

LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR – SALON DE BARBIER “PIERRE”

**Pierre Lapare –
45 Years On Oka Road**

Article & Photos By Cookie Smith

Pierre was born in Verdun but came to Deux-Montagnes at 16 years of age to work with his cousin Andre Plante, who was a barber on 8th Avenue for two and a half years. Andre is the uncle



of the renowned Stephane Plante. Pierre took a course in the barber trade in Montreal in 1958 at 17 years of age. This course doesn't exist today; only hairdressing courses are available to cut both men and women's hair.

Pierre Lapare has been 50 years in the barber trade and 45 years in the present location on Oka Road. This is somewhat of a record for the same owner of a commerce in Deux-Montagnes to stay in the same location! 99% of Pierre's customers are regular patrons. Like a trusted bartender, Pierre has a good ear to listen to his customers' stories, good and bad, in all confidence. Pierre is a 'low-profile' businessman with a relaxed friendly personality. No computer, no phone, no appointment book....."just drop in".

A resident of Deux-Montagnes for 51 years, Pierre is married to Suzanne Laberge for 45 years with two daughters, a granddaughter of 17 years and a grandson of 15 years.

Besides being an upstanding businessman, Pierre has been a dedicated citizen through his relentless involvement in many clubs and services in Deux-Montagnes: from city planning, emergency services, the Optimist Club, local politics, youth dances and playgrounds. Despite his busy life, Pierre's cherished hobby is the stamp collection he and his wife have worked on for 45 years. He's always pleased when customers bring him a new stamp.

In 1972 Pierre was in charge of social services for the emergency planning department of the City for about three years. In 2000 he was in charge of all emergency planning for the City. Pierre became President and rebuilt the Red Cross in Deux-Montagnes, supplying emergency service for 4 or 5 years to residents for disasters. Pierre started "Dépannage St-Agapit" with Andre Dumoulin and ran it for 8 to 10 years. From 1975 to 1980, Pierre was responsible for "Les Dances du Vendredi Soir" at St-Agapit, organized by "Les Acti-Jeunes" for about 400 kids. Pierre was also Director of the Optimist Club for 8 years and was later elected President in 1984-85.



Pierre devoted many years to politics in Deux-Montagnes. It started when he was elected City Councilor for Mayor Mastro-matteo in 1989. He remained a councilor for 16 years until 2005 under the mayorality of Pierre-Benoit Forget. Pierre Lapare remembers with pride winning 5 out of 6 elections in the Olympia District. Another one of his accomplishments during his political life was to set up many schoolyard playgrounds.

This is a human interest account to show the kind of person Pierre Lapare is. In 1989 Pierre, deeply moved by the weakening condition of his neighbor Louise Guillemette, made a petition with the help of J.G. Bergeron, deputy in Quebec at that time, for more money to help people who needed heart and lung transplants. About a year later Pierre's neighbor succeeded in having the surgery but died unfortunately during the operation.

Salon de Barbier "Pierre" is located at 1105 Oka Rd (near the train overpass). The hours are Tuesday, -Wednesday -Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sun-Mon: closed. Pierre's prices are very reasonable and his door is always open for a haircut and a chat. My Dad, who was somewhat of an amateur barber in his own rite, had a favorite expression: "Hair today and gone tomorrow".....but Pierre Lapare is not retiring anytime soon.

ECI

**FOURNITURE
SÉCURITÉ
SANITAIRE
OUTILLAGE
POUR
CONSTRUCTION
&
INDUSTRIE**

**LES ENTREPRISES
CAPPCO
INC.**

DEAN CAPPELLETTI

405, Rue du Parc, Suite #1
St-Eustache, Québec J7R 0A3
TÉL.: (450) 974-1211 FAX: (450) 974-9395
(514) 990-2232 877-974-1211
Courrier électronique: dcappelletti@cappco.qc.ca
www.cappco.qc.ca