

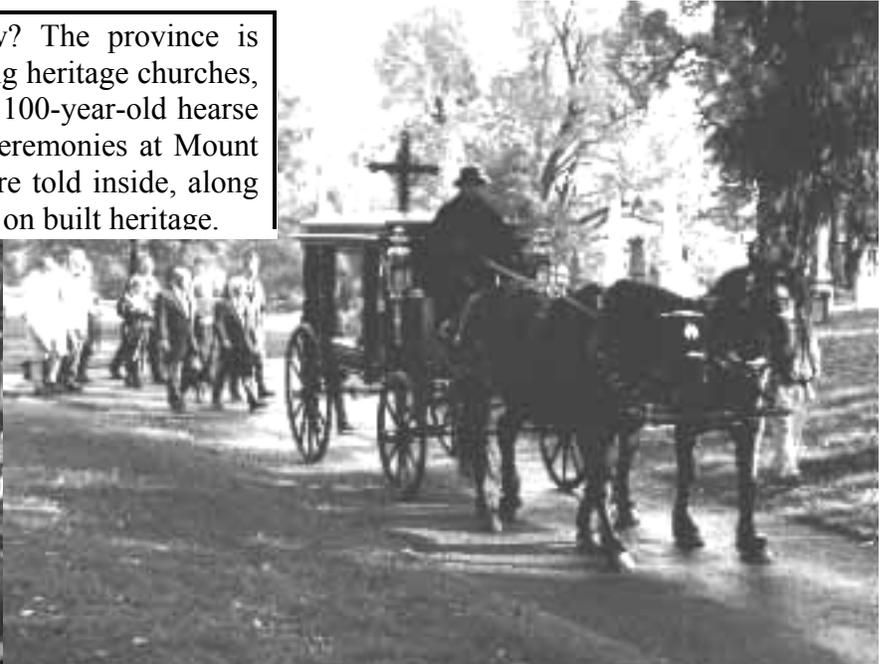
# QUEBEC HERITAGE NEWS

NOVEMBER 2002

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

PAGE 1

See all the pointed buildings below? The province is putting plenty of money into preserving heritage churches, and not just in Old Quebec. And this 100-year-old hearse was on hand for recent anniversary ceremonies at Mount Royal Cemetery. Both these stories are told inside, along with much more in our special section on built heritage.



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This issue marks the second anniversary of the *Quebec Heritage News* and we thank everyone who has supported the endeavour. For those who keep track, it's also the beginning of Volume 2.

# BUILT HERITAGE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Preservation, promotion pay dividends

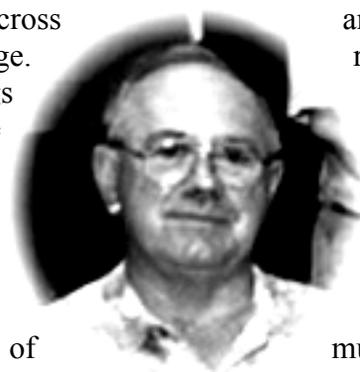
Most heritage preservation activity across Canada is probably centred on built heritage. Many local groups have their beginnings with a community effort to save some building or structure and this effort brings like-minded people together. Often this coming together includes thoughts of having a community museum or similar show place for the region's heritage.

Some cities have done a remarkable job of preserving their built heritage, putting it on display and making it a centrepiece to attract visitors. Such Maritime cities as Halifax, Saint John and Fredericton stand out in this regard and have won awards and international recognition. These efforts pay off, as these cities become focal points for tourists who are pleased and impressed, and carry the message home to send more visitors. In the three cities named, one commonly sees identification plaques on historic homes and buildings with relevant information about the property.

During a recent visit by the QAHN Board to New Carlisle in the Gaspé, we saw a number of such plaques showcasing some of their historic and interesting places.

A number of larger cities have decided to give some increased focus on identifying and drawing attention to their historic places but many smaller municipalities, including mid-size cities, seem quite terrified of the idea of protecting heritage. There is always the temptation to have something old replaced with something new, offering apparent new tax revenue such as a car-wash, parking lot or another *dépanneur*.

The Quebec government amended its Cultural Property Act in 1985 and 1986 to allow citation of historic monuments by municipalities through a described procedure. Sections 10 through 83 of the Act describe the procedure. Unfortunately, the results have been disappointing. A summary in May 2002 showed that across Quebec's 17 regions, only 262 historic monuments and heritage sites have been recognized. Some regions have zero! Leading the list



are regions 5 and 6 with 31 and 32 respectively. But even this is only a "tentative toe in the water".

### Reluctant partners

During the last year the Federal government's Department of Canadian Heritage launched the Cultural Spaces Initiative. The program is designed to encourage municipalities and provincial governments to become supportive partners in preservation.

So far, Quebec's municipalities have been a bit hesitant and the provincial government also somewhat reluctant to endorse or commit to these partnerships.

Yet Quebec has invested millions in church preservation through la *Fondation du patrimoine religieux du Québec* and these dollars are spent reasonably even-handedly across regions and religions.

On June 21, 2002, the Quebec Government announced 25 million dollars in commitments to "*mise en valeur*" of built heritage across Quebec.

Finally, the Department of Canadian Heritage has launched further cultural preservation efforts and we appear near (finally) to having a National Registry of historic structures. It's been under

consideration since before World War I and perhaps persuaded by the United States long history of an Historic Registry (also in the UK), it appears as if we are almost ready to put Canada into a more visible state of recognizing its built heritage.

In all these initiatives, there are critical roles for local historical societies and heritage groups in identifying worthy sites, detailing the history, persuading commitment by local governments and putting together the arguments which encourage owners to show pride in what they own and that preserving built heritage can generate revenue, not be a "drag" on local pockets.

*In all these initiatives, there are critical roles for local historical societies and heritage groups in identifying worthy sites, detailing the history, persuading commitment by local governments and putting together the arguments*

**Richard Evans**

# Start a museum? Really? It is no longer enough

One of the commonest ideas coming our way from communities is the idea of starting some sort of museum. When possible, we discourage this approach and suggest an alternative.

