

QUEBEC HERITAGE NEWS

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President's message

Natural heritage – an important theme

President's Report

In this issue, along with follow-ups on QAHN Conference 2002 and current news, you'll find a certain focus on natural heritage. This is an important and major theme to which we will return from time to time. Of interest to our anglophone community should be the strong leadership role played by some of our most concerned citizens over the generations in conserving natural sites of value.

It is too easy to look back over the generations of business leaders who built lumbering operations, pulp and paper mills and condemn them for cutting down old growth and using a natural resource along with damming the rivers to provide power. In many cases, these same dams created scenic millponds and heritage mills, much photographed and in themselves heritage sites we seek to preserve. These same ways of life created folklore, music and art, all part of a treasured heritage.

Damming of the rivers in a number of cases ended the Atlantic salmon migration and gradually ended this natural resource in entire watersheds. One good example is the St. Francis river system; early settlers found the streams teeming with salmon and several tributary streams were named Salmon River. As major dams were built along the St. Francis through the late 1800s, promises were made to government that fishways would be built. None were, and government never enforced compliance.

Could that resource be restored? Yes, but money and human energy and especially leadership would be required. With leadership the human energy and money would be found. But???

Essentially all of Quebec south of the tree line is a natural forest area. Stop or even slow down human activity and

trees repossess the area. Walk the streets of Montreal and tree seedlings struggle in cracks between sidewalks and buildings. Drive slowly (as in rush hour traffic) across the Victoria Bridge and you will see tree seedlings in cracks in the railway ties of the train bridge centre. Given time and freedom, the forest could and would repossess its former territory.

Where is the real crisis? Where is the real threat? In short, wetlands and water in general. There are any number of "ticking time bombs" everywhere that garbage was dumped and landfill took place. We simply don't know what was put there or when and a

former wetland almost always has direct links to an underground aquifer which feeds private and municipal wells.

Heavy metals

Streams can and will cleanse themselves given time and opportunity. Toxic organic chemicals such as PCBs and some furans and dioxins in time will break down to non-toxic substances. But not heavy metals such as lead, mercury, cadmium or arsenic. The present supply of these in the world is essentially what it always was; we do not create them and cannot destroy them, we only move them around.

How many old batteries, how many old paint cans are slowly seeping lead, chromium, cadmium, nickel, arsenic into aquifers from these old dump sites? What will we do when we find out?

How often will our grand-children and great-grandchildren have to say "If only they had acted!?" "If only they had found the leadership among themselves and supported those leaders!?"

Richard Evans

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Long effort over many years for Heritage Village

Joan Bisson Dow: QAHN honours New Richmond volunteer

On Saturday June 8th, Joan Bisson Dow became the second recipient of the Marion Phelps Award. From the earliest efforts to create the Gaspesian British Heritage Centre, Joan has been an unrelenting driving force to create this heritage village near New Richmond. It has been a long effort over many years. No one has been more persevering than Joan Dow in this long-term task of keeping alive some local history, gathering buildings into a heritage village and establishing it as a meeting place, all of it telling visitors important parts of the local story.

In her words: "One of the reasons we decided to build a Village was to preserve the old furniture and artifacts that were part of the local heritage. When we asked for articles for our Loyalist Days exhibition (as part of the Bi-Centennial celebrations of the arrival of 485 United Empire Loyalists on the Gaspé Coast) we were told "Jim has that in BC" or "Dave took that to Ontario" or too many who indeed said "we threw that in the dump". So when we heard there was land for sale which was part of an old ship-yard, we didn't hesitate



to begin thinking of a Village to preserve our wonderful heritage. As Co-Chairman of the Gaspesian British Heritage Village, I was chair of the committee set up to choose the buildings which were to make up the Village

At the request of then Culture minister – Lise Bacon, we accepted the Gendron Store which had been designated a heritage building and could not be destroyed. After the Village opened, I acted as volunteer manager for most of the twelve years."

