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WARRIORS & WAR



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OPINION

Unexplained archaeology: an invitation to research

Curiosity often triggered my incentive to understand what others tend to ignore or don't even see. Mysterious enigmas, abound in our universe, but I certainly don't pretend to try to solve them all. I rather limit my curiosity to the human past, more precisely, "Who Discovered the New World?" The Celts? The Vikings? The Phoenicians? The Chinese?

Even though the humanities, history or archaeology, were not part of my university training, I always had a keen interest for the past, especially for the unexplained and for intriguing ruins. Important discoveries in various fields of science were achieved by researchers whose primary studies were foreign to their new research topics. They had no prejudices!

When, in 1990, I left teaching Ecology from Concordia University, I was already sensitized to the presence of unexplained stone works in the Eastern Townships. In 1975, I read about Barry Fell's research, a marine biologist from Harvard, who was proposing that the Celts first settled New England. People thought he was crazy! Although somewhat overenthusiastic, he attempted to explain the significance of the stone artefacts he was describing. This was the challenge that stimulated my interest for the old stones. Why?

Because, for over five hundred years, books, in Europe and America, have repeatedly said that it was Christopher Columbus who, in 1492, was the first European to set foot in the Americas. They also categorically maintain that the only people to have occupied our lands before the first years of the European colonisation were the Amerindians. This is an error.

Over the thirty years since I became interested in the numerous stone ruins that dot our environment in Quebec, the Maritime Provinces, Ontario, New England and New York State, I became increasingly certain that several Old World cultures had colonized the American Northeast long before the better known European settlers. I do not intend here to go over the various sites I have already described in writing or presented in public lectures to which neither the archaeology Establishment nor the public responded with true arguments. This silence is a kind of tacit acceptance that there are unexplained ruins in need of answers.

Why is it so difficult to have new notions accepted? Because many people, even scientists, fear to be ridiculed by considering these unexplained ruins. They are also blind to the obvious! Our preconceived notions are so strongly rooted that our minds block out the unusual and refuse to accept what the eyes see. It is a psychological

phenomenon called scotoma, meaning a visual blind spot imposed by the unconscious.

May I take this opportunity to express my own experience and what I feel at the sight of these old ruins. Over the years, through countless field excursions, reading, research and exchanges with colleagues, I acquired the ability to recognize ancient ruins and stone artefacts. One needs a good sense of observation, without preconceived notions and to raise three essential questions: 1. Who left these artefacts or ruins? 2. When? 3. Why were they conceived or built? These questions will stimulate hypothetical interpretation which may be confirmed or disproved by research.

I feel a great satisfaction in recognizing the tracing of ancient, highly developed cultures in the form of various stone works. It is also very gratifying to communicate these observations to those accompanying me in excursions. Some of these stone works can be megaliths along the Bruce Trail in Ontario; Ogam petroglyphs, a type of Celtic script; or earth mounds on the Sentiers de l'Estrie near Bolton East; also found in Mont Tremblant Park and on a well known island of Lake Memphremagog, to mention only a few known sites.

Finally, what about that famous White site in Potton that was built a long time ago to permit the observation of the Winter solstice sunrise (December 21). On that morning, it is always with renewed emotion that one watches the sunrise at the exact spot on the horizon, indicated by a standing stone with an engraved marker on its top. One realizes that, even in the absence of those who built the site, centuries ago, it still functions, and one can imagine the ancient rituals that took place there.

"To understand these sites, a friend once told me, you must try to put yourself in the place of these ancient stone builders but, especially, try to understand their spirituality".

To complete this personal recollection, I ought to mention another exciting research topic I pursue. The presence of the Knights Templar in New France, which, at one time, encompassed all of New England. This may be a surprise for some but let me relate a recent anecdote on the topic. When I announced that I was relinquishing my active involvement with the Potton Heritage Association, I wrote that I intended to pursue research on the Templars. People believed that I was going to France, their birth place. No, indeed. I pursue my research here in Quebec, because there are, in this Province and in New England, obvious signs of their presence before the French colonial period of the 17th century.

—Gérard Leduc PhD, Mansonville

PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

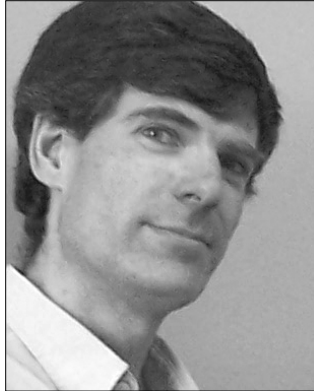
The right and duty to oppose, to engage, and above all to resolve

11/11/11 marks more than just bravery and suffering

Here's something I wrote last year, but decided not to send as people would have read it after the event. It seems appropriate now, however, as Remembrance Day 2005 will soon be upon us.

As I write it is getting very close to the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – I'll have to write fast to be able to mark the occasion appropriately. I discussed this concept of 11/11/11 with my 7-year-old at breakfast as she practiced singing *O Canada* in eager anticipation of this morning's assembly. (Many of you may think it a pity that *O Canada* needs to be practiced by children, as opposed to knowing it by heart as we did by singing it every day, but for today's kids to associate it with special occasions such as Remembrance Day does rather draw attention to what the anthem stands for.) The idea that people should have chosen a specific moment in time to stop fighting is tricky for a child to grasp, but surprisingly easy to accept: in my daughter's class there is already a great deal of attention placed on resolving conflicts peaceably, and students receive special recognition for mediating and for serving as "peacekeepers." For my money this is miles better than either simply saying "boys will be boys" or ruthlessly suppressing all aggression as wrong. Neither of those paths gets you very far in life.

In a way, isn't that what we're celebrating on Remembrance Day, not just peace for its own sake but for the resolution of conflict, even conflict so terrible that it cost the lives of so many who strove for it? Veterans and their fallen comrades should of course be the focus of the day's ceremonies – for a great many reasons, not the least of which is that they went through terrible ordeals the likes of which most of us could not imagine ourselves brave enough to face. At the same time, 11/11/11 marks more than just bravery and suffering; there is a consensus



that it was not all in vain, that we are as a people and a planet better off. When I was a teenager peace was cool, and most of us had difficulty grasping what there was to celebrate about men going off to fight. I even had a teacher who scorned Remembrance Day (largely, I think, to provoke discussion) for honouring all those naive young men in 1914 who cheered the outbreak of war. Now, while I still have little sympathy for those hotheads of 90 years ago, I do admit that an uncritical belief in peace doesn't help us very much either. George Orwell, who saw war as a tool of tyranny, and total war as the ideal climate for ruthless oppression, was also one of the great opponents of pacifism. To worship peace for its own sake, he argued, was to hand power over to the bullies. Sometimes you have to take up arms against them, and sometimes you don't survive the experience.

It's easy to be cynical about fighting a war to bring peace, as wars seem to happen again and again. Perhaps, though, we're setting ourselves impossible standards by assuming peace is all about absence of conflict, just as people who punish rambunctious children and reward passive ones are teaching that authority is always right and your best bet is to keep quiet. This is to ignore what may be an unavoidable truth, that life is about conflict. I like to think that the people who fought in the Second World War – they're the oldest ones now taking part in ceremonies and it won't be long before they're all gone – did win for us all an ideal, often realized, more often sought, but always worthy of our devotion and their suffering. Today there is a lot of attention paid to the values of freedom and democracy, much of it sadly

meaningless as it overlooks what is surely fundamental to this ideal: the right and duty to oppose, to engage, and above all to resolve. This is the real legacy, to me, of those honoured on Remembrance Day: the idea that if we had to, we would do as you did.

And now, for that minute's silence.

– Rod MacLeod

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Front page photo: Royal Canadian Dragoons on the march in South Africa, 1900. See Pages 7-10.

HERITAGE MATTERS

'Helping Canadians come to a fuller awareness and appreciation of our country'

Ottawa boosts funding for anglo heritage network

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network has received the go-ahead from Ottawa to continue one major project and begin another. The Department of Canadian Heritage has also increased the amount it contributes to QAHN's basic operations.

Taxpayers will provide \$25,589 toward creation of an Internet-based web magazine devoted to history in the Outaouais region. Modeled on Townships Heritage WebMagazine and Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine, the new West Quebec website is the latest addition to QAHN's web portal, Quebec Heritage Web, found at www.quebecheritageweb.com.

Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine is intended to serve as a window on West Quebec's past, a guide to the region's heritage treasures and a knowledge bank for researchers, according to web site editor Matthew Farfan.

"There's so much wonderful material out there," says Farfan. "We plan to cover it all: local and natural history, historic landmarks, museums, and all of the other heritage attractions that make the Outaouais so fascinating."

The new site promises a blend of stories, archival photography and historic documents that will help trace the region's development from the days of the early fur trade onward, including the major role played by English-speaking settlers and timbermen in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine will be launched in March 2006. Farfan said he looks forward to meeting website contributors and other partners from West Quebec when he visits the Outaouais later this month.

"The project's success will depend on the quality and variety of material we produce," says Farfan, who invites submissions from the public.

When complete the new web site, called, Outaouais Heritage Web Magazine, will provide a widely accessible, up-to-date forum for showcasing West Quebec history, drawing on the talent and generosity of dedicated local heritage enthusiasts, including many QAHN members who make their home in the Ottawa and Gatineau river valleys.

"We're creating a magazine," Farfan says, "so new material will be added all the time."

An acknowledged lack of research into anglophone communities situated in Quebec's outlying regions helped prompt the Department to contribute \$10,624 through its Museums Assistance Program (MAP) toward a unique study of English-speaking heritage, commissioned by QAHN. This project, entitled Prospecting for Heritage, also got underway in September and is led by Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell, a researcher, historian and archivist based in Quebec City.

The Heritage Department has further strengthened its commitment to QAHN this year by providing the non-profit English-language heritage agency a 25-per cent increase in its annual operating grant.

The Department's contribution toward QAHN's operations, which is earmarked under a program called the Development of Official-Language Communities Program, is to rise from \$60,000 last year to \$75,000 in 2005-06. "In expending these contribution monies, I am confident that you and your organization will assist in helping Canadians come to a fuller awareness and appreciation of our country," Heritage Minister Liza Frulla said in a letter to QAHN President Rod MacLeod.

QAHN is also supported by the Quebec Department of Culture and Communications.

Heritage preservation: Autumn 2005 conference of the FSHQ

Concerned about the future of Quebec's built heritage? The *Fédération des sociétés du Québec* (FSHQ) is planning to devote its day-long fall conference to all aspects of heritage preservation, from architecture and culture to the thorny question of who should be responsible for safeguarding the province's treasury of historic buildings. "*Connaître et préserver notre patrimoine*" will take place Saturday, November 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Musée national des beaux-arts in Quebec City.

A number of historians and architectural specialists will be on hand to offer conference participants a thorough overview of the challenges and rewards awaiting Quebecers seeking to identify and protect built heritage in their own communities. A round-table is planned to discuss, among other topics, the remarkable legacy of Quebec's Baillargé building dynasty, a legacy that includes many of Old Quebec's most prominent edifices.

A special presentation on the recent restoration of Morrin College, home to Quebec City's Literary and Historical Society, is also scheduled. In addition, the conference will feature workshop presentations and discussions about new approaches to protecting Quebec's built heritage and ensuring its continued survival for generations to come.

Registration fees of \$50 per person include lunch and a tour of the museum's Baillargé Pavilion, as well as parking. FOR MORE INFO : (514) 252-3031 or toll-free, (866) 691-7202. For a complete conference schedule, please visit the FSHQ website at: www.histoirequebec.ca.

NEWS & NOTES FROM AROUND QUEBEC

GREENWOOD HOSTS CHARLOTTE GRAY

Presenting Bringing Life to History, Bringing History to Life, with Charlotte Gray, a highly regarded author of historical biographies. Part of the Philippe Gigantes Speaker Series.

Wednesday, November 23 at 7:30 pm at the Village Theatre, tickets: \$12, sold at May's Studio and Acorn Books. For more information, please call Greenwood (450) 458-5396

ARTS NETWORK GETS BIG BUCKS

The English Language Arts Network announces \$1.2 million in new Heritage and Canada Council funding to go directly to Quebec's English-language artists.

ELAN unites artists working in all disciplines and all regions of Quebec. Membership is free for Quebec English-language artists and organizations. For information on how to join, visit www.quebec-elan.org Organizations are invited to add a link to ELAN on their website. Visit ELAN's newly updated site at www.quebec-elan.org.

MACK SENNETT'S LOVE LIFE PROBED

Les Productions Vic Pelletier Inc., a film-production company based in Matane, is looking for people who know something about the early life of Mack Sennett, famous Quebec-born Hollywood producer and creator of the Keystone Kops series of the silent movie era.

The production company is researching a TV series about great Canadian love stories, to be presented by Robert Tremblay. Mack Sennett was born in the Eastern Townships and apparently had a tumultuous relationship with a great silent movie actress named Mabel Normand.

Residents of the Richmond or Danville area with knowledge about Sennett are asked to communicate with Marie-Claude Tremblay, Les Productions Vic Pelletier Inc., www.pvp.ca.

IMAGES OF GIRLHOOD AT MCCORD

The ongoing debate over images of young girls in the media is just one example of how the portrayal of young girls provokes frequent controversy. Picturing Her demonstrates the historic roots of these discussions and raises still more questions about the modern cultural assumptions that surround the idea of "girl."

Drawing on the McCord Museum's extensive historic art holdings as well as contemporary artworks, guest curator Dr. Loren Lerner, Chair & Professor of Art History at Concordia University, considers the definition of girlhood and traces how the depiction of girls has developed to reflect ever-changing cultural, social and economic conditions. Included are a range of images from the 1860s to the present day, including

paintings, prints, drawings and photographs from the renowned Notman Photographic Archives.

Exhibit is open to the public at the museum from November 25 until April 9, 2006. The McCord is open from Tuesday to Friday from 10 am to 6 pm, and on weekends, and Mondays during the summer months from 10 am to 5 pm.

CHÂTEAUGUAY DRAMA TO TOUR QUEBEC

Châteauguay Theatre is currently booking a tour of its play, Reign on Dominion in southern Quebec and eastern Ontario, with tentative dates from mid-September through November. Productions of this unique, made-in Quebec historical play are being staged as a low-cost fundraising event to charitable organizations and other community groups across the province.

Reign on Dominion sails an ocean of time from 1776 to 1812, exploring key historical characters and the influence they had on the development of Lower Canada society. From the motivations of the elite and powerful to De Salaberry claiming his own at the Battle of the Châteauguay, the effects rippled through the lives of civilians and their families

Interested groups are invited to book the troupe early to take advantage of this incredible fundraising opportunity, being sponsored by the Châteauguay Valley English Peoples Association and Human Resources Development Canada.

For more information, 1-877-692-9323, 450-692-9323, chateauguaytheatre@bellnet.ca.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM:

What Future for which churches?

WHERE: Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

WHEN: October 19-22, 2005

WHAT: A symposium organized by UQAM's Canada Research Chair on Urban Heritage, Quebec Religious Heritage Foundation, Montréal Heritage Council and Concordia University

WHY: The purpose of this symposium is, first of all, to bring together a number of North American and European researchers who are studying the issue of the future of sacred places and seeking innovative heritage solutions to questions of ownership (public, private or partner-driven systems) and the uses that should be conferred upon buildings. It also aims to explore the challenges faced, particularly by professionals and policy makers, in "heritagization" of churches as part of urban planning initiatives, in terms of urban development, design and governance. For more information www.avenireglises.ca.

THE WORLD OF WARRIORS & WAR

Boer War memorial ignored on 100th birthday

Empire, South Africa campaign too old to remember?

By Mike Reshitnyk, Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

The 100th anniversary of the unveiling of Quebec City's Soldiers Monument recently went unnoticed except by this newspaper. The monument is dedicated to the memory of 11 sons of the city who died during the South African or Boer War (1899-1902).

The monument, located on the Esplanade just inside Saint Louis Gate and across the street from the Garrison Club, was officially unveiled with great pomp and circumstance by Governor-General Earl Grey on Tuesday, August 15, 1905.

About 20,000 citizens, British royalty, Canadian soldiers and sailors from a British cruiser squadron attended the ceremony. City officials declared a civic holiday.

It was from this very location that the First Canadian Contingent assembled and marched off to the port before boarding a ship to South Africa. A total of 7368 soldiers and 12 nursing sisters from Canada served in South Africa. Combat, disease and injury claimed 277 of them.

The erection of this monument was due to an initiative by our newspaper's ancestor, the *Morning Chronicle* following reception of the casualty list subsequent to the Battle of Paardeberg in 1900.

The *Chronicle* organized a subscription, asking the public for a suggested 25 cents per person for the erection of a monument in memory of Quebec City's fallen.

After an initial \$2100 had been raised, a citizen's monument committee chaired by 8th Royal Rifles major and historian William Wood asked the *Chronicle* to abandon the 25 cent limit, which helped bring in a total of about \$6000.

Wood was also a past president of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. His book on the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, *A Fight For Canada*, published in 1906, was dedicated to his friend Captain J.H.C. Ogilvy DSO. Ogilvy's name is the first of the 11 that appear on the monument's memorial plaque.

The base of the monument is composed of stone taken from a nearby Martello tower that had been demolished.

A plaque, which lists the names of the 11 soldiers, was initially on display in the window of the newspaper offices until the monument was completed.

Sainte-Foy resident Ross Ward, a former career artilleryman, recalled attending Armistice Day ceremonies at this monument in the presence of veterans of the Boer War. Quebec City's own General Sir Richard Turner earned the Victoria Cross in South Africa as a lieutenant of the Royal Canadian Dragoons during the Battle of Lilliefontein (See following stories).



Above: Ignored on its centenary, the Quebec City Boer War monument, photo Mike Reshitnyk; Royal Canadian Dragoons boarding the S.S. Milwaukee on their way overseas, photo Royal Canadian Dragoons; Opposite: Richard Turner as a Lieutenant in the South Africa campaign uniform of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, 1900.

'Never let it be said that Canadians let their guns be taken!'

Quebec general launched career with Victoria Cross

Canada's participation in the Boer War or South African War, fought from Oct. 11, 1899 to May 31, 1902, was essentially based on economic and political grounds. Nevertheless, our involvement yielded five Victoria Cross recipients. Four were soldiers in the Canadian Army while the fifth was a member of the British Army.

The bad feelings between the British and Dutch-speaking farmers or Boers in the Cape Colony had its roots extending back over a century. They were brought to a head in 1834 when the British Parliament abolished slavery, a move that upset the Boers' economic structure, and sent them packing into the interior in search of better land, labour and freedom from British control. This resulted in the Orange Free State.

For a while the differences were social, ethnic, linguistic, legal and cultural, but with the discovery of diamonds in 1873 in the Transvaal, and gold a year later, the struggle turned into an economic one and war became inevitable. When war did break out, these were hardly factors to appeal to a Canadian sense of patriotism or obligation to the mother country. However, participation in the war was seen by English-speaking Canadians as an opportunity to demonstrate unity, strength, character, to shed the irksome colonial status and become a partner in imperial affairs.

Canada could also profit commercially with the manufacturing of uniforms, equipment and saddlery. As a bonus, the contribution of more than 7,300 Canadian volunteers to the cause gave Canada its first sense of military maturity and resulted in the organization of a proper militia.

Three of the four Canadians who earned the VC during the Boer War served with the Royal Canadian Dragoons. Three of them were honoured for feats during the Battle of Lilliefontein on Nov. 7, 1900. They were Lieutenant Richard Ernest William Turner of Quebec City, Sergeant Edward James Gibson Holland of Ottawa and Lieutenant Hampden Zane Churchill Cockburn of Toronto. The part played by the RCDs was a rearguard action on the Komati river basin, in the northeastern Transvaal, to prevent the

Boers from seizing a pair of 12-pounder guns they had captured a few days earlier. It was the only full-scale cavalry charge the Boers ever made, involving more than 600 troops.

When the attack started, Turner ordered his troops to dismount with the exhortation: "Never let it be said that Canadians let their guns be taken!" Nor did they. The main body of the enemy charged straight for Turner, wounding him in the neck and badly shattering one arm. As the Boers veered away they went after Holland, who was in charge of the Colt machine-gun on the dragoon's left flank. Meanwhile, Turner stayed his ground until the artillery could be pulled back.

Holland's horse was blown out from under him. Stooping,

he disconnected the barrel of the Colt and staggered off towards the gun carriage which was pulling away. A cry went up: "Wait for Eddie Holland!" One of the gunners heaved him aboard, then ran alongside the gun as the driver drove off. Holland's hands were a mess because the barrel of the Colt had been white hot when he dismantled it.

When the Boers reached the position they at first thought they had captured the gun, but when they saw that the barrel was missing they became so furious they set fire to the carriage. Though the enemy came within 70 yards range during the artillery withdrawal, Cockburn and his party deliberately

sacrificed themselves by standing their ground to allow the artillery to get away. Cockburn was badly wounded and most of his men were killed or taken prisoner.

All three of the Lilliefontein heroes remained in the army until retirement. Two would fight again in World War I.

Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Turner was one of Canada's most distinguished military figures. Born in Quebec City on July 25, 1871, after graduating from school he joined his father in the family grocery business.

