pierre I. Both Jacques I and Jean I had sons named Pierre—it is reasonable to assume that the Pierre listed here is the son of Jacques I—he was born, married and died on L'Île de Montreal—whereas Pierre I son of Jean I and who is my 7th great grandfather moved from the island to Lachenaie.



LE FORT DE LA POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES, ANNÉES 1690



Le premier presbytère qui servait aussi d'école pour les garçons.
SOURCE: Musée de la Pointe-aux-Trembles et du Coulee Grou, Musée de la Pointe-aux-Trembles et du Coulee Grou



Le premier couvent des Sœurs de la Congrégation de Notre-Dame.
SOURCE: Musée de la Pointe-aux-Trembles et du Coulee Grou, Musée de la Pointe-aux-Trembles et du Coulee Grou

VOIR L'ENSEMBLE DE CETTE MAQUETTE DERRIÈRE VOUS



Traces de pieux de la palissade



Le choix stratégique de la fondation de la Pointe-aux-Trembles
1669 - 1674



Le village se développe peu à peu mais c'est surtout en raison du massacre de Lachine (1689), de la bataille de la Coulee Grou en 1690 (12 habitants sont tués) et des attaques des Iroquois en 1691 à la Pointe-aux-Trembles où les Iroquois y brûlèrent une trentaine de maisons et de granges, que la décision est alors prise de construire un fort.

En 1693, le fort est non seulement terminé mais la fabrique concède 39 terrains répartis sur 5 rues dans le fort pour permettre aux colons autour du bourg de s'y réfugier. Le futur boulevard Saint-Jean-Baptiste porte le nom de la rue Saint-Jean. (La Place du village retiendra ce tracé de rue dans son aménagement).

Deux chemins sont parallèles au fleuve, soit les rues Saint-François (aujourd'hui Bellerive) et l'Enfant-Jésus (aujourd'hui Saint-Joseph). Trois chemins, perpendiculaires au fleuve, porteront le nom de rue Saint-Jean (aujourd'hui Saint-Jean-Baptiste), Sainte-Anne et du Cimetière (aujourd'hui 9^e Avenue). On y trouvait des maisons, des granges ou des étables construites en bois, érigées à la hâte et de piètre qualité.

On obtient donc un noyau de population plus dense en mesure d'assurer sa propre défense.

La Fabrique achètera le reste de la terre de Jean Raynaud dit Blanchard pour y construire un presbytère (près de l'emplacement actuel du presbytère).

En 1684, on ouvre l'école pour les garçons dans le presbytère. Le premier maître laïc fut François de la Bernarde.

En 1690, le presbytère est refait en pierre et c'est également en 1690 l'arrivée des Sœurs de la Congrégation de Notre-Dame qui ouvrent l'école pour les filles (près de la future église de 1710).

Claude Belzil, conservateur
Atelier d'histoire de la Pointe-aux-Trembles.



Palissade simple



LE TRACÉ DU FORT
D'APRÈS LA MAQUETTE
HYPOTHÈSE DE SÉVERIN SUR
LES SÉQUESTRÉS DE LA MAQUETTE
STROBOSCOPIQUE

Le Fleuve Saint-Laurent

HISTORY OF THE FORT (translated)

The village developed little by little, but it was due to the massacre of Lachine (1689), the battle of the Coulee Grou in 1690 (12 inhabitants were killed) and the attacks of the Iroquois in 1691 at Pointe-aux-Trembles or the Iroquois burnt down about thirty houses and barns there, and the decision was then taken to build a fort. In 1693, the fort is not really finished but officials concede 39 sites spread over 5 streets in the fort to allow settlers around the town to take refuge there. The future boulevard Saint-Jean-Baptiste bears the name of rue Saint-Jean. (The Place du village will retain this street mark in its arrangement).

Two streets run parallel to the river, namely rue Saint-François (today Bellerive) and rue l'Enfant-Jésus (today Saint-Joseph). Three paths, perpendicular to the river, will bear the name of rue Saint-Jean (today Saint-Jean-Baptiste), Sainte Anne and Cemetery (today 9th Avenue). There were houses, barns or stables built in wood, erected hastily and of poor quality.

