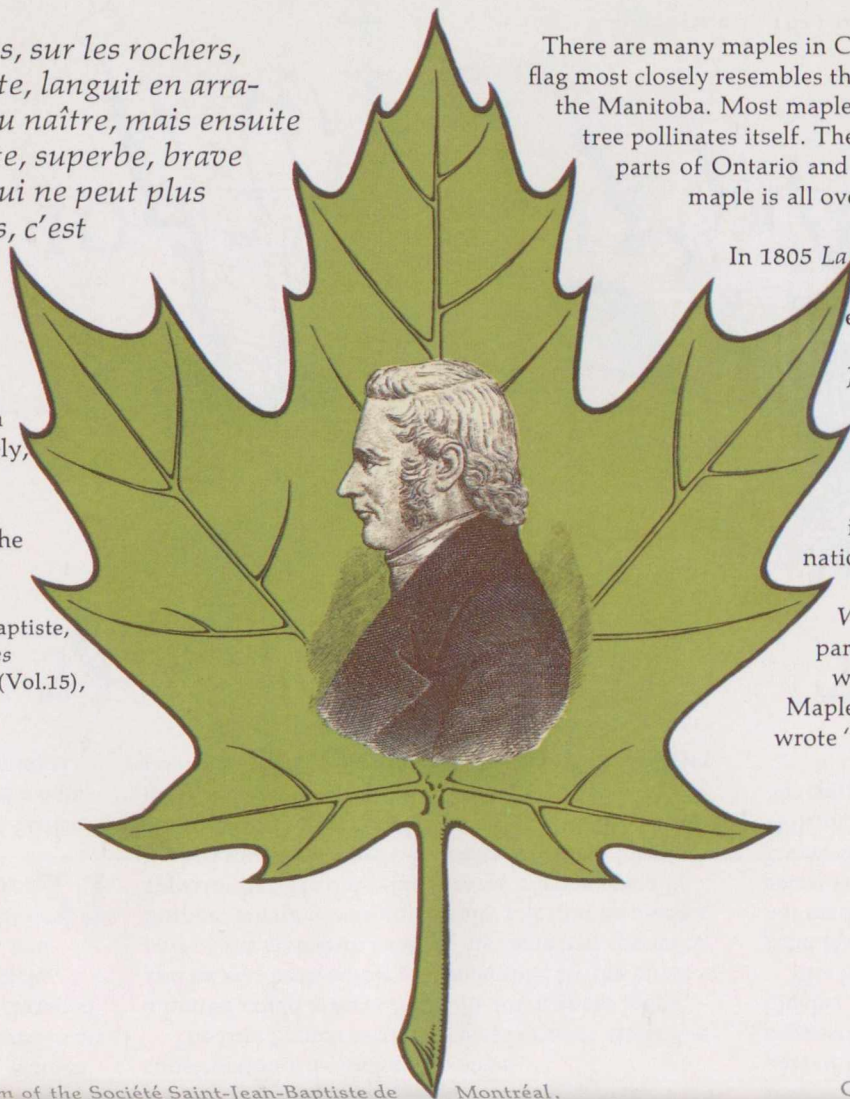


[L'ÉRABLE] *qui croît dans les vallons, sur les rochers, d'abord frêle et battu par la tempête, languit en arrachant sa nourriture du sol qui l'a vu naître, mais ensuite il s'élançe et devient grand, robuste, superbe, brave les orages, triomphe de l'aquilon qui ne peut plus l'ébranler. C'est le roi de nos forêts, c'est l'emblème du peuple canadien.*

[THE MAPLE] grows in the valleys, on the rocks. At first frail and beaten by storms, the tree languishes while sucking nourishment from the soil that saw its birth but then shoots up, grows tall, robust, stately, braves thunderstorms, and triumphs over the north wind which cannot shake it. It is the king of our forests and the emblem of the Canadian people. (unofficial translation)

DENIS-BENJAMIN VIGER, Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Montréal, 1836, dans Benjamin Sulte, *Mélanges historiques: La Saint-Jean-Baptiste 1636-1852*, (Vol.15), Editions Edouard Garand, 1929.



There are many maples in Canada and many leaves. The leaf on Canada's flag most closely resembles the sugar and the black maple; it least resembles the Manitoba. Most maples or *érables* are bilingual and bisexual—each tree pollinates itself. The sugar maple is found abundantly in Quebec, parts of Ontario and southwestern Newfoundland. The Manitoba maple is all over the prairies, and the Douglas and broadleaf maples are frequent in British Columbia.

In 1805 *La Gazette de Québec* suggested that the French Canadians adopt the maple leaf as their emblem to balance the Scottish thistle. In 1834 Ludger Duvernay founded the *Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal*, and the maple leaf became the semi-official standard of Quebec.

The maple leaf's popularity spread. When the Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII, visited Canada in 1860, a group of Torontonians decided that the leaf was Canada's official national emblem, and most of the prince's dancing partners wore silver maple leaf brooches. When confederation came in 1867, the leaf was part of the arms of both Ontario and Quebec and was firmly planted. Alexander Muir wrote "The Maple Leaf Forever" in 1867, and when Scott Joplin wrote "The Maple Leaf Rag" in the eighteen-nineties that just about did it.

Ludger Duvernay pictured on the 1927 program of the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal.

Courtesy Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal.

DIMANCHE	LUNDI	MARDI	MERCREDI	JEUDI	VENDREDI	SAMEDI
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY