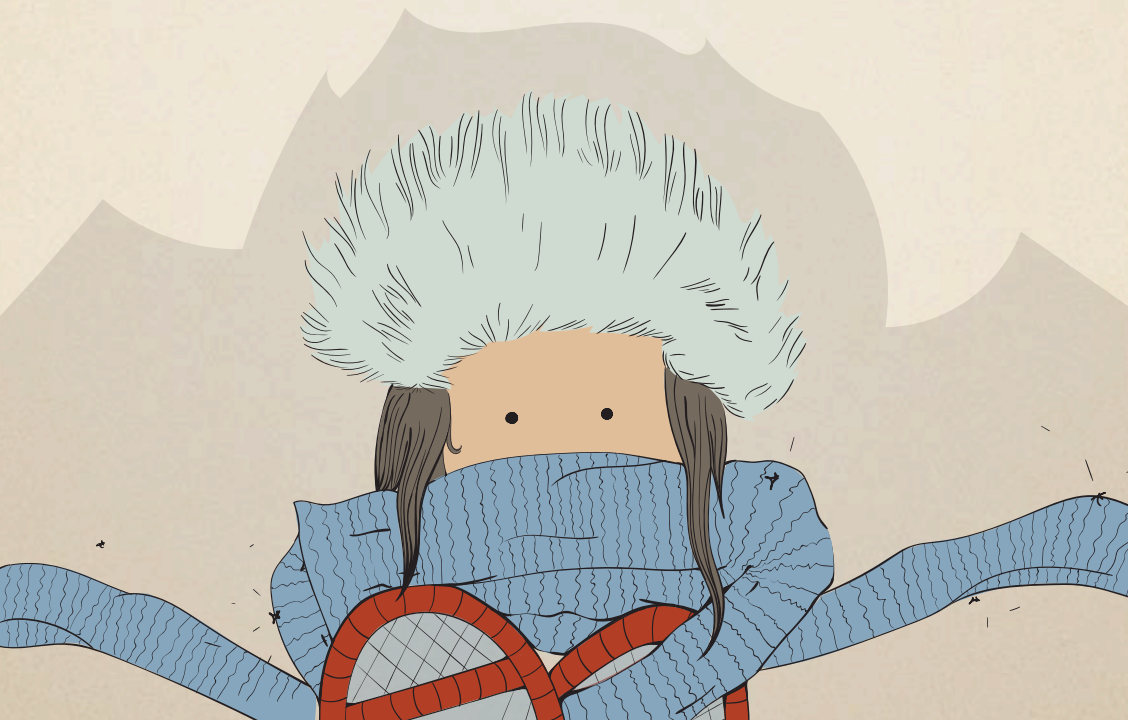


Stitches in time

Yukon history makers





Francophones have embraced the Yukon's majestic landscapes for generations, leaving their mark and shaping a vast cultural heritage.

Stitches in Time, the wonderful project I spearheaded, pays tribute to them and celebrates the history of French-speaking Yukoners through traditional arts and crafts.

As part of Canada's 150th anniversary, the Yukon community was invited to explore and become comfortable with this form of craft by participating in a creative cloth doll making workshop, using recycled materials.

Inspired by real figures from yesteryear to the present day, these dolls give the Francophones who helped build our community and the Yukon a new lease on life.

Participants were all given a kit containing the body of their doll, along with patterns for their respective clothes.

We then collected recycled materials and worked together on crafting the dolls' clothes, faces, hair and accessories.

Throughout the creative process, the participants were able to use various traditional art and craft techniques, such as sewing, embroidery, beading, leather work and knitting.

This project allowed us not only to celebrate the rich heritage of Yukon Francophones as well as Canada 150, but also to experience a real human adventure retracing our history.

Today, we are happy to share our experience with you and to commemorate the Francophones who have shaped our history.

We chose to group the personalities into six themes according to their aspirations and their ties with the Francophone community and Yukon Territory.