We therefore obtain a denser population core able to ensure its own defense.

Officials will buy the rest of the land from Jean Raynaud dit Blanchard to build a presbytery (near the current location of the presbytery).

In 1684, the school was opened for boys in the presbytery. The first lay master was Francois de la Bernarde.

In 1690, the presbytery was rebuilt in stone, and it was also in 1690 the arrival of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame who opened the school for girls (near the future church of 1710)

Claude Belzil, curator
History workshop of Pointe-aux-Trembles

AN EXTRACT FROM THE DISPLAY BOARD "LA COLONIZATION"

Here is an explanation of the approach to housing the early settlers of New France took.

LES PREMIÈRES CONSTRUCTIONS

Tout en défrichant et cultivant les terres, les premiers habitants se hâtent de construire leur propre abri : une modeste cabane de bois rond.

Elle est remplacée peu après par une maison pièces sur pièces en bois, plus confortable.

Lorsqu'ils en ont les moyens, les habitants la substituent pour une maison en pierre, plus solide et durable, qu'ils pourront transmettre à leur descendance.



La modeste cabane en bois rond

La maison pièces sur pièces en bois

La maison durable en pierre

ILLUSTRATIONS : Maurice Day

UN ENDROIT FRÉQUENTÉ DEPUIS DES MILLÉNAIRES !

Cette première phase d'occupation du territoire par les colons français peut sembler lointaine, mais elle ne doit pas faire oublier que Pointe-aux-Trembles a été fréquentée depuis bien plus longtemps... En effet, des fouilles archéologiques dans le Parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies (en bordure du fleuve près de la 67e avenue) ont permis de retrouver des vestiges de présence amérindienne préhistorique remontant à plus de 4000 ans !

D'autres fouilles à la Plage de l'Est, près de la 99e avenue, ont révélé la présence d'Iroquois il y a plus de 2400 ans.

THE FIRST BUILDINGS

While clearing and cultivating the land, the first inhabitants set about building their own houses: a modest log cabin.

It was soon replaced by a more comfortable wooden house.

When they could afford it, the inhabitants substituted it for a more solid and durable stone house, which they could pass on to their descendants.



La modeste cabane en bois rond

La maison pièces sur pièces en bois

La maison durable en pierre

ILLUSTRATIONS : Maurice Day

A modest log cabin

A wooden house

A stone house

A PLACE THAT HAS BEEN USED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS!

This first phase of occupation of the territory by the French settlers may seem long, but it should not make us forget that Pointe-aux-Trembles has been frequented for much longer... In fact, archaeological digs in the Pointe-aux-Prairies Nature Park (in the brochure of the fire near 67th Avenue) have revealed remains of prehistoric Native American presence dating back over 4000 years!

Other excavations at the beach to the east, near 99th Avenue, have revealed the presence of Iroquois over 2400 years ago.

LA VIE QUOTIDIENNE DANS LE FORT



Rue Bellerville et Saint-Jean-Baptiste



Dégagement des vestiges du XVIII^e et XIX^e siècles en bordure de l'ancienne rue Saint-Jean.



Fouille du dépôt d'artefacts du milieu du XVIII^e siècle.

En 1693, 16 des 36 lots concédés à l'intérieur de la palissade accueillent une maison, une étable ou une grange. Une quarantaine d'années plus tard, outre les propriétés de la Fabrique et de la Congrégation Notre-Dame, on y trouve 39 habitations ou lots sur lesquels sont réparties 19 maisons, dont deux en pierre, et deux granges.

Les témoins de la vie quotidienne dans le fort proviennent principalement de l'ancienne rue Saint-Jean et de ses abords immédiats.

Les graines ont été extraites de latrines présentes au coin sud-ouest des rues Saint-Jean et Bellerville au dernier tiers du XVIII^e siècle; il s'agit de graines de céréales, de fruits comestibles et de plantes herbacées représentant 36 taxons.