Why discourage? To begin with, federal and provincial governments are not keen on supporting more museums, especially community museums which are almost certainly doomed to unending funds shortage, insufficient human resources and skills, with less than ideal conditions for storage and preservation of archives and artefacts. Few local groups are ever adequately prepared for what they are getting into.

Furthermore, the local tendency is to collect offerings of “more of the same” of old tools, gadgetry, household goods and clothing pretty much the same as to be found a few miles down the road. Most local societies don't have the training or funding for appropriate exhibiting and restoration.

To further complicate the issue, there is a local tendency to receive and ultimately display family donations under a sense of obligation, whether or not they fit a local preservation or collection's theme.

Recent studies on tourism show a rising interest in heritage and cultural tourism. The common visitor is a middle-income family, with some advanced education and seeking a sense of “complete experience”. Coming into a region they look for a window onto that region, its local history, activities and what differentiates it from others in a larger geographic region. Some sense of active interaction is sought. If the visitor goes away feeling s/he/they had a

memorable “experience”, they spread the story and send other visitors.

It is no longer enough to look at another wall of tools, another display case of moustache cups, or see into another Victorian parlour of which there must be countless examples across Eastern Canada and the Northeast USA.

We are challenged to draw in the younger generation and interest them in their heritage in all its elements.

So, for example, instead of a “museum”, how about a Regional Heritage Centre which tells the story of the people, their surroundings, their critical events, the cultural activities of importance to local people over the years. This removes the focus from acquiring and dealing with the problems of a “collection” and special structural costs, insurance needs, staff problems and the frequent cold shoulder of professionals.

Ask instead what your local story is, how it could be told or displayed in an interesting way. In this way, a small select collection can be put to work on your behalf instead of creating burdensome and costly work for you. How about starting a long-term project where you have fun among yourselves and with visitors and with the least possible “worry factors”?

In such an approach, a lot can be done with a little and making the best use of what you can most easily acquire and care for. Think themes, events and activities more than exhibits. You may also open doors to more and easier obtainable funding and not be in such competition with larger well-established museums. — **R.E.**

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## BUILT HERITAGE

# Historic Mount Royal Cemetery celebrates 150 years

On Saturday, October 19 the Mount Royal Cemetery (a core member of QAHN) commemorated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its first burial. To mark the occasion a ceremony was held in the old chapel at the Funeral Complex.

Executive Director Merle Christopher and Trustee John Durnford each gave a brief address, and Brian Young of McGill University presented a short lecture with slides on the history and significance of cemetery space. Professor Young is the author of *Respectable Burial: a History of Mount Royal Cemetery*, to be published by McGill-Queen's University Press in the spring of 2003. The large crowd then formed a

procession which followed an antique hearse bearing two wreaths to Section A2, the oldest part of the cemetery. The hearse, an elegant black vehicle dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, was purchased by the cemetery company earlier this year for use on ceremonial occasions. The first wreath was laid on the grave of Richard Sprigings, the cemetery's first superintendent, in honour of all the people whose working lives have been devoted to burying Montrealers.

The second wreath was laid at the grave of William Squire, a Methodist preacher who had the singular honour 150 years ago of being the first person buried at the cemetery. Clergymen James Armour, Murray

Magor, and Roger Brassard (all cemetery trustees) led the crowd in a prayer for the Mount Royal Cemetery's continuing service to the community. The procession then made its way back to the Funeral

Complex for an informal reception. The Complex itself is a building of considerable heritage value: although it contains state-of-the-art facilities and luxuriously-appointed modern rooms, its oldest section dates to 1901 when it formed part of Canada's first crematorium.

### Historic site

The Mount Royal Cemetery's historic significance was also recognized last June, when the Ministry of Canadian Heritage and the Historic

Sites and Monuments Board of Canada presented the cemetery company with a commemorative plaque. At a ceremony held at the cemetery's Funeral Complex on June 7, the plaque was unveiled by Mme Carole-Marie Allard, MP, on behalf of the Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage. The ceremony

was presided over by Jean-Claude Marsan, president of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. The cemetery was represented once again by Merle Christopher and John Durnford. QAHN was represented by Rod MacLeod, who did some of the research and editing of *Respectable Burial*. MacLeod gave the following address on the cemetery's historical significance.



**L to R: Rod MacLeod, Merle Christopher, Carole-Marie Allard, Helen Fotopoulous, John Durnford, Jean-Claude Marsan. We are standing in the original 1901 chapel. – June 7, 2002**



**The cemetery's heritage hearse on October 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Continued Next Page**

## BUILT HERITAGE

### Continued from previous page

The Mount Royal Cemetery was conceived in the 1840s when several prominent members of the city's Protestant community began to promote the idea of a rural cemetery, the latest thing in cemetery design: a quiet, natural space where graves would stand amid greenery and where visitors would be inspired by the purity of nature, away from the city's distractions and temptations. In the property lying on the far side of the mountain, with its forest, its rocks, and its running river, they found a site that was more than ideal. The Mount Royal Cemetery was originally intended to serve Catholics and Jews as well as Protestants, but in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century these groups felt uncomfortable not having their own cemeteries - and soon established their own to the west and north. From the time of its first burial in 1852 right through the First World War, the Mount Royal Cemetery became a showcase for the city's great Anglo-Protestant families: the McCords, the Allans, the Redpaths, the Abbotts, the Molsons, and the Holts. If you seek their monuments, look around. The 20<sup>th</sup> century brought the second phase of the cemetery's history, when its management began to modernize the business - the fruits of which efforts are much appreciated today. It was an age of innovation - the most

historic of which was the building of Canada's first crematorium, and Quebec's only crematorium until the 1970s. During this period the cemetery also grew more diverse: beginning with sections granted to Montreal's Chinese community and Reform Jews

early in the century, increasing numbers of non-Protestants came to be buried here so that today the cemetery is a veritable mosaic of languages and customs. What may have been lost during the post-war years, however, was a sense of the cemetery's own heritage. It is this that the cemetery has striven to cultivate and restore during the last fifteen years, the third phase of its history.

