

#### The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network presents Heritage Talks!

Join us as we visit numerous communities across Quebec exploring some of the lesser known stories, people and places of historical importance.

Our speakers come from diverse backgrounds and include historians, educators, and those who have dedicated years to pursuing their passion in other fascinating disciplines.

Heritage Talks is open to all members of the community. Presentations are given in English and we will translate audience questions from French to English as needed.

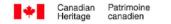
While many of our talks are **FREE**, some of our partner organizations charge a small fee for special collaborations. See below for details.

You can find us online at www.qahn.org and facebook @gahnheritagetalks.

#### We look forward to seeing you at Heritage Talks.



Heritage Talks 2019 would not be possible without financial support from the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Chawkers Foundation. QAHN gratefully acknowledges that support.



Thursday, January 24th 5:30-6:30 p.m. Black Community Resource Centre 6767 Côte des Neiges Road, Suite 592, Montreal

## Saving Montreal: Blacks in the Battle of Chateauguay by Dorothy Williams, Ph.D.

Award-winning author, Dr. Dorothy W. Williams specializes in Canadian Black history. Her expertise is in demand for public lectures and consulting, supporting media research and has consulted with various governments. With a Masters in History, and a doctorate in Library Studies, Dorothy's company, <a href="mailto:black-bl



Dorothy Williams, Ph.D.

Today the story of the War of 1812 in Quebec, in particular that decisive Battle on the Châteauguay River is readily recognized as the confrontation that heralded the beginning of the end of America's attempt to conquer British North America, one that hinged upon the capture of Montreal. To protect the island, Charles de Salaberry was given command to raise a defence force. Alongside British and the French, First Nations and Black defenders stepped up, and their contribution was pivotal. Their success thwarted President James Madison's strategy, which was to conquer British North America with the surrender of Kingston and Niagara, and the glorious capture of (as he termed it) the crown jewel -- Montreal.

In partnership with the <u>Black Community Resource Centre</u>. BCRC is a growing, resource-based organization that strengthens community capacity by providing professional support to organizations and individuals in need. The Centre is committed to helping visible minority youth rekindle their dreams, and achieve their full potential.

Thursday, February 7th 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Maison Louis-Joseph Forget 1195 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal

Montreal's Square Mile : From New Town to Downtown

by **Dinu Bumbaru**, Policy Director, Heritage Montreal

Dinu Bumbaru is Policy Director with <u>Heritage Montreal</u>, the not-for-profit organization where he has worked since 1982. Dinu graduated in architecture and architectural conservation from Université de Montréal and University of York (UK) and became a leading voice for the appreciation, care and enrichment of built heritage and landscape. He is active in



Maison Louis-Joseph Forget.

© Jean-François Séguin, 2015.

organizations like Fédération Histoire Québec and the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), a non-governmental organization advising UNESCO and governments. For his service, Dinu was appointed to the Orders of Canada and Montreal and awarded the Prix du Québec and Prix du Mont-Royal

On the South slope of Mount Royal, Scottish merchants subdivided farms and orchards acquired from French Montrealer families in the 1840-1850s. The streets they laid and the cadastre they created with their surveyors generated a new neighbourhood: the New Town which became the Square Mile. Originally on the edge of the city limits, it was graced in the 19th and early 20th with a remarkable array of villas and institutions designed by the best architects for the elite of the industrial metropolis Montreal had become.

The expansion of downtown brought demolition to the Square Mile. In 1973, the loss of Van Horne mansion was a turning point for conservation in Montreal, Quebec and Canada. In 1983, Maison Alcan and its integrated heritage buildings, brought an inspiring alternative.

Nowadays, the Square Mile's rich heritage faces new challenges with repurposing and densification. What will happen with the Royal Victoria hospital or McGill's portfolio of historic houses? How to keep the Square Mile, its architecture and urban texture present and alive in 21st Century Montreal?

Built in 1884, the <u>Louis-Joseph Forget House</u> represents one of the last Square Mile Houses on Sherbrooke Street. Indeed, a portion of the interior still reflects the way of life of its original inhabitants. Designed by Edward and W.S. Maxwell, the very architects whose works include the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and inspired by the ornamental features of the Second Empire Style, the Louis Forget House is a recognized historic monument and remains one of the finest architectural wonders of The Square Mile.

