

# QUEBEC HERITAGE NEWS

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21<sup>st</sup> Century edition for three-county book

## Popular guide to Protestant churches republished

By **Caroline Kehne**

A new edition of Phyllis Hamilton's historical church guide, *With Heart and Hands and Voices*, has recently been released. This well researched and

masterfully recorded book is a historical and photographic directory of Protestant churches in the Brome, Missisquoi, Shefford Counties and surrounding area. It was first published by Price-Patterson Press of Montreal in 1996, and serves as an invaluable reference to the early religious history of the Eastern Townships. The 345 page millennium edition, which is now available at bookstores and historical societies throughout the region contains information on 93 protestant churches with accompanying black and white photographs.

Understanding religious life is a key to understanding the history and cultural heritage of the Eastern

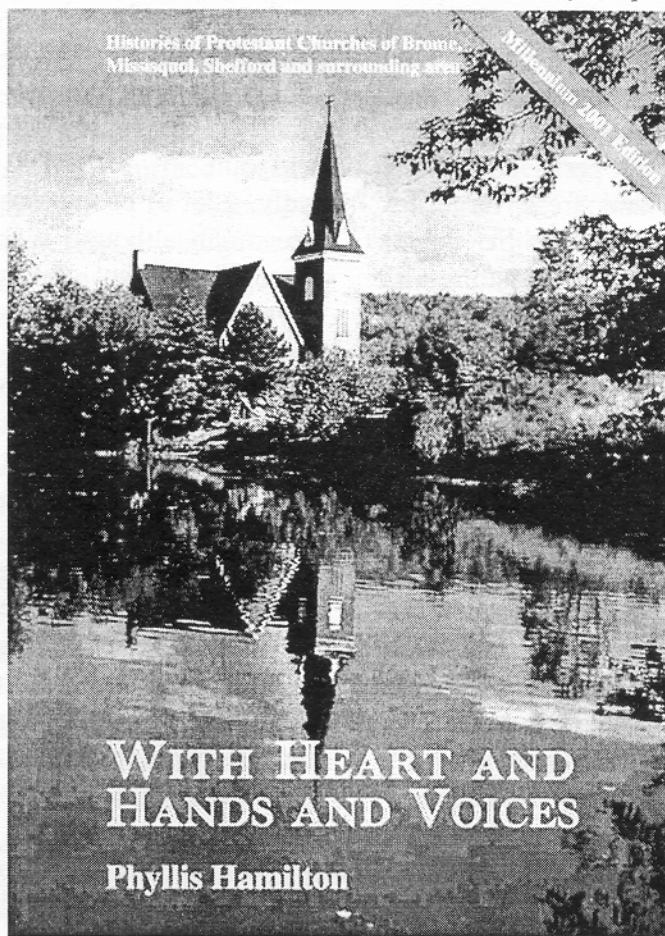
Townships. The book begins with short, readable essays on the history of Anglican, Baptist, Congregationalist and Methodist faiths in Quebec and is followed by alphabetically organized profiles

written by Hamilton and other regional authors. Each essay contains information on the parish history, church construction and a comprehensive listing of clergy who have served at the churches. Hamilton includes not only active churches, but also those that have been deconsecrated, destroyed or moved.

### Legacy

The early Eastern Townships settlers left behind a cultural legacy that is both unique and often unrecognized by the public at large. We learn, for instance, that the architecture of the Philipsburg United (Methodist) Church reflects the influence of the

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## President's message

# What to do with that beautiful old building?

At some time or other, most of our local historical societies and heritage groups will have found themselves facing issues about some form of built heritage. Perhaps an old school, church, post office, mill or other structure that has a long association with the community. As communities grow and change, old buildings find themselves in the path of redevelopment of some part of a town or city and battle lines get drawn between those who want to preserve, restore, convert and those who want to tear down and rebuild.

It often seems that economic forces are on the side of demolition and rebuild and there often seems to be a common cause between developers and local authorities eager for newness and fresh large tax revenues to spend. Sometimes the public debate seems to be polarized between save and restore with great cost or tear down and rebuild for potential profit. In fact, there are often a variety of choices and attention is increasingly being given to identifying and evaluating other options.

### Preservation and Restoration

Some buildings can relatively easily be converted to other uses which sometimes include art galleries, museums, cultural centres, seniors service centres and so on. A few churches can be kept as churches, sometimes for a different religious community. Some buildings can be converted to office buildings into a premium market but there are others that offer no reasonable conversion to some other use.

Sometimes, it may be preferable to save the structure

in some other way that could include photos, drawings, oral histories and preserved artefacts from the building.

Sometimes, fire or natural catastrophe will eliminate all choices beyond a few bits of salvage.

Sometimes, a community's preference might be that an old church be demolished and a few artefacts saved rather than have it converted to a trendy nightclub, which might become a strip joint.

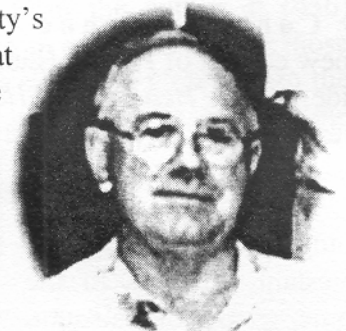
Sadly, a lot of people first don't seem to care much although a recent survey did reveal that about 80 per cent of Canadians feel we should find ways to preserve our valued built heritage.

### Economic Options

The Heritage Canada Foundation's 2001 conference focussed on the economics of heritage preservation and some interesting talks were presented. One Toronto developer outlined the added profits he has made by converting old buildings to new offices at premium rentals over demolition and reconstruction with totally new structures.

Heritage Canada Foundation recently issued a research report "Exploring the Connection Between Built and Natural Heritage". This is timely because there is also across Canada an ever-growing concern

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to be sure we protect critical natural ecological sites. Too often, when demolition takes place, the construction waste is hauled to a landfill, usually a wet area. This is the worst possible result since the waste contains "who-knows-what" and then it is put into almost direct contact with underground aquifers, potentially to emerge in future as some ecological disaster. By then, the developer who made it happen and the local authorities that allowed it are long departed from the scene. We now are witnessing how the wetlands landfill that became the monster parking lot for Expo 67 is now oozing toxins into the St. Lawrence, and a variety of expertise is being lined up in search of a solution. For a while, the site became a short take-off and landing (STOL) airport but as the buried material rotted the land surface became impossibly irregular and that had to be abandoned. The Department of Transport person in charge at that time described it to me as "a volcano", releasing gases of many kinds in all directions.