### Here is Canada's past

If you are strolling (or hiking) through the winding pathways of Mount Royal Cemetery, bird-watching, leaf-peeping, or merely enjoying the walk, you are making use of a heritage site of the first order. If you are wandering about in search of Canada's past - if you seek politicians, artists, writers, sports figures, the veterans of wars, the victims of the Titanic and other disasters, the heroes who gave their lives to save others such as the firemen or Sarah Maxwell, explorers such as David Thompson, hockey legend



**The Funeral Complex. The part under the ivy dates back to 1901.**

Howie Morenz, Canada's Minister of Everything C.D. Howe, pillars of society such as John Samuel McCord and Hannah Lyman, those who delighted in knocking people off pillars from Joe Beef to Mordecai Richler, and of course the original Anna who taught the children of the King of Siam - if you seek any or all of

these, and more, you are making use of this rich repository (if you will excuse the pun) for which we have the Mount Royal Cemetery, its trustees and staff, to thank.

### Next Issue

The January issue of the *Quebec Heritage News* (yes, January already!) will focus around the theme of Railway History. If you have anything you'd like to share with the rest of the province on this topic, now's your chance! As usual, we will also be publishing any and all announcements, events, questions or comments you wish. This is your forum - use it!

## BUILT HERITAGE

**The place may have had a secret meaning**

### Sulphur springs made Potton the place to go – for a while

**T**he people of Potton certainly remember Potton Springs named after three little sulphur springs which made the place famous for over one hundred years. The legend says that Nathan Banfill, age 14, while working in a field at the base of Pevee Mountain, was looking for a drink of water. At the base of a cliff, he came upon a trickle of water with the very peculiar smell of sulphur! In fact, there were three springs close to each other.

#### **Cured everything?**

This discovery became widely known and people came from all over to take advantage of this miraculous water that supposedly cured everything: liver ailments, stomach, inflammations, rheumatism and more. People drank it, bathed in it and brought it home. The McMannis Hotel, then situated at the corner of Mountain Road and Route 243, did a very good business with the “spring lodgers” who went to Potton Springs on horse drawn wagons.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1862, business men from the Eastern Townships met there to celebrate Potton Sulphur

Spring and the Free Masons visiting the site left their logo and other symbols inscribed on the rock. The place may have had a special meaning for this secret society. Later, C.F. Haskell from Stanstead officially named the place Mount Pleasant Spring but that name was soon forgotten.

In 1875 construction of the Potton Springs Hotel by N.H. Green made the place famous. Two years later, the new hotel took advantage of the extension of the railway line of the Missisquoi and Black Rivers Valley Company linking Eastman to Potton Springs. In 1912, the hotel was purchased by J.A. Wright who enlarged it. Electricity was supplied by a generator. The inn could host seventy five persons at the rate of two dollars a day!

The sulphur waters were diverted from the mountain springs into a wooden tank and delivered by gravity to the hotel below. The springs attained an exceptional reputation and attracted vacationers from the United States, France, England, Western Canada

**Continued on next page**



**Picture of Potton Springs Hotel from a postcard. The oldest building, to the right, was built in 1875. It has the POTTON SPRINGS HOTEL sign above the entrance. The extension wing to the left was added in 1912**

**Continued from previous page**

and, of course, the Eastern Townships. It was the beginning of the modern spas in the Eastern Townships.

In 1888, the Orford Mountain Railway, later purchased by Canadian Pacific, took over the previous railway and built a shelter for the comfort of travellers staying at the Potton Springs Hotel. There were other buildings, namely a stable for horse and buggy, and, in the twenties, a large garage for the first tourist automobiles.

We have no photographs depicting indoor life at the inn but we believe there was a large heated indoor pool supplied by the sulphur springs, as suggested by the occurrence, under the oldest part of the hotel, of a deep excavated area with a standpipe in the middle. A short cement staircase led to the pool area heated by a furnace supplied by a tall chimney. Only a base made from Lennoxville bricks is left today. Outside, on the vast lawn, stood a high totem pole decorated with Native motifs as seen on a post card of the time.

Among all of these buildings was the famous recreation hall located about one hundred meters from the hotel. Outside, above the entrance door, at one time there was a Mickey Mouse painted on the board. In the back of the hall was a wicket to collect entrance tickets and a projection booth. Richly decorated with wood trim, the hall was used for indoor games, evening dances, movies and stage entertainment. What a good time! The employees' rooms occupied the ground floor. This building burnt down around 1995.

Another interesting detail is that the hotel had its own post office as seen on a post card marked POTTON SPRINGS JUN 34 QUE (six months before it was destroyed by fire) and mailed with a two cent stamp to Mrs W. Schirmer, 6865 Boyer, Montreal, Q.P., the wife of the hotel's Chef, Mr Walter Schirmer. His grandson, Mr André Schirmer of Montreal, courteously sent us a photograph.

Business started to decline at the end of the twenties and the Hotel probably fell victim to the economic crisis of the time. J.A. Wright sold the place to F. Larin in 1930 but a fire, presumed to have been set by arson, gutted the hotel on December 12, 1934. The place used to close at the end of summer and, for the winter, the big outdoor sign, POTTON SPRINGS HOTEL (which probably measured six to seven meters long) was removed and stored in the henhouse. It was thus saved from the fire but, ironically, it was stolen in the late 1990s after the new owners recovered it from under the collapsed henhouse. If the mischievous people who stole that piece of our heritage feel sorry about it, they are invited to discretely return it to its owners.

Except for the Aubergine in Knowlton's Landing, formally the Pine Lodge, all old hotels and inns in the Township of Potton eventually burned down. What's left of Potton Springs today? A horse barn. For the rest, silent foundations, chimney bricks from Lennoxville, old sidewalks between buildings and, of course, the springs with the cement or stone steps leading to it, all testifying to a bygone era. There is also the grade from the old railway and the travellers platform. All over the site, there still floats a palpable feeling of the bygone *Gay '90s* era, of elegant summer vacations and of relief from all ailments!