Saturday, February 23rd 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Webster Library, Multifunction Room, LB-322 Concordia University, J.W. McConnell Building 1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W, Montreal

Fifty Years Later: The Sir George Williams Affair by Louis Rastelli, Director, ARCMTL

Louis Rastelli is the director of ARCMTL, a non-profit organization that both promotes and preserves the independent arts in Montreal through exhibits, fairs, art vending machines, and an archive centre. He's also a local cultural historian, author, and heritage activist.



Photo courtesy of, Louis Rastellli.

Exactly fifty years ago this month, at what later became Concordia, where this talk is being held, Canada's most dramatic and important student occupation of the 1960s took place. When a group of students, primarily of Caribbean descent, filed a protest against a teacher who appeared to grade them differently than the white students, a review panel sided with the teacher against the students, and a series of occupations were held. While our neighbours to the south had seen many protests and riots through 1967 and 1968, it was what became known as the Sir George Affair or the Computer Riots in Montreal in February 1969 that gave Canadians their first such experience. Rastelli will draw on documents, research and first-hand interviews with students of the time to revisit the impact this protest had on the city and its Caribbean communities.

QAHN is very pleased to present this event in collaboration with <u>SpokenWeb</u>. The SpokenWeb program begins with the preservation and description of sonic artifacts that have captured literary events of the past, and quickly moves into a wide range of approaches and activities that activate these artifacts in the present.

Saturday, March 9th 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Brome County Museum, Old Courthouse Building 15 rue St. Paul, Lac-Brome (Knowlton)

A Motley Crew Of Unsung Heroes: Medical Training In The Canadian Army During The First World War by Abbey Lacroix, Archivist, Brome Museum. and Jeremy Reeves, Curator, Brome Museum

Abbey Lacroix has been working as an Archivist at the Brome County Historical Society Archives for over four years. She has studied a breadth of topics but has recently focused on the First World War. Abbey is currently completing a Master's in Library & Information Studies at the Université de Montréal.

Jeremy Reeves has recently been named Curator at the Brome County Historical Society after completing a Master's degree at the University of Cambridge. Jeremy's curatorial and scholarly work examines a wide range of periods and themes but focuses on modern military history.



Portrait of Karl Mizener of Knowlton, Quebec. Mizener was one of the soldiers with no prior medical training who served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps during the First World War. Photo courtesy of BCHS Archives.

Many historians point to the First World War as the defining moment in the emergence of modern battlefield medicine. Indeed, Canadian doctors and surgeons were at the forefront of battlefield medicine innovations. However, the focus on these modern medical advances obscure a motley crew of unsung heroes: the men who enlisted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps without any prior medical training but performed lifesaving treatments.

Through the biographies and service records of individuals from Brome County who enlisted in the CAMC as "other ranks", this lecture considers our national history through a local lens. Supported by archive documents (letters, diaries, etc.) and artefacts in the Brome County Historical Society's collection, this lecture aims to detail the history of the CAMC's "other ranks". Through this lecture, we explore the story of Canadians who were farmers, clerks, and other professionals before being transformed into the linchpin of a military medical service that treated over 400,000 Canadian soldiers.

The Brome County Historical Society owns and maintains a number of heritage buildings, which welcome individuals, families and groups. Built in 1967 in honour of Canada's centenary, the Centennial Building is home to the Society's administration and ticket centre. It also houses the Museum Shop and serves as a venue for lectures, art exhibits, and special exhibitions.

**Thursday, March 14th** 12:15 p.m-1:30 p.m.

**Atwater Library** 

1200 Atwater Ave., Westmount In collaboration with the <u>Atwater Library Lunchtime Series</u>

This is a special St. Patrick's Day event featuring traditional Irish music and original compositions by <u>Dragún Bán</u>.

#### Irish Immigration to Quebec since 1663

by **Fergus Keyes**, Board of Directors, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network; Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation

Fergus Keyes has had a lifelong interest in the general history of Montreal, Quebec, and Canada. Based on his heritage, his special focus has been on the Irish immigration and contributions to Quebec.

Since the first Irishman was recorded in the first census of New France in 1663, the Irish have been residing and contributing to Montreal and the Province.

We will follow this Irish diaspora over the centuries, including the two periods where the Irish arrived in large numbers – the early 1800s; and then during the Irish famine years around 1847.

Touching on the effort to remember the Irish Famine at the Black Rock, we will also highlight a number of citizens of Irish heritage that attained some prominence in areas of politics, medicine, the arts, and so on.

