

DOUGLASTOWN

St-Patrick's first church at Douglastown was built on the Bar around 1815. St-Patrick's second and present church was built in 1860. At present work is progressing on St-Patrick's third church which will open some time this year.

A missionary began residing at Douglastown in 1845, and was in charge of the territory from Malbay to Fox River. In 1860, St-Patrick's Parish was founded one of the oldest and the only all English speaking one on the Gaspé coast.

The following is a list of missionaries and rectors that have resided at Douglastown since 1845.

The missionaries that have served Douglastown before this date have already been mentioned.

1845-1848	Father J. Michael Dowling	Missionary,
1848-1851	Father William Wallace Maylan	Missionary,
1851-1854	Father Jerome Sasseville,	Missionary,
1854-1860	Father Edouard Severin Fafard	Missionary,
1860-1869	Father Pierre-Charles-Alphonse Winter	Rector,
1869-1870	Father Pierre-Joseph Saucier,	Rector,
1870-1877	Father Polydore Moreau,	Rector,
1877-1878	Father Joseph-Hercule Leonard	Rector,
1878-1881	Father Majorique Bolduc	Rector,
1881-1882	Father François-Xavier Bossé	Rector,
1882-1907	Father Duncan Gillis,	Rector,
1907- 1921	Father M.F. Gauthier,	Rector,
1921- 1940	Father G. E. Myles,	Rector,
1940-	Father J. P. Nellis,	Rector,

GASPE BASIN

The first Catholic families in Gaspe under British rule, were those of McKinnon (the same as McKenna), Adams and Pinel, all three of Protestant origin. They arrived about the same time towards 1800 but only one of those families, that of the Adams', has survived. Patrick McKinnon was of Scotch descent; he changed his faith to marry a Miss Power, of Irish origin. He remained for some time at Gaspe and then went to reside at Douglstown. John Adams was of German extraction, he joined the Catholic Church at St-Pierre de Malbaie a few years before his marriage, through contract with Catholic families. Thomas Pinel came from Jersey. It seems that it was also due to his marriage to an Irish lady that he joined the Catholic Church.

John Adams settled at Lobster Cove; Pinel on the site occupied today by Ouellet's Garage and McKinnon, on the site of the Lacouvéé Bros' furniture shop.

Two other Catholic families, those of Trudel and Chouinard, of French origin, also resided at Gaspe Harbour about that time. They were there in 1810. About 1830, they sold their lots to McConnell and went to reside at St-Pierre de Malbaie.

In 1829 a small contingent of Irish Catholic families joined the five families who had already settled around Gaspe, village. The Martin and Patrick Moran, Edward Quigley and Jeffrey Prendergast families have disappeared from Gaspe, but the others, the Morand, the Quigleys and the FitzPatricks still reside there.

The Catholic population then counted nine families, a small community indeed, but joined in the same faith, a same law, and one same belief, Scotch, Germans, Jersey Islanders, French and Irish.

The same year it was agreed to build a church, Thomas Pinel - 207.

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donated plot of Land about one acre Ouellet Garage is on the same site to-day.

And by a strange destiny of Providence the site is, or just along side that where Father Lejeune, S.J. celebrated, on the 13th of June 1632, the first mass that was **ever** celebrated in Gaspé.

Reverend Mr. McMahon, a missionary established at Percé, encouraged them in their projet. He took steps to secure the necessary authorization. All the work was carried out without cost by the local residents under the direction of John Adams, master carpenter. The building was twenty feet by thirty. It was blessed by the missionary when he made his Fall visit. It was, however, always very poor, as far as interior finish, furnishings and vestry were concerned. A small cemetery was established close by. This cemetery was moved in 1953.

"We stopped at Mr. McKenna's in Gaspé," writes Mr. Dowling in 1844. "The chapel is absolutely bare; there are even no steps to the altar table; not a single seat or pew, no spire and no bells. It is sad, particularly in a place where the Protestant religion predominates. The Catholics have done all they could; they subscribed \$8.00 for the things that were absolutely necessary. There are 25 families. I preached twice a day, and most of them carried out their religious duties."

The missionary visited Gaspé twice a year at that time, in the spring after the ice had gone, and in the fall, before the first snow fall.