In 1892, he joined the militia as a second lieutenant in the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars. By 1895 he held the rank



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of captain. In 1900, when the Special Force was organized for service in South Africa, he joined the Canadian Mounted Rifles, later amalgamated into the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

In addition to earning the VC, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order as well as the Queen's Medal with clasps for Belfast, Cape Colony, Orange Free State and South Africa. Following the Boer War, Turner's military career was no less impressive. By the start of WW I in August 1914, he commanded the 3rd Infantry Brigade with the rank of brigadier-general. In April 1915, he played a key role in the Second Battle of Ypres when, as British Prime Minister Lloyd George said, "the Canadians saved the British Army." To break the entrenched stalemate from the North Sea to the Swiss border, the Germans unleashed 160 tons of poison gas against the Allied trenches. The French defences on the left flank collapsed, but the Canadians stood firm. In the midst of the action, Turner prevented the Germans from cutting around behind his brigade until a British detachment arrived to fill the gap.

On Aug. 17, Turner was given command of the 2nd Canadian Division with the rank of temporary major-general and later, on Dec. 16, took command of the Canadian forces in the British Isles. On June 14, 1917, he received a knighthood and a year later was elevated to the rank of lieutenant-general. In May 1918 he was appointed

Chief of the General Staff, Overseas Military Forces of Canada. By this time his decorations included six Mentioned-in-Dispatches, the French Légion d'honneur, Croix de Guerre avec Palme and the Russian Order of White Eagles.

In 1919 Turner was instrumental in calming the deadly Kinmel Park Camp Mutiny, in which Canadian troops rebelled over conditions at a concentration camp in Wales where they were waiting to go home (See separate story). Later in 1919, Turner returned to the family business in Quebec City, but continued to serve the Canadian military in a variety of capacities. He was honorary colonel of several regiments and took an active part in their affairs. He became one of the founders and a grand president of The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, today the Royal Canadian Legion, and until his retirement on July 14, 1941 was a member of the Canadian Services Commission.

Turner died at the Ste-Foy Veterans Hospital in Quebec City on June 19, 1961, at age 90. He was buried in Mount Hermon Cemetery with full military honours. His VC, other medals, sword and silver tray were on display in the museum at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown, N.B., until 1993 when they were transferred to CFB Petawawa, Ont.

The above is adapted from Saving The Guns In South Africa, By Arthur Bishop, Part 3 of 18, Legion Magazine, May/June 2004 via www.legionmagazine.ca.

Large pistol fired a heavy bullet

Colt .455 New Service model revolver saw service in two wars

The Colt .455 New Service Revolver, first issued to the officers and men of the second Canadian contingent and used by all the contingents sent subsequently. The officers of Canada's first contingent to South Africa, the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, carried the old Colt .44 Calibre Model 1878 pistol acquired at the time of the North-West Campaign in 1885.

The interval between the dispatch of the first contingent and the raising of the second gave the Department of Militia and Defence the opportunity to purchase a more modern firearm. Familiar with Colt products, the department chose Colt's .455 New Service Model introduced in 1898. It was a large pistol, which fired a heavy bullet intended to stop an enemy quickly. The



The Colt .455 New Service Revolver, first issued to the officers and men of the second Canadian contingent and used by all the contingents sent subsequently. Shown above is the well-worn sidearm of Lieutenant, later General Sir Richard Turner of Quebec. www.civilization.ca/cwm

weapon was carried in a Canadian-made holster, suspended from the Oliver Pattern Equipment waistbelt.

The usefulness of the pistol in South Africa was debatable. Lieutenant-Colonel François-Louis Lessard of the Royal Canadian Dragoons felt that it was an unnecessary weight for the overburdened mounted infantryman, and had them returned to stores (although some officers, including Lt. Richard Turner, kept theirs). Lieutenant-Colonel T.D.B. Evans of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, on the other hand, considered it a most useful weapon for mounted troops, particularly when scouting and searching houses for prisoners.

Whatever the opinion of the pistol's utility in South Africa, the weapon remained in the Canadian military inventory and was employed during the First World War.

Hard-riding cavalry quickly mastered machine-gun tactics

Royal Canadian Dragoons were 'led from the front'

Canada's first contingent to the Boer War, consisting of the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, had barely sailed for South Africa when, on 2 November 1899, the Canadian government offered a second contingent consisting of horse-mounted infantry and field artillery. At first, Britain declined Canada's offer, believing there was no need for additional troops. However, London changed its mind in mid-December after a series of disastrous defeats at the hands of the Boers. In raising the new mounted unit, the Canadian government searched for men who were already experienced horsemen and good shots. The unit was originally named the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles, and comprised a total of 19 officers and 371 men and their horses, organized into two squadrons. The core of each squadron was provided by experienced regular officers and men from the



Above: The machine gun recovered by Sgt. Eddie Holland at Liliefontein. Below: The Boer fighters were mostly farmers battling for their homeland. Photos, Royal Canadian Dragoons.



WORLD OF WARRIORS AND WAR

Royal Canadian Dragoons, the cavalry unit of the Canadian Permanent Force. For this reason, in August 1900, at the unit's own request, the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles were renamed the Royal Canadian Dragoons. The volunteers comprising the remainder of the battalion came from cities and towns in Manitoba and the eastern provinces. Many were members of cavalry regiments of the part-time militia.

The battalion disembarked at Cape Town on 26 March 1900 and was soon on its way to the front to join the 1st Mounted Infantry Brigade. The Dragoons fought a number of engagements in the advance to Pretoria, and subsequently participated in operations on the high veldt east of that city. In one of these, at Leliefontein on 7



November 1900, a detachment from the unit, with two 12-pounder field guns of "D" Battery, Royal Canadian Field Artillery, fought off a series of mounted charges by a superior Boer force. Three Dragoons won the Victoria Cross for this action.

A number of factors contributed to the success of the Royal Canadian Dragoons. First, its voyage to



South Africa was delayed by a month because of sickness in the crew of the troopship. This allowed the unit to train properly before its dispatch into battle. Secondly, in addition to some very fine soldiers and a popular and spirited commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel François-Louis Lessard, the unit also possessed more than its share of brave and able officers who led from the front – a trait reflected in battle casualties of two killed and four wounded among the ten lieutenants. Unlike most other units, moreover, the Dragoons used their machine gun section very aggressively. The Royal Canadian Dragoons was, in fact, perhaps the most effective Canadian unit to serve in South Africa, and among the best on either side.



Above left: Lt.-Col. F.L. Lessard. Above right: A party from the Royal Canadian Dragoons on patrol on the South African veldt, October 1900. Below: 'Boers on the sky line'. A scene that would have confronted the gunners of "D" Battery and the Royal Canadian Dragoons at Leliefontein. A Dragoon with bandolier stands guard to the right. E.W.B. Morrison, *With the Guns in South Africa*. From www.civilization.ca/cwm/.

Little-known rioting blamed on communications breakdown

World War I aftermath triggered Canadian mutiny

There is a 90-year-old legend in the North Wales town of Bodelwyddan. On some nights you can hear the sound of soldiers marching through the town, but if you look, none can be seen. The soldiers are the spirits of Canadian troops that rest in St. Margaret's Churchyard in the town. 208 Canadian soldiers are buried there, most of them victims of the influenza epidemic that was rampant in Europe and North America in early 1919. Four of the graves are different: they are the graves of soldiers that were killed when the soldiers in the Kinmel Park Army camp mutinied in 1919.

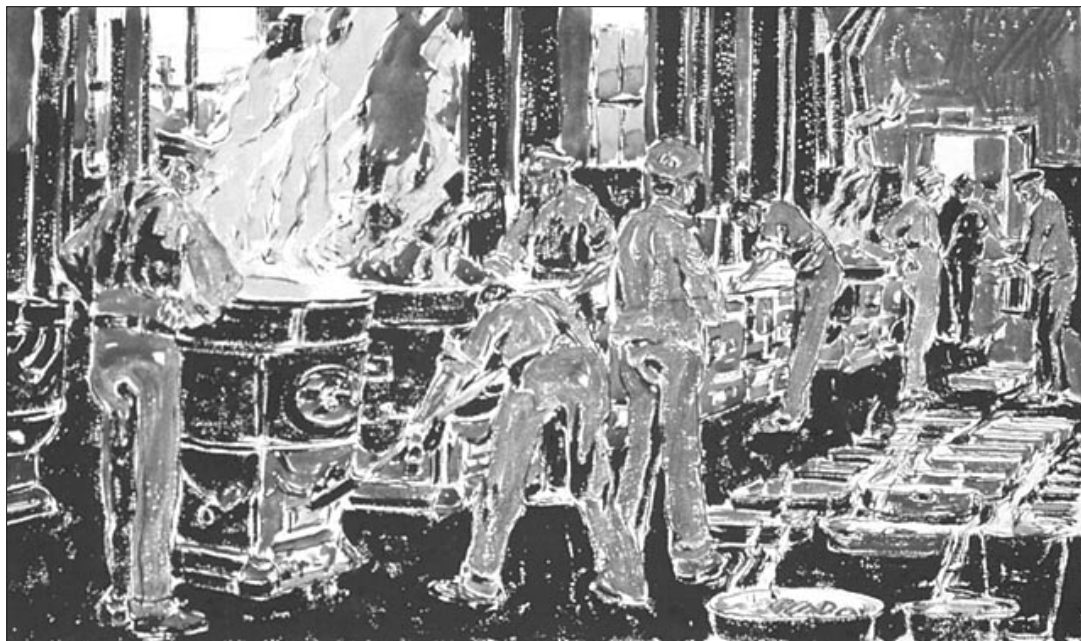
At the end of the war, the logistics problem of returning all the troops to Canada arose. Companies like Canadian Pacific had given all of their ships to the Canadian government during the war, but after the war they had to get back to the business of making money. The British government offered a number of ships, but the sheer volume of troops dictated the timeframe. From the period

bring them back through the British Isles instead of directly from France as the American troops were.

Troop concentration camps were set up in England, Bramshott and Whitly being the predominant ones for combat troops, Kinmel Park for service battalions, mostly Forestry Troops and Railway Corpsmen, that had never seen combat, or indeed left England.

