

In the Footsteps of LOUIS HÉBERT and MARIE ROLLET 1617-2017 WALKING PATH IN OLD QUÉBEC

Louis Hébert
et Marie Rollet
400^e
anniversaire
de l'arrivée à Québec
de la première famille française
1617-2017



Société historique de Québec

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***The path begins on the
Terrasse Pierre-Dugua-De Mons,
Avenue Saint-Denis, Québec.***

1 Louis Hébert in Acadia

Before settling in Québec City, Louis Hébert made two trips to Acadia, where Pierre Dugua de Mons had founded a colony. The bust that has adorned this terrace since 2007 is a replica of the one that was previously displayed in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.

After having been named Lieutenant General of New France in 1603, Dugua de Mons was determined to found a permanent colony in Acadia, which would in turn allow him to have a monopoly over the fur trade. His first attempt at a settlement on Sainte-Croix Island was moved to Port-Royal (Annapolis Royal) the following year.

In 1606, Jean de Biencourt, dubbed de Poutrincourt, became the colony's commanding officer. He brought a few craftsmen along with him, as well as a Parisian apothecary named Louis Hébert.

Born in 1575, Louis Hébert was the product of Nicolas Hébert's marriage with Jacqueline Pajot, who orphaned him in 1580. After studying for five years, he became an apothecary, like his father, and practiced his craft in Paris, where he married Marie Rollet (1580-1649) in 1601. In 1606, Dugua de Mons hired him to work in his Acadian colony. This is where Hébert made the acquaintance of Samuel de Champlain. His first trip was cut short, however, as the monopoly over the fur trade was revoked in 1607 and the colony was abandoned.

In 1611, Hébert returned to Port-Royal along with Poutrincourt, who went back to Europe the following year, leaving his son in charge of the colony. In 1613, Port-Royal was destroyed by Samuel Argall, an English naval officer; Hébert was thus forced to return to France.

During his time in Acadia, Hébert would tend to the health of his fellow settlers, as well as Indigenous people, including one of their chiefs, Membertou. According to Marc Lescarbot, who wrote about the history of New France, "Hébert loved to till the earth" and he tried to cultivate vines. Hébert was a founding member of the Ordre de Bon Temps (the Order of Good Cheers), which held gastronomical banquets and was a source of entertainment in the small colony.



Bust of Pierre Dugua de Mons. [WIKIMEDIA COMMONS-CHRISTOPHE FINOT](#)



Walk down to the Terrasse Dufferin by following the path that begins near the monument or by taking Rue de la Porte and Rue Sainte-Geneviève; walk to the northern edge of the terrace, near the Monument Samuel-De Champlain.

2 Louis Hébert in Québec City

Québec City's Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste was behind the initiative to erect this monument, which was unveiled on September 21, 1898. It serves as a reminder that Samuel de Champlain founded Québec City on July 3, 1608, at the request of Pierre Dugua de Mons, who had regained a monopoly over the fur trade.

Champlain spent the winter of 1616-1617 in Paris looking for people who could help him further establish his colony, and was able to offer Louis Hébert an interesting contract. The fur trading company hired Hébert as an apothecary, and he and his family were offered room and board while the site was being cleared for the colony. Hébert sold his real estate holdings in Paris and set out for Honfleur with his family in tow. Upon their arrival, the Hébert family and their servant found themselves in a situation that was less advantageous than had been anticipated, but they still boarded a ship on March 11, 1617, along with Champlain, François Gravé du Pont and Father Joseph Le Caron.

The ship, *Le Saint-Étienne*, arrived in Tadoussac on June 14 and the Hébert family reached their destination in July.

The following year, Champlain noted that the results of Hébert's efforts in tilling the earth were readily apparent.

All over the region that was later named Sault-au-Matelot, there soon were grain fields aplenty, along with gardens and an orchard made up of apple trees that had been imported from Normandy.



Samuel de Champlain Statue.
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS-JEAN GAGNON



Go down toward the Parc Montmorency via the Frontenac stairs and the Porte Prescott or via Rue du Fort and Rue Port-Dauphin, and walk to the northern edge of the park, near the Monument Louis-Hébert.

3 Louis Hébert, Farmer

This monument was erected under the patronage of Québec City's Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste and unveiled on September 3, 1918, in front of City Hall, and was reconstructed in 1977 at this location, which is among the properties that once belonged to Louis Hébert.

Champlain described Hébert as “the first head of a family living in this country to live off his own crops.” This is why the artist chose to portray him atop this monument, sickle in hand, raising a fistful of wheat to the sky.

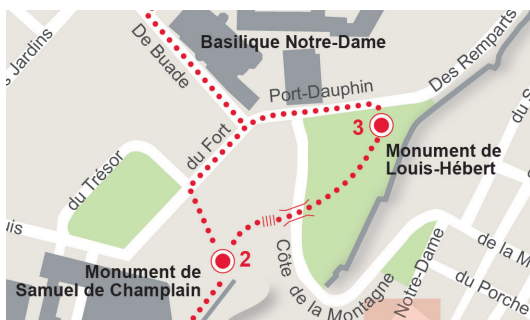


Monument Louis-Hébert.
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS-JEAN GAGNON

The monument also includes a sculpture representing Hébert's wife, Marie Rollet, who is seated with a book in her hands, along with their three children, Anne [1602-1619], Marie-Guillemette [1608-1684] and Guillaume [1614-1639].

Her son-in-law, Guillaume Couillard (approx. 1588-1663), is on the left, leaning on his plow, an agricultural tool that he was the first to use in New France.