**Deconstruction vs. Demolition**

One interesting aspect of the Heritage Canada research report is an economic comparison favouring deconstruction. In this approach, materials are salvaged to a maximum extent and recycled into similar uses. This helps reduce both the short-time costs and long-term risks associated with demolition and disposal.

Unfortunately, these ideas are complex.

**Some Current Issues**

Our friends at *La Fédération des Sociétés d'histoire du Québec* are concerned about a situation at Ste. Thérèse. The issue there is a local old growth forest area that the local school authorities want to clear for new school construction. FSHQ Vice-President Denis Hardy is trying to help a local group persuade school authorities to redirect the construction project.

In Hudson, a plan by the Oka-Hudson line operator to change the way the ferry operates could lead to major larger equipment, expanded facilities and an impact both to the landing site and to traffic to and fro. Again, a local group is trying to have some impact on the decision to be taken.

**The Needed Alliance**

Historical societies and heritage groups need to develop a stronger knowledge base by which to arouse local concern, influence political decision-makers at all levels, bring bureaucrats alongside and enlist the involvement of more forward thinking developers. A part of the alliance that needs building is one that brings ecological and conservation groups into common cause with our heritage groups. Natural and built heritage are inextricably linked. This linkage is receiving growing recognition across Canada, across North America and throughout the advanced Western world. But the challenge is enormous.

**Potential Good News for Rural Built Heritage**

At QAHN we recently received an encouraging letter from Mr. Fernand Lévesque, Director of the Cultural and Intellectual Properties branch of the Quebec Ministry of Culture and Communications. It was the second response we have received from the Ministry since sending them the resolutions passed at QAHN's 2001 Conference.

In his letter, Mr. Lévesque refers to studies and colloquia over several years reflecting on matters of Quebec heritage including agricultural and other rural elements. Most recently, in November 2001, the Minister announced an action plan "*Agir en culture*" and in December came announcement of a "*Politique nationale sur la ruralité au Québec*". Let us hope these become basis for some emerging concrete plans and actions for better protection and preservation of our rural built heritage.— **Richard Evans**

**Marion Phelps Award**

Do you know someone who has made such a contribution to the preservation and promotion of your area's heritage that you just don't know how to thank them? Here's the answer. Last year for the first time, QAHN inaugurated an award to recognize such vital people in our community. The Award was named for its first recipient, Miss Marion Phelps, of the Brome County Historical Society. QAHN is now accepting nominations for the Marion Phelps Award "for Outstanding Long-Term Contribution to the Protection and Preservation of Anglophone Heritage in the Province of Quebec", to be given during our Banquet at the Annual Conference in Gatineau (Hull) in June. Submissions must include the nominee's name, address, telephone number, occupation and the reason why they should be honoured. Please include also your own contact information. Nominations should be sent **by May 1<sup>st</sup>** to the QAHN office at 257 Queen St., Suite 400, Lennoxville QC J1M 1K7, faxed to (819) 564-6872 or e-mailed to [home@qahn.org](mailto:home@qahn.org). The selection will be made by the Board of Directors.

## Something for everyone in National Capital region

# QAHN Conference 2002 preliminary program outline

Here's the preliminary program for the 2002 QAHN Conference. The official mail-out, which will include more detail and registration forms, will be distributed by Canada Post in early April.

**June 7, Friday morning:** Check-in at University of Ottawa residence, exhibits set-up and registration. Confirmed exhibitors to date include the Heritage Canada Foundation, the Canadian Heritage Information Network, the *Archives nationales du Québec*, Main Street Foundation, Historica Foundation and more to come. Make sure your organization is visible.

Friday lunch will be served at Heritage College, followed by **Behind the Scenes: The Big Picture**. Conference registrants will have a choice of 'behind the scenes' tours of the preservation facilities of the Canadian Museums of Civilization, the Canadian War Museum, Parks Canada, or of the genealogical reference services of the National Archives of Canada.

Friday evening: Cocktail reception at Heritage College. We are not offering supper, preferring instead to let you have time to visit the National Capital Region. We are however, organizing an optional guided boat tour of the Rideau Canal.

### **June 8, Saturday**

#### **Behind the scenes: The Local Challenge**

**Track 1: Resources** will feature a workshop by the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) and by IDEE CLIC, web developers specialized in virtual Museology.

**Track 2: Local Success Stories** will feature talks on the restoration of the Wakefield Mill Inn and the rebuilding of the Wakefield Covered Bridge.

**Track 3: Built Heritage** will feature a presentation by the Main Street Foundation and we're working on a workshop on citations and heritage designation with representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal

levels of government.

We will break for lunch, which will be followed with a presentation on the Historica Foundation by Stephanie Barker. (I hear there are prizes... shhh don't tell anyone.)

The Regional Showcase follows with talks on the Early Days of Aerial Photography of the Gatineau, the Chelsea 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the Historical Society of the Gatineau Image Bank Project and we're trying to convince the Aylmer Historical Society to tell us all about them.

Pre-banquet cocktails will begin at 6 p.m. We will be inviting many special guests for the banquet, and none more special than our keynote speaker, Senator Laurier LaPierre, who will discuss "Behind the Scenes: An Historian and Journalist in the Senate" following the dinner. We will also be presenting the Marion Phelps Award. (Have you nominated him/her yet? It's not too late!)

**June 9, Sunday morning** is the QAHN Annual General Meeting, and, following lunch, the Historical Society of the Gatineau is pleased to offer an optional steam train excursion to Wakefield, where you will be invited for tea at the historical Trois Érables B&B and offered a guided tour of the village's charming heritage sites.

Registration fees are \$30 for Core Group members, \$35 for Affiliate Group and Individual members and \$40 for non-members. The daily rate is \$15. Core members in good standing are partly subsidized for two delegates. The deductible (amount for which each member is responsible) is \$125 and the registration fee for each delegate is NOT subsidized. Please note that optional tours and trips are not subsidized. There is an exhibiting cost of \$50 for non-members. QAHN apologizes for the slight cost increase, but has been required to do so by budget constraints. The QAHN Board, conference hosts and staff are looking forward to meeting you in June!