Cécile Girard, Franco-Yukon multidisciplinary artist





4

Seeking adventure

François Houle

By Sophie Brisebois

François-Xavier Mercier

By Cécile Girard

Louis Lapierre

By Brittany Mai

Lorenzo Grimard

By Patricia Brennan

Marie-Louise Taché

By Emilie Dory



10

Seeking development

Jeanne Beaudoin

By Pascale Geoffroy

Father Jean-Marie
Mouchet

By Denise Beauchamp

Madam Teacher

By Edith Bélanger



14

Seeking prosperity

Joseph Eugène Binet

By Sylvie Binette

Belinda Mulrooney and
“Count” Charles-Eugène
Carbonneau

By Josée Fortin

Mathilde “Ruby” Scott

By Roxanne Thibaut



The 21 dolls and their creators will be showcased at three bilingual expo discussions, each accompanied by unique artistic and cultural experiences.

A fine way for the residents of **Haines Junction, Dawson, Whitehorse** and surrounding areas to contribute to Canada's sesquicentennial celebrations.

18



Seeking roots

Léo Martel

By Maude Craig-Duchesne

Cécile Girard

By Maryne Dumaine

22



Seeking a different way of life

Émilie Fortin Tremblay

By Rosie Lapierre

Louis Alphonse Paré

By Mireille Labbé

Emma Fontaine

By Angélique Bernard

Joseph E. N. Duclos

By Nathalie Lapointe

Lorenzo Létourneau

By Pierrette Taillefer

28



Seeking love

Marie Beaudin

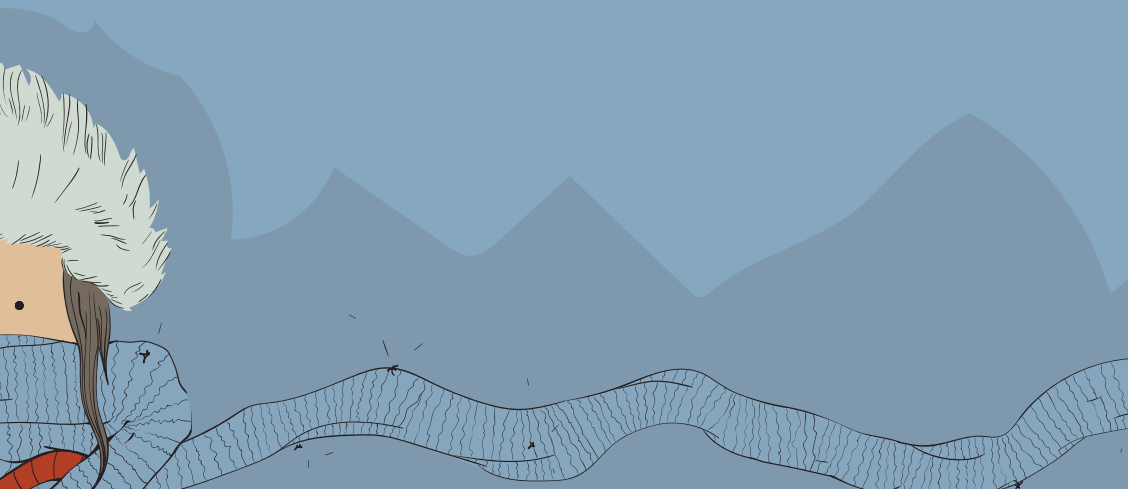
By Isabelle Salesse

Léa Moreau

By Marie-Stéphanie Gasse

Seeking adventure

Their adventurous heart and great ambitions led them to explore the Canadian North.





François Houle

By Sophie Brisebois

Sophie Brisebois has always had a passion for the coureurs des bois (fur traders). She chose to portray François Houle, a Métis coureur des bois of Iroquois and French-Canadian descent who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company all his life.



“My father (formerly a geologist) introduced me to the “wonders of the woods”. There is nowhere else on Earth I’d rather be! Canoes are also part of my life. My father had asked a member of a First Nation to make him a birchbark canoe. He bequeathed it to the Museum of Civilization when I was in my teens. The coureur des bois, the voyageur, therefore represents my roots, the history and development of my country with the colonization of Quebec and Western Canada as well.”

The François Houle doll sports the traditional outfit with the arrow sash and leather leggings. Sophie slipped a piece of fabric into his pocket that belonged to her uncle François, a modern-day coureur des bois.

François-Xavier Mercier

By Cécile Girard

"François-Xavier Mercier bears the title of King of the North. I wanted to represent him as a strong man, all set for winter," said Cécile.

She dedicates this doll to her big brother Jean-Pierre. This coureur des bois of his boyhood years introduced him to the mysteries of trapping. "One January morning when I was six, he invited me to go with him to check his hare snares. Our task completed, we shared a hot meal by a small fir branch fire."