The Gendron Store now houses a reception centre, where visitors are greeted by costumed interpreters; a boutique, which is stocked with local handicrafts and souvenirs; and an interpretation centre, which documents the history of the fishing industry and of the settlement of the region – Acadian, Loyalist, Channel Islanders and others. It is one of many buildings which have been relocated since then, including a lighthouse, a school, a barn and a church.

The Marion Phelps Award is named for and was first presented in 2001 to the nonagenarian archivist of the Brome County Historical and Museum Society.

Survey: What do we need?

In 2001-2002, 36 per cent of all projects submitted for funding under the Department of Canadian Heritage's Official Languages Support Program's Development Fund had a specific cultural or heritage component. This high number is a clear indication of the amount of heritage work in process in the anglophone sector of the province of Quebec, many of it from small societies or organizations. This shows us that we need to have a better idea of the work that is being accomplished by our member and potential member groups. Similarly, the government would be well placed to realign some of these projects to better sources if the organizations had better contact with the government and vice-versa. These projects could be done through another aegis, or such need for a specific aspect of heritage preservation identified so that a specific program be elaborated to address it.

QAHN is a member of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), a network of 20 anglophone minority-language community associations in the province of Quebec. The QCGN is currently undergoing a Global Development process, in which there is great importance in getting a clear image of the anglophone community as a whole. The Heritage sector being newly represented at this organizational level by QAHN, it is imperative that this survey of heritage institutions be done.

The heritage sector is composed of a great and imposing variety of organizations. On the one hand, we have large, well-established, well-funded, staffed organizations which generate and consume a large amount of capital. On the other hand, we see small (sometimes only one member!), relatively recent organizations operating on virtually non-existent budgets staffed only by volunteers. Some concentrate on built heritage alone, others on natural or religious heritage, and still others whose mandates also include the heritage of other languages or heritage/cultural groups. Some of the heritage work across the province is also being done by organizations whose mandate only includes heritage, for example the Townshippers Association in the Eastern Townships which has set up a heritage website, but also work in the health and education sectors. As an umbrella group for the heritage sector, QAHN needs to be better informed. This survey attempts to address this concern.

We request your assistance with this survey. Over the course of the summer, someone may contact you to conduct a short (15 minutes) telephone interview on your organization, its needs and its knowledge of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network. Please help us better position the Network to become a valuable tool for the heritage community of Quebec. If you would like to volunteer to participate in this survey, please contact the QAHN office at 1-877-964-0409.

QAHN MATTERS

Conference 2002 was well worth the effort

By Richard Evans

Those of us at the Conference seem generally to have frequently been saying to ourselves, "Gee, this is really good! Too bad so many people who would have enjoyed this did not get here!"

In the weeks since the conference, we keep hearing first and second-hand, how much it was enjoyed; what a great experience it was.

Certainly Marc Cockburn and Michael Cooper in leading local organizing did a super fine job. Ernie Mahoney's Historical Society of the Gatineau members did a lot to make it a fine experience. And others from Aylmer up to Shawville and leaders of the regional Association of West Quebecers made contributions. Then too Bob Philips writing in the Ottawa Citizen on June 28th, gave the conference some praising comments.

No doubt the time of year with all the competing events from late May through into July had an effect to keep people from attending. We need to have them know they probably made the wrong choice.

What were the highlights? Saturday afternoon's Regional Showcase talks all proved informative and interesting. Astonishing to learn that Aylmer Heritage Association's regional history is now in its third printing with sales approaching 6,000, that number in Canada being "best seller" status! To see how the Wakefield folk determined to replace their covered bridged destroyed by fire and did so is a revelation of what determined people can do. The panel on historic monument citations was a gold mine of information, with a chance to learn about the roles at all levels – federal, provincial and local. Then to learn about the role of the Main Street Foundation (*Fondation Rues Principales*) in recovering historically interesting commercial and public buildings, hidden behind the ugliness of 20th century modifications, and to realize that the starting point is a reawakening of community pride and realising that what they once saw as ordinary has worth and beauty.