## Trails, tales and our neighbours to the south

# Where QAHN is heading: projects for 2002-2003

Fiscal 2001-2002 is drawing to a close, and we've been busy since November filling in application forms for various projects.

Here's an overview:

**Feasibility study for a circulating exhibit on New England influences in the Eastern Townships**, applied to the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) of the Department of Canadian Heritage

This project would research the collections and archives of the historical societies and heritage groups of the Eastern Townships with a view of developing a circulating exhibit which could travel across the province, to the Maritimes and Ontario. The project would also encompass the budgetary requirements of such an exhibit, including cost of appropriately preserving and conserving the artefacts to be circulated, the level of collaboration of the sponsoring societies, and possible locations for the exhibit, including schools, libraries and community centres.

As a province-wide umbrella organization linking societies and heritage groups, QAHN is well suited to coordinate this project as it provides an arms-length structure to facilitate establishing partnerships and for collaborative approaches to exhibiting a region's heritage or a specific field of heritage. For QAHN, this project would serve as a pilot project to demonstrate how QAHN can be used to facilitate concerted action. Working as the enabler, while critical work takes place at the level of the participants. QAHN would be placed almost exclusively as an overseer, an arms-length structure through which the individual museums could establish stronger partnerships, in the province and in the country, to further the impact of each individual contributing museum or archive. A measure of its success would not only be the successful implementation of the exhibit in 2003-2004, but more partnerships growing out of this initial project, across regions, within the province, across the country and perhaps even beyond.

**Oral History Project**, applied to the Development Fund of the Official Languages Support Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. We are proposing a 13-month project starting in September 2002 and having September 2003 as its completion date. This project would consist of three phases.

**Phase 1** would involve locating and identifying the many oral histories that are scattered throughout the province, sitting idly in local archives, small libraries and personal collections. QAHN would gather this material together, transcribe, edit, and propose print publications. This phase would also help prepare the second phase, that of interviews, by identifying appropriate questions and modes of questioning.

**Phase 2** would directly involve the schools. QAHN would train select teachers (5 or so) to conduct oral history interviews. They would in turn direct and guide their classes in the project of getting out and meeting the patriarchs and matriarchs of their community and setting down, on video where possible, their stories. The local heritage societies would be instrumental in bridging between the schools and the elders. They would also provide additional information on events, heritage places in the community, etc.

**Phase 3** would involve producing a long-term strategic planning document on the production of future oral histories which could be used by local societies and others.

This project would stimulate direct involvement of local societies with the schools, a link that many societies have wanted to do and have difficulty arranging. And overlying the whole, it would not only preserve and promote the anglophone heritage of the province of Quebec, it would make it accessible, a status that is largely missing at the present time.

**Completion of Heritage Trails Project**, applied to the Development Fund of the Official Languages Support Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage

During the fiscal year 2001-2002, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network applied for and received funding under the Development Fund of the Official Languages Program for a project called "Heritage Trails". The purpose of this project was to turn all the relatively little-known anglophone heritage and historical sites into better known attractions to draw tourists, travel groups and educational activities into the regions and learn more about the local heritage, those contributing both to cultural and economic development. The funding received was insufficient to cover the entire province of Quebec, as envisioned. We are requesting that funding be made available to complete this project's initial vision.

We propose that over the next six months our project coordinator be re-hired to complete the collection of heritage trails from across the province, paying special attention to the outlying regions of Gaspé, Lower North Shore, Lower St. Lawrence and the Magdalen Islands. Pamphlets should also be produced for the Mauricie and Abitibi regions, where the anglophone population is virtually non-existent, as well as the Saguenay-Lac-St. Jean region, the Laurentians, Eastern Townships and Montérégie. Also, thematic pamphlets should be elaborated for the Greater Montreal and Greater Quebec City regions. We estimate that approximately 15 pamphlets could be done over the next six months, with an initial distribution of 3000 copies.

## QAHN Board invades Hudson for winter meeting

One of the many ways that QAHN can "network" is by holding some of its regular board meetings in different regions. Last year, we traveled to Chelsea and attended the Historical Society of the Gatineau's annual general meeting. This proved to be a very interesting and fruitful experience. Therefore, to carry on with this idea, on February 1 QAHN board members took themselves, despite the worst driving conditions of the season, to the Willows Inn in Hudson. The first priority, of course, was getting rid of our white knuckles. Our day-long meeting was broken up by a very pleasant lunch at Greenwood, Centre for Living History, owned by Canadian Heritage of Quebec. We were treated to a wonderful tour of the premises, but more important it was an occasion for QAHN Board members and Greenwood members to chat informally and discover our mutual areas of interest. We would

like to thank Bill Young, Greenwood's Director, Margaret Peyton, President of Greenwood's board and members Audrey Gray, John Luxton and Ted Corbière for their kind hospitality and to congratulate them on the great job that they are doing in maintaining the historical character of the property and sharing this with the surrounding community. We will be having our next regional meeting in the Chateaugay Valley. And who knows, the one after that may very well be in your bailiwick.

- Pat McCaffrey, Director, West Quebec



Left to right, Rod MacLeod (pass the butter!), Sharon Little, Valérie Bridger, Audrey Gray, Margaret Peyton and Pat McCaffrey, while our esteemed President Richard Evans got his head chopped off.

### WANTED: A home for QAHN Conference 2003

The QAHN annual conference is held each year in a different region of Quebec. These conferences present chances for visitors to learn more about the various regions of Quebec. Our long-range hope is to have local groups seek out the conference and take on some of the organization as a further means of putting their local heritage on display.

Would your organization be interested in taking a lead role in local organization and planning? For more information on the requirements of hosting the annual conference, please visit our web site ([www.qahn.org](http://www.qahn.org)) and go to the Conference page.



### Heritage Recipe Contest

We are holding a contest for schoolchildren in grades 3 through 6 to encourage interest in our heritage. We're asking for a one-page picture (drawing or photograph, but not computer-generated) accompanied by a one-page story (hand-written or typed) of a recipe that has a special significance to their family. In an age of microwaves and instant cake mixes, it will be interesting to hear the submissions. The added benefit of this contest will be to see the diversity of cultures that constitute Quebec's society being reflected through these submissions.