For the 17,400 troops at Kinmel Park, conditions were far from ideal. The days were filled with exercises that they thought meaningless, medical examinations, route marches and military discipline and training. For them the war was over and they didn't see the need. They were anxious to return to Canada, not just to their families, but they also realized that the first soldiers home would have the pick of the available jobs, and no one wanted to come home from the war and be unemployed. At Kinmel Park, there was the military bureaucracy to overcome. Troops awaiting transport had to fill in some 30 different forms with

approximately 360 questions. The food they were fed was bad; it had been compared to "pigswill". At night, the troops had access to "Tin Town" a nearby group of shops and pubs that had inflated their prices to take advantage of the, comparatively, well paid Canadian soldier. After a month of these rates, many soldiers were broke. Sir Edward Kemp, the Overseas Minister, commented on the camp: "You cannot blame the soldiers for kicking and complaining ... You are



Dinner is served, Kinmel Camp, 1919, Painting by David B. Milne

of 1914 to 1918 the Canadian railways had transported a tremendous volumes of troops to maritime ports. In 1919 they were concerned about the state of the tracks, and the volume of troops they could transport. With all of the logistical issues, the initial estimate was that it would take 18 months to get the Canadian troops home; in reality most were home by mid 1919. There were a lot of practical problems, such as getting troops back from active occupation service in Germany, and emotional issues; many soldiers still had relatives in England and wanted to see them before going home, so the decision was made to

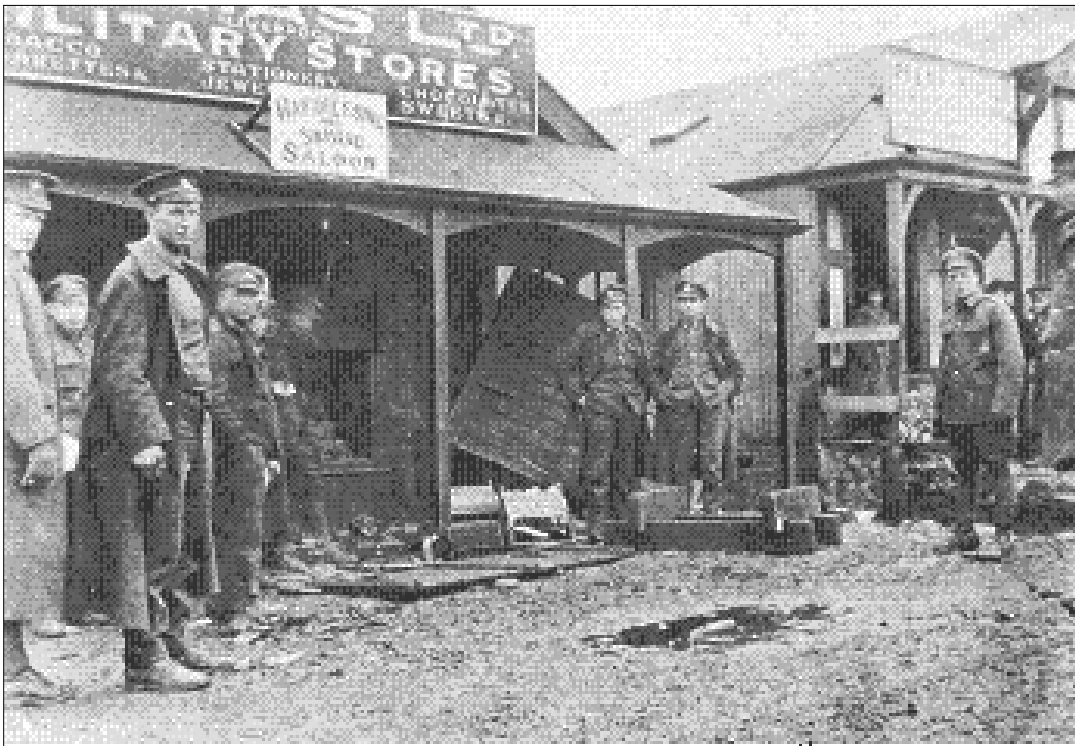
living in paradise in Canada as compared to this place". The men felt that they were stuck in England, with no ways to influence their

release. At Kinmel, probably because it was supposed to be a short term camp, the men did not receive regular pay.

Although warmer than most Canadian winters, the winter of 1918-1919 was also one of the coldest that the locals could remember. With the camp situated right on the coast, the men were exposed to the constant, harsh wind that came in off the sea.

In late February it became common knowledge that a number of large ships had been reallocated to the American troops, who hadn't been overseas for as long as the Canadians. As a

WARRIORS AND WAR



Above: Tin Town after the rioting March 5, 1919. Opposite: Kinmel Camp 13, December 1918, painting by David B. Milne.

last straw, at the beginning of March, General Sir Arthur Currie made a decision to transport the 3rd Infantry as a whole back to Canada, instead of the troops waiting at Kinmel Park, who were originally scheduled for these ships. There was no question that these were combat troops who deserved to return quickly, but they hadn't been overseas as long as many of the men stationed at Kinmel Park.

The Camp itself was understaffed and inexperienced. Some of the camp commanders had 3 months of service. Major H.W. Cooper testified at a hearing after the riots: "I am 12 Sergeants [Sergeants] below Establishment, 21 Cpls [Corporals] and 35 L/Cpls [Lance Corporals]. Seven of my Officers received their commissions in Nov. 1918."

ON the evening of March 4, 1919 at around 9:00 PM, approximately 1,000 troops (depending on the source, the number varies from 800 to 2,000 soldiers) rebelled and started a riot. The idea likely came from a strike that the British troops staged a few months earlier, resulting in their early demobilization. Once the riot started it quickly got out of control. It started with one of the canteens, spread to a sergeants mess quarters and then into Tin Town where the troops took their revenge against the local profiteers. The mutineers remembered their debt to the Salvation Army, and these quarters were spared. The YMCA and the Navy and Army Canteen Board (NACB) were viewed to have inflated prices; their buildings were

looted and damaged. The overall damage was calculated to be in the thousands of dollars, with stolen or destroyed cloths, food, alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco and equipment.

On the morning of March 5th, the officers tried to take control of the situation. They organized some of the 'loyal' troops to try to bring the situation under control. They encountered some of the mobs that had formed and things quickly got out of control. Five Canadians were killed in the subsequent encounters, 28 wounded. In the aftermath, soldiers were arrested, and then quickly released fearing that arrests would

lead to more outbreaks of violence. In the end 51 Canadians faced a court marshal, 27 were convicted and sentenced anywhere from 3 months to 10 years. The government essentially

covered the mutiny up, sealing all records of it for 100 years.

Local newspapers covered the affair, and added their own sensationalism. The London Times reported on March 7, 1919:

"The rioters then proceeded to the quarters occupied by the girls, who were in bed, and carried away their clothes. The girls were not injured, but had to remain in bed the next day because they could not dress themselves. Next day, the rioters were masquerading about the camp in girls' clothing."

The Regimental Diaries report that, after investigation, the allegations of rioters going into the women quarters were unfounded; the clothes had been taken from the NACB store. The Times later recanted (March 8):

"The girls' camp was not attacked. As a matter of fact the girls were treated with the utmost chivalry. No man entered the girls' bedrooms while they were occupied."

The Times also initially reported, and later recanted, that the rioters had killed a Victoria Cross winner. They did, however, accurately sum up the incident:

"In view of the splendid discipline and record uniformly maintained by Canadian troops since the beginning of the war in England and France, the 'incident' at Kinmel Park is regretted. It is considered that by comparison with others discipline amongst the Canadian troops is of a high order.

It is also regretted that reports of the incident have been exaggerated.”

Although the means did not justify the end, the result of the mutiny was that troops stationed at Kinmel were given priority for returning to Canada, and by March 25 approximately 15,000 soldiers had been redeployed to Canada.

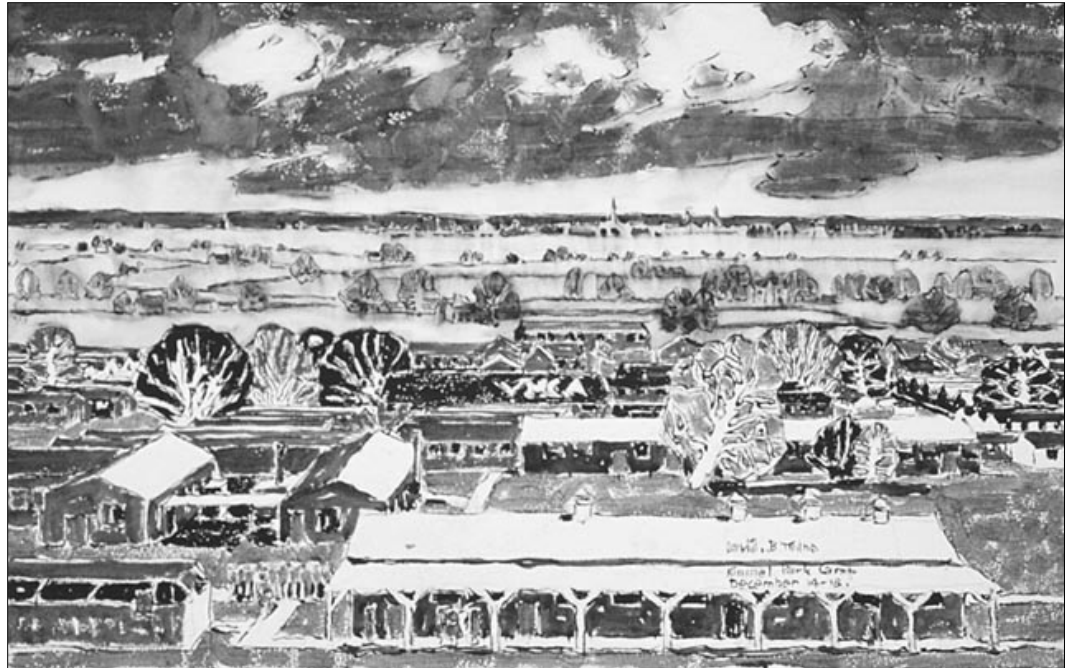
This is one of the most misunderstood and undocumented parts of the Canadian effort in the First World War. The riot itself, was not unusual.

There were many other mutinies by French and British troops, many more serious than the riot at Kinmel Park. During and after the War, the British military hierarchy tended to downplay the role the "Colonials" had played, and while they kept tight censorship on the British mutinies, they were more than happy to let the press know about the goings on at Kinmel Park.

After 5 years of war, it must have been surprising to the residents of Bodelwyddan to hear about soldiers waiting to go home being killed. They provided a custom tombstone

for Corporal Joseph Young, who was killed during the rioting. It reads: “Someday, sometime we’ll understand”

Adapted from Dimensions of Military Leadership: Mutiny of 4/5 March 1919 By: Howard G. Coombs, Canadian Forces College, The Kinmel Park Camp Riots 1919”, by Julian Putkowski and Kinmel Park Concentration Camp – 1919 by the Canadian Great War Project, www.canadiangreatwarproject.com. Paintings by David B. Milne, 1918-1919 <http://cybermuseum.ca/>



Turner's explanations helped calm riotous troops

From the report of an investigation into the riots: Private A.L. Wallace of the 15th Infantry Battalion said: *“I registered in this Camp on 21st February 1919. I live in hut 15 in sailing Lines, M.D. 2. I am a repatriated prisoner of war.*

“The situation in this camp as I understand it was this:– There were the usual murmurings of soldiers, there were discomforts of various sorts, many men were broke and couldn't buy cigarettes or soap, but we were all looking forward to get away home and all these things were suffered with the hope in view of something better to come in the shape of sailing for home. Then came the cancellation of sailings – then came the news that the 3rd Division was going home first– that they were the fighting division of the Canadians – this was the climax. On the day before the riot it was on everyone's lips–it was a general feeling–every man I met was talking the same thing. I do not think it was organized, but once the thing was started others joined in and it turned into a demonstration about the sailings being cancelled and it became a protest designed to reach the attention of the highest authorities.