Restoring the Wakefield Mill, now a hotel and conference centre which many of us had the opportunity to visit; learning about Canadian Heritage Information Network and their new Community Memories Program; using the web as a tool for heritage presentation; and so on – all presentations enjoyed by those in attendance.

Friday afternoon's "Behind the Scenes" visits to National Museums and institutions provided us with wonderful opportunities to see what happens behind the exhibits and services we normally get to see. Hearing Senator LaPierre's impassioned speech for preserving and teaching our Canadian heritage was a moving experience. Many had heard his message before but were delighted to hear him again, in his eloquence, passion and humour.



University of Wakefield dean Ernie Mahoney admires Dick and Val's new Depression-Dustbowl fashions after a visit to the restored Wakefield mill.



Comfortable facilities added to the ambience.

Our annual general meeting, once again a friendly affair with a respectable attendance. Much larger, older, wealthier organizations would enjoy the participation and interest. So we wound it up with a Sunday afternoon trip up the Gatineau River aboard the Wakefield Steam Train. Tea and strawberry shortcake on the lawn of the delightful B&B Les Trois Érables; a visit to the cemetery where lies The Right Honourable Lester B. Pearson and a number of well-known dignitaries. Did you miss it? Too bad!

QAHN MATTERS

A very successful event but it was missed by many

By Val Bridger

All that were there walked away with useful knowledge on CHIN, federal, provincial and local citations of heritage buildings, interesting information about previous successful heritage projects, web work and funding programs. They enjoyed each other's company, got good tips from presenters and each other, received a sneak peak behind the scenes of three national organizations, were made aware of organizations and foundations that they had perhaps not been, met people from the government and the private sector, and more importantly, met each other from across the province.

We had 16 Exhibitors ranging from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to local societies like the Historical Society of the Gatineau and Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society. Our keynote speaker, Senator Laurier LaPierre, regaled us with an impassioned address on the importance of involving the youth to safeguard the heritage and history of our wonderful country. We all had a great, productive time. Why weren't you there?

No, we really want to know.

The Board of Directors are re-evaluating whether to hold a provincial conference next year because of disappointing attendance at this year's "do". I can hear some of you say "aww" from here. "That's too bad."

You're right, it is too bad.

We feel especially bad that the great organizational work done by the Local Arrangements Committee, the Historical Society of the Gatineau, and the good local attendance were not rewarded by a strong interest from across Quebec, especially parts within driving distance.

As our President mentioned at the Banquet, it's all about participation people!



Teatime means strawberry shortcake and lemonade too at the elegant Trois Érables, former home to a family of doctors.

Evaluations Please

For those of you who did attend the Conference, would it be possible for you to fill-out your Evaluations form which you found in your

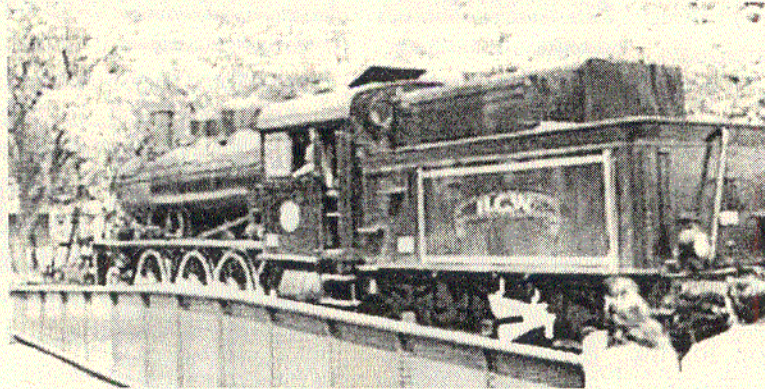
Conference package and either fax or mail it to the QAHN office. We would also very much appreciate receiving copies of pictures that were taken at the conference and press clippings about the conference. We hope to add them to our Conference Report.