The François-Xavier Mercier doll sports a blue felt coat (this type of garment was made out of Hudson's Bay Company blankets). His snowshoes are for walking over the snow.



Louis Lapierre

By Brittany Mai

Brittany Mai participated in the doll making project to learn a little more about the history of Yukon Francophones and familiarize herself with the traditional arts. She chose Louis Lapierre because the coureurs des bois embrace a lifestyle she admires.

"I'd like to experience living in the wilderness with everything it implies in terms of adventure. I'm very interested in trapping and fishing," she said.

Brittany arrived well equipped for her first adventure in the land of craftsmanship. Her mother had given her some superb pieces of fur. The Louis Lapierre doll dons a cozy parka with a wolf fur-edged hood to protect him against the rigours of the climate. An arrow sash girds his loins and good moccasins cover his feet. A fire bag filled with promises of warmth and a feast completes his outfit.



Lorenzo Grimard

By Patricia Brennan

Patricia Brennan chose to honour Lorenzo Grimard by creating a doll in his image. A Dawson resident for more than 60 years, Lorenzo celebrated his 100th birthday on April 23, 2016. To mark the occasion, his adoptive city designated the day, Journée Lorenzo Grimard. He passed away a year later, on September 1, 2017, leaving behind the image of an exceptional man.

“Lorenzo loved to laugh. He loved chocolate; it was one of his guilty pleasures. Lorenzo had a remarkable life. I learned a lot from him about the cycle of life and how time is not measured in minutes and hours but in quality of life,” said Patricia.

Patricia's doll portrays Mr. Grimard in his forties. The curly hair, leather jacket and mischievous gaze are the epitome of a man in the prime of life.



Marie-Louise Taché

By Emilie Dory

Emilie Dory didn't hesitate to choose Marie-Louise Taché.

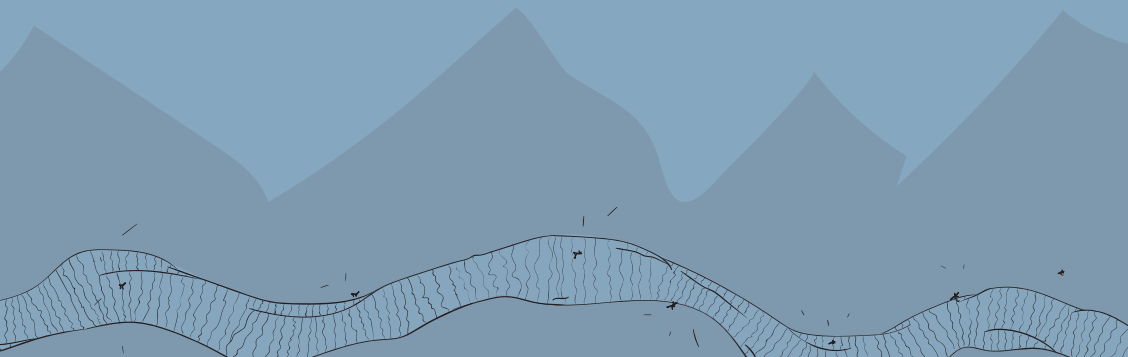
"I wanted a female character. It seemed very important to me because women and their roles are often underrepresented in history. And I thought it would be great fun to create a woman's garment," said Emilie, who also admires Marlo's (Marie-Louise's nickname) spirit of adventure. "Marlo and her sister Yvonne went down the Miles Canyon rapids in a barge; an uncommon expedition for young women from a good family..." she added.

The Marie-Louise Taché doll is wearing a sophisticated dress adorned with a fur collar, but her mittens and leather boots bespeak her ardour and sense of adventure.



Seeking development

Their passion and dedication impelled them to invest in the growth of the Yukon community.



Jeanne Beaudoin

By Pascale Geoffroy

This mother of three has worked hard to establish institutions for the Franco-Yukon community. Recently retired, Jeanne Beaudoin devotes her time to her family, friends, community, and her passion for gardening. She still has the wool parka she bought when she arrived in the Yukon.

“Jeanne was one of the first persons I met when I arrived in the Yukon. I was lucky! In the Yukon, the name Jeanne Beaudoin is synonymous with charisma and perseverance. For me, crafting a doll in her effigy was a way to honour her. She is a role model for the young generation,” said Pascale Geoffroy.