“The sailings were the real cause – the want of pay was secondary. In my hut I don't think there was five shillings among the 30 men. One man had not received pay since 5th Feb. I had not received pay myself since 8th February, but personally I have no complaint about pay. I have drawn \$300 since coming back from Germany. I have still some \$600 coming to me. I knew I could have drawn pay at any time. I think if the men had been told about the sailings, why they were postponed or cancelled there would have been no trouble. The first explanation given us was by Gen. Turner. Now it is posted on boards – things are improved. Had the men known the true situation they would have thought different...”

Lieutenant General Sir Richard Turner VC, KCB went to Kinmel Park and addressed the men in fifteen different places. They seemed to appreciate his explanations and there is not likely to be any further disturbances... If the number of men originally planned for February had been allowed to embark, it is thought that there would have been no trouble. But the shipping situation, owing to strikes and other reasons, is admittedly a difficult matter to control. It is however hoped that there will not be a recurrence of the delays which have hitherto taken place. It is not attempted, in the slightest degree, to excuse the misconduct of the men who took part in the disturbance. Many of the offenders have already been placed under arrest and these, with others involved, will be rigorously dealt with....

WARRIORS AND WAR

Veterans take care of business

Canadian Legion keeps fellowship going in peacetime

Especially for veterans, the effects of the Great War would not go away. In Canada, as elsewhere, economic difficulties victimized many returned men. Mutual distrust arose between officers and other ranks. The existing legislation and the administrative machinery could not solve the problems of those who had served. Many veterans groups thus sprang up, but circumstances demanded a united organization. Field Marshal Haig, Commander of the British Empire's forces on the Western Front, and retired army chief of staff Lt. Gen. Sir Richard Turner, of Quebec City, helped inspire the creation of such an organization. A unity convention met at Winnipeg in November 1925, and most previous groups merged to form The Canadian Legion which, in 1960, by royal assent, became The Royal Canadian Legion. The founders decided to stand for peace with strength and for loyalty to Canada, the Empire and the Monarchy. The Legion was to safeguard veterans and their dependents, to protect the families of the fallen, and to make sure that wartime sacrifices would be remembered. Despite these intentions, certain individuals believed that because the group denied membership to anarchists and communists, a strong-armed, fascist movement was in the making. However, the rumours did not persist and, with Saskatchewan veterans in the vanguard, the membership of most former servicemen's groups flocked to the Legion. The Legion's prime concern has always been veterans and their dependents. Money from poppy sales aids such people when they are in distress. The organization has helped thousands to press claims for government benefits and has lobbied for improved veterans



Richard Turner

legislation. As early as April 1926, the group sought amendments to the Pensions Act, the Soldier Settlement Act and the Civil Service Superannuation Act. Such efforts procured assistance, unheard of following the First World War, for people being discharged after the Second. The Legion tried to make military life more pleasant. During World War II, Canadian Legion War Services provided members of the forces with recreation, personal guidance and opportunities for education. The educational effort produced better soldiers, sailors, and airmen, prepared military personnel for civilian life, and prevented "boredom in the long winter nights." Some credit this program with raising literacy rates in parts of Canada. Beyond concern for the

veteran, the Legion has a sense of public duty. In 1928 the organization offered child rearing advice. The Legion's first national convention wanted to develop a "spirit of Empire" to offset dangerous foreign activities. Before and during World War II, the organization fought complacency. More recently, the



group has sought reform in various fields and has provided many community services. To mention only one, there are hundreds of places in Canada where the Legion Hall is the only social centre. Rudy Kovach of Vancouver designed The Royal Canadian Legion stamp which evokes the feeling of remembrance.

Canada. Post Office Department. [Postage Stamp Press Release], 1975. Source Canadian Postal Archives Database, www.collectionscanada.ca

Winners of the Victoria Cross are an increasingly exclusive group

The Victoria Cross was – and remains to the present day – the highest British military award for gallantry, awarded for "most conspicuous bravery, a daring or pre-eminent act of valour, self sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy". Established during Queen Victoria's reign in February 1856 some 633 Victoria Crosses (known as the VC) were awarded during the First World War. Two of these comprised Bars, that is an award of a second Victoria Cross to a current holder: to Arthur Martin-Leake in 1914 and Noel Chavasse in 1917 respectively. Of these Chavasse earned both VCs during the First World War, although the second was posthumously awarded.

Of the 633 VCs awarded during the First World War 187 were issued posthumously to men killed during their act of heroism. Prior to the outbreak of war in 1914 522 VCs had been awarded; by contrast just 182 were issued during the Second World War. There are two instances of the Victoria Cross being awarded to father and son (although never during the same conflict). No woman has ever been awarded the VC In 1921 the Victoria Cross was awarded to America's Unknown



Warrior, laid on the tomb in Arlington Cemetery by Admiral Sir David Beatty on Armistice Day 1921.

A recommendation for the VC was issued at regimental level and had to be backed by three separate witnesses. From there the recommendation was passed up the military hierarchy until it reached first the Secretary of State for War and then King George V (who personally presented the award). A full 12 VCs were awarded for outstanding acts of bravery rendered during the Allied landings at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

The obverse of the medal featured the royal crown surmounted by a lion with a ribbon underneath bearing the legend 'For Valour'. The reverse of the medal was engraved with the name of the recipient, together with the name of his regiment and the date of the action for which the award was presented. The award of a Victoria Cross, each of which was produced by Hancocks and Co. of London, was published in the London Gazette, accompanied by the relevant citation.

– From ask.co.uk

ON THE HOME FRONT

Johnny Holmes gave starts to Oscar Peterson, Maynard Ferguson

The Jazz Scene in Montreal during the Second World War

By Guy Rodgers

In his 1945 novel, Hugh MacLennan described Quebec as Two Solitudes. It was actually a place of many solitudes. The one common passion that united Blacks, Whites, Protestants, Catholics and Jews was not hockey but jazz. Montreal had become the Paris of North America during the prohibition years (1920-1933) and during the War Years could still boast almost as many nightclubs as churches.

There were three distinct nightclub scenes in Montreal. Uptown, located on the west side of the city above Dorchester Boulevard (now René-Levesque), was white, well-healed and English: American high-rollers felt right at home there. Downtown, located below the escarpment along St-Antoine and near the railway terminals, was black, working-class and English. It had a lively after-hours scene. The East End, located around the Main, was where different languages and races mingled but rarely mixed. The bands were either white or black.

The love of a shared music made it inevitable that musicians would eventually be drawn together by talent rather than race. One of the first to form a mixed race band was saxophonist Irving Pall. During the early 40s his band played Downtown in Rockhead's Paradise (1258 St. Antoine West) and Café St. Michel (770 Mountain). No riots ensued.

The man who defied the Uptown colour barrier was Johnny Holmes. In 1942, at the age of 26, Johnny was a veteran jazz entrepreneur: hiring musicians, booking halls, paying the publicity out of his own pocket. The 15-member Johnny Holmes Orchestra was packing Victoria Hall in Westmount every weekend with 800 dancers. One night they drew a bigger crowd than Stan Kenton's visiting big band over at Chez Maurice Danceland

In 1942 the war was swallowing up musicians at an alarming rate. Johnny Holmes lost two pianists in a matter of months. As he began looking for a new replacement, a shy 17-year old came to audition. The kid had raw talent as a boogie-woogie player but no experience with a big band. The kid was also black. Times were hard, so Johnny Holmes took a risk and hired him. One of their first gigs together was a private dance at the very elite and very Uptown Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

A few days before the dance, the hotel manager learned that the new pianist was black and refused to let him play in his hotel. The manager had not counted on the obstinacy of Johnny Holmes, who threatened to take out an ad in the Gazette denouncing the Ritz-Carlton if his pianist was barred. The Hotel capitulated. The Uptown colour barrier had been breached. Johnny Holmes had a new piano player who was too young to enlist in the army. And

Oscar Peterson has found a mentor who would help shape him into the greatest jazz pianists of his generation. By the end of the war both Count Basie and Coleman Hawkins had seen Oscar Peterson play at after-hours jam sessions downtown and tried to hire him, but he refused to leave Johnny Holmes. They would stay together until 1948, when Oscar, a seasoned pro of 23, felt he was ready to make his mark on the world stage.

Another young Montrealeur who got his start with Johnny Holmes in 1942 was trumpeter Maynard Ferguson. Even more precocious than

Oscar, Maynard was just 14 when he started playing professionally, billed as the 'Teen-age Trumpet Wizard'. Within three years Maynard Ferguson had become a local phenomenon who was leading his own band at the Verdun Auditorium.

One of the most violent war-time riots in Montreal occurred at the Verdun Auditorium. The war had polarized public opinion. Serious minded young men who were symbols of self-sacrifice and public service wore military uniforms. Extravagant Zoot suits were the uniform of young men who were symbols of self-indulgence and public debauchery. One night a mob of servicemen used park benches to batter their way into the Verdun Auditorium.

It was open season on every dandy

wearing a Zoot suit. Montreal had rarely witnessed such violence. The terrified musicians, many of them Zoot-suiters, were spared, but the riot ruined the reputation of the Verdun Auditorium. Musicians would not return and few patrons felt safe dancing there. In desperation, the management convinced the 17 year-old 'The King of the Trumpet' to front his own band. Maynard Ferguson and his band were soon drawing large crowds back to the Verdun Auditorium. Like Oscar Peterson, Maynard Ferguson stayed in Montreal until 1948. His apprenticeship completed, he headed south to play with Jimmy Dorsey, Charlie Burnett and Stan Kenton. It was not long before Maynard Ferguson was voted top jazz trumpeter by Down Beat magazine.

Johnny Holmes never left Montreal. He continued to lead bands that performed at local dances and on local radio and TV until 1978. Some of these concerts were recorded and issued by CBC. Johnny Holmes (1916-1989) assured himself a place in the history of jazz by being the leader who gave a start to two of the greatest musicians Montreal has ever produced.

Guy Rodgers is director of ELAN, the English Language Arts Network. Thanks to John Gilmore, author of Swinging in Paradise (the Story of Jazz in Montreal) and Who's Who of Jazz in Montreal, both published by Véhicule Press.



Johnny Holmes and Oscar Peterson during one of their regular meetings at Holmes' apartment, 1944. Johnny Holmes Collection, Concordia University

MILITARY HERITAGE

Fraser Highlanders march again

Freedom of the City ceremony brings history to life

By William Campbell

The last time Fraser's Highlanders (The 78th Regiment of Foot) marched into the fortress of Quebec City was in 1759, and at that time, they did not ask the mayor for permission. After a long and difficult siege that had lasted all that summer, the fate of Canada was decided, for better or worse, and it was the beginning of the end of the Seven Years war between France and Britain.