In 2001 we hosted a similar event called the Heritage Tree Contest where the students were asked to draw and write a story of a tree or trees that had a special significance to their community. The results were displayed at our conference and posted on our website ([www.qahn.org](http://www.qahn.org)) and are there still. Here is this year's invitation:

*"Is there a special old recipe in your family? Something your family shares on special occasions? Something cooling for a hot summer day? Or perhaps it's something that you like to have when you come in from outdoors on a cold winter day.*

*Do you know how long this recipe has been in your family? Where does it come from? Where do you get the ingredients? How is it prepared and how would the preparation have been different in your Grandparents' (or Great-Grandparents') time?"*

Although these are individual projects, they will be evaluated as a class with special mention of the outstanding entries. Cash prizes will be given to the schools and the winning and outstanding entries will be published on our website and displayed during our Annual Conference at Heritage College in Hull on June 7-9, 2002. The deadline for entries is May 6, 2002. Entries will be judged according to the following criteria: presentation, impact, originality and creativity, and theme. Winners will be notified by letter no later than May 3<sup>1</sup>, 2002.

We call on all of you to get in touch with your local schools and get them involved in this project. Should you require more information, please contact Valérie Bridger, Communications Coordinator, at 1 877 964 0409 or by e-mail at [home@qahn.org](mailto:home@qahn.org).

### Did you know?

## Bell backs volunteers' work with cash for charitable groups

If there is a Bell Canada employee or retiree in your organization who volunteers a minimum of 50 hours during the calendar year, you may be eligible to receive a grant starting at \$500.

Here is the information we gathered from the Bell website at <http://www.bell.ca>.

"If you volunteer a minimum of 50 hours during the calendar year as an individual, or 500 hours as a team, with a single charitable organization, you can receive a Bell grant for the registered charity where you volunteer your time and effort.

"Individual volunteers are eligible for a \$500 grant and teams can receive up to \$2,500. Grants are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one per employee or retiree per calendar year, either as an individual or as a member of a team.

"Teams must include at least two Bell members, but can also include an unlimited number of family members, friends and other volunteers. The team must volunteer a minimum of 500 hours for a single organization, with at least 250 hours contributed by Bell employees or retirees.

"There is a limit of \$2,500 per organization per calendar year. Organizations are free to apply the grant to specific projects or to general operating expenses, without restriction."

Thanks to the Loomis family of Ascott Heritage for the tip!

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

*June 11, 1850: A surprise for County fathers*

# Georgeville women win battle in council but lose their war over Bigelow's ugly shed

By John Scott

It has probably always been true that behind every successful man there is, as the saying goes, a surprised woman. But when the Stanstead County Council met in Griffin's Corner on June 11, 1850, it was the male councillors who were in for a surprise - and none more than the senior councillor, Levi Bigelow. He was the proprietor of Georgeville's Bigelow Inn and known as a man of decided views.

On the council's agenda that morning was, as Councillor Bigelow dryly observed, "something new under the sun. What was new, and rather a shock to some of the councillors, was that "the Ladies of Georgeville" had taken it upon themselves to address a petition to the council. The county council's meetings in those days usually went on for three or four days, dealing mostly with endless appeals to council to improve the county's deplorable roads. But a petition from womenfolk?

The women's grievance was, so to speak, in Bigelow's backyard. They were bothered by the carriage shed of his stage coach inn. The shed was not only unsightly, but so close to the road (the north side of Carré Copp, where the Pioneer Garden now is) that unwary passersby were apt to be drenched by rain from its eaves.

What brought matters to a head for the womenfolk was that the newly-built steamer *Mountain Maid* was scheduled to be launched in the village at the end of June, and a new wharf was being pushed out into the lake to accommodate the steamer. With Georgeville about to become a steamship port, the ladies thought the time had come for Bigelow to demolish - or at least move - his shed.

The County Council's minutes in the archives of the Stanstead Historical Society make extremely dry reading - they merely refer to "the petition of Mrs. Chapman and others" in a single sentence. But fortunately the Stanstead journal captured the full flavour of the debate sparked by

Levi Bigelow's shed.

Councillor Bigelow launched the debate by saying he hardly knew what to say about the ladies' petition - and then went right ahead and said it anyway. He was reminded, he told the council, of what an old lady had said, "that the men were fools, for if they would only stay at home, women would go a-courting." Then she lifted up her spectacles and said, "it would sertain come to pass."

As far as Bigelow was concerned, matters had now certainly come to this dreadful pass. He "begged the council to keep them (the ladies) back as long as they could, for the council had to sit almost a week to receive

and act on petitions from the men. If they allowed petitions to be received from the ladies, they would have to sit from one quarterly meeting to the other." And that was not all. After the next election, he supposed, the

*Bigelow: Besides, the law required all petitions to be signed by five freeholders, and while "the Ladies might have freeholds, they could not be recognized by this Council. (Roars of laughter)."*

— Stanstead Journal

council would be composed of "at least one Lady from each Township."

## 'Old maids and married women'

To hoots of laughter, Bigelow observed that "in looking over the names of the petitioners, he found girls from ten to 14 years of age, old maids and married women," and he "called upon the Lord to protect him from this evil."

Quite apart from the women's legal standing - or lack of it, in his view - Levi protested that this was the first he had heard of the ladies' complaint. If they had come to him and told him "that the eaves were dropping upon their delicate forms, he had so much respect and love for them that he should have been half inclined to move the shed." But in fact, he pleaded, there was nothing he could do. He had no other shed he could use for travellers' carriages, and no space on his property to move it. Besides, the law required all petitions to be signed by five freeholders, and while "the Ladies might have freeholds, they could not be recognized by this Council. (Roars of laughter)."

When Levi subsided, however, it turned out that the women

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## Georgeville women

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were not without support around the council table. Although the councillor from Bolton was so offended by the women's petition that he got up and left the room because, he explained, he "could not stand that," the majority on the council was less alarmed by the precedent and voted to receive the petition.

The Enterprise is indebted to Prof. J.I. Little, the leading Eastern Townships historian, not only for calling our attention to the story of Levi Bigelow's shed, but for the following comment on the significance of the episode: "Women were often in the forefront of public demonstrations in 18th century Canada. But when the Constitutional Act of 1791 provided an elected Legislative Assembly, it accorded the vote on the basis of property qualification. Little is known about the extent to which women with property voted in the early 19th century, but some did. In 1841 Dr. Moses French Colby lost a hotly contested Legislative Assembly election to Marcus Child

in Stanstead, despite – according to the county registrar, William Richie – having been supported by 'a large number of female voters.'