Originally home to the first Mechanic's Institute in British North America, the Atwater Library is now the oldest subscription library service in Canada. In addition to its impressive collection of nearly 40,000 mostly English language documents, the library hosts a multitude of events, special projects, and exhibitions with its partner organizations.



The Black Rock, officially <u>The Irish</u> <u>Commemorative Stone</u>; monument commemorating the deaths of 6,000 Irish immigrants to Canada.

Monday, April 15th 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Uplands Cultural and Heritage Centre 9 Speid Street, Sherbrooke (Lennoxville)

### Consolations of the Marsh: Remembering Henry Mousley

by **Dwane Wilkin**, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

Dwane Wilkin has worked with the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) since 2002 as a researcher, writer, editor, community organizer and administrator. Prior to his involvement in the heritage sector, Dwane made his living as a newspaper reporter. Born and raised in the Eastern Townships, Dwane attended Richmond Regional High School and Champlain College. He holds an undergraduate degree in Economics and Political Science from McGill University and a Graduate Diploma in journalism studies from Concordia University.

William Henry Mousley was a father of seven and well into middle age when his career in the family's railroad-building firm came crashing to an inglorious end. The Mousleys were forced to sell their London home to stay out of debt, parting



Calypso bulbosa, also known as calypso orchid or fairy slipper. Taken from Mousley's herbarium by the Canadian Geological Survey.
Source: The Canadian Field Naturalist, Vol. 109. The Ottawa Field Naturalist's Club, 1995. www.archives.org

ways forever with their prosperous life in the metropolitan nerve-centre of the British Empire. But riches of another kind awaited Henry in the bogs and woodlands of the Eastern Townships: an abundance of birds and wildflowers that seemed to reawaken his boyhood love of nature, fed his mind, and eventually furnished him with the means to earn a living after sailing to Quebec in 1910. In the course of the next four decades, while living first near Hatley Village and later in Montreal, Mousley gained a reputation as the best all-round naturalist-ornithologist of 20th century Canada.

<u>Uplands Cultural and Heritage Centre Inc.</u> is a non-profit organization housed in a historic Lennoxville residence, devoted to the preservation, support and expansion of the cultural and historical traditions of the Eastern Townships. Uplands serves as a meeting place and networking centre for organizations and individuals intent on sharing the rich and diverse heritage of Lennoxville and its area through art exhibitions, craft shows, educational projects, lectures and workshops.

Wednesday, April 17th Benny Library 7:30-8:30 p.m. Centre Culturel Notre Dame de Grâce 6400 Monkland Avenue, Montreal

## Honouring the International Year of Indigenous Languages: Exploring Connections Between Language and Culture

by Kevin Deer, Elder; Mohawk Language Teacher

Ka'nahsohon Kevin Deer is from Kahnawake Mohawk Territory. For the last 30 years, he has been involved in Mohawk Language retention and revitalization. He is also a Faithkeeper at the Mohawk Trail Longhouse which involves knowing sacred songs, dances and rituals. He enjoys discussing and presenting the Iroquoian world views, history and philosophy. In September 2015, he was deeply involved in the Bretton Woods IV convocation, performing a ceremony



Kevin Deer

to help all participants who gathered to see, hear, and speak more clearly about matters of global financial concern from a Native, First Nation's perspective. In February 2016, he made a presentation on Native spirituality at the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week in New York. In August 2016, he did a welcoming and healing ceremony for the World Forum on Theology and Liberation in Montreal.

The United Nations has named 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages. To honour this important declaration, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network has invited Kevin Deer, a Mohawk language teacher to present a talk at the Benny Library.

Throughout his presentation, Kevin will speak about the different aspects of Native languages and how they are expressed through song and the making of wampum, traditional belts which are used to narrate the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) history. Kevin will also discuss the Native creation story and examine how meaning and context can become obscured when translating from Mohawk to English.

Saturday, April 27th 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Rupert Youth Welfare Association 24 Chemin Shouldice, Rupert (La Pêche)

## Question Time. Food and Farming: Lessons From the Past; Planning For the Future.

Featuring discussion with a panel of informed local stakeholders.

Fairbairn Pioneer Garden in Wakefield, QC; Photo courtesy of Helen MacKinnon.

#### Panel Members:

**Bob Friesen**: Past-president, Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA); Trade and Transportation Policy Analyst.