On that fateful day on the Plains of Abraham, the Highlanders fired but one volley from their Brown Bess muskets, then drew their broadswords and charged, all the while howling their savage Gaelic oaths – but that was another time. This year, they had the freedom of the city; no shots were fired and swords were drawn strictly for ceremony.

In Canada, Freedom of the City is an award given to local and foreign military units, giving them the right to march into the city “with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed”. To do so without the Freedom of the City would historically be regarded as an act of aggression.

A special parade is held whenever a military unit exercises its Freedom of the City: the troops march on a major thoroughfare towards the city, where their right of entry is challenged by a single police officer. A member of the troops presents the scroll, which is then examined by the police officer. When he acknowledges the troops' right of entry, they march toward the city hall, where they are received by the mayor. This summer the 78th Fraser Highlanders were honoured with the Freedom of the City of Quebec. We met that morning at Saint Andrew's Church on Chaussé des Ecosais, just down from the Chateau Frontenac, for a traditional regimental church parade. This congregation

had its beginnings with soldiers of the Fraser Highlanders after the fall of Quebec in 1759.

When the service began, the colours were piped to the altar where they were laid for the duration of the proceedings. After a stirring Presbyterian service, the regiment mustered

outside the famous Saint Louis Gate on the Grande Allée. With the colours furled to the beat of a single drummer we then marched down toward City Hall.

As is the custom, we were met by the Chief of Police who asked us our business. After our Adjutant, Major Bolton, informed him that we had come to accept the Freedom of the City, he waved us on. The Major then banged on the door of City Hall with the hilt of his broadsword (being careful not to damage the fine, polished wood). The regiment was then welcomed by the deputy mayor.

The parade was brought to attention, regimental colours were unfurled and bayonets were fixed for the official to inspect the troops. A musket salute was fired, much to delight of hundreds of bewildered tourists.

I've always loved a parade, but being in one, and marching through the crowded streets of Old Quebec with the pipes and drums playing all the old tunes of glory, was a stirring, memorable experience. Outside the walls once again, the parade was dismissed and we made our way back to the City Hall, where a fine reception awaited us. Food and wine was in abundance and the entertainment was provided by our own pipes and drums. A fine day was had by all.

Now what's all the fuss about? you might ask yourself. Who are these Fraser Highlanders? The regiment was raised by Simon Fraser, the Master of Lovat, in 1757, in and around the Beauvy, Inverness area of northern



Scotland. Its specific purpose was to come to Canada to fight the armies of France during what became known in the U.K., Canada and Europe as the Seven Years War and in the soon-to-be-American colonies as the French and Indians War. The regiment marched across Scotland, taking ship first to Ireland and then again to North America. Ironically, many soldiers in the regiment had fought against the English at the ill fated battle of Culloden in 1746.

Major General James Wolfe – who was at both battles, it was noted – said of the raising of a Highland regiment to fight under his command in Canada, “Two or three independent Highland companies might be of use; they are hardy, intrepid, accustomed to rough country, and no great mischief if they fall.” As it turned out, he would be the one to fall, a lead ball piercing the right side of his chest at the moment of victory.

LOUISBOURG AND QUEBEC

The Frasers took part in the siege of Louisbourg and subsequently the Battle of Quebec on the Plains of



Abraham as well as being among the troops who accepted the surrender of the French garrison in Montreal. After the peace, the regiment was disbanded in Quebec and many of the soldiers took land and intermarried into the local population.

Through the centuries since, the Lovats would continue to raise and lead gallant regiments of the British army, including the famous Lovat Scouts of W.W. II. The 78th Fraser Highlanders were re-raised as a ceremonial regiment in 1966, under the auspices of Lord Lovat, David M. Stewart and Colonel Ralph Harper. The regiment is based at the old fort on Saint Helen’s Island and during the summer months can be seen, dressed in their 18th century uniforms, parading, piping and drumming and doing their 18th century musket drill, all the while keeping the Scottish military traditions in Montreal alive and well.



During the regiment’s goodwill tour to Scotland last summer, the banner headline in one of Inverness’s newspapers read, “After 250 years, a regiment comes home.” Now they are at home in Quebec City as well.

MUCH LATER...

Weir(d) story behind Laurentian township ID

What's in a name? General Montcalm and Weir's last stand

By Joseph Graham

Most Canadians are familiar with the story of Wolfe and Montcalm, the two generals who died in the battle of the Plains of Abraham. In the Laurentians, though, Montcalm didn't die, but lived on to defeat Weir. It is this second, less well-known debacle that has brought us back to re-examine the history of the naming of Weir and Montcalm, a small, schizophrenic community tucked into the Laurentian hills.

Names of towns and villages come from many different sources including the names of mill owners and post offices, but there are also the names that the Ministry of Colonisation assigned to different regions as they developed. In the Laurentians, these regions, called Cantons in French and Townships in English, often carry names that commemorate Great Britain and its colonies in the nineteenth century. Beresford, Abercrombie, Howard and Rawdon come to mind, as well as the townships of Montcalm and Wolfe, sitting side-by-side but originally accessible by totally different routes. Imagine a little committee choosing these names. What guided them? Did they wish to re-enact old battles?

The name Wolfe was given to a region settled originally by French Catholics, while Montcalm started off with both English-speaking Protestants and French Catholics. Wolfe had the little village of La Repousse, and Montcalm had Weir. La Repousse's name came from the steep hill that one had to climb to it, perhaps the highest elevation of a settlement in the Laurentians. Had English Protestants settled the region, they may have called the town the Municipality of the Township of Wolfe, but French Catholics were unlikely to call it that. We know where its

original name came from, and we also know that the name was lost to the Church's name for the parish, Saint Faustin. The origins of the name of Weir, by contrast, are less clear. A resident expert on the history of the name is Claudette Smith-Pilon, and she believes that the name Weir goes back somewhere into the last half of the 1800s. She told me that, in her searches, she met a fellow named Stéphane Sigouin who owns a house that once belonged to the Duncan family, and that he found building material in his walls with the stamped name and date: Weir, 1857, or 1887; the print is smudged and not clear. The Duncan family owned a mill and at one time they were the major employers in the region. It is possible that they made materials for use in housing, although Smith-Pilon suggests that the stamp should more likely be associated with Northland Lumber, another company supplying the area. Whoever created the stamp, the name Weir associated with such early dates is intriguing.

Most people seem to agree that Weir's name comes from William Alexander Weir, Deputy for Argenteuil and Superior Court Judge for the district of Pontiac. He was born in Montreal in 1858. Obviously if the stamp actually dates from 1857 or even 1887, there would have had to be another Weir. The judge would have been, at most, 29 years old with an unknown future. The Duncan Mill did not exist in 1857, nor did the village that we call Weir. According to the Commission de Toponymie, the Township of Montcalm received settlers as early as 1853 and was proclaimed in 1857. It had several different villages, one of which was Weir, which began to be settled in the mid 1870s. It could be argued that the stamp commemorates the year that the township was proclaimed, but that argument addresses only the date. It does not answer why it was stamped 'Weir'. Let's suppose that the date on the stamp was 1887. All we would need then is a different, older Weir, and modern amateur historians have accommodated us by proposing one. According to Basil Kerr, in *The History of Weir*, Judge Weir was the son of a general in the War of 1812 who was asked to open up the Weir territory for settlement. Judge Weir's father, however, arrived from Scotland in 1852, so a General Weir would have had to be, at best, a more distant relative. In any case, we have found no records of this older Weir, but of course we continue to search.

To further muddy the water, C. Thomas's



History of Argenteuil, published in 1896, states under the heading Montcalm, "This Township, which is of recent formation is not mentioned in the list of Municipalities in the Province of Quebec, published by the Government in 1886." That would suggest that it may have been considered a part of another region, and may have even been proclaimed under another name. Thomas makes no reference at all to a settlement called Weir.

We know that there was a Municipality of the Township of Montcalm, and that there was a village named Weir in the township. The Commission de Toponymie also tells us that the municipality of the township was first called Harrington and Union and that the township changed its name officially to the Municipality of the Township of Montcalm in 1907. The township was huge, and it comprised a few little settlements, but Weir was only one of them, and while Weir was mostly English speaking, there were a lot of French Catholics up and down the range roads. The Montfort Colonization Railroad ran through Weir in 1897, and they helped things out by calling the station Weir. The post office in the village of Weir was established with that name in 1904, but the post office that originally serviced Montcalm changed its name to Sixteen Island Lake in 1898.

One can imagine that the residents of this township would begin to feel a little crowded, losing their Montcalm post office to Sixteen Island Lake, then getting a new one named Weir in the village where there was already a train station with the same name, then establishing the name Montcalm for the municipality of the township. Since the township was a political entity and Weir was only a post office and a railway station, both beyond local control, a lot of residents of Weir began to feel under siege after 1907. Should the railway station or the post office close, the importance of the name Weir would be reduced. Already there was no political justification for the name, and the old English families were not replenishing themselves. In 1962, the worst happened; the Canadian National Railway, which had purchased the line in 1924, closed the Weir station.

Weir held out for a further thirty years, but was finally overwhelmed in 1992 when the municipal council voted to change the name from the Municipality of the Township of Montcalm to simply 'Municipality of Montcalm'. Any political aspirations that Weir might have had were dashed. It took a further 12 years for Canada Post to

change the name of the post office from Weir to Montcalm.

The weary warriors of Weir have all but capitulated, but they should take heart that they held out for a lot longer than General Montcalm and his forces did in 1759, and that they lost to a formidable adversary.

Surrender to the name Montcalm would not be complete without examining this story of the great historical figure. How else can the residents of this small town become proud Montcalmers?

Marquis Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, Seigneur of Saint-Véran, Candiac, Tournemine, Vestric, Saint-Julien and Arpaon, Baron de Gabriac and lieutenant general in the



French army, was the scourge of the English in America. He is worshipped as a hero of French-Canadian history, but did he deserve the praise? Was the right man recognized?

Born in Candiac, France in 1712, he became an ensign at 9 years of age. By 17, he was a captain in the Régiment d'Hainaut. He subsequently fought in, and lost, a series of European battles, being wounded in two successive ones and subsequently taken prisoner. At the age of 40 he petitioned for a pension, but with the start of the Seven Years War, he was forced back into service and sent to New France.

Montcalm was sternly informed that he would be the subordinate of Pierre de Rigaud de Vaudreuil, Governor General of New France, and that his responsibility would be limited to the administration of the army. This must have caused some resentment on the part of a 30-year veteran of the French army, who had at one time served in the capacity of brigadier. Vaudreuil was a lowly colonial, the first Quebec-born governor general.

Since Vaudreuil outranked Montcalm, he also dictated the battle plans, and from the beginning, the two were at odds. Vaudreuil had risen through the ranks to become governor of Louisiana before being assigned to New France. The colonial forces knew how to fight with the indigenous nations, and under Vaudreuil's guidance succeeded in constantly keeping the British off-balance. They used guerrilla tactics that allowed their much smaller numbers to tie the enemy down in many defensive positions.