"But women's public status was paradoxically lowered with the rise of republicanism in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when 'the rights of man'

tended to be interpreted as exactly that. As Historian Allan Greer has noted in *The Patriots and the People*, Rousseau taught that because women were necessarily associated with childbirth and nurturing, 'their orientation was with the family, a particularistic allegiance which they could not fully transcend without denying their nature. Men, on the other hand, had a looser attachment to specific loved ones, giving them 'the potential to develop the civic virtue – the dedication to the common good – required in any healthy republic.'

"The rise of industrial capitalism during the early 19th century also ensured that the cult of female domesticity would become an increasingly powerful force as so-called productive work was increasingly separated from the home. Not a word of objection was heard in 1834 when

Louis-Joseph Papineau's radical *parti Patriote* passed a bill in the Lower Canadian Assembly formally disenfranchising the small proportion of women who could vote. This legislation did not survive the Rebellion three years later, but another bill to the same effect was passed in 1849, within a year of the winning of responsible government in the Province of Canada.

"All this may seem a long way from Levi Bigelow's shed, but it was because of that humble building that the question of women's political rights rose briefly in the Stanstead County Municipal Council. While there was no formal stipulation that women who owned property did not have the right to vote at the municipal level of government, which was first established in Lower Canada in 1841, the shed incident illustrates how circumscribed women's public role had become by this time.

"The council's decision in the end to receive the petition over Bigelow's objections was obviously only a tiny victory for women's rights during an era of significant

reversals. It is safe to assume that despite this precedent there was no flood of women's petitions crossing the Stanstead councillors' desks during the following years. But the women of Georgeville had successfully challenged an influential man in their community, and they had made their collective voice heard

"Not a word of objection was heard in 1834 when Louis-Joseph Papineau's radical *parti Patriote* passed a bill in the Lower Canadian Assembly formally disenfranchising the small proportion of women who could vote. This legislation did not survive the Rebellion three years later, but another bill to the same effect was passed in 1849, within a year of the winning of responsible government in the Province of Canada."

on an issue which touched the community as a whole. It would appear that they were neither as submissive nor as lacking in public influence as the popular image of Victorian womanhood would suggest."

Levi Bigelow may have lost the debate over the principle of whether the women had a right to be heard, but in the end he won the war over his carriage shed. It was still standing in the 1880s. Nor did his dispute with the ladies harm his political career. At the council's next meeting in October 1850, held in his hotel, Levi was elected as the new mayor of Stanstead County. But, of course, only the men were entitled to vote.

*From the Georgeville Enterprise, Vol 3 No 2 Winter 1995.  
– An occasional publication of the Georgeville Historical Society*

## GLEANINGS FROM THE QAHN LIST SERVE

### Libraries looking for insurance plans

Hello,

I'm writing to ask if you would please send a list of your original fire insurance plans by Goad or Underwriter s Survey Bureau dated between 1876-1973 so that we may include that information in a reference source we are writing that locates 115 institutions (so far) across Canada that have fire insurance plans in their collection. Myself and Lorraine Dubreuil (McGill) are working on this cartobibliography for the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives and to date is 400 pages in length. I would be grateful for your cooperation so that we may make this reference as complete as possible.

All I need is the name of the plan, date, number of sheets. Electronic list or paper copy – whichever is easiest for you. To date, most of the plans we have located are in map collections, archives, and public libraries. We have found some plans in a few museums and hence my message to this wider audience. For any of you who have already sent us your information, thank you and please ignore this message. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you, Cheryl Woods, Map Curator, SSC 1051, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada N6A 5C2 Phone: 519-661-3424, Fax: 519-661-3750, [cawoods@uwo.ca](mailto:cawoods@uwo.ca), [http://publish.uwo.ca/~mapref/serge\\_a.htm](http://publish.uwo.ca/~mapref/serge_a.htm).

### Would your museum need some carpeting?

Our Quebec City Director, Sharon Little, has obtained information that a good quantity of pure wool carpeting is available at no cost. This carpet is used, but still in reasonable condition. It was removed from the St. Andrew's Dominion Douglas Church in Westmount. The carpet is made of 27-inch strips and joined by machine so that pieces of practically all sizes can be cut. It is forest green with a lighter leafy pattern. If you would like more information, please contact Harold Bedoukian at ARARAT RUG in Montreal at (514) 288-1218.

### Latest *Porcupine* hits the stands

The Morin Heights Historical Association has available its fourth annual publication, *The Porcupine*. This magazine contains articles by local writers about the history of the communities in the Lower Laurentian area: Morin Heights, Mille Isles, Lakefield, the Parish of St. Sauveur, Montfort, and adjacent locales. There are items about pioneer days in the nineteenth century, the railways, lumbering, old time school days, skiing and the development of the tourist trade, all illustrated with old and new photos of our beautiful landscape and surviving heritage buildings.

As *The Porcupine* is our Association's main fundraiser, number four (June 2001) is available for \$12 if it is to be mailed to you or \$10 if you can pick it up from us. We also still have a few of our special double issue, *The Porcupine*, number 3, from 2000, available for \$15. Contact [mhha98@hotmail.com](mailto:mhha98@hotmail.com) or [trixicat@mail.com](mailto:trixicat@mail.com) to order a copy. For more information about our Association, visit our web site [www.geocities.com/mhha98](http://www.geocities.com/mhha98).

### Can you provide examples?

#### CMA looking for collections at risk

Hi everyone:

CMA is pushing for a new program with substantial funds to assist museums with the care of their collections. This could range from conservation, management, research, to better facilities. We are working with CCI on the development of this proposal.

However, to help illustrate the need for such a program, we need some examples of where collections are really suffering or at risk.

Can you provide such examples to us which we can use to illustrate the need? We also need some examples to share with the media.

I need your help in this.

Thanks.

John G. McAvity, Executive Director,  
Canadian Museums Association,  
[www.museums.ca](http://www.museums.ca).