Because of the fire very few material artefacts of the hotel remain except for a few precious photographs jealously kept by Potton and Bolton families and others. However, a discovery made on the shores of the Missisquoi River may, indeed, be linked to Potton Springs Hotel. One morning in May of 1998, Mrs Johanne Lavallée and her three children, Alexandre, Noémie and Janelle Champagne, whose property near Potton Springs borders the river, noticed metal plates appearing on the bank. Erosion was collapsing the earth, revealing a little treasure. I was called to go and check on this discovery and realized that metal plates were coming out of the ground where they had been buried.

Ten pieces were recovered as well as a small metal milk jug. They proved to be made of silver plated copper. These plates were circular, oval or rectangular, measuring about 20 by 25 cm, some with a festooned rim. Obviously, they were service trays for tea, bread, cakes or cookies. They have no manufacturing identification but, according to Mr Guy Toupin from the Musée de la Civilisation in Quebec City, they date back to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and would have been manufactured in England, using an electrolytic plating process.

Where could these trays, buried on the banks of the river, have come from? Closer examination revealed that they had been damaged by fire as seen from the adherence of charcoal particles and the effect of molten silver welding some trays together. Although we have no formal proof, we can safely assume that these trays were recovered from the rubble of the Potton Springs Hotel and buried in a field near the river, maybe by youngsters who believed they had discovered a treasure!

Nearly seventy years later, Potton Springs still has the power to fascinate.

By Gérard Leduc, President, with Peter Downman Vice-President, Potton Heritage Association Inc.

*Note: The Potton Springs site is private property and not open to visitors.*

## BUILT HERITAGE

# Congregation puts Knox Church in the spotlight

The illumination of Knox Church, Crystal Falls Quebec, took place on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 people gathered for this ceremony of the inauguration of floodlights to light the exterior of this historic church located on Highway 327 between St. Jovite and Arundel.

The gathering was welcomed by a piper (Jim Ross of Arundel) playing a medley of tunes as the sun was setting with perfect weather and a mild temperature for the event.

Short speeches by Christopher Goodfellow, president of the Knox Church Crystal Falls Memorial Fund, and the Mayor of Arundel, David Flanagan, were followed by Vera Evans singing Amazing Grace on the steps of the church to the gathered crowd. Rowena Blair, a long-time supporter of annual services, read a poem in tribute to Edmund Bennett, who was instrumental in preserving the church. Jim Ross led the assembled people, many of whom were carrying flickering candles in the darkness, down the slope to the edge of the road while playing the bagpipes so that they would have an excellent view as the lights came on.

Malcolm Bennett, the grandson of the builder, John Bennett, was accorded the honour of “flipping the switch” after the crowd shouted out a brief countdown from 10. The lights came on much to the relief of the

organizers and light reflects off the new white paint of the church and the little building appears to lift-off from the hillock where it stands.

To conclude the ceremony everyone gathered in the light before the church and sang All Things Bright and Beautiful. Canon Horace Baugh, who for many years has officiated at the annual services of the church, gave a blessing. It was a very special night which I am sure every participant will remember for the rest of his life.

### Symbol of faith and hope

This concluded a two-year effort by many people to get the electricity brought to the church and the lighting installed. It is the intention of the Knox Church Crystal Falls Memorial Fund to light this church each and every night in perpetuity as a symbol of faith and hope. It stands as a beacon of welcome to all those who pass by and it is an example of what can be accomplished through community participation and involvement in the preservation of important heritage buildings and sites related to the anglophone settlement in Quebec.

Photos of the "illuminated" church can now be found at [www.laurentian.com/knox..](http://www.laurentian.com/knox..) If you are in the Tremblant area, it is well worth the five minute drive south from St. Jovite to see this church either by day or night!

– Chris Goodfellow

## OBITUARY

Lawyer, civil servant, diplomat, businessman, benefactor, history enthusiast

# Legacy of Tony Price goes far beyond family ties

Quebec lost a major heritage figure this fall with the death of Edward Anthony “Tony” Price. Among other vocations and avocations, Mr. Price was a lawyer, civil servant, diplomat, businessman, benefactor, and history enthusiast. Although he traveled far and wide, aside from his family Tony Price’s first love was Old Quebec, where he owned the world famous Musée du Fort and created the Auberge Saint-Antoine, a unique hotel housed in an 18<sup>th</sup>-century warehouse.

He was a direct descendant of Sir William Price, who came to Canada as a young man to make his fortune, launched the paper and lumber industries that opened up the Saguenay Valley, and earned a knighthood in the process. Today the Price Company is part of the world’s largest paper manufacturer, Abitibi-Consolidated, with more than 16,500 employees.

One of Tony Price’s last projects was to spearhead conservation of the tiny Anglican church of Saint James the Apostle in Jonquière. The chapel is now **Le Centre d'histoire Sir-William-Price**, an interpretation centre where visitors can meet and learn about both the baron of the Saguenay and his workers, who sometimes went barefoot while working in his mills. – C.B.

THE BULLETIN OF THE QUEBEC ANGLOPHONE HERITAGE NETWORK



# BUILT HERITAGE — A BOOK

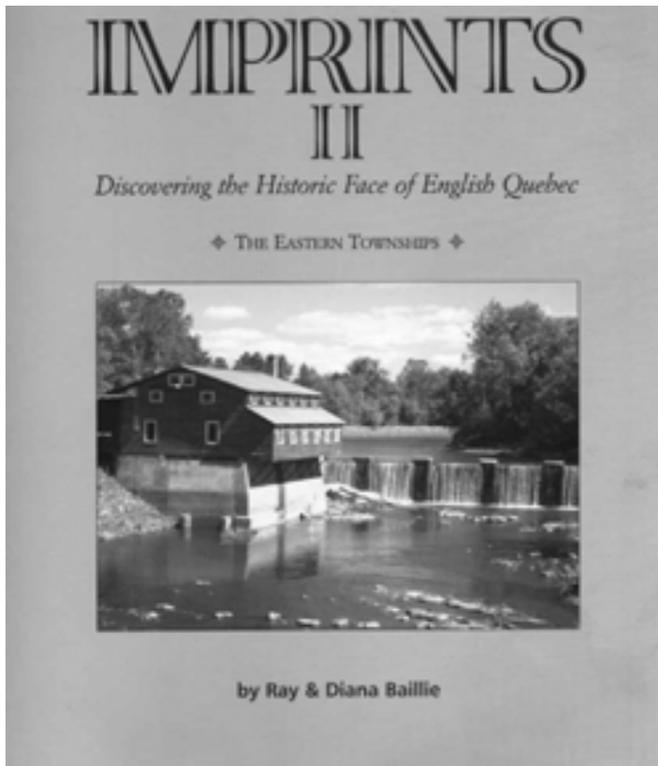
*‘Based on An old map that Marion Phelps gave me’*

