

***Object Histories:
Memory, conservation
and change in Quebec***



Shifting cultural and territorial boundaries figure among the defining features of human history. Trade, migration, colonization, industry, struggle, and conflict: All these phenomena and more have helped shape the Quebec we inhabit today, from our built environment to the patterns of our daily lives, to the stories we learn and share about the past.

Join other lifelong learners in the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) this winter as we explore themes of change, memory, and conservation in the company of leading scholars and community historians from around the province and across the county. Please consult the following Heritage Talks program for lecture details, background on our guest speakers, and links registration links to participate.

This series is supported through member subscriptions and the generous support of the Zeller Family Foundation and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

For more information visit:

WWW.QAHN.ORG

Or contact Dwane Wilkin at:

DWANE@QAHN.ORG

Canada 

November 24, 2022

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

The pioneering life and legacy of Harriet Brooks

By Geoff Rayner-Canham



MUSÉE MCCORD MUSEUM

At a time when few women could aspire to professional careers, a promising young scholar from Montreal named Harriet Brooks was working alongside some of the most celebrated scientists of the early 20th century, including McGill's Ernest Rutherford, and later J.J. Thompson and Marie Curie. Among her many contributions to chemistry and the emerging field of nuclear physics were breakthrough discoveries in radioactivity, which would help earn Rutherford the Nobel Prize in 1908.

By then Harriet Brooks had chosen to marry, abandoning her profession in accordance with the gender expectations of the Victorian era. Her life and remarkable accomplishments were the subject of a 1992 biography written by science teachers Marelene and Geoff Rayner-Canham. Join us as we rediscover a trailblazing Canadian scientist whom history nearly forgot.

Registration for this online video presentation is required. You must [sign in here](#) to join the Zoom call. A public livestream (no registration needed) of this presentation will be broadcast on www.facebook.com/QAHNCanada/

About our speaker

Geoff Rayner-Canham taught chemistry at the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University in Corner Brook, Nfld. For several decades. The story of Harriet Brooks' life and work was his first foray into science history, written with retired physics instructor Marelene Rayner-Canham. The pair have since published seven books and many academic papers about pioneering women scientists. Geoff is also the author of a book on the periodic table and is co-researcher and co-author, with two Inuuk students, of a special issue of *Chem13 News* devoted to chemistry and Inuit life and culture.

January 19, 2023

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Flesh Reborn:

Saint Lawrence Valley Mission Villages through the 17th Century

By Jean-François Lozier

The Saint Lawrence River valley was a crucible of community in the seventeenth century. The region emerged as the heartland of French colonial settlement in North America and lies at the core of collective memory and historical scholarship in Quebec and Canada. Far less understood is the way in which distinct, diverse, and dynamic Indigenous peoples coalesced in the region during this period. Author and historian Jean-François Lozier shows how Anishinaabeg, Innu, Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Wabanaki and other groups came together



during this period for reasons of their own, and not just because of French colonial ambitions. They came together in a way that was characterized by the entanglement of armed conflict, diplomacy, migration, subsistence patterns, religion, kinship, leadership, community-building, and identity formation. Join us for an overdue reappraisal of Indigenous communities' influence on Canada's early history.

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About our speaker:

Jean-François Lozier is curator of French North American history at the Canadian Museum of History. He specializes in Franco-Indigenous relations in the 17th and 18th centuries, and on material culture, commemoration, and public history. *Flesh Reborn: The Saint Lawrence Valley Mission Settlements through the Seventeenth Century* (McGill-Queens University Press, 2018), won the French Colonial Historical Society's Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Book Prize and was shortlisted for the Canadian Historical Association's Best Scholarly Book Prize. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto.

January 26, 2023

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Loyalties in conflict:

A Canadian Borderland in War and Rebellion 1812-1840

By Jack Little



Originally settled by Loyalists from New York and followed by much larger numbers of land seekers from New England, the Eastern Townships was a potentially volatile borderland during the War of 1812 and the Rebellions of 1837-38. Drawing on his 2008 book of the same name, historian and author Jack Little examines how the allegiance to British authority of the American-origin population within the borders of Lower Canada was tested by these conflicts.