In 1845, when a parish priest had been appointed at Douglastown, the Gaspé mission received his visit four times a year. It was Rev. Michael Dowling, first parish priest of Douglastown, who inaugurated that system. In 1858, Rev. Mr. Fafard began giving missions at

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Gaspe every sixth Sunday. This continued until the arrival of the first parish priest of Gaspe, in May 1874.

The missionary resided at first with P. McKenna, with Colonel Belleau, at J. J. Kavanagh's and later over the small vestry.

SECOND CHAPEL

During the twenty-five years that followed the construction of the first chapel, new Catholic families came to reside at Gaspé. The Le Boutillier, Belleau, Painchaud, Cosgrove, Fournier, Power, Synnette, Gillis, Dowling Fingleton, Robson, Kavanagh, and other families, and a few Indian families. In all about thirty, Catholic families with 80 communicants. As the first chapel became inadequate to meet the demands of religious service, the question of building a second arose. "There is, wrote Rev. Mr. Sasseville, in 1854, a chapel that is much too small for the population."

In 1852 he asked that a new church be constructed. In 1858, Rev. M. Fafard, the new parish priest of Douglstown and missionary of Gaspe, undertook its construction with the very substantial aid of Colonel J.C. Belleau and the generosity of Mrs. LeBoutillier, and also thanks to a grant from the Propagation of the Faith.

It was built entirely of good pine wood and was 60 feet by 36, with a vestry of 20 by 20. The Adams family assisted by the other Catholic families did all the work free. It is that church that was demolished in 1941 .

The Blessing of the new church took place, on Palm Sunday, April the 1st 1860, by the missionary Rev. Mr. Fafard, who had been delegated for the purpose by J. Baillargeon, Archbishop of Tloa, and Administrator of Quebec.

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The following 9th of January, Rev. Mr. Winter Blessed the first bell that was named Jeanne-Elizabeth-Victoria.

On May the 19th of the same year, the missionary erected the stations of the cross. On October the 14th 1862, a new bell was blessed by Rev. Mr. Blouin, parish priest of Rivière-au-Renard, assisted by Rev. Mr. Winter. That bell is still in used today. It is the bell of a ship that was wrecked at Cap-des-Rosiers in 1850 the "Chippewa". That bell was used for the Gaspé church until the construction of the church that was built in 1914-16 and was destroyed by fire in 1929. It was then lent to the church at Cap-aux-Os. It was later loaned to the hospital, in 1926 when the bell of the cathedral had been melted in the fire that destroyed that sacred building, the nuns of the hospital who had always expressed the desire of getting a larger and better toned bell, returned it to the parish.

To-day the bell of 1862 is still used for the chapel of our Lady of the Seven Sorrows at Poin Navarre.

Unfortunately, just as the new church had been repainted on the exterior, on March the 30th 1929, in the afternoon, fire broke out between the ceiling and the roof, where nobody had penetrated from the time the electric wiring had been completed. Some nuns who were decorating the interior of the church for the Easter religious ceremonies, gave the alarm. But it was too late. The fire had got too much of a hold, and in spite of the most strenuous efforts of the entire population, the church, the presbytery, and a nearby private residence, were completely destroyed in a little over two hours. For a time it was feared that the flames would spread to other buildings and possibly

destroy the entire village. His Excellency the Bishop himself saved the Sacred Species.

Easter mass had to be celebrated the next morning in the old church which had been turned into a parochial hall, the Jacques Cartier Hall since 1916.

In 1933 the Christ-The-King Parish at Gaspé basin purchased the property of K. J. Carter, and work began the same year on the Cathedral. The following year with the walls of the basement erected and the parish badly, in need of a church, a roof was constructed over. The basement, and the interior fitted and it was opened for worship, to-day the cathedral is still to be built which is expected in the near future.

The Bells of the Cathedral came from France in 1934, and were blessed and named No. 1 Christ-the-King, No. 2 Marie Média-trice, No. 3 Ste-Thérèse-de-Lisieux.

Father Polydore Moreau began the work to establish a parish at Gaspé Basin. On May 12th 1874, Father Majorique Bolduc arrived at Gaspé as a desservant, in January the following year the Parish was founded and he became the first Rector.