2001 Report

The 2001 Conference Report: *For A Living*

Heritage, is available for distribution! Included in this booklet is texts on all five regional showcase speakers, all 12 workshop presenters, as well as short notes and pictures on the Banquet, Barbeque and the Patrimoine à domicile exhibit. The Report is free to all 2001 Conference attendees, and available at a minimal cost of \$5 for all others.

The Founding Conference Report *Building a Future for our Past* is still available as well. Please contact the QAHN office for more details.



The capacity crowd applauded when the Hull to Wakefield train's engine changed direction on the human-powered 'armstrong' turntable at the end of the line. It's Quebec's only regularly operating steam locomotive.

QAHN MATTERS

Heritage Trails: First four pamphlets available

By Dwane Wilkin, Project Coordinator

With help and guidance from many volunteers, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network began and completed the pilot phase of its Heritage Trails project during the first three months of 2002. A grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage allowed QAHN to pay for the services of a full-time project coordinator over this period and to print several thousand information guides in time for the 2002 summer tourist season. The following guides, with roadmaps, are now available:

- Megantic County Heritage Trail, for the Eastern Townships;
- Châteauguay Valley Heritage Trail, for southwest Quebec;
- The Outaouais-Pontiac Heritage Trail, for the Outaouais.
- In addition, a special thematic walking-tour guide was prepared for the Quebec City area, entitled: Old Quebec: English Echoes in a Proud Harbour.

The aim of the Heritage Trails project is to stimulate interest in and a greater appreciation for the history of Quebec's English-speaking communities. Judging by the initial response from QAHN members, the idea enjoys enthusiastic support from community groups working in the area of heritage preservation.

Rather than trying to compile a comprehensive list of heritage sites and points of interest from across the province, we agreed to work toward the production of a few complete prototypes of information brochures. Such an approach had several practical advantages. First, it afforded me the time to consult at length with local heritage institutions and experts about the information

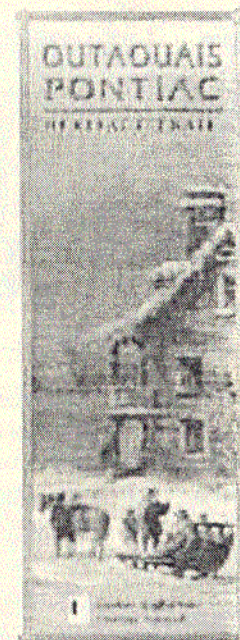
they felt would be most appropriate for inclusion in the proposed literature. Members of the Megantic County Historical Society, the Aylmer Heritage Association, the Châteauguay Valley Historical Society and the Quebec Literary and Historical Society all provided me with invaluable advice and encouragement. Many informants were kind enough to send me existing out-of-print documents through the post. More than once I was taken in person by car to see little-known or unmarked heritage sites. The result, I trust, reflects their generous and patient co-operation.

Given the sheer number of potential heritage sites and points of interest, I determined that certain regions warrant development of more than a single Heritage Trails tour. Such is the case, for instance, in Southwest Quebec, where the pilot phase of the project has yielded a tour along the Châteauguay and English river valleys, with plenty of material in reserve to design a second regional tour. The same is true of the Outaouais. Whereas our first guide concentrates on the Pontiac district of the Ottawa River valley west of Hull, I feel that separate heritage tours could and should be organized in the Gatineau Valley and the Lièvre and Petite Nation districts.

We've devoted our Heritage Trail walking tour of Old Quebec to the city's maritime heritage. This leaves open the possibility of developing additional thematic tours in the future.

A style for the presentation of text is established; the

Continued at bottom of next page



LETTER

My buddy and I were trying to resuscitate a Chevy

I read with interest the story of historical aerial photography in the QHN of May 2002. I thought you might like to hear about an experience I had with aerial photography.

I retired from the USAF many years ago, all of which were in the Strategic Air Command, assigned to a reconnaissance squadron. Our squadron's interest was the U.S.S.R. region and so our B36 wing practiced reconnaissance runs over territory which resembled the Russian environment, generally in the northern states.. Then a reel of photos came in and while I was scanning the reel I began to see familiar landscapes. Lo and behold I saw my village of Kahnawake and eventually I picked out my home on the film. That night I sent a letter to my parents and congratulated them on laying new sod on our grounds. My parents wondered many years as to how I knew about that.