Pascale portrayed Jeanne in northern clothing a parka with a fur trimmed hood. She also fashioned beautiful small round glasses like the ones depicted in photos taken in the 1980s.



Father Jean-Marie Mouchet

By Denise Beauchamp



Denise Beauchamp chose a contemporary figure, Father Jean-Marie Mouchet, for a number of reasons. Living in downtown Whitehorse, Denise has often had the opportunity to see the priest walking by on her street. “He was very old and looked a little austere. I always said hello to him and he answered me back,” she recalled.

Convinced that physical fitness did wonders for building self-esteem, Father Mouchet established the Territorial Experimental Ski Training program (TEST). In the 1960s, he opened a 10-kilometre ski trail in Yukon’s capital, which is now part of Mount McIntyre’s network of trails. A cross-country ski and fitness enthusiast herself, Denise is out there regularly, weather permitting. She takes advantage of these outings to visit her mother-in-law who is a member of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. “I admire immensely what Father Mouchet accomplished. The First Nations respected him very much and he respected them,” she explained.

The doll honouring him sports a wool beret knitted by Denise and leather ski boots. A pair of wooden skis and poles are a reminder of his commitment to physical and mental health.





Madam Teacher

By Edith Bélanger

Edith Bélanger decided to make a singular doll, namely, Madam Teacher. She represents someone many young Yukoners have often come across over the past 30 years.

“I would like to call my doll Madam Teacher. I didn’t want to give her a specific name because she pays tribute to all the teachers who have taught and continue to teach in French. They have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of thousands of Yukon children,” Edith explained. “I was much inspired by my sister Karine, of course, and my friends in the teaching world. I thought about all those passionate people who spend an incredible amount of hours to see their students succeed,” concluded Edith.

The Madam Teacher doll is dressed in a skirt over pants a trend Edith says she often sees , and has a pencil stuck through her hair. Her packed schoolbag also contains a beautiful apple. Who gave her that vermilion fruit? Was it you? Madam Teacher is friendly if you go up real close, she’ll say hello with a big smile.



Seeking prosperity

Their flair and business acumen made them famous in the territory.



Joseph Eugène Binet

By Sylvie Binette

Sylvie Binette chose to make a doll representing Joseph Eugène Binet, a founding father of Mayo. Joseph Eugène was a prosperous businessman.

“We share a common ancestor, which may be what drew me to the Yukon. In a sense, to discover Joseph Eugène was to discover myself. It was a kind of search for meaning,” explained Sylvie. The question arises for Joseph Eugène, for me and for anyone whose loved ones are far away: *I’m leaving... I’m staying... I’m leaving... I’m staying...* like the daisy Loves M^e, Loves M^e Not petal game,” said Sylvie.

The pearlescent buttons and coppery pearls, offered by my son Xavier’s grandmother of Teslin Tlingit descent, serve as a link to the territory. I made my doll an armband because my father and grandfather always wore one,” Sylvie concluded.



Belinda Mulrooney and “Count” Charles-Eugène Carbonneau

By Josée Fortin



Being of the same descent as Émilie Fortin Tremblay, Josée Fortin would have liked to choose her, but someone else beat her to it. Then Belinda Mulrooney and Count Charles-Eugène Carbonneau caught her artist's eye.



“The story of the Mulrooney Carbonneau couple is a superb and tragic story. For me, Count Carbonneau represents the gold rush, an era that still exists today: starting afresh, making a new life for ourselves, acquiring wealth, claiming to be whomever we want... The Count was a liar and a gentleman, a dreamer and a go-getter. Belinda Mulrooney was strong and independent, like the women living in Dawson in a man's world. She was stylish and feminine while also being a lioness,” said Josée.

The gentleman with the perfectly trimmed beard holds a magnificent bouquet of roses for his ladylove. For her part, Belinda is wearing her hair in a high updo, jewellery, and a long fur coat highlighting her wealth. She overstates her elegance and femininity to the point of having a parasol and hat that match her lace dress.

Mathilde “Ruby” Scott

By Roxanne Thibaudeau

Roxanne Thibaudeau was immediately taken with the Mathilde “Ruby” Scott character.