Charlotte Scott: Local organic producer.

**Peter Andrée**: Associate Professor, Political economy/Ecology of agriculture and food, Carleton University.

**Bob Milling**: Innkeeper, co-owner: Auberge Wakefield Mill and O'Brien House Hotel, Chelsea OC

**Moderator, Guillaume Lamoureux**: Mayor of La Pêche since 2017, Guillaume holds a Bachelor's degree in Bioresource Engineering from McGill University and has worked in the fields of contaminated soil, and water management.

Disruption and uncertainty seem to be constants in our change-age. This panel discussion on food seeks to dig in to some of the issues, exploring different truths and solutions for a healthy future.

#### Coffee and treats will be provided.

A **car pool** service will leave Wakefield Community Centre at 10:00 a.m.

This event is organized in collaboration with <u>The Fairbairn House Heritage Centre</u>, a community based organization dedicated to protecting and publicizing the heritage of Quebec's lower Gatineau Valley.

**Saturday, May 4th** 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Historic Quebec City: A Walking Tour Looking at Some of the Anglophone Aspects of Quebec City

by **Simon Jacobs,** Director, Auberge Internationale de Québec

Simon Jacobs founded Exposition Shalom Québec in 2005, researching and producing an exhibition on the Jewish community of Quebec City. The exhibition was showcased for the 400th anniversary of Quebec City in 2008. From 2009 until March 2012 he took on the role of Executive Director of the Literary and Historical



Society of Québec, raising funds to complete the restoration of the Morrin Centre, managing the building project, and overseeing the production of a permanent exhibit called 'Doing time: the Québec City Common Gaol' which opened in June 2011. He has also had a distinguished career as a professional musician, playing viola with the Quebec Symphony Orchestra from 1989 until 2009.

### Starting Point: In front of The Morrin Cultural Centre 44, chaussée des Écossais, Quebec City.

\*Reservations required, FREE event.

Join former QAHN President and well-reputed guide, Simon Jacobs for an exciting walking tour of the storied Old City and perhaps, some of the lesser known Anglophone history of Quebec. Some of the highlights of this tour include La Maison de la littérature; McMahon Street, and its Irish and English influences; the Augustine Convent, now a hotel and wellness centre; and Dufferin terrace. Simon's in- depth knowledge of the local history and architecture will immerse you into the past and offer an experience that promises to be as memorable as it will be informative.

Important information: This tour will begin in front of the Morrin Centre and end in New-Town, at the Quebec Fresco mural. There are two underground parking garages available near the Morrin Centre: the SPAQ Chauveau located at 10, rue Pierre-Olivier-Chauveau, and the SPAQ Hôtel de Ville at 2, rue des Jardins. Paid street parking is also available in the vicinity. You can also get to the Morrin Centre by bus routes 3, 7, 11, 25, 28, 800, and 801. This walking tour will take us through Breakneck Steps - a long set of stairs connecting Old Town with New Town. Those who choose to skip the stairs can take the funicular for a cost of \$3.50, taxes included. The rest of the group will meet you at the bottom of the stairs. The walk back to the Morrin Centre from the final destination of the tour takes about 10 minutes. You may also choose to take the funicular on your way back to the Morrin Centre to retrieve your vehicle.

FREE admission. This event has limited spaces.

\*Please reserve your spot by calling 514-266-9682 or email communications@gahn.org

Sunday, May 5th 1:00-3:30 p.m. Stanbridge East Community Centre\* 5 Academy Street, Stanbridge East

\*This talk will begin with a brief presentation at the Stanbridge East Community Centre followed by a guided walking tour of some local cemeteries. This tour involves walking and driving.

#### Missisquoi's Cemeteries: Headstones, History and Heartache. by Heather Darch, Curator, Missisquoi Museum



One of many cemeteries fostered by The Missiquoi Historical Society. Photo courtesy of Heather Darch.

Heather Darch is the curator of the Missisquoi Museum and a projects manager, writer and researcher for the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network. She grew up next to a Loyalist cemetery in Niagara Falls Ontario, and climbing its trees and playing hide-and-seek amongst its stones as a child turned into a lifelong interest in cemeteries, their stones and symbols, and their protection.