The Gaspé Rectors up to 1905 were in charge of the missions of Cape aux Os, ^{and} Saint-Majorique de Fontenelle.

The following is a list of priest that have resided at Gaspé since 1874,

1874-1875	Father Majorique Bolduc,	Desservant,
1875-1878	Father Majorique Bolduc,	Rector,
1878-1880	Father Josué Paradis,	Rector,
1880-1890	Father Theophile Van de Mootel,	Rector,
1890-1907	Father Fabien Gauthier,	Rector,
1907-1917	Father Adelard Richard,	Rector,

1917-1923	Father E. Chenel,	Rector,
1923-1928	Father Regis Grenier,	Rector,
1928-1937	Father Charles-Eugène Roy,	Rector,
1937-1942	Father François Rancourt,	Rector,
1942-1948	Father Bernardin Day,	Rector,
1948-1950	Father Honoré Cavanagh,	Rector,
1950-1954	Father François Rancourt,	Rector,
1954-1956	Mgr. Paul Joncas,	Rector,
1956-		

CANON ALFRED BUJOLD.

- 1956- Rector of Christ-the-King cathedral Gaspé.
- 1912- Born February 14th, at Bonaventure-Quebec.
Educated,
Primary Public school Bonaventure.
- 1928-1934 Classical studies. Gaspé Seminary Gaspé .
- 1934- B.A. Gaspé. Seminary Gaspé.
- 1934-1938 Theology Laval Quebec University.
- 1938- Ordained priest by his Excellency F.X. Ross Bishop
of Gaspé, June the 11th, at Saint Bonaventure church,
Bonaventure Quebec.
- 1938-1939 Assistant to the Rector At Cape d'Espoir.
- 1939-1943 Assistant to the Rector at Ste-Anne-des-Monts.
- 1943-1954 Parish Priest at Cape-aux-Os.
- 1954-1956 Parish Priest at Percé.

THE REVEREND FATHER LAURENT LEBLANC.

- 1958- Assistant Rector of Christ-the-King Cathedral Gaspé.
- 1930- Born February the 22th at Maria Bonaventure.
- 1958- Ordained priest by his Excellency Paul Bernier,
Archbishop of Gaspé on April 28th at Ste-Brigitte's
church, Maria Bonaventure.

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SAINT MAJORIQUE DE FONTENELLE

The parish of Saint Majorique was named in the honour of Reverend Father Majorique Bolduc. He said the first mass in the mission on November the 20th 1876 in the old school house which was built on the front side of the road on the property that belong to Dominique Lemieux. Mass was said in this school house for two years.

On February the 26th 1877 permission was granted to build a church on the school house ground. The same year in the spring work began on the building and was completed the following year, In June. On July the 23rd 1878 the Benediction of Saint Majorique's first church was held. The first cemetery of the parish was also on the same grounds.

SECOND AND PRESENT CHURCH.

During the twenty-six years that followed the building of the first church, many new families came to reside in the mission, as the first church became inadequate to meet the demands of the religious service, the question of building a larger church arose, on 10th June 1904, permission was granted to build a new church. Jerome Bouley and Joseph Pascal Fournier donated a plot of Land and work began the same summer on the building, and was completed in the early winter of 1905. The first mass to be said in the new church was Christmas mid-night mass of the same year. The church was consecrated the following spring by His Excellency Albert-André Blais, Bishop of Rimouski. The old church was moved and attached to the new church for its sacristy.

The following is a list of priests who have served the parish of Saint Majorique de Fontenelle since the mission began. It became a parish on December 15th 1914.

