

J. Gabriel Dufault

Métis patriot Gabriel Dufault was born on September 26, 1941, the son of Alphonse and Anna Dufault. He died on June 18, 2015. He was a long-time president of the Union National Métisse St. Joseph du Manitoba. He worked tirelessly to preserve Métis culture. On behalf of L'Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba Inc., he made a presentation to the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples (Métis Identity) in Ottawa on October 24, 2012.¹



Obituary:

Gabriel was particularly proud to be part of the Provencher School Cadet Corp and began his social contribution as early as 1950 with his dedicated participation in the Scouts and other youth movements. His career in the financial and insurance fields spanned many years. He was a staunch advocate of the Credit Union and Caisse Populaire community building philosophy. In his retirement, he expressed his great love of all things green as a freelance landscaper. His love of the outdoors was culminated with a trail being named in his honour in the Spirit Woods in South St. Vital.² His community building activities

¹ See <http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/sen/committee/411%5CAPP/25EV-49751-e.HTM>.

² Counselors Brian Mayes (St. Vital) and Dan Vandal (St. Boniface) recently announced joint plans to develop a trail on the west side of the Seine River, which will lead north from John Bruce Road, where there is a city park, to Richfield Avenue. The trail will encompass the site of the original mill owned by the parents of Louis Riel and will tentatively be called Sentier Gabriel Dufault Pathway in honour of Gabriel Dufault, a prominent member of the Métis and francophone communities in Manitoba, Mayes said.

“The trail symbolizes the importance of the Métis in St. Vital over the generations, which is something Gabriel Dufault has dedicated his life to,” Vandal said. “The Seine is a wonderful natural and historical treasure in our city. It needs to be protected and enhanced for everyone’s enjoyment.” Simon Fuller: *The Lance* 04/1/2014

continued through his volunteer work with the Folk Arts Council (Folklorama), where his open and inclusive spirit and exuberance shone brightly. He worked tirelessly, in many capacities for many community groups. His greatest passion was his work with the Métis community, especially throughout his presidency of Union National Métisse St. Joseph du Manitoba. We've lost a great advocate for the Métis cause, both on the provincial and national levels.

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