American border raids during the war, resulting in a distinct regional identity, did not prevent a strong political-reform movement from emerging in the Townships in the 1820s and 1830s. This movement undermines the view of some Quebec historians that the political contest in Lower Canada was essentially a French-English one. Nonetheless, the dual threat of French-Canadian and American nationalism did ensure the Townships' loyalty to government during the rebellions, followed in succeeding years by development of an increasingly conservative and distinctly Canadian cultural identity.

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About our speaker

A native of Quebec, Jack Little received graduate degrees in history from the Universities of New Brunswick and Ottawa before beginning his academic career at Simon Fraser University in 1976. He has written more than a dozen books and numerous articles on Canadian social history, with much of his work focused on the development of Quebec society, religion, and politics in the Townships. More recently, he has published on the history of tourism, travel writing and environmental politics in B.C. He now lives on Salt Spring Island.

February 2, 2023

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Cotton makes a colony: Valleyfield's English roots

By Ken Dolphin



Thousands of skilled labourers and their families from Lancashire, England first came to Quebec as employees of the Montreal Cottons Factory, greatly influencing the future social, economic, and cultural development of Salaberry-de-Valleyfield. The Valleyfield mill colony, established in 1875, was itself a model of 19th century industrial production at a time when companies exercised tremendous control over the lives of their workers, from where they lived and socialized, to the types of products they bought with their wages.

Châteauguay Valley Historical Society president Ken Dolphin revisits Valleyfield and the thousands of British subjects who populated the industrial settlement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Join us for a virtual tour and local history of this iconic textile town and learn why Valleyfield homes were among the first in the province to be furnished with electricity.

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About our speaker:

Born in Valleyfield, Ken Dolphin devoted his working career to special education, teaching in elementary schools throughout the Chateauguay Valley, while pursuing an interest in writing and community service. Author of several published children's books and short novels, Ken has also served as town councillor, president of the local soccer club and vice-president of the local minor hockey league. Ken gives guided walks through the old cotton-mill neighborhood to students of industrialization.

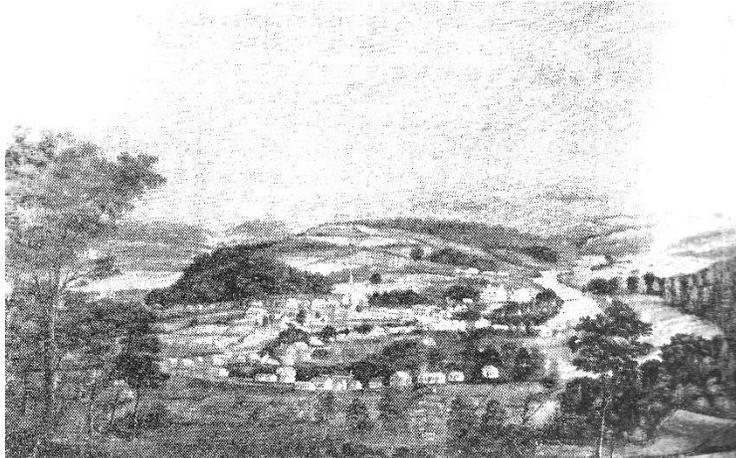
February 09, 2023

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Dead or Alive?

The pulse of heritage in today's Laurentians

By Joseph Graham



The farmer feels his heartstrings tug driving past an abandoned farm, the barn collapsed and the old house sagging; the angler cherishes an old photo of her grandfather holding a huge trout caught in a river where no fish live today; a forester sees in a tree stump the white pine forest that once covered rolling hills from the Atlantic coast to the Great Lakes.

Why do people seek to preserve historic artifacts and places? Is this desire a sign of people's appreciation for their ancestors? Or is it a type of nostalgia, recalling how society has changed, perhaps a warning against changes that happen too fast? Author and historian Joseph Graham starts his enquiry in the old Argenteuil Seigneurie, where local history illustrates the challenges of saving heritage when the cultures and beliefs that give heritage meaning change or cease to exist.

Centred in a Scottish-influenced farming settlement long called St. Andrew's East, the community was renamed St. André d'Argenteuil as the English-speaking population declined. The seigneurie offers fertile ground for exploring the long, complicated genesis of identity formation in the surrounding region, including how it came to be known as The Laurentians.