Martin Royer, archéologue, ethnoscope

DAILY LIFE IN THE FORT

In 1693, 16 of the 36 lots inside the palisade were used for a house, a stable or a barn. Forty years later, in addition to the properties of the lords and the Congregation Notre Dame, there were 39 inhabitants or lots on which 19 houses, two of which were made of stone, and two barns were distributed.

The evidence of daily life in the fort comes mainly from the old rue Saint-Jean and its immediate surroundings.

The seeds were extracted from the latrines at the southwest corner of Rue Saint-Jean and Rue Bellerville in the last years of the 18th century; they consist of cereal seeds, edible fruits and herbs representing 36 taxa.

DÉVELOPPEMENT DU BOURG 1700-1775



Mur de facade de l'église, 1705-1710.



Église Saint-Enfant-Jésus avant 1890, située face au fleuve.



On consolide le bâti du bourg.

En 1705, on construit l'église en pierre face au fleuve dont la construction sera terminée en 1710.

Dès 1709, on ouvre le 2^e cimetière situé à l'est et à l'arrière de la nouvelle église.

En 1719, on construit en pierre le deuxième moulin à vent, plus à l'ouest en dehors du fort, le premier étant rendu inutilisable en raison de la crue des eaux au printemps.

En 1725, le fort est agrandi vers le nord (près de la rue Notre-Dame).

En 1730, le chemin du Roi relie Pointe-aux-Trembles à Ville-Marie.

On développe aussi des services d'hébergement et de bacs; on trouve un marchand, un chirurgien, deux forgerons, un cordonnier, un tailleur d'habits, un notaire, une sage-femme.

En 1731, Nicolas Desroches et Jacques Chalifoux construisent leurs maisons en pierre.

C'est en 1749 que débute la construction en pierre du 2^e couvent de la Congrégation de Notre-Dame qui sera terminé en 1754.

En 1763, c'est la fin du Régime français et le début du Régime anglais.

En 1775, il n'y a plus de trace du fort. C'est donc dire que le fort, créé pour loger les cultivateurs contre les attaques des Iroquois, fait maintenant place à un noyau villageois constitué d'artisans et de professionnels offrant des services à la population rurale environnante.

Claude Belzil, conservateur,
Atelier d'histoire de la Pointe-aux-Trembles

Consolidating the building of the borough 1700-1775

In 1705, a stone church was built facing the river, which was completed in 1710.

In 1709, the second cemetery was opened, situated to the east and behind the new church.

In 1719, a second windmill was built in stone, further west of the fort, the first one having been rendered unusable due to the spring flooding.

In 1725, the fort was enlarged to the north (near Notre-Dame Street).

In 1730, the Chemin du Roi was built between Pointe-aux-Trembles and Ville Marie. (Montreal)

We are also developing accommodation and ferry services; there was also a merchant, a surgeon, two blacksmiths, a shoemaker, a tailor, a notary and a mid-wife.

In 1731, Nicolas Desroches and Jacques Chalifoux built their stone houses.

In 1749, the construction of the second convent of the Congregation of Notre-Dame began and was completed in 1754.

In 1763, it is the end of the French Regime and the beginning of the English Regime.

In 1775, there is no trace of the fort anymore.

This means that the fort, created to house farmers against Iroquois attacks, is now replaced by a new village of artisans and professionals offering services to the surrounding rural population.

AN EXTRACT FROM THE DISPLAY BOARD “LA FONDATION DE LA POINT-AUX-TREMBLES”

This is an informative outline of the history of the Pointe-aux-Trembles from its founding to 2002 when it becomes a borough.

Pointe-aux-Trembles tient son nom d'une bande de terre, recouverte de peupliers trembles, qui s'avancait dans le fleuve au bout de la rue Sainte-Anne.

C'est en 1669, à la pointe aux trembles et en 1671 au bout-de-l'île, que les Sulpiciens concèdent les premières terres sur l'île de Montréal, deux endroits stratégiques pour assurer la défense de l'île. En 1671, on construit un premier moulin à vent et c'est en 1674 qu'est fondée la paroisse de l'Enfant-Jésus de la Pointe aux-Trembles. Un deuxième moulin à vent remplacera en 1720 le premier moulin après 40 ans de résistance aux débâcles du printemps.