The rest of the reel covered the St. Lawrence valley which may have been a stand-in for a particular region in Russia. I later learned the U.S. had asked Canada for permission and was denied, but as usual General Curtis LeMay ignored the finer points of diplomacy and brought back the goods. The flyover

was never detected. Some may remember General LeMay as commander of the U.S. heavy bombers over Europe during World War II, then transferred to the Pacific area, taking control of the bombing of Japan. I ran into him several times, in the squadron and at my quarters when he often visited his aide who was my neighbour and who shared the general's passion for high speed racing in grand prix type cars.

The base had an auto hobby workshop where we could take our cars and work on them with their tools. My buddy and I were trying to resuscitate a Chevy when a shadow fell on our work and a voice asked if he could help. I said, "No thanks, Mac, I think we're doing okay."

When I extricated myself from under the hood I looked around to see who had offered his help. That voice belonged to the general, wearing his beloved fedora. He loved tinkering, and was working on a British roadster at the time.

Among other things Conway Jocks of Kahnawake is a historian of the Mohawk Ironworkers. He was a featured speaker of QAHN Conference 2001. [mailto:cjocks@pop.total.net]

Heritage Trails -- Continued from previous page

type of paper stock has been selected; templates for the lay-out and design of future brochures now exist. Members will notice that the new QAHN logo makes its debut appearance on the cover of the first batch of Heritage Trails guides. In terms of finances, the project's three-month pilot phase enabled QAHN to better gauge the costs of expanding the Heritage Trails initiative elsewhere in the province. The Department of Canadian Heritage is currently reviewing a request by QAHN for funding to develop 16 additional brochures. It's hoped that the first set of guides will help show the Department that further investment in the preservation of minority-language heritage in Quebec.

Over the course of my work on this series, it was my privilege to learn much about Quebec's English-speaking heritage from keen and well-informed local historians. Not only did these people provide important suggestions for material, I depended on their expertise and good judgment to check draft

versions of the brochure texts. Again and again I was impressed by the level of heritage-preservation work being carried out by devoted volunteers in small museums and county archives, usually without adequate funding.

These guides merely interpret a few highlights of Quebec's anglophone history that can still be glimpsed from the road. Time erodes the memory of early settlements. The decline of English-speaking communities, municipal amalgamations and ever-shifting administrative boundaries, have led inexorably to the disappearance of traditional place names. In parts of the Quebec countryside, lonely churches and fading grave markers constitute the only visible traces of this past. It is a proud past, nevertheless, one which I hope the Heritage Trails brochures will invite sightseers to rediscover in the months and years ahead.

The Heritage Trails pamphlets are now available for distribution! Contact the QAHN office if you would like to help us distribute this exciting new product.

OPINION

QAHN's No. 1 challenge is getting members to participate

By Bob Phillips

"Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network" is probably not a household phrase among most readers of this column; yet it is worth a few paragraphs to become acquainted with this modest new building block in the strengthening of Confederation.

It began at a conference sponsored by the Canadian Heritage department two years ago. It is part of a Canadian Heritage-sponsored network called the Quebec Community Groups Network that links 20 anglophone associations such as the Quebec Community Newspapers Association, the Quebec Home and School Association and the Quebec Farmers' Association.

QAHN's special interest is the healthy survival of anglophone heritage in Quebec. It fosters communications among individuals, and societies interested in local, regional and provincial history of the province. Annually it brings them together, which is what the recent weekend gathering in the Outaouais was all about. Generally it encourages the collection and preservation of cultural property relating to anglophone heritage in Quebec. It encourages the recognition of historical monuments embodying anglophone culture and fosters research into anglophone history, which it also publishes.

QAHN is a federally incorporated independent body. Now funded by the Canadian Heritage department, it seeks charitable status that could encourage support by individuals and corporations. It has some similarities with linguistic minorities in the federal multicultural program – and evident differences.