## Imprints II: Baillies turn their talents to the Townships

**Imprints II, Discovering the Historic Face of English Quebec – the Eastern Townships**, by Ray and Diana Baillie, from Price-Patterson Ltd., Montreal, ISBN 1-896881-31-9, 215 pages, \$32.50.

Ray and Diana Baillie’s second book picks up right where the first one left off. The popular previous volume *Imprints* was sort of an anglo guide to the buildings of Montreal, the Laurentians, the Outaouais, Southwest Quebec and the Richelieu Valley. *Imprints II* showcases the built legacy of the English-speaking Eastern Townships.

As the jacket boasts, the book features “200 contemporary photographs and stories of Irish, Scottish, English, American, Jewish and Welsh landmarks ranging from robust institutions and historic houses on modern farms to bygone structures.”



**On the cover is the old mill at Huntingville**



**Diana and Rav Baillie**

The book is based on “an old map of the Eastern Townships

in 1914, that Marion Phelps (curator emeritus of the Brome County Museum) gave me,” Ray said in an interview at the launch, held recently at Bishop’s College School in Lennoxville.

### Ordinary people

The Baillies are the region’s biggest fans. “We did this book to show the contribution of the ordinary people, and their day-to-day lives. The English-speaking people of the Eastern Townships have found a way to live in harmony even though they are only 10% of the population.”

This is a fine book of black and white photos and full-colour notes and anecdotes from local history. Easy to look at and a pleasure to read. It includes many personal favourite Townships buildings and even one of my all-world top 10 – Sherbrooke’s hidden treasure, the Winter Street Jail. I am glad to say a third volume is on the way, covering regions to the east and north. – **C.B.**

**PUBLISHING A BOOK?  
SEND US A COPY  
AND WE’LL REVIEW IT RIGHT HERE**

## BUILT HERITAGE

# Milby celebrates re-opening of old Hyatt schoolhouse

Years of hard work culminated in an impressive ceremony on Saturday, June 22, when Little Forks Branch officially opened the Hyatt One-Room Schoolhouse.

Approximately 200 persons witnessed the ribbon cutting and plaque unveiling to mark the opening of the quaint, clapboard-covered building nestled in a picturesque river valley in the Eastern Townships region of Quebec. The

schoolhouse is located in the settlement of Milby south of Lennoxville approximately 100 miles east of Montreal.

Little Forks Branch raised over \$140,000 for the restoration of the school but interestingly, of this amount, under \$10,000 was spent in actual labour costs which clearly demonstrates the extensive amount of volunteer labour that went into the project.

The school is of historical significance to The United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. Milby, originally known as Hyatt Settlement, was first settled by Loyalists including Cornelius Hyatt who donated a parcel of land for a community school. Loyalist settlers constructed the building that now has the distinction of being one of the oldest in the region.

Classes were first held in the school in 1822. The building continued to be used for educational purposes until 1946 when it was sold to the Milby Women's Institute. The Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society bought the schoolhouse in 1989 but, after holding on to the property for a few years, decided it was not interested in the structure because it was located in the country and the site was not very accessible. The society sold the building to Little Forks Branch in the mid-1990s.

The mood for the festivities was set by a group of Kings Rangers re-enactors who established a military encampment adjacent to the building. The ceremonies got underway with a short parade along the McVety Road from near the original site of the school. The building had to be relocated a distance of 600 feet because of water drainage problems. Young Loyalists, Abbigael & Tristan Loomis, carried the Little Forks Banner at the start of the march followed by bag pipers, a drummer and the re-enactors.

Once they arrived, Little Forks Branch President Bev Loomis led the official program from the entranceway to the school while onlookers gathered on the front lawn. Officials of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada and local politicians were among those participating in the ceremony but it was a visit by a former teacher at the school that was one of the highlights of the

afternoon. Mabel Collins Marshall, now 101, taught at the school in 1919.

Charles Shepard, who holds the distinction of being the first president of Little Forks Branch, cut the ribbon to officially open the historic building. Compton-Stanstead MP David Price and Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, member of the Quebec National Assembly for St.-Francois, unveiled the commemorative black granite plaque prominently displayed at the front of the school.

"This is a day that we shall never forget," said Gagnon-Tremblay in bringing greetings from the provincial government.

Many speakers praised the efforts of President Loomis and her husband, Milt, who for the last 10 years spearheaded the restoration of the schoolhouse that had been all but abandoned. The restoration

was carried out through Patrimoine-Ascott Heritage, a non-profit registered charitable organization.

"Bev and Milt Loomis sold me the dream and today we celebrate," said Robert Pouliot, former Mayor of Ascott and director of Patrimoine-Ascott-Heritage.

"After all these years, I am very proud to be here today to present the fruits of our work," noted Grace Hyatt Coté, secretary-treasurer of Little Forks Branch and Patrimoine-Ascott-Heritage.

"This school forms the main attraction in the hamlet of Milby which is on the historic corridor leading from Sherbrooke to Coaticook and the U.S. border. A great attraction for tourists. We are all proud of this endeavour," said Alain Deschatelets, director of SDES-Tourism.