Prior to Montcalm, Vaudreuil had had to contend with his predecessor, Baron Jean Armand Dieskau of Saxony, another French army general without experience in the American colony. Dieskau, like Montcalm would, insisted on a European style of fighting that involved shoring up

defences and waiting for the enemy. They were also both career soldiers, men who always kept an eye on their own advancement. When Dieskau failed to obey Vaudreuil's orders in one campaign, and was taken prisoner by the British, Vaudreuil sent a plea to France asking that he not be replaced. His reasoning was that the French regulars did not respect the colonials or the aboriginal allies and that the French officers were not willing to heed advice or follow orders. His request was denied and Montcalm was sent to replace Dieskau.

Montcalm proved much better in knowing how to vaunt his success to their French superiors than in being subordinate to Vaudreuil. In four successive battles, even one that should have been lost, Montcalm emerged victorious, reluctantly following Vaudreuil's orders. While he became a hero to the French regulars and the terror of the British, he lost the support of the indigenous allies and the Canadian regulars. Each of his victories was earned following the strategy of Vaudreuil, but he was not gracious, seeking only his own advancement. The hero of the day was the Canadian-born Governor General, and not his general.

At Fort Carillon Montcalm repelled an attack against the inept General Abercrombie, and his star rose. He used the victory to undermine Vaudreuil's authority. While Vaudreuil had allies in France, coming from the Marine side, he did not have the necessary connections in the Army hierarchy. Even his mentor, Maurepas, was long retired. He had therefore come to rely on his ability to deal with these problems in the field with finesse and patience. In one story from Louisiana, he managed to drive his Crown-appointed comptroller, a famously argumentative fellow, to the point of a fatal apoplectic fit simply through consistent civility. Vaudreuil attempted to have Montcalm re-assigned to France and recommended him for a promotion on the understanding that Montcalm would be transferred to the European theatre of war, but at the last minute, the king personally cancelled the transfer leaving Montcalm in New France, now outranking Vaudreuil.

With his new authority, Montcalm immediately changed the colony's military strategy, pulling back from Vaudreuil's guerrilla tactics. Instead he reinforced his strong position at Quebec and waited for the British to come to him. At the same time, he did not override Vaudreuil's position as governor general, because that would have made Montcalm directly responsible for failure.

His strategy was to withstand a siege in the fort at Quebec through the summer, knowing that winter would force the British to withdraw. Vaudreuil, though, had neglected the down-river defences where the French forces could have hurt the British on their approach, and in late May the British arrived at Quebec in full force. Even so, it was well

understood that they would have until about the 20th of September before being obliged to withdraw for the winter, and the French could easily withstand the summer siege. The British could do no more than move threateningly back and forth along the river.

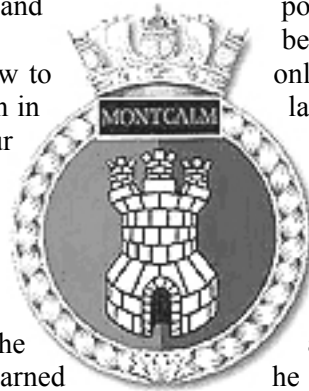
On September 13 Wolfe made a bold landing and successfully placed his army on the Plains of Abraham. No one can explain what happened next; Montcalm was in a position of strength. He was still well defended behind the walls of Quebec and the British had only a week before they would have to withdraw. A large part of the French troops were far upriver where they had anticipated Wolfe would land, and only a smaller force, less well-trained than Wolfe's, was at Montcalm's immediate disposal. But instead of waiting coolly for his troops to return, Montcalm panicked and, leaving the security of his fortified position, attacked the British with his inferior force. Had he simply waited, the British would have had to climb back down the cliffs to their boats within days, leaving them exposed and in retreat.

Both Wolfe and Montcalm were killed in the ensuing battle, and Wolfe's forces ultimately occupied Quebec. Even though Vaudreuil had sent urgent messages to the effect that Montcalm should remain inside the walls of Quebec, Vaudreuil was held responsible for the loss. Subsequently, Vaudreuil, confronted with Amherst in Montreal, sued for peace, but Amherst refused him most of the terms that he requested. The orders of the king were to protect French honour at all costs, and so the French regulars wanted to reject Amherst's terms and prepare one last defence on St. Helen's Island. While this would have protected the honour of the French army, it would have meant that the British, whose record as an occupying force was notorious, would have no further obligation to Vaudreuil, and would have given no quarter to the Canadian residents of the town. Vaudreuil accepted Amherst's terms and returned to France to face trial for the decision.

The French could not hold a French officer responsible for the losses in France because of the shame it would bring upon the army, so they held Vaudreuil to blame, the man who had masterminded Montcalm's victories and sought his promotion. The trial was long and arduous, and Vaudreuil's wife did not survive to the end, but eventually Vaudreuil was exonerated.

Maybe in the story of Weir and Montcalm, we should dig more deeply for information about General Weir of the War of 1812. A pity that the name Vaudreuil is already taken.

Special thanks to Claudette Smith-Pilon of Weir, (or Montcalm). Other references available upon request. Joseph Graham can be reached at joseph@doncaster.ca.



Bea MacLeod, Percy Rodriguez, and...

Montreal's Negro Theatre Guild, 1946-1948

By Rod MacLeod

Last May I attended the "celebration" of the life of my Aunt Bea, who died in February shortly after turning 95. The event took place in Ithaca, NY, where she had lived for the last 56 years, most of them working as a theatre teacher at Cornell, a stage director, and a drama critic. She came from a pious New England Methodist family and broke every convention imaginable by going into the theatre. She met my uncle Robbie in the mid-1930s in Swarthmore, near Philadelphia, where he had taken a job in the college's psychology department and she taught drama. They married and had two children, and after the war (Robbie served as an intelligence officer and worked in the OSS) they expected to continue their life in Swarthmore, but

Robbie ran afoul of an influential and unscrupulous colleague and was let go. Fortunately, he soon found a professorship at McGill, and the family spent two years in Montreal before moving on to Ithaca. My cousin Alison recalled those Montreal years at her mother's Celebration:

"Leaving Swarthmore to move to Montreal was, Bea told me, the first time she seriously thought she would die. Not only was

she leaving her beloved Swarthmore, the place where she had truly found her soul, but even worse

she was going to have to live under the watchful eye of Robbie's piously powerful little mother. Well, I don't remember a whole lot about the two years there except that it was very cold, and Ian and I could skate to school on top of the snow. I do remember vividly the magnificent crocodile that lived for a time in our basement, built by Bea's artistic sister-in-law Kay MacLeod as a prop for *The Emperor Jones*. It wasn't until years later that I came to appreciate its tremendous significance. Despite her trepidations, Bea did manage to take Montreal by storm, and in a most glorious way. In this new city, in a new country, surrounded by the critical eyes of her husband's family, she would not be cowed. She plunged headlong into the world of Montreal's Negro Theatre Guild. I remember her telling me that most of the actors came from poor families and that some of them couldn't even read. Over the two years we were in Montreal she taught them to read, to act, and to love theatre. When they mounted their production of *The Emperor Jones* it was such a success that they were invited to compete in the Dominion Theatre Competition against companies from all across Canada – and they won! Of course, I was too little to appreciate it at the time, but I do remember the excitement I felt

when my mother told me that the crocodile had won a big prize. I wonder what ever happened to that crocodile. The emperor, Percy Rodriguez, gave up his job as a night club bouncer and headed for Broadway. Last I heard he was still alive and well and thriving, somewhere near Hollywood. What became of the others I have no idea, but I'm sure that if any of them are still around they too have memories of that wild and wonderful Bea MacLeod."

Alison tracked Percy Rodriguez down, and he sent her a video of himself reminiscing about Bea. Percy Rodriguez had a long career on the Broadway stage, in the movies, and on TV. Many of you will know him chiefly as Commodore Stone from the Star

Trek episode "Court Martial," where Kirk (fellow Montrealer Bill Shatner, of course) must prove he did not cause his friend's death through an error of judgement. At 81, Percy Rodriguez has lost none of his commanding presence or his stentorian tones, to which this transcription can hardly do justice:

Oh, I remember meeting her very well, as though it were yesterday. We had a little theatre group we had formed, the Negro Theatre Guild. We used to run around doing plays and splitting the proceeds: tickets were 50¢, sometimes 35. We would go from church to church, hall to hall, performing little plays, doing our little thing, and we thought we were just great.

One day, this lady showed up at one of our meetings and said, "Hello, My name is Bea MacLeod. I've seen you folks perform and I think you have a lot of raw talent."

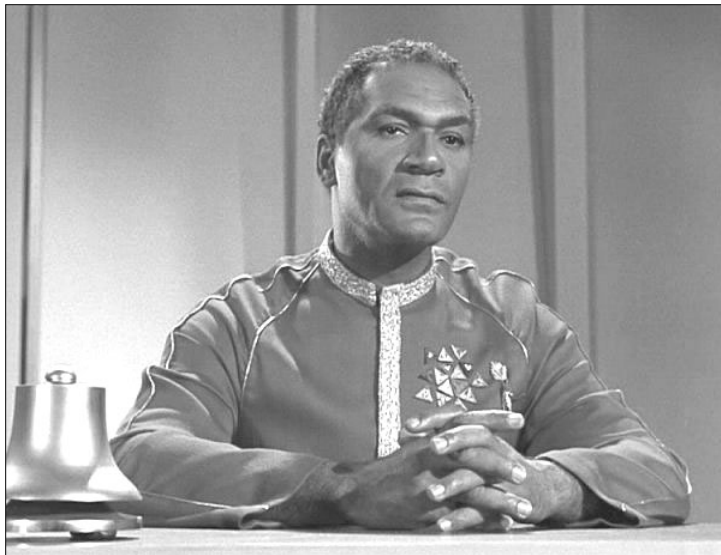
We kind of looked at her, and didn't know what she was about. And she said, "I'm a director, and I'd like to direct your group."

So we thought, Hey this is great! We'd never had a director, didn't know what a director did. All we did was do our little shows, walk down front, talk, move out, and let the next one in, and so on. She started using words like "projection," "enunciation," "stage right," "stage left," "upstage," "downstage" – we didn't know what she was talking about. But she stuck with us, and she trained us and groomed us, and finally one day she said, "You know, the Canadian drama festival is coming up and we're going to enter it."

Well, we looked at her said, "Now, wait a minute! You're talking about a festival: there's going to be good people there!" She said, "You're good. You're all good. We're going to enter this festival and not only that, we're going to win!"

Well, we took all of that with a grain of salt, laughed a little bit.

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Above: Percy Rodriguez as Startrek's Commodore Stone. Overleaf: 'that wild and wonderful Bea MacLeod'.