Registration for this Zoom event is required. Please [sign in here](#) to join. A public livestream will be also be broadcast on www.facebook.com/QAHNCanada/

About our speaker

Joseph Graham has been a frequent contributor and columnist with *Quebec Heritage News* magazine for more than 20 years. He is author of *Naming the Laurentians, A history of Place names 'up-north'* and *Insatiable Hunger, Colonial Encounters in Context*.

February 16, 2023

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

The St. Lawrence Waterway Project: From Colonial Canals to the Seaway

By Mark Gallop



The 1959 opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway as “the world’s longest inland deep draft marine highway” forever changed Quebec’s geographic, economic, and political landscapes. It was one of the great engineering projects of the 20th century, displacing more than twice as much earth as the building of the Suez Canal did a century before. But the Seaway was not just a post-war initiative. Inter-governmental discussions for the “St. Lawrence Waterway Project” dated back as far as the 1890s. The desire to access the interior of the North American continent with ocean-going vessels started centuries earlier. In 1689 François Dollier de Casson, a Sulpician priest, was the first to start digging to circumvent the Lachine Rapids. With a focus on both geography and biography, this tale will be told through the diverse and driven personalities who worked to reshape the rivers and lakes of Quebec and beyond for navigation.

Registration for this online lecture is required. You must [sign in here](#) to join the Zoom call. A public livestream (no registration needed) of this presentation will also be broadcast simultaneously on www.facebook.com/QAHNCanada/

About our speaker:

Mark Gallop spent three decades in the investment and financial services sector, and now devotes his time to historical research, writing, and lecturing. He is a Trustee of the Mount Royal Cemetery, a past President of the Atwater Library, and a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. He divides his time between New Brunswick and Quebec.

March 2, 2023

Becoming Modern: The Rise of Annual Art Exhibitions in Montreal, 1860-1880

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

By Lorne Huston



Canada's modern art world can trace its origins to Montreal in the second half of the 19th century. Before 1850, well-defined occupations of artist, dealer and critic didn't exist, and the buying and collecting of paintings was largely considered a foreign pursuit. By 1900, though, the city was host to an annual exhibition featuring contemporary works by professional artists, many of whom were Canadian-born and trained. People visited these shows by the thousands and newspapers give them prominent coverage.

The founding of the Art Association of Montreal in 1860 marks a turning point in the process of art institutionalization that was occurring all over Europe and North America. How did this process occur in Montreal, compared with other industrial cities? Who were the Art Association's leading figures and why did it take 20 years to realize their goal of holding an annual art show? Join historian Lorne Huston as he delves into this emerging world of modern art before the railroad barons made their influence felt.

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About our speaker

Lorne Huston taught at Cégep Édouard-Montpetit in Longueuil. He specializes in the history of the arts sector in English Montreal. His recent publications include *George M. Brewer et le milieu culturel anglophone montréalais 1900-1950*, (Éditions Septentrion: 2020), co-authored with Mare-Thérèse Lefebvre. He has previously written on the Art Association, anglophone theatre, and on art and drama criticism in Montreal during the period 1900-1950.

March 09, 2023

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Behind the Scenes: Betty Riley, Black voices, and media activism in the 1970s

By Desirée Rochat



The early 1970s was an important period of social change in Montreal's Black communities. New organizations were being formed, adding to the city's older Black institutions, founded in the early 20th century. This made for a vibrant scene of cultural, educational, and political activism, led by a wide array of community members. Equally important, but often overlooked, is the role that communication activism played during these years. Through various media, Black leaders strove to ensure that information was widely circulated in their communities and that Black voices could be heard. One of the leaders of this movement was Betty Riley. While working as an office supervisor at the Montreal company, Cable T.V.L., Miss Riley realized that most television programming did not reflect the realities or meet the needs of the city's Black residents.

In 1971, Betty Riley took it upon herself to create the first-ever Canadian TV show devoted to Black communities. In so doing, she became one of the country's rare female television producers, marking the beginning of her pioneering career in community-based communication.

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About our speaker:

Désirée Rochat is a community educator and researcher. She holds a PhD in Educational Studies from McGill University. Guided by an approach connecting historical research, community archival preservation and education, her work aims to document and transmit (hi)stories of Black communities' activism. Rochat is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of History at the University of Toronto.