Pointe-aux-Trembles connut une perte importante de son patrimoine bâti dans le cœur du village à la suite des incendies de 60 maisons et bâtiments en 1912, du couvent des Sœurs de la Congrégation Notre-Dame en 1922 et de l'église Saint-Enfant-Jésus (la plus vieille église de Montréal) en 1935.

On y retrouvait un pôle important de maisons d'enseignement : le couvent des Sœurs de la Congrégation de Notre-Dame 1690-1975, l'Académie Roussin 1915-1983, l'institut français évangélique 1846-1971 et l'École de puériculture de la Crèche Saint-François-d'Assise 1949-1969.

Grâce à son accès unique au fleuve Saint-Laurent, Pointe aux-Trembles a mis en valeur sa vocation agricole jusque dans les années 1950 de même que celle de villégiature. Notre communauté pointelière connaîtra successivement la vie de paroisse, de village puis de ville et choisira d'être annexée en 1982 à la Ville de Montréal. En 2002, Rivière-des-Prairies-Pointe-aux-Trembles sont regroupés en arrondissement.

Pointe-aux-Trembles got its name from a strip of land, covered with aspen trees, which extended into the river at the end of Sainte-Anne street.

It was in 1669, at Pointe-aux-Trembles and in 1671 at the tip of the island, that the Sulpicians granted the first land on the island of Montreal, two strategic locations to ensure the defense of the island. In 1671, the first windmill was built and in 1674, the parish of Enfant-Jesus was founded in Pointe-aux-Trembles. A second windmill replaced the first one in 1720 after 40 years of resistance to springtime disasters.

Pointe-aux-Trembles saw an important addition to its built heritage in the heart of the village following the burning of 60 houses and buildings in 1912, the convent of the Sisters of the Notre-Dame Congregation in 1922 and the church of Saint-Enfant-Jesus (the oldest church in Montreal) in 1935.

There was an important teaching center: the convent of the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame 1690-1975. The Academe Roussin 1915-1983. The Institut Francais Evangelique 1846-1971 and the Ecole de puericulture de la Creche Saint-Francais-d'Assise 1949-1969.

Thanks to its unique access to the St. Lawrence River, Pointe-aux-Trembles was able to develop its agricultural vocation until the 1950s, as well as its vocation as a rural community. Our Pointe-aux-Trembles community lived successively as a parish, a village and then as a city and chose to be annexed to the City of Montreal in 1982. In 2002, Riviere-des-Prairies-Pointe-aux-Trembles became a borough.



POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES TODAY

Looking north along Boulevard Saint Jean Baptiste (September 2021.)



Above: The location of the fort is outlined in yellow on the present-day streets within Pointe-aux-Trembles.

LES 4 CIMETIÈRES

- 1^{er}: 1678-1709, entre les rues Sainte-Anne et 9^e avenue d'une part, et Saint-Joseph et Notre-Dame.
- 2^e: 1709-1843, à l'Est et au Nord de l'église de 1705, derrière le couvent (Maison du citoyen)
- 3^e: 1843-1912, à l'emplacement de l'église actuelle de Saint-Enfant-Jésus, Notre-Dame et Saint-Jean-Baptiste.
- 4^e: 1912, au nord de la voie ferrée jusqu'à la rue René-Lévesque, et entre le boulevard Saint-Jean-Baptiste et la 12^e avenue.

CEMETERIES PAST & PRESENT

Far Left: Extract from display viewed at Pointe-aux-Trembles History museum. Outlines the dates and locations for the 4 cemeteries. The first two were located within the fort.

Middle: The first cemetery location within the fort.

Below: The present-day cemetery location viewed September 2021.

Far right: Signage for present-day cemetery.



Maquette du fort de la Pointe-aux-Trembles en 1693 (détail) et l'emplacement du premier cimetière, par Claude Belzil.