1876-1876	Father Majorique Bolduc,	Missionary,
1876-1880	Father Josué Paradis,	Missionary,
1880-1890	Father Theophile Van de Mootel,	Missionary,
1890-1905	Father Fabien Gauthier,	Missionary,
1905-1909	Father Pierre M. Gagne,	Desservant,
1909-1914	Father Joseph Drapeau,	Desservant,
1914-1917	Father C. W. LeBlanc,	1st-Rector,
1917-1918	Father J. Eud. Desbrens,	Rector,
1918-1921	Father Joseph Fortin,	Rector,
1921-1922	Father P. N. Dion,	Rector,
1922-1923	Father Regis Grenier,	Desservant,
1923-Oct.	Father J. E. Chenel,	Rector,
1923-1930	Father Donat Sevigny,	Rector,
1930-1932	Father James Leblanc,	Rector,
1932-1936	Father J. H. Real D'Anjou,	Rector,
1936-One	Father Alexis Dufresne,	Rector,
1936-1938	Father François Cassy,	Rector,
1938-1946	Father Jean-Marie Watier,	Rector,
1946-1952	Father Charles Coderre,	Rector,
1952-1955	Father Albert DesRochers,	Rector,
1955-		

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THE REVEREND FATHER BENOIT M. BRODEUR.

- 1955- Rector of Saint Majorique de Fontenelle.
- 1922- Born 30th October at Danville Quebec.
- Educated,
Primary Academie Masson.
- 1937- Classical Studies: Juvenat des Servites de Marie Ottawa.
- 1942- Noviciat: Juvenat: des Servites de Marie Ottawa.
- 1943- Philosophy: Dominicans Ottawa.
- 1946- Theology: Rome.
- 1949- Ordained priest by His Excellency Tonna, Bishop in Rome
on March 17 at St-Jean Latran-Rome.
- 1949- Professor Ayer's Cliff, Quebec.
- 1952- Assistant Vicar at St-Anthony's church, Ottawa.
- 1954- Assistant priest at our Lady of the Seven Sorrows
Point Navarre, Quebec.

THE REVEREND FATHER GABRIEL LUSSIER.

- 1953- Assistant Rector of Saint Majorique de Fontenelle.
- 1906- Born July the 6th at St-Damase Quebec.
- 1929- Ordained priest by J.M. Bonardi Auxiliary Bishop of Florence
Italy at Santissima-Annunsizta Church Florence Italy.

ST-JEAN-BAPTISTE CAPE-AUX-OS.

Cape-aux-Os was a mission for many years before it became a parish in 1929. There were two churches built for the community when it was a mission, and one since it became a parish. The first church was built around 1850 near the Russell Road. That church became inadequate to meet the demands of the growing community, and in 1904, work began on a larger one on the same grounds as the present church. It was completed and consecrated in May 1906.

Then in 1950, for the same reason as the first church, once again the question of building a larger church rose and work began on the present church in the spring of 1951, and was completed and consecrated on August 30th the following year.

The following is a list of priests who resided at Cape-aux-Os.

The Missionaries have already been mentioned.

- 1921-1931 Father George Rioux,
- 1931-1934 Father Zenon Desrosiers,
- 1934-1936 Father Lionel Boisseau,
- 1936-1943 Father Gérard Richard,
- 1943-1954 Father Alfred Bujold,

The Reverend Felix Gagné.

- 1954- Rector of St. Jean-Baptiste, Cape-aux-Os.
- 1912- Born on October 12th at New Richmond, Bonaventure.
- 1938- Ordained priest by the Archbishop of Moncton N.B. on
12 th June at SS. Anges Gardiens Church, New-Richmond, Bon.

ST. AUGUSTIN GRANDE GREVE.

Grande Greve has always been a mission. In the early days the missionaries from the missions of Perce and Douglastown cared for the small community. In 1872 a missionary was sent to reside at Cape-des-Rosiers and Grande Greve became attached to that mission. In 1921, Grande Greve was taken over by the mission at Cape-aux-Os and to-day it is still cared for by its Rector.

Grande Greve has had two churches. The first was built in 1855, and the present one in 1951. They were both built on the same grounds.

The following is a list of missionaries and rectors of Cape-des-Rosiers who have cared for Grande Greve. Two others have already been mentioned.

1872-1874	Father Pierre Alphonse Séguin,	Missionary,
1874-1877	Father Cyprien Larivée,	Rector,
1877-1881	Father Joseph Martin,	Desservant,
1881-1898	Father François-Xavier Delage,	Rector,
1898-1907	Father Louis-Isidore-Theodule Landry,	Rector,
1907-1908	Father Joseph Robert Telesphore,	
	Sasseville,	Rector,
1908-	Father M. S. Roy,	Rector,