There is growing concern in Quebec about the future of our religious heritage. Regardless of language or religious affiliation, many of our communities have closed or seasonal churches, and more than a few have cemeteries connected to them. There are also rural heritage cemeteries where there is no church affiliation and the families who once cared for them are now gone. In Missisquoi County, heritage or abandoned cemeteries are decaying and disappearing. These cemeteries are the last reminders of the first settlers who cleared the fertile lands of the County to build farms, mills and roads and in doing so, contributed to the settlement of this beautiful region. The Missisquoi Historical Society protects 18 of these heritage properties but the task is not easy. Heather Darch will talk about the efforts of the Missisquoi Historical Society and lead a walking tour through some of the sites under the care of the organization.

Saturday, May 11th: Lecture-Luncheon\* 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
The Colby-Curtis Museum 535 Dufferin Street, Stanstead

This talk will be followed by a luncheon at the Colby-Curtis Museum.

Tickets to this event are \$15 for members of the Stanstead Historical Society / \$20 for non-members.

\*Reservations required: 819-876-7322



#### The Fish That Got Away

by **Dwane Wilkin**, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

With a special installation of QAHN's bilingual exhibition "Waterways of the St.Francis/Cours d'eau de la Saint-François"

Dwane Wilkin has worked with the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) since 2002 as a researcher, writer, editor, community organizer and administrator. Prior to his involvement in the heritage sector, Dwane made his living as a newspaper reporter. Born and raised in the Eastern Townships, Dwane attended Richmond Regional High School and Champlain College. He holds an undergraduate degree in Economics and Political Science from McGill University and a Graduate Diploma in journalism studies from Concordia University.

The economic history of the Eastern Townships in the 19th and early 20th centuries is closely connected to the introduction and spread of technologies designed to convert flowing water into machine power. Early mills and dams proliferated throughout the St. Francis River basin, powering growth of manufacturing industries and giving rise to the establishment and development of towns and cities throughout the region. While historical narratives tend to downplay or overlook the impact of this growth on the natural environment, the story of the Townships' wild Atlantic salmon offers a different lesson: it is a record of the rich ecological heritage of the St. Francis, how it was squandered, and how it might be recovered and protected in the future.

"Carrollcroft" is the name of the imposing cut-granite and fieldstone house built by the Colby family in 1859, and home to the Stanstead Historical Society and the Colby-Curtis Museum since 1992. Situated on beautiful Dufferin Street in Stanstead, this fully accredited regional museum is home to an impressive collection of artefacts that recall the gentile lifestyle of the Colby family and the fascinating history of the border region.

Saturday, May 25th: Lecture-Luncheon\* 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Golden Rule Lodge 560 Dufferin Street, Stanstead

This talk will be followed by a luncheon at the Colby-Curtis Museum, 535 Dufferin Street, Stanstead. Tickets to this event are \$15 for members of the Stanstead Historical Society / \$20 for non-members.

\*Reservations required: 819-876-7322



A peek inside Golden Rule Lodge No. 5, photo courtesy of Matthew Farfan.

### Golden Rule Lodge: The Masonic History of Stanstead, Quebec

With a rare guided tour of Golden Rule Lodge by Grant Myers and Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Grant Myers is a resident of Austin, Quebec, and has had a lifelong passion for history and material culture. After completing his BA (Hons.) in Social Anthropology at Carleton, he pursued graduate studies in Anthropological Archaeology at UBC. Grant is President of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, Provincial Development Officer for Community Development and Employability Corporation, and Past Master of Golden Rule Lodge.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a resident of Saint-Herménégilde, Quebec, is an attorney. He is also Past Master of Golden Rule Lodge, and a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the District of St. Francis.

Join us to explore the history of one of the oldest and most storied Masonic institutions in Canada. Our talk will begin with a presentation by Grant Myers at the Colby-Curtis Museum and will be followed by a tour of Golden Rule Lodge No. 5, guided by Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The Masonic Lodge is located within a few steps of the museum. Luncheon at the Colby-Curtis to follow.

Golden Rule Lodge is steeped in history. One of the oldest Masonic lodges in Quebec, its roots date back to 1803, when Lively Stone Lodge was founded in Derby Line, Vermont. That lodge, composed of Masons from both sides of the border, met in a building situated half in Canada and half in the United States. During the War of 1812, the Canadian Masons formed a new lodge, Golden Rule, in Stanstead. Chartered by the Grand Lodge of England in 1813, it has occupied the same hall for over a century and a half, making it the oldest functioning lodge building in Canada. Built in the Classical Revival style in 1860, it is considered an architectural gem. The lodge's interior is a testament to living history. The walls on the first floor are covered with photographs of early pioneers and leading citizens from both sides of the border. The more formal second floor is decorated with allegorical murals pertaining to the teachings of Freemasonry.