Behind the monument, a bronze plaque commemorates the 47 couples who were considered to be the “first settlers of Québec City.”



Follow Rue Port-Dauphin, turn right on Rue Buade, take another right at the basilica and turn right once again to enter the Seminary of Québec yard.

4 The Hébert-Couillard Home

The Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec and the Seminary of Québec were built on Louis Hébert's land, which was shared between his widow, his son Guillaume and his daughter, Guillemette, after his death. Guillemette and her husband, Guillaume Couillard, eventually inherited the land in its entirety, and when Guillemette became a widow, she sold the land on which the Seminary stands to Monseigneur de Laval, Québec City's first bishop.

Archeological excavations that took place in 1991 and 2002 uncovered the foundations of the Couillard home, whose perimeter can be seen in the Seminary's backyard, known as *la cour des Petits* [the yard for the little ones]. The house consisted of two square foundations that were built at different times. The first section was more rudimentary, its walls done in half-timber work, while the other, which was more recent and better adapted to the climate, was built with interconnected rooms. Among the artifacts found by the archeologists was an apothecary's weight, which would suggest that the older part was Louis Hébert's first house.



Remnants of the Couillard home.
ARCHIVES DE LA VILLE DE QUÉBEC



Return to the front of the basilica, follow Rue Sainte-Famille all the way to the Sainte-Famille/Hébert/Couillard intersection.

5 Place Names that Reference the Hébert-Couillard Family

Rue Hébert has been known as such since 1876; when it was originally created in 1822, it was named Rue Saint-Georges.

Rue Couillard could be found on a map dating back to 1709, but it did not yet bear this name. It was known as Rue Saint-Joachim until 1876.



Having arrived in New France around 1613, Guillaume Couillard was one of its first permanent settlers. In 1621, he married Guillemette Hébert, and it is mostly thanks to this couple that Louis Hébert, known as “the French colony’s Abraham,” can be found in the genealogy of almost every one of the first families to settle in Québec. After being given a title of nobility in 1654, Louis Hébert’s son-in-law became known as *sieur de Lespinay*.

Guillaume Couillard Statue.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS-JEAN GAGNON



***Follow Rue Couillard to Rue Saint-Flavien
and continue on to Rue des Remparts
and the Montcalm Bastion.***

6 Death of Louis Hébert, His Titles and Succession

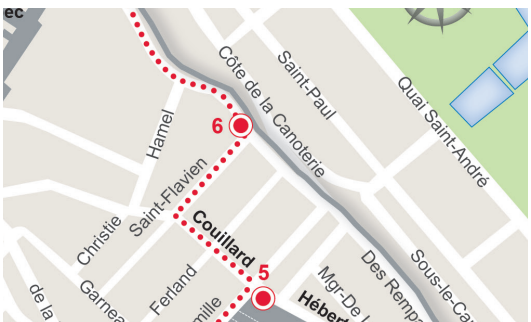
In February, 1626, the Hébert property was designated as feudal land and became known as the *fief du Sault-au-Matelot*. Hébert thus became the first Canadian Lord. A few days later, he was also granted another seigniory known as Lespinay, which was located near the Saint-Charles River and the convent of the Récollets, a mendicant Catholic religious order known today as the Franciscans.

Hébert was not able to enjoy his new status for long, as he died in January of 1627. After being buried in the Récollets cemetery, he was exhumed in 1678, but it is unknown whether he was reburied in the Récollets church (which is now part of the Hôpital général de Québec) or elsewhere in Québec City's Upper Town.

Marie Rollet married Guillaume Hubou on May 16, 1629, a few weeks before the Kirke brothers captured Québec City. Marie and her family (including her son Guillaume, her daughter, and her son-in-law) followed Champlain's advice to remain in the colony. Two young Indigenous girls who were under Champlain's care, as well as a young black slave named Olivier Lejeune, were added to the extended family. When Champlain returned in 1632, a Jesuit priest noted that "they are the only French family who has adapted to life in Canada."



Marie Rollet Statue.
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS-JEAN
GAGNON



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**Go west on Rue des Remparts
until you reach #77.**

7 Hébert, the Apothecary and Herbalist

In Louis Hébert's day, the natural sciences were flourishing in Europe. Great discoveries aroused curiosity about vegetation in the New World, and since Hébert was an apothecary, he was interested in the plants that grew in North America.

In the first third of the 17th century, North American plants were included in European books dealing with botany. The *Canadensium Plantarum*, which was published in Paris in 1635, mentions 44 Canadian plants that had been unknown in Europe until then. It seems as though Louis Hébert sent specimens back to France that ended up in the Medical School's garden, and went on to be featured in the King's garden, which contributed to the development of botany.

Québec City's Hôtel-Dieu is the first hospital to be built in Canada (and the oldest north of Mexico), and was run by the Augustine nuns for over three centuries. Since it was bequeathed to a trust in 2013, their monastery is now open to the public.

The nun's former sleeping quarters have been turned into a "healing hotel." The museum includes a room that is dedicated to medicine, where we learn that the apothecary nuns prepared various types of medication, syrups, herbal remedies, pomades and ointments out of plants and herbs, both indigenous and imported from Europe, which were grown in the monastery's garden. There is now a square in the garden that is dedicated to these female apothecaries.



Pharmacy vase
Sanguinar / Angélique,
17th century. COLLECTION OF
THE MONASTÈRE DES AUGUSTINES,
HÔPITAL GÉNÉRAL DE QUÉBEC

In order to reach the square, you must enter the monastery.



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Walking Path Itinerary



Fond de carte : adaptation de Google Maps, 2017



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