“Mathilde wasn’t afraid of adventure! Not only did she cross an ocean and a continent, she started her own business. She operated a brothel for 27 years. She was avant-garde,” said Roxanne, also a great traveller.

The doll is wearing a fuchsia-coloured dress made in a piece of recovered lace and has an alluring barrette in her hair.



Seeking roots

Their desire to join relatives, or to broaden their horizons with them, prompted them to settle in the Yukon.



Léo Martel

By Maude Craig-Duchesne

“Léo Martel represents contemporary Yukon: a Francophone man, miner, living alone in his cabin in the middle of nowhere near Keno. There is an attractive “je ne sais quoi” about him. Léo is one of a kind, mysterious and charismatic. And I think his familiar facial features and style can be nicely reproduced in miniature in a doll,” Maude explained.

In 2006, he partnered with his brother Marc to buy the Keno City Hotel. The two men renovated the building with impressive attention to detail. Their efforts were rewarded in 2014 when they received the Heritage Conservation Project of the Year Award presented by the Government of Yukon.

The Léo Martel doll shows him in the prime of life, with greying beard and hair. His leather hat and multicoloured scarf give him a friendly, easy-going look the image he projects.





Cécile Girard

By Maryne Dumaine

"From her luminous paintings to her book *Un jardin sur le toit* and, of course, to her handcrafted stuffed dolls, Cécile is leaving her artistic mark in many fields. I have great admiration for this lady, who is very much in touch with her instincts. She is one of those passionate people who, without question, have helped to build the Yukon as I know it.

To create her, I chose to solely use recycled materials. My doll also wears little wool boots I knitted earlier for the birth of my godson. I decided to recycle them to make the connection between Cécile and her great love of little kids.

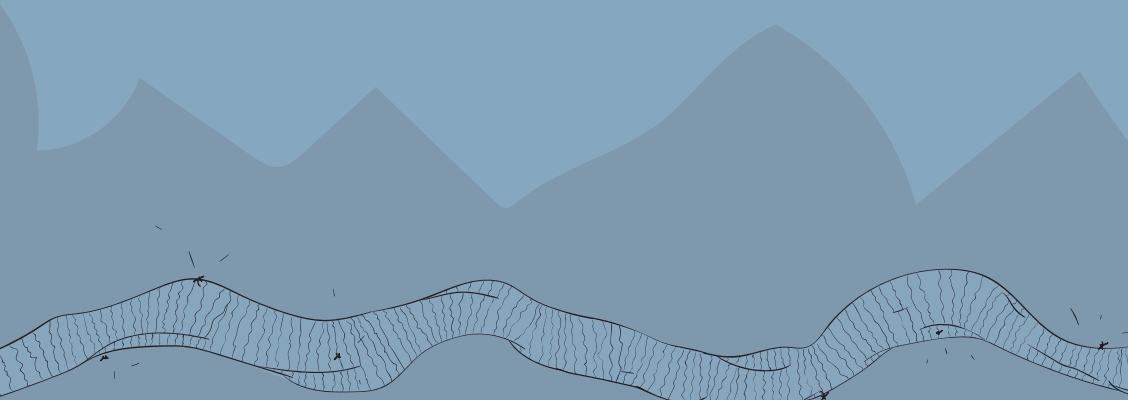
She holds a copy of the *L'Aurore boréale* newspaper. I gave her laughing eyes and some lipstick, for Cécile is like an elegant ray of sunshine," said Maryne.





Seeking a different way of life

Their wide range of skills promoted their integration in
the north of the country.





Émilie Fortin Tremblay

By Rosie Lapierre

Rosie Lapierre is a young French monitor who lives in Dawson. Interested in the history of her adoptive city, she chose Émilie Fortin Tremblay for her doll.

“Before signing up for this project, I barely knew who Émilie Tremblay was. Now I feel as if I know her. What struck me most was her incredible generosity,” Rosie explained. Her active social commitment earned her many awards.

Rosie portrayed Émilie Tremblay upon her arrival in the territory in 1894. She made her an elegant and simple, grey dress.





Louis Alphonse Paré

By Mireille Labbé

"I chose Dr. Paré as I wanted a typical Yukoner in a smart early 20th century suit. In the beginning, I wanted to create a smock-like doctor's outfit, but when I learned his story, I thought it would be interesting to have him in more practical clothes better suited to the reality of the Klondike," explained Mireille, a talented musician.