Robert Wilkins, president of Heritage Branch in Montreal and his wife, Maura McKeon Wilkins, made two

**Continued on next page**



**Mabel Collins Marshall and Bob Omstead.**

**Continued from previous page**

presentations to Little Forks Branch for use in their displays at the school. The one presentation, an 1881 photo of nearby Sherbrooke, had originally been owned by Maura's late father, Desmond McKeon, and the second presentation was a 19th century map of the region.

Following the presentation and in his praise of the Little Forks Branch, Robert Wilkins commented, "with hearty congratulations on your outstanding achievement in restoring and preserving for posterity the Hyatt One-Room School as an enduring memorial to our proud United Empire Loyalist tradition – *Ducit Amor Patriae.*"

Among other members of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada expressing congratulatory messages were Dominion President Myrna Fox; Roy Lewis, vice-president of Central Region East; Phyllis Hamilton, Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch and former Dominion Presidents, Bernice Flett and Okill Stuart who offered a blessing for the Union Flag presented to Little Forks Branch. President Loomis expressed her appreciation to the Association for its support with the project.

Mayor Gerry Boudreau of Waterville and Georges Comtois, SIGEC, also extended congratulations.

Prior to the start of the ceremony on the bright, sunny afternoon, visitors were treated to a horse and carriage ride past the nearby St. Barnabas Anglican Church, constructed in 1875, and over the Milby Covered Bridge, built in 1873



to span the winding Moe's River. These structures, along with the school, are all within easy walking distance of each other and compose a three-point heritage attraction along a history route stretching from New England north into Quebec through the Eastern Townships.

**See for themselves**

During the afternoon, guests had an opportunity to tour the building that will be open to school children, tourists and other interested individuals. Here they will see for themselves how education was delivered in the 19th century.

Mannequins dressed in period costume are part of the display that has been enhanced with donations of desks and other accoutrements from those

early days of education.

The former woodshed at one end of the school now houses two washrooms and stairs that lead to a modern meeting room in the basement of the building. A rear entrance to this room has wide access doors and stairs to accommodate busloads of visitors. The room will provide space for workshops where students can view demonstrations of butter churning, weaving and braided rug-making as well as other early crafts without disturbing the integrity of the historical school room above. The basement will also be available for use by the community and others but has been equipped with its own washroom which will allow the main floor of the building to be isolated when no supervisory persons are on site.

## BUILT HERITAGE IN THE COMMUNITY

**Morin Heights Historical Association** held a work bee October 19<sup>th</sup> as a clean up at the Mill barn in Lummis Park. They had a social time; an auction of discovered artefacts rounded off with wine and cheese. They are working on relocating this historic barn to become a community heritage centre and are exploring a variety of funding possibilities.

In Drummondville, the **St. George's Church Foundation** has an informative and attractive pamphlet on the history of this church, the present building dating from 1864. This Anglican Church was dedicated to St. George, partially honouring Gen. Frederick George Heriot, considered the founder of

Drummondville. The cemetery includes among its interesting monuments a Celtic cross recognizing the Irish presence. The foundation mailing address is 276 Heriot Street, Drummondville QC H2C 1K1

At Stanstead Historical Society's **Colby-Curtis Museum**, re-organization has provided new archival storage facilities affording first-class conditions. They continue to assist in providing access to the nearby Mansur or North Stanstead school, a preserved one-room brick schoolhouse built in 1819. The Society's first meeting was held there in 1929, and the Stanstead Women's Institute now maintains the building.

## BUILT HERITAGE

### The Canadian Heritage of Quebec

This private Foundation has acquired and protected 20 properties across Quebec. Most but not all have buildings. Colin Molson formed the foundation in the 1940s with help from a friend James Beattie. Over the years, they acquired properties considered to be of heritage worth and potentially at risk. They honour the heritage of people in both the anglophone and francophone communities. Certain properties were acquired for their material heritage worth.

The foundation has an annual operating budget of about one half million dollars and is now chaired by Robin Molson of Ottawa, son of the founder and retired senior officer of Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Most of the revenue comes from the C. J. Molson Foundation, a separate structure. Some of the properties generate revenues.

### Partnerships vary

They operate with a variety of partnerships. For example, Greenwood in Hudson is operated by the Hudson Historical Society. Simon Fraser House in Ste. Anne de Bellevue is best known as the tearoom of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Headquarters are at 1181 de la Montagne (Mountain St.) Montreal, a building donated by the late David Stewart. Affairs of CHQ are managed by Greyhead Treasury Management under Stewart Iverson. For information on the properties and for how to become a member, subscribing or sustaining, write to the Canadian Heritage of Quebec, 1181 de la Montagne, Montreal QC H3G 1Z2. Tel: (514) 393-1417.

### Cultural properties board reports on churches

Quebec's churches, convents and monasteries get a better bang for their buck – and your tax dollar – when they get together, get organized and put their heritage on display, says a report by the cultural properties board, *La Commission de biens culturels du Quebec*.

Both rural and urban heritage religious buildings receive more visitors and more respect when they are listed in regional tourist literature and have organized tours and programs.

### \$120 million

The Quebec government has spent more than \$120 million in the last six years on restoration of churches and other religious buildings. The report says groups which are better prepared to greet the public have more success in making the public aware of the province's rich ecclesiastical heritage.

The best results come from guided and self-guided tours, exhibitions, displays, concerts, receptions and other special events, combined with posted schedules, pamphlets, brochures, guidebooks and even paid advertising. Visitors come from near and far and seem willing to pay a modest entry fee, says the report, which polled 100 churches, monasteries and convents.

The report can be viewed online at [cbcq.gouv.qc.ca](http://cbcq.gouv.qc.ca), or you can obtain a paper copy by writing to La Commission de biens culturels du Québec, 225 Grande Allée Est, Bloc A, rez de chaussée, Quebec City, Quebec, G1R 5G5, or [info@cbcq.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:info@cbcq.gouv.qc.ca)

## GROUPS AND THEIR PUBLICATIONS

**Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group** based in Pembroke Ontario includes information for genealogist on both sides of the Ottawa River. They have information on the Irish, Scottish and other communities of the area. Their membership extends across Canada and internationally reaching descendants everywhere. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month, they publish Timberline, their newsletter. PO Box 972, Pembroke Ontario K8A 7M5  
Email address: [uovgg@valleynet.on.ca](mailto:uovgg@valleynet.on.ca)

Each year the **Chateaugay Valley Historical Society** produces an annual publication of articles on local history. The original language, French or English, is used in this annual that they call The Journal. The 2001 issue featured as a theme "The Country Doctor" and features 14 major submissions complete with artwork, maps and photos. If interested, write to the Editor, Box 61, Howick QC, J0S 1G0. Their publications are impressive.