QAHN directors among speakers at Genealogy meet

## 'ROOTS 2002': The Quebec Family History Society conference

Quebec Family History Society will be hosting a genealogical conference at McGill University, in Montreal on **May 31, June 1 and 2**. This conference is in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Quebec Family History Society and will be the largest conference ever held on family history in Quebec. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about genealogical research, to meet other people who are searching for their ancestors, and an impressive gathering of experts. This list includes: Stephen Simkovits, Director, Montreal LDS, Family History Centre; Johanne M. Pelletier, Director, McGill University Archives; Evelyn Kolish, Legal Archivist, Archives Nationales du Québec; Myriam Cloutier, Director of Public Relations, Mount Royal Cemetery; Betty McKay MacKenzie, Co-Chairman Hemmingford Historical Archives; Lucille H. Campey, International scholar; Rene Jetté, renowned Quebec historian; **Richard Evans**, President Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network; Stanley Diamond, President, Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal; Gary Schroder, President, Quebec Family History Society; **Roderick MacLeod** (VP QAHN) and Mary Ann Poutanen, Department of History, McGill University, as well as many other authors, lecturers, genealogists and historians, such as: Althea Douglas; Marjorie Goodfellow; Luc Lepine; Mark Vinet. Lorraine Gosselin and Margaret Turner.

The conference is open to the public and all lectures, tours and events are in English. If you decide to attend your days will be filled with informative lectures, computer demonstrations, a family history book fair and meeting new and interesting people with similar interests. The evening celebrations will be held at Montreal's prestigious Ritz Carlton Hotel. Guest speaker at the opening ceremonies Friday evening will be Senator Lorna Milne. Saturday night there will be a "Meet and Mix" cash bar followed by the gala 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet. Entertainment at the banquet will be provided by the Marie-Claude Rousseau Dancers.

Room or hotel accommodations can be arranged at Royal Victoria College, a McGill University student campus residence, or at the nearby Hotel Le Cantile Suites. For further details, prices and a registration form visit the Quebec Family History Society website at: [www.cam.org/~qfhs/index.html](http://www.cam.org/~qfhs/index.html) or write to: the Quebec Family History Society, P.O. Box 1026, Pointe Claire, Quebec H9S 4H9. E-mail to [roots2002@canada.com](mailto:roots2002@canada.com). This is an event which is not to be missed! To guarantee room or hotel accommodations registration forms must be received before May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002. To benefit from the Early Registration Discount your registration form must be postmarked Before April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002.

– Dawn Ouellette, Vice-President QFHS

### Student employment grant application deadline April 2

Communiqué – The Summer Career Placements (SCP) program of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) is designed to assist students in preparing for their future entry into the labour market. To this end, the program focuses on providing career-related work experience and developmental learning for in-school youth through the provision of a wage subsidy to public, private and not-for-profit employers.

Due to the popularity of this program and local budget restrictions, all applications may not receive approval for funding. Those approved may not receive funding for all positions and costs they apply for. Students must not start employment prior to project start date. Summer Career Placements jobs must last a minimum of 6 weeks up to a maximum of 16 consecutive weeks and must be full-time, 30 to 40 hours per week.

Not-for-profit, private- and public-sector employers are eligible for funding and must be registered with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. Note that preference will be given to small and medium size employers (less than 500 employees).

SCP wage contribution for non-profit organizations is 100 per cent of minimum wage, i.e., \$7 per hour. Not-for-profit employers can also receive contributions toward mandatory employment-related costs (EI, RRQ, vacation pay, WCB/Insurance premiums), as well as up to \$100 per SCP employee for related overhead costs, where required and when local HRDC budgets permit. For more information, contact your local Human Resources Canada Centres or the website at [http://youth.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/programs/scpp\\_qc.shtml](http://youth.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/programs/scpp_qc.shtml).

## MEMBERS' NEWS FROM AROUND QUEBEC

### Payback for both the soul and the pocketbook

## Potton Heritage: A matter of pride and economics

The Potton Heritage Association will launch its 2002 season on Sunday March 24 in Mansonville with its *Annual General Meeting* followed by a Sugaring Off Brunch. The board of directors were not hibernating this winter but worked hard to be ready for the completion of new projects and the planning of various events. The two projects for the coming year are:

#### **Heritage brochures**

We are in the process of re-publishing various heritage brochures on our Township. *Potton, Yours to Discover* brochures will be distributed at the tourism office at Reilly House in Mansonville. These will provide the community and tourists with updated and attractive documentation on the history and heritage of different places in the Township, such as our hamlets, Mansonville, the churches, cemeteries, etc. These brochures will be released May 17. This project was made possible thanks to financial support from the municipality of the Township of Potton, the Memphremagog MRC and business and industrial sponsors.

#### **The Heritage of Uncle John exhibition**

In association with Magog painter Madeleine Audette, we will present an exhibition of paintings inspired by various objects from the family heritage of John Donigan of Magog. Different family antiques more than a hundred years old will also be part of the exhibit. The exhibition will be shown from June 7 to July 7 at Reilly House in Mansonville. Details forthcoming.

As in the past, from March to December, the Association offers an interesting program of activities and events including visits to museums, excursions, dinner-lectures, etc. The Association invites anyone interested to join. See below for information.

The Potton Heritage Association Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1990 to increase awareness of our heritage and to promote it. Heritage is a way of feeling our roots, to appreciate and take pride in them. It is a way to promote our identity as residents, whether we were born here or not. One way or the other, we chose to live here because life is pleasant

for the climate, the great scenery, the quality of the environment but, above all, because of the people, the culture, or, rather multicultural, where cordiality prevails.

Today, communications technology is very effective and very much appreciated but it threatens our identity. Indeed, we often lean toward the identity of "others" and we are tempted to blindly adopt it. Potton has a history, a heritage we are proud of which connects us with the roots which are essential for life. Talking about trees, a poet recently wrote: "Culture in a community begins with the attention, care given to its trees."

If heritage adds a symbolic value to our lives, there is also an important economic component attached to it. Too often, our elected representatives at various levels of government hesitate before allowing funding for culture, because they say it is a luxury. This is an unfortunate mistake among people blinded by other economic preoccupations. Culture is a very important component of our economy, maintaining a large number of jobs. We must however recognize that we are privileged here in because culture is recognized to the point that our Memphremagog MRC maintains a cultural committee with an animator-coordinator for cultural development.

In Potton, cultural tourism is an important component of our economy. People come here because they look for tranquillity and for the difference from other resort areas. Our scenery, our history, various cultural events, heritage trails, etc. are all good reasons to visit Potton. The promotion of heritage and of culture in general offers a much more stable tourist attraction than other more sporadic events, thus insuring a more uniform business outlook.

