



Who Do You Think You Are?

Taking a cue from a popular TV show, the Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society undertook family history projects for two area residents.



At the annual **Grande Prairie Family History Day** on February 20, **Archbishop Gerard Pettipas** of the Archdiocese of Grouard-MacLennan and Grande Prairie radio personality **Paul Ouellette** were each presented with a bulky binder detailing their family's history.

Genealogist Gail Shau traced the **Pettipas** maternal family roots back to 1603, when ancestor Pierre Dugua de Montis founded the first French settlement in Nova Scotia. The Acadian connection was a new and intriguing revelation for Archbishop Pettipas, who had always believed his family was of Irish origin.



Researching the **Oulette** family history, genealogist Patricia Greber found connections to singers Celine Dion and Madonna, hockey greats Guy LaFleur and Jean Belliveau and politicians Jean Chretien and Robert Bourassa. Roots dating back to 1648 detailed the family's connections in Rhode Island, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta as branches of the family moved west.

Both the Pettipas and Oulette families enjoy rich oral histories which are now enhanced by documented genealogical evidence. Who knows what lurks in your family history?

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