Every two months, the **Historical Society of the Gatineau** publishes a newsletter featuring local stories, historic photos and news of their activities.

Another interesting annual publication by an historical society is The Porcupine, released in June of each year by the **Morin Heights Historical Association**. Also bilingual in its content, the recent issue edited by Sandra Stock featured 14 submitted articles. For information, the association may be reached at Box 2693, Morin Heights QC J0R 1H0. Website: [www.geocities.com/mhha98](http://www.geocities.com/mhha98).

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND QUEBEC

An **historic country home** and apple growing farm near the Vermont border is now home to a new range of products featuring a new twist on an historic product. The novelty is ice cider, made with apples that have experienced several frosts. **Domaine Pinnacle** is under the ownership of Charles Crawford and his wife Susan Reid. A part of the history is that the farm once served as a stop on the underground railway bringing escaped slaves to Canada. Today, the activities are novel and very much above board.

The **Eastern Townships Research Centre** has received a number of gifts of papers and archival material from several sources across the region. Of special interest were a number of diaries of the Rev. Louis C. Wurtele, a well-known minister in the Acton Vale area in the late 1800s. His diaries were bequeathed to local historian Marie Paule Labrecque, who with the encouragement of family descendant David Eaves, passed these on to the ETRC. ETRC also received records from Maheem Cemetery, from Fidelity Rebel of Lodge #33 and some collections of personal papers.

The Richmond area has a strong Irish heritage, in part a result of its history as a railway centre where Irish workmen played a major role. The **Richmond County Historical Society** this Fall had a lecture by Dr. Peter Southam of the University of Sherbrooke on the local Irish heritage. They also held a group visit to six cemeteries where many Irish burials are found.

**Graduates of St. Patrick's school of Jonquière**, now Riverside Regional Elementary School, recently held a reunion for the class of 1992. Also in the Saguenay, the Royal Canadian Legion, Arvida Branch 209, recently held interesting events, including distributing medals of thanks from the people of Holland to veterans or families of veterans who participated in the liberation of Holland in WWII. Local Remembrance Day observations took place November 10 at the cenotaph in Jonquière.

The recent issue of *Blueberry Connection*, published by **CASL (Community Association for Saguenay Lac St. Jean)** shows a wartime photo of Kenogami men who served in the Royal Rifles of Canada, most of whom served out the war years as prisoners of war in Hong Kong. The homecoming reunion for graduates of Arvida High School and Saguenay Valley High School held August 2-5, 2002 appears to have brought a great turnout and a joyful time had by all.

**Irish Heritage Quebec** is an active organization keeping Irish heritage at the fore in the Quebec region. Among their ongoing activities is participating in the selection of 500 new street names, needed as a result of Quebec City's expansion to include a number of surrounding municipalities. Their mailing address is Box 3733, Ste. Foy QC G1V 1N6

### Museums meet, plan joint activities

Regional historical and museum societies of the Eastern Townships have been meeting three times annually since 1988, in recent years as an informal regional chapter of *La Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec*. The fall meeting recently took place in Georgeville on Lake Memphremagog and hosted by the **Georgeville Society**. Local historian John Scott gave the members a tour of their summer exhibit.

The group also voted to support the possibility of a **travelling exhibit** focused on New England influences in the Townships. On their behalf, QAHN applied for and received a grant from the Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage to conduct a feasibility study for such an exhibit.

#### Much interest

Heather Darch of Missisquoi Historical Society, who is the acting secretary of the ET-FSHQ, undertook the project. The report on this project has been completed and a project submitted for funding, with QAHN again acting on their behalf. If the travelling exhibit can be realized, interest has already been expressed in Ontario, Atlantic Canada and New England.

## HELP AND HINTS FROM AWAY

### Doors Open Canada

This initiative, being encouraged by the Heritage Canada Foundation of Ottawa, promotes the idea of communities organizing an annual event in which historical buildings are opened to the public. In many regions, museums have had annual free entry days but the Doors Open movement extends to a variety of heritage buildings including schools, chapels, town halls, industrial or commercial buildings, churches, interesting homes whether continuing as private residences or in commercial use such as B&Bs, offices and so on. The movement began in Scotland and has been popularized in several European countries. Toronto and Ottawa have both held Doors Open events attracting thousand of visitors.

Communities interested in organizing such an event to better sensitize local people and create political interest should contact the Heritage Canada Foundation for ideas on how to proceed. PO Box 1358, Station B, Ottawa ON K1P 5R4. <http://www.heritagecanada.org>

### Fondation Rues Principales

Beginning its life as Main Street Foundation, under sponsorship of Heritage Canada Foundation, encouraged by municipalities to rediscover and restore commercial areas to show off their historic best features. No longer operating actively outside Quebec, the *Fondation Rues Principales* has its office in Quebec City in a historic building owned by the Heritage Canada Foundation. Their work is to encourage Quebec municipalities to strip away the aluminium and plastic boxed in ugliness of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and re-expose classical and interesting buildings hidden underneath. Information on how to explore this interesting idea can be obtained from them at <http://fondationruesprincipales.qc.ca>. Mailing address is 11 rue de l'Ancien Chartier, Quebec QC G1K 6T4.

## GLEANINGS FROM THE QAHN LISTSERVE



Henri DeGlane

### A famous Canadian athlete?

I am a researcher living in the United States and trying to find some information about a famous Canadian athlete by the name of Henri DeGlane. Mr. DeGlane won a Gold Medal in the 1924 Olympics as a Greco Roman wrestler. He went on to wrestle professionally throughout the World and won championships in North America and in Europe. Mr. DeGlane lived in Montreal for most of his life – and I think he also lived in Paris. After an exhaustive search through the internet, I am only able to find out that he died in 1975 sometime. I have no other information.