This doll is a prime Dawson example of the clothing versatility of the day: stylish and charming while also being comfortable, strong and lasting a must since life in the North requires a lot of adaptability!

The Dr. Paré doll is wearing a suit, a shirt, a leather tie and leather boots. The handkerchief and stethoscope are made from recycled materials. A curled paper clip served to make his glasses. After a visit to the barber, he sports a fashionable period hairstyle.





Emma Fontaine

By Angélique Bernard



Emma Fontaine had more than one string to her bow: religious sister, nurse, manager and miner. Even today, there are many people in the Yukon with diverse skill sets who multitask. Angélique is n° exception. To wit: she has held the position of President of L'Association franco-yukonnaise for the past seven years. She has been one of the hosts of *Rencontres*, French radio show. She has her own translation company and is the mother of two young boys.

"I stepped out of my comfort zone when I signed up for this project. But I loved every moment of it and I'm very happy with the result," she said.

Angélique gave her doll a miner's hat and a nurse's apron. Around Emma's neck hangs a tiny wooden cross made out of driftwood picked up in Dyea, Alaska.

Joseph E. N. Duclos

By Nathalie Lapointe



Nathalie Lapointe chose Joseph E. N. Duclos, a famous photographer in the days of the Yukon gold rush.

“The idea of combining the arts, the recovery of materials and the history of Francophones caught my attention. I didn’t want to choose just any character. When reading about Mr. Duclos, I discovered some similarities and differences in our stories. It made me realize that paths can start from the same point and align towards the same destination. Individual freedom is to set one’s own pace and keep to the right trails at the right time. That’s why, one hundred years after his death, my viewfinder focused on Joseph E. N. Duclos. We both came from Quebec and wound up in the Yukon,” Nathalie explained.

“The 35 hours of research and sewing helped me build up the courage and energy I needed to present my first mini-exhibition. My dollwork also includes the remnants of a Japanese meal, my childhood hair clips, a piece of wood from Mario Villeneuve (a Whitehorse photography and history buff), a nylon stocking with holes in it and even hairs from my dear husky. Do you think you can find them?” Nathalie asked in conclusion.





Lorenzo Létourneau

By Pierrette Taillefer

Pierrette Taillefer was captivated by Lorenzo Létourneau when she first met him. She remembers the occasion very well. “My daughter had given me the travel journal of Lorenzo Létourneau after my first stay in the Yukon in 2007. I read it from beginning to end. It gave me an insight into people’s lives at the time of the gold rush. They worked hard, nothing was easy,” she said.

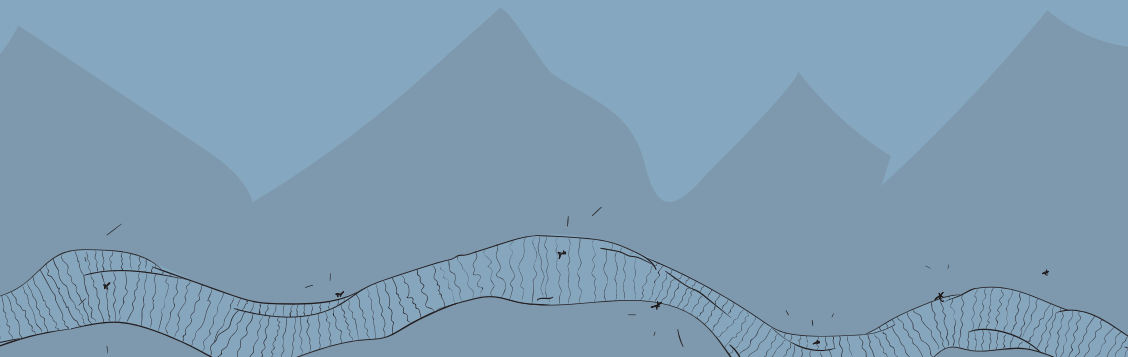
Pierrette married an accountant but has Lorenzo’s adventurous spirit. “Like Lorenzo, I must love the unknown since I left everything behind ten years ago for a new life in Whitehorse. The Yukon is still the Klondike, what with its golden encounters, landscapes and opportunities open to people of good will,” said Pierrette who, like Lorenzo, moved back to live Quebec.

The Lorenzo Létourneau dolls holds a gold pan and a 17 Eldorado Creek mining certificate.



Seeking love

Their love life was forever marked by their time
in the far north.



Marie Beaudin

By Isabelle Salesse

A spelling error led to Isabelle Salesse's choice of character. "Initially, I chose Marie Beaudin believing her name to be Beaudoin which got me thinking about Jeanne Beaudoin," Isabelle explained. Nevertheless, the lady's story caught her attention.

Marie Beaudin originally came from the Gaspésie region of Quebec. Her husband died of a heart attack during the First World War. The young widow had two children. Hoping for a better life, she joined her father-in-law in Yukon. But Marie Beaudin found herself 160 kilometres from Dawson in the middle of nowhere with sheep and dogs as sole neighbours. A few months after her arrival, she decided to return to Montreal. She had to take the train from Whitehorse but didn't speak English. A charming gentleman stepped up to serve as interpreter. The Good Samaritan was Antoine Cyr, an Acadian from New Brunswick, who had been in the Yukon since 1898. It was certainly love at first sight: they got married five days later! They had five children together.

"It's a great story, isn't it? In a way it reminds me of why I'm in the Yukon. Love! Born and raised in France, I followed my boyfriend to

come live here, 25 years ago! And I stayed," Isabelle confided.

The Marie Beaudin doll is dressed simply but with a touch of coquetry. The designer-creator paid special attention to her choice of recycled fabric, which seems straight out of an outdated wardrobe.



Léa Moreau

By Marie-Stéphanie Gasse

Marie-Stéphanie Gasse wanted to make a doll representing a woman.

"I knew absolutely nothing about Léa Moreau but her story fascinated me. Her life was quite tragic: from reconciliations to separations, she must have experienced many moments of solitude," said Marie-Stéphanie who is mother of a son and involved in the Francophone women's rights movement. She admits feeling compassion for Léa.

Marie-Stéphanie made a skirt and sweater for Léa. She also crafted an elegant hat trimmed with fur and feathers, a fur shawl and leather ankle boots. She cuts a fine figure, presenting a woman who can still smile despite the sorrows of her life.





Acknowledgements

Government of Canada – *Donor*

Association franco-yukonnaise – *Coordination*

Cécile Girard – *Artist in charge of the project and Editor*

Angélique Bernard, Brittany Mai, Cécile Girard, Denise Beauchamp, Edith Bélanger, Emilie Dory, Isabelle Salesse, Josée Fortin, Marie-Stéphanie Gasse, Maryne Dumaine, Maude Craig-Duchesne, Mireille Labbé, Nathalie Lapointe, Pascale Geoffroy, Patricia Brennan, Pierrette Taillefer, Rosie Lapierre, Roxanne Thibaudeau, Sophie Brisebois and Sylvie Binette – *Creators of the dolls*

Jonathan-Serge Lalande – *Photos and illustrations*

Patric Chaussé – *Brochure design*

Émeraude Dallaire – *Design of project visuals*

Penni Jaques – *Translation*

Angélique Bernard – *Revision*

Yann Herry – *Historical research assistance*

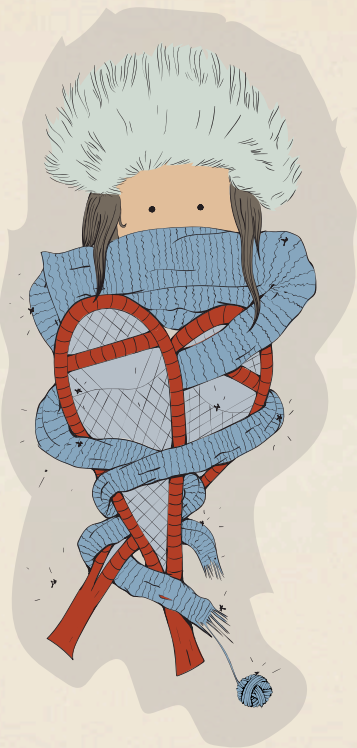
Patsy Van Roost – *Support in designing the creative cloth doll making workshops*

Françoise La Roche and David Gendron – *Sewing workshop assistance*

Caroline Boucher – *Author of the historical compendium Empreintes*

Ursula Angerer, Louise Girard, Jeanne Beaudoin and Hélène Saint Onge – *Donation of recycled materials*





Canada



AFY

35
ANS