When a community is proud of its place, its history, its culture, it becomes obvious – you can feel it. This attitude becomes the most effective hand to extend to visitors. Once here, the tourist eats, sleeps, meets people, and will come back.

To join the Potton Heritage Association, contact Gérard Leduc at P.O. Box 262, Mansonville, QC  
JOE IXO



## Group of seven is now 11 strong

# Eastern Townships museums planning joint web site

On February 11 the Eastern Townships Chapter of *La Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec* gathered for their winter meeting, at Uplands museum and cultural centre in Lennoxville. Representatives from nine of the eleven member societies were in attendance. The meeting was hosted by the Lennoxville-Ascot Historical Museum Society. We gathered at 9:30 to start the day with doughnuts, coffee and social time.

The incoming President of Lenn-Ascot, Lu Rider called the meeting to order at 10 with a welcome to our three guests, Nathalie Dion of La Féed, and Dick Evans and Valérie Bridger of QAHN. We proceeded with the business portion, the agenda, the reading of the minutes of the Fall 2001 meeting held in North Hatley, and a report from each member society around the table. We received a report on the development of a web site for the chapter, which should be on line within a couple of months.

The chapter has an east and a west section (with Lake Memphremagog as the divider). We try as best possible to rotate the meeting from east to west and back again. We meet in the winter, the early summer and in the fall. It is the responsibility of the host society to provide the chairperson, morning coffee and the lunch. The business portion takes place in the morning and the host provides either a guest speaker or a related activity in the afternoon. This day we did a tour of Lenn-Ascot's artifacts on display, then we

met their archivist who is working on a CHIN project to digitize their collection.

In the 1980s the County Historical Societies banded together and became known as the Group of Seven. In 1992 members were proposing that the Group incorporate into a formally constituted organization. A working committee was formed and using grant money from a foundation, a consulting group was engaged. They prepared a proposal which was presented to the members in the historic Archives Building of the Brome County Museum in Knowlton. After a lot of discussion it was evident that incorporation was not going to be fully supported. We went to Plan "B". With the assistance of La Féed we formed the E.T. Chapter. The condition of membership was that a society was a member of La Féed. In that process we expanded the membership and invited several francophone societies to join us. For the first few years they participated but then they seemed to lose interest.

Currently our active membership stands at eleven active members; Brome County HS, Compton County HMS, Missisquoi HS, Lennoxville-Ascot HMS, Richmond County HS, Stanstead HS, Megantic-Compton Cemetery and Church Assn., Patrimoine-Ascot Heritage, Little Forks Branch of UEL Assoc. of Canada, Georgeville HS, North Hatley HS. We are all also active and supporting members of QAHN.

– Ed Laberee, President, ET Chapter

All new and current resources will be available free of charge

## **Canadian Heritage Information Network opens heritage-management service to all**

*Communiqué* – OTTAWA-GATINEAU, Celebrating 30 years of innovation in the use of information technologies, the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) is dedicating its new web site to the development of skills for the creation and management of digital content. The revamped CHIN site, to be launched on May 1, will maintain its current address, <http://www.chin.gc.ca>.

CHIN is not only renewing its services to help heritage institutions reach wider audiences, it is also simplifying access to its online resources. A user name and password will no longer be required to access the specialized information available at <http://www.chin.gc.ca>.

All of the new and current resources will be available free of charge, even if you are not a CHIN / VMC member. With improved navigation tools and the addition of a site-wide search engine, it will become much easier to explore these resources.

The new CHIN Web site will feature sections dedicated to Creating and Managing Digital Content, Intellectual Property, Collections Management, and more. Current training tools, online publications, directories and databases, all designed to meet the needs of both small and large institutions, will continue to be nurtured. Information on topics such as careers, funding and conferences will also remain accessible and up-to-date.

## HAPPENINGS AROUND QUEBEC

### Summer Exhibition Program in Stanstead

The Colby-Curtis museum is working in close cooperation with Sunnyside and *Jardin des Frontières* schools and, in one instance with the *Collège des Ursulines*, to prepare two exhibitions that will accentuate the close relationship that exists between the Museum and the community and more so, the schools of the community.

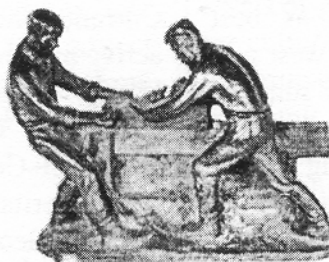
**Family Treasures** is inspired by a project undertaken by the Canadian Museum of Civilization with a number of schools. The premise is that museums are filled with Family Treasures and that if school children are taught to appreciate a Family Treasure of their own, they will have a greater appreciation and understanding of the Family Treasures found in museums. The Canadian Museum of Civilization developed a training aid, with an elaborate data base software reporting program, complete with Teacher's Guide and practical suggestions to help students participate in the project.

Grades 5 and 6 at Sunnyside and *Jardin des Frontières* will be invited to select a Family Treasure, write a report about it and then match it with an artefact selected in the Colby-Curtis museum. The result of all this research will provide the material for the first exhibition of the season, from May 4 to 26.

**Self Portraits:** A very special art project is being carried out in two grades at *Jardin des Frontières* and Sunnyside and one class at *Collège des Ursulines*. Students are creating a self-portrait with the assistance of an artist. The Colby-Curtis museum will present the self-portraits, around 120 individual creations, in early June 2002.

**ALFRED LALIBERTÉ: Preserving the Gesture**  
June 21 to September 2

Rediscover forgotten gestures, witness our forebears handling wood in ways unknown today, grasp the effort it took; the public can expect all this from *Alfred Laliberté: Preserving the Gesture*. Forgotten woodworking crafts and trades are illustrated by eleven bronze sculptures from the *Musée du Québec's* collection. With this exhibition, the Colby-Curtis Museum will present some traditional woodworking tools from its own collection. The *Mouvement Desjardins* is sponsoring this travelling exhibition, produced



and circulated by the *Musée du Québec*. Pictured here is *The Tongue and Groove Makers* ca. 1930, Bronze, *Musée du Québec* Collection, photo Patrick Altman.