Does your institution have any information on Mr. DeGlane? I would like to know when he was born and when he died. If I could get an obituary on him, it would certainly help as well. I would be willing to pay for copy and postal costs. Anything you could tell me would be very helpful.

Thanks. Tim Hornbaker, Fort Lauderdale, Florida [THornbaker@aol.com](mailto:THornbaker@aol.com)

### A Kyoto accord of a different sort: Montreal to host World Conference of Historical Cities

(Communiqué) Gérard Tremblay, mayor of Montréal, and Yorikane Masumoto, mayor of Kyoto and chairperson of the League of Historical Cities are pleased to announce the 8th World Conference of Historical Cities to be held in Montreal from October 6 to 8, 2003. This conference is intended in particular for elected officials of local communities, who are always in the front line in debates over choosing which heritage elements should be protected in an urban landscape and what should be replaced or redeveloped. It will also be of interest to researchers and all citizens interested in heritage protection. The League of Historical Cities has 61 member cities from 49 countries, from Accra, Ghana and Alexandria, Egypt to Zurich, Switzerland and Zagreb, Croatia. North American cities are Quebec City, Montreal, Boston, Mexico City and Guadalajara. It is a forum for elected officials from five continents, who come together to share their experiences and expertise in managing historic districts

## MEMBERS NEWS & EVENTS

### St. Andrew's Day concert

A St. Andrew's Day concert is planned for **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church** in Quebec City. It will be a lively celebration of Celtic music featuring both artists from the Quebec City area and selected musicians of the St. Helen's Island garrison of the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to building repairs at the church.

Reels and jigs, lilting song and stirring piping, Saturday, November 30, 7:30 P.M. Tickets: \$8  
Contact: St. Andrew's, (418) 694-1347

Performers: Bonhomme Setter (Celtic Band), Sylvain Laberge, Sandra Poulin, Martin Laforest, Dominique Haerincq, Stéphane Desbien, Tess Leblanc (English and Gaelic Song / Dance), Bill Russell (English Song / Guitar). St. Andrew's Pipers: Éric Castonguay, Christian Haerincq, Alain Stairs, Yves Chabot, David

Stafford. Fort Ste-Hélène Garrison of the 78th Fraser Highlanders: Greg Hay (highland dance), pipe and drum. Reception to follow. All are welcome.

### Brome County presents lecture series

Nov. 30 – From Road to Rail, the Eastern Townships and the 19th Century Railway Boom

Jan. 11, 2003 – A Distinct Society Within the Distinct Society: Confederation and the Eastern Townships

Jan. 18, 2003 – The New Frontier: The 19th Century English Exodus from the Eastern Townships”

Jan. 25, 2003 – The Eastern Townships During the Two World Wars.

The lectures are by Jimmy Manson, Eastern Townships history lecturer, at the old Court House Archives, 15 St. Paul, Knowlton info: (450) 243-6782. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. each Saturday, \$5 entrance fee.

## GLEANINGS FROM THE QAHN LISTSERVE

### Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program

On May 2, 2001, the Government of Canada announced the creation of the Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program, which has the objective of supporting modern management and greater financial stability in arts and heritage organizations. This national program strengthens the environment for cultural organizations in local Canadian communities.

The Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program offers four components to communities and institutions.

**Stabilization projects:** This component helps establish Stabilization Projects, within a specific geographic area, that are run by independent, non-profit organizations governed by representative boards of directors. Stabilization Projects in turn, support arts and heritage organizations in their areas by offering technical expertise. Some also offer assistance to reduce deficits and build working capital reserves.



**Capacity building:** This component helps individual arts and heritage organizations that do not have access to assistance from a Stabilization Project to improve their administrative, organizational and financial structures.

**Endowment incentives:** Through this component, the Government of Canada will encourage Canadians to donate to arts organizations by providing funding when a private donation is made to an arts organization's endowment fund.

**Networking initiatives:** This component supports networking projects of national scope involving municipal cultural workers or stabilization projects across Canada, working to build or improve their capacity in the area of cultural policies and action plans, of sound management practices and partnerships with the private sector.

See the web site [www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pcapc-cahsp/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pcapc-cahsp/index_e.cfm).

## MEMBERS' NEWS & EVENTS

Little treasures reveal the magic exercised by Christmas decorations

### Colby-Curtis hosts Collectors' Christmas display

The Stanstead Historical Society announces its holiday season display, A Collector's Christmas. Christmas decorations of yesteryears dating from the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the 1950's have been gathered for this exhibition. All of these objects have been passionately collected over a decade by a small group of Quebec City collectors.

Fashioned in glass, cardboard, paper, goose feathers, wire or celluloid, these industrially produced pieces were initially imported mostly from Germany, Czechoslovakia or Japan. Rescued from oblivion or destruction, these little treasures reveal the magic exercised by Christmas decorations for young and old through the generations.

Although concentrated in the temporary exhibition space where tea will be served, some of the items will serve to decorate most of the house.

The Christmas tree ornaments exhibition will be accompanied a selection of toys selected from the SHS collections. Visitors will be greeted in the entrance hallway by a century old music box on loan

from a private collection, with its Christmas melodies playing during visiting hours.

#### Victorian Christmas Tea

Once again, in a completely decorated Carrollcroft, members, friends and guests are invited to enjoy an old-fashioned Victorian tea with scones made on the premises by Natalie Duncan and served with Devon cream, jam, squares and shortbread. The Tea Room is set up in the temporary exhibition space. Invitations have been sent to area groups. Admission is \$7 for a guided tour of the house, Christmas ornaments exhibition and tea, \$5 for tea only. Reservations are appreciated (819) 876-7322. Tea will be served from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. November 22 to December 22, December 27, 28 and 29, January 3, 4 and 5, 2003. Early Bird Christmas shopping Saturday 30 November 1 p.m. at Colby-Curtis Museum Boutique.



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