"Carrollcroft" is the name of the imposing cut-granite and fieldstone house built by the Colby family in 1859, and home to the Stanstead Historical Society and the Colby-Curtis Museum since 1992. Situated on beautiful Dufferin Street in Stanstead, this fully accredited regional museum is home to an impressive collection of artefacts that recall the gentile lifestyle of the Colby family and the fascinating history of the border region.

Wednesday, June 5th 7:00-8:00 p.m. Benny Library Centre Culturel Notre Dame de Grâce 6400 Monkland Avenue, Montreal

# Heritage *Plays*: A History of Eastern Gaspesian Fiddle Music with a live performance by The Douglastown Project.

by: Glenn Patterson, Laura Risk, and Brian Morris



Left to right: Laura Risk, Glenn Patterson, Brian Morris.

Glenn Patterson is a St. John's and Montreal-based multi-instrumentalist and ethnomusicology student currently finishing a doctoral degree at Memorial University. His research is in the musical traditions of anglophones in the eastern Gaspé region.

Laura Risk performs and teaches Scottish and Québécois fiddling internationally and has over a dozen albums to her credit; her recently completed PhD (McGill) on Quebec traditional music was awarded the prestigious Governor General's Gold Medal.

From his earliest days in Huntingdon and Verdun, Quebec, guitarist Brian Morris was surrounded by the sounds of Gaspesian musical culture. His Gaspé-born parents were part of the the diaspora of English-speaking Gaspesians living in Montreal and, later, Cambridge, Ontario. His father, Erskine Morris (1913-1997), was an exceptional old-style fiddler with a style and extensive repertoire of tunes unique to the eastern Gaspé Coast, music he learned from older players in the 1920s and 30s.

The Douglastown Project (Glenn Patterson and Laura Risk - fiddles; Brian Morris - guitar) met and began playing together in 2010 during a small parish festival held in Douglastown Quebec, at the eastern edge of the Gaspé Coast. Each with their own diverse musical backgrounds, they were brought together by their fascination with the unique fiddle music of the eastern Gaspésie. Melodies at once hypnotic and driving call forth the sounds of parlours, parish halls, and picnic dances that were part of the rich multi-cultural tapestry of the 19th and 20th century Gaspé coast, a place and time where both the codfish and the fiddle shaped the rhythms of everyday life. In this performance and presentation, the musicians will play a selection of their favourite Gaspesian tunes and tell you about the people and places the music comes from.

Sunday, June 9th 2:00-3:00 p.m. Eaton Corner Museum, Foss House 374 Route 253, Cookshire-Eaton

### The Witch of New Mexico Road: Irish Folklore in the Eastern Townships

by **Grant Myers,** President, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

After completing a BA (Hons) in Social Anthropology, Grant Myers pursued Graduate Studies in Anthropological Archaeology at the University of British Columbia. Grant is currently the Provincial Development Officer for the Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC). He is also President of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network. Grant has had a lifelong passion for history and material culture and enjoys wilderness canoeing and mountaineering.

The Eastern Townships are haunted by old tales and legends of times past that lurk incomplete or only half remembered in the collective imaginations of the families that have lived there for generations. Stories told by parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles compete for attention with the complex trappings of contemporary life and, more often than not, they are lost to memory. But sometimes, if only by chance, an old tale is recorded or written down and survives in a published book or manuscript, taunting us by its paucity of detail to unwrap the riddles of its narrative. Such is the legend of Peggy Green, the witch of New Mexico Road...



The witch, as a symbol can take on various forms and is ubiquitous throughout the folklore of numerous cultures. This image of Ostara (Johannes Gerhts, 1844) represents a Goddess of the Germanic people. She, like many subjects of legends and fairytales, has been re-interpreted throughout history.

<u>The Eaton Corner Museum</u> houses its collections in three colonial era buildings situated at the heart of the village of Eaton Corner. One is the former Congregational Church built in 1841. The second, across the road, is the old Academy Building. The Foss House is the museum's third and most recent acquisition. While retaining its original colonial vernacular, Foss House now serves as the museum's welcome centre and is host to various community events. The Quebec Government has designated all three buildings as historic sites.