### QAHN Online Calendar a popular spot

Our web site Events Calendar is starting to look extremely interesting. The March schedule listed a dozen events, and spring listings are beginning to show even more going on in April, May and June. Make sure your association's events are listed. You can submit an event right on the QAHN web site [www.qahn.org](http://www.qahn.org). Just go to the bottom of the Calendar page and fill in the blanks.

### Heritage activities at Uplands in Lennoxville

Until April 21 Recent Acquisitions – a selection of items from donations made to the Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society during 2000-2001. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

Wednesday, March 13: Gilbert & Sullivan sing-along to music from the operetta *Ruddigore*, 8 p.m.

Concert followed by refreshments. (Free)

Monday, April 15: Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society, presentation by Eddy Echenberg on his collection of Townships memorabilia, 7:30 p.m. Public is invited.

Uplands is open Thursday, Friday, and Sunday from 1-4:30 p.m. For information or to register for workshops, call (819) 564-0409

### Showcasing the English-speaking Community's Contributions to Sherbrooke

Once the summer has gone, it will be time to gather at the annual Townshippers Day, on September 14. To mark the bi-centennial celebrations of Sherbrooke, this year's Townshippers Day will be held in the Queen City, at Centre Expo Sherbrooke (also known as the Old Sherbrooke Fair Grounds, or the Sylvie Daigle Park). This one-day festival will offer a wide variety of activities such as historical exhibits, artisans' exhibits, shows by local artists, a battle-of-the-bands, games for the kids, barn dancing, community groups exhibits, the launch of the second edition of *Taproot 2*, and much more. This will be a day to remember. For details call the Townshippers Association at (819) 566-5717 or (toll free) 1-866-566-5717.



**MEMBERSHIP**

**Core Member groups**

Organizations in the heritage sector

- FREE Conference Reports (if registered)
- FREE Exhibit space at conference
- Voting members (QAHN subsidizes travel expenses of two delegates to the Conference)
- Listed on WEB with links
- Access to Members' Publications Page
- Rebate on Conference Registration for official delegates

**Affiliate Member groups**

Groups whose mandates include heritage

- FREE Conference Reports (if registered)
- FREE Exhibit space at conference
- Access to Members' Publications Page
- Rebate on Conference Registration for two official delegates

**Individual Members**

Persons interested in Quebec's history

- FREE Conference Reports (if registered)
- FREE Exhibit space at conference
- Access to Members' Publications Page
- Rebate on Conference Registration

All Members receive the Quebec Heritage News and are encouraged to circulate it and contribute to it.

As QAHN is a voting member of the Quebec Community Groups Network, our members are represented at this table. The mission of QCGN is to contribute to the development and enhancement of the vitality of the English-language minority communities of Quebec.

If your organization produces a newsletter, whether it be monthly, quarterly, annually or periodic, we would appreciate being on your mailing list. We welcome news from each organization, and we sometimes reprint, with permission of course, news that may be of interest to the larger heritage community.

**HOW TO JOIN?**

Visit our website at [www.qahn.org](http://www.qahn.org). You could also fill-out the enclosed form and fax to (819) 564-6872 or mail to 257 Queen St., Suite 400, Lennoxville QC J1M 1K7.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership is for the fiscal year April 1 to March 31, renewable each April.

Note to Core or Affiliate Members: Use your organization's mailing address. If you do not have one, list a usual contact address, such as secretary or other officer, and specify. Individual membership subscriptions are required if you wish the QHN to be sent to other members of your board or society.

This membership is:

- Core (\$25)
- Affiliate (\$25)
- Individual (\$10)

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name (and Title): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

http:// \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to subscribe to the listserve

**Church book – continued from Page 1**

German Palatine Loyalists. It is also revealed that the building bears a strong resemblance to the first Methodist Chapel built in New York City by Philip Embury, the father of Samuel Embury, a member of the congregation in Philipsburg. This makes this simple and remarkable stone church one of the earliest examples of the Methodist meeting place in existence in North America.

We can follow the clergy as they moved about the Townships establishing their message from the Richelieu River to Lake Memphremagog and learn of the development of the settlements that grew up around the spiritual centres.

**The Canadian Cultural Observatory: No telescopes here**

The Canadian Cultural Observatory was created to develop and manage a collaborative web-based information service on the evolving state of culture in Canada. It is being built in response to a growing need for a source of comprehensive, authoritative and readily accessible data, analysis and advice on Canadian arts, heritage and cultural sectors including broader issues which contribute and frame cultural development. Coverage will be extended to include public and private sector cultural trends of importance to Canada.

The Observatory's services and products will be designed to primarily address the needs of cultural planners,

Copies of *With Heart and Hands and Voices* are available for purchase at the Missisquoi Museum (Stanbridge East), Brome County Historical Society(Knowlton), Brome Lake Books (Knowlton), Book Nook (Sutton), *Société d'histoire de la Haute-Yamaska* (Granby), Townshippers Association (Cowansville & Lennoxville) and Double Hook Bookstore (Montreal), or from the author at (450) 372-7558. This book makes an excellent gift for those who have moved away but still have close ties-to the Townships or for those who have yet to discover the depth of our cultural wealth.

*Reviewed by Caroline Kehne, Record Correspondent*

policymakers, managers, researchers, advocates and practitioners in Canada as well as abroad. Following the collection and compilation of a range of substantive information sources, plans call for the Observatory to go on-line in 2003.

The Canadian Cultural Observatory will offer:

- Profiles of Canada's arts, heritage and cultural sectors
- Cultural statistics
- Relevant public policies, legislation and regulations
- An inventory of institutions, organizations, government agencies, associations, foundations and private companies active in culture
- Professional development opportunities
- Best practices from Canada's cultural communities
- A listing of relevant publications, studies and surveys
- Useful links.

**QAHN MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS**

Our web site Member's Publications is starting to look pretty good! We've books listed from the Maggies to the Laurentians. Looking for reading materials? Here's the answer!

Are your publications displayed for all to see? All you need to do is send us the title, author and short description of the book, where and how it can be purchased and, of course, its price. We'll do the rest!

**E-SHOPPING AT INDIGO-CHAPTERS?**

GO THERE THROUGH OUR WEB SITE AND WE GET MONEY.  
GO TO WWW.QAHN.ORG AND FIND THE INDIGO-CHAPTERS LINK.  
HELP US HELP YOU.

Address label here please

FREE ADVERTISING FOR YOUR  
EVENTS AND  
PRODUCTS  
APPLY WITHIN