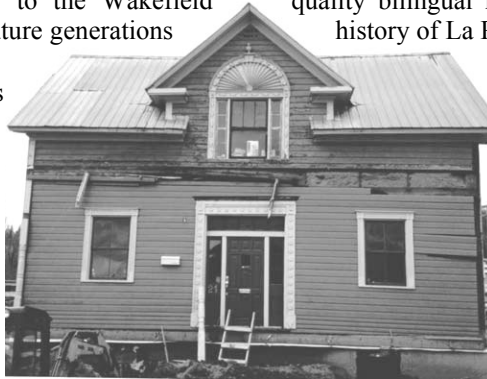
HERITAGE BUSINESS

Early Wakefield house gets move, new vocation

"In honored memory of the pioneer William Fairbairn, millwright, and his wife Jean Wanless, nurse of Roxburghshire, Scotland 1790-1867 - They builded better than they knew who builded for posterity." The quote inscribed on William Fairbairn's tombstone is a fit testimony to the Wakefield pioneer who left an important legacy for future generations of Gatineau Valley residents and visitors.

The gristmill he established on the rapids of the La Pêche River in Masham Township became the permanent foundation on which a regional community settled and which led to Wakefield Village becoming permanently established where the La Pêche meets the Gatineau.

Another enduring legacy of this pioneer, the historic Fairbairn House, evokes memories and qualities of past times, and has come to symbolize the community's efforts to preserve the village's unique historic cachet. On August 30 the family home of William Fairbairn was placed on a new permanent foundation and will take on a new role in the community's efforts in preserving our local and



regional heritage for posterity.

Once in place, the Gatineau Valley Historical Society will lead a project, in partnership with the Municipality of La Pêche and the CLD des Collines-de-l'Outaouais, to turn the building into a quality bilingual museum focusing on the local and regional history of La Pêche and the Gatineau Valley.

The William Fairbairn House has great historical significance. It is one of the oldest houses in Wakefield and is thought to be the first house in the village to be constructed of sawn lumber. More importantly, it is the house of Scottish settler William Fairbairn, who built the first grist mill on the La Pêche River in 1838, establishing Wakefield Village as an important commercial centre within the region.

This homestead was built in the late 1860s to replace the first house which was constructed of logs and situated closer to the river. The house and farmland was passed to the Stevenson family and later the McNally family who farmed the property until 1989.

Continued from previous page

She said, "We're going to do a play called Emperor Jones, by Eugene O'Neill."

We had never heard of it. She pointed to me and said, "You are going to play Emperor Jones!"

I said, "Really?"

And she said, "Yes!"

So, we all had a copy of this play and we studied it, and we rehearsed it. Then one day she takes us to a hall, Victoria Hall, in an area called Westmount, a very toffee area in Montreal. And we're all on stage and she goes and sits in the last row of this big hall, and says, "OK, I'm back here now, perform everybody!" So we started our play and she yelled out, "Stop!" She said, "Whoever bought a ticket for this seat has a right to hear everything you're saying. I want you all to speak up."

Fine, we spoke up.

When we finished rehearsing she came up and said, "That was very good. But Percy, when I say speak up, I don't mean yell. I don't mean to shout."

"But you said you wanted to be heard."

She said, "Yes. Now you understand what I mean by enunciation. Projection. You stand tall, look out front, and you speak clearly. And everyone will hear what you're saying. And if you do it properly you can whisper on stage and you will be heard."

I can hear her voice ringing in my ears right now. [He tears up for a moment.]

And she carried us through. We entered the festival. We performed.

We were sitting there in a hall in the Sun Life building, and Robert Spade was the adjudicator, the king of be-all as far as theatre was concerned, and there were groups that had

wonderful costumes and beautiful sets. We sat there, and she kept saying, "We're going to win!" She was sitting over here, and Lawrence, the chap who did the alligator, who was in the alligator outfit, was sitting over there and she would reach over and tap him, and she poked me in the ribs, and said, "Were going to win! We're going to win!"

And I said, "Sure, sure. Sure."

At the end, Robert Spade came out and announced various winnings. We're waiting to hear. We don't hear our name. We don't hear our play.

Finally he said, "And now we come to the final play of the evening: Emperor Jones."

She grabbed me by the arm. We had won!

And then he announced the Best Actor award - which I was fortunate enough to win.

I'm surprised she made it through the evening! All our group was sitting in that first row and they jumped up, ran over and grabbed her, practically lifted her off the ground. We cheered, we went out, we celebrated. Went back to the little church, our little basement, and we had tea and cookies. We had one wonderful evening. An evening I'll never forget.

The most rewarding evening I've had in my whole theatre career.

I owe it all to that wonderful lady, Bea MacLeod.

The last time I saw her was in New York. I was in my dressing room wiping my face down with cream, and I hear this voice from the doorway: "So! My emperor finally made it to Broadway!"

I froze. There she was, like an angel. I grabbed her, she was so happy, I was so happy.

And she said, "I see you're standing tall."

I'll never forget her.



PASSINGS

Robin Molson:

His family duty turned to passion for preservation

By Karen Molson

The recent passing of my father, Robin Molson, has left a large hollow not only among his family and friends, but in the larger Heritage community in Quebec.

My father's life was a very full one. His interests were widespread, his enthusiasms broad. From the time he was

a schoolboy at Selwyn House School in Montreal, and Bishop's College School in Lennoxville, he made friends easily; many of these friendships endured until the end of his life. Growing up in the 1930s and 40s, my father's early fascination with boats quickly developed into a passion, and earned him the nickname 'Boat Molson'. Summers spent in Tadoussac allowed him to explore the untamed Saguenay River, harnessing the wind in his first home-made sailing vessels.

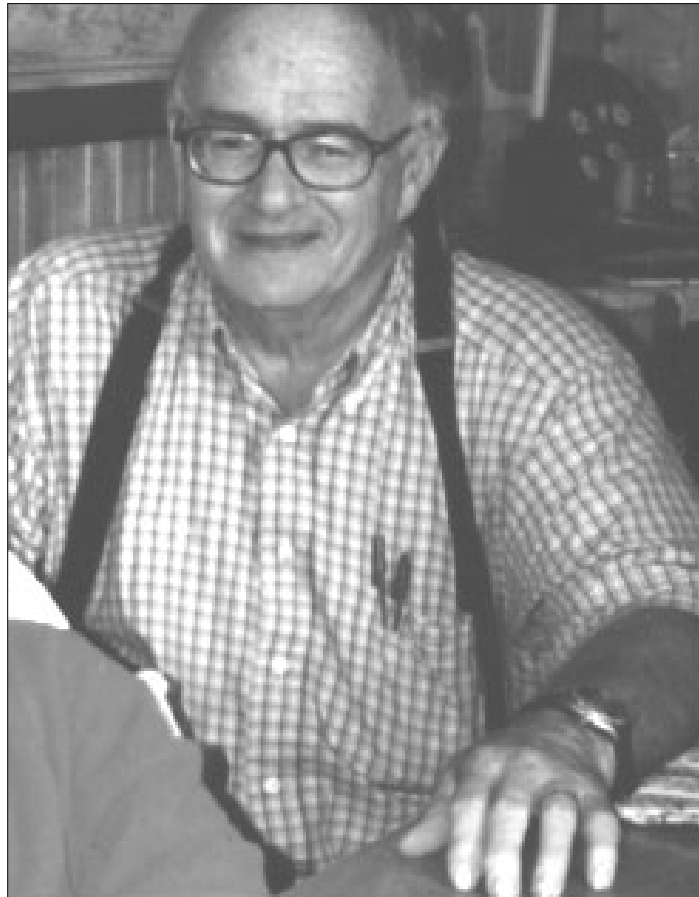
At McGill University, Robin Molson was a dedicated and focused student. His Masters Degree in Geography earned him a position with the Federal Department of Fisheries, who satisfied his wanderlust by posting him to St. John's, Newfoundland. It was while in St. John's that he met his bride-to-be, Carolyn Strong, a nursing student at Memorial University. Following their wedding in 1959, they honeymooned in Norway. By 1964, they had two children and Robin was transferred to Ottawa, where their second two children would be born.

Robin's career in Fisheries spanned 35 years; by the time he retired in 1987 he had advanced to the position of Senior Policy Advisor. His retirement that year was necessitated in large part because of the declining health of his father, C.J.G. ('Jack') Molson. Rather than enter into what might have been the most relaxed stage of his life, Robin assumed the responsibility of overseeing the charitable foundation the Canadian Heritage of Quebec, which had been founded by his father. First elected as a director in 1987, Robin accepted the responsibility of

President the following year. This choice was motivated by duty to his father: Quebec's heritage architecture and artifacts had not been Robin's passion, although he recognized the importance of the work the foundation was undertaking. He spent the rest of his life devoted to its operations and principles.

Under my father's leadership, the Canadian Heritage of

Quebec was transformed from a collection of 'rescued' houses into a viable and proactive organization, bringing many of the properties into meaningful contact with the public. He put my grandfather's dreams into action, making it possible for particular houses to operate as museums, some as galleries, and others as bed and breakfasts. New acquisitions of properties were made with wisdom and discernment. Over the years, Robin's 'duty' gradually became his favourite activity. He was often invited to speak about the Heritage to other historical organizations, and never failed to convey his great enthusiasm for the



work the foundation had accomplished. During Robin's seventeen years as president of the Canadian Heritage of Quebec he earned the esteem of his colleagues, the admiration of his partners in the field, and the deep affection of the organization's employees, volunteers, supporters and friends.

The many interests my father embraced during his lifetime included sailing, building model boats, photography, and astronomy. His numerous friends could always count on him to come through with every commitment he made. Above all he was a man of compassion, patience, humility and good humour. He will always be missed by those who loved him.

HERITAGE AT SCHOOL

QAHN heritage minute video contest

MONTREAL – The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) has kicked off the 2005-06 school year by inviting students at English high schools to participate in a second edition of its popular Heritage Minute Video Contest. Inspired by the Historical Foundation's popular Heritage Minute television series about remarkable people and events from the past, the Heritage Video Contest seeks to encourage Quebec youth to learn about local history. Students from across the province are being asked to submit their own 60-second hometown history vignettes. "I guess you could call it a marriage of history and modern technology," said QAHN's interim executive director Dwane Wilkin.

Last year students from Vincent Massey Collegiate high school in Montreal placed first in the province-wide history competition, for their short film about the French-born teacher and missionary Marguerite Bourgeoys, a founder of Montreal and the *Congrégation de Notre-Dame de Montréal* religious order. The prize, which comes with a cash award for the school of \$250, was won by Level IV students Danya Bouwman, Tanya-Michelle Contente, Amanda De Melo and Christopher Plenzich and was produced as part of their studies in Canadian history. Judges praised the winning team's outstanding creative effort and technical skill in bringing the Bourgeoys story to life. "Technically the film was masterful," QAHN president Rod MacLeod said. "Historical information was conveyed clearly and succinctly." Judges also cited the effective use of costumes, competent staging, and a good sense of timing. For more information please contact the QAHN office at (819) 564-9595 or call us toll-free at 1-877-964-0409

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