Unlike the controversial federal multicultural program, it does not need or get funding for costly and controversial instruction in foreign languages, and it does not seek to keep the minority as an entity separate from the mainstreams of Canada's official languages. Its relations with francophone organizations with historical interests are good and productive. It does support English language culture in areas where it is a minority in the way that French is supported when it is in similar circumstances.

Canadian Heritage therefore deserves credit for helping through QAHN, if only to persuade the Rest of Canada that Quebec should not be regarded as wholly French-speaking. As Conrad Black said, when he was still a Canadian, the forgotten English-language minority played a leading role in saving Confederation.

Is QAHN non-political as its sponsors claim? That

depends on the definition of political. There is no doubt that its members personally are overwhelmingly federalist. But it has no tinge of party political affiliation in the way that federally-sponsored multiculturalism has sometimes had. The unusually generous privileges accorded to foreign cultural groups such as government foreign language instruction and dual citizenship were largely initiated by the Liberal party, which sought to capitalize at the polls for its generosity. With some success, Prime Minister Mulroney set out to fracture that Liberal bastion.

QAHN is far from those partisan struggles, though it remains to be seen what will happen provincially as Action Démocratique challenges the provincial Liberal party as the main opposition to the Péquistes. In dynamic Quebec politics, anglophones could be a tempting minority to woo.

The activities of QAHN are by no stretch of the imagination politically partisan. The recent Outaouais meetings included visits to museums, Parks Canada and National Archives. Senator Laurier LaPierre's eloquent banquet speech was certainly not politically partisan.

Membership

If political partisanship is not a problem with QAHN, it has another challenge: membership participation. There were 65 delegates at the conference, of which local participation, was an underwhelming 30 out of a local anglophone population of 50,000. Locally, QAHN has the clear endorsement of the former Outaouais Alliance, now termed the West Quebecers, and the Historical Society of the Gatineau, which organized the meeting.

While the numbers are not embarrassing for a fledgling historical group neither is it a match for the politicized rallying cries of the separatists. Increasing membership is desirable if it is to carry its potential moral weight. The backing of Canadians outside Quebec by payment of the \$10 annual fee would give great moral support. More information is on its web site at www.qahn.org.

With QAHN's steady growth, a few more people in the Rest of Canada may realize that we Quebec anglophones exist, and some of us work hard to ensure that Confederation survives where it counts most.

Bob Phillips is a Cantley writer who is publisher emeritus of the West Quebec Post. His column appears in the Ottawa Citizen every other Thursday.

HELP AND HINTS FROM AWAY

VMC on the lookout for good ideas

The Virtual Museum of Canada's (VMC) new Community Memories program provides smaller museums a new opportunity to share their stories and treasures online. CHIN/VMC member institutions with no more than two full-time paid staff are invited to submit proposals for the creation of online local history exhibits. Institutions whose projects are accepted will receive the user-friendly Communities Memories software package and a standard investment of \$5000. Meanwhile, heritage institutions interested in producing more elaborate, multimedia-based virtual exhibits or interactive games can look forward to a new call for proposals from the VMC Investment Program this coming August. For more information, visit the CHIN Web site at <http://www.chin.gc.ca>.

Canadians planning vacations online

A newly released Ipsos-Reid survey confirms that Canadians are leading the world when it comes to embracing the Internet. An impressive 75 percent of Canadians now have Internet access, 63 percent of adults from home. Take advantage of the medium's popularity to reach prospective visitors by updating your entries in the VMC. During the upcoming weeks, Sympatico.ca will feature a new online campaign promoting the VMC's Find a Museum and Calendar of Events sections. These sections not only present useful information on museums and other heritage attractions, but they also offer interactive maps, making the VMC an indispensable family vacation planning tool. If you have any questions, you can contact CHIN by phone at 1 800 520-2446, or by email at service@chin.gc.ca. If your heritage institution has yet to join CHIN/VMC, we'll send you an information package detailing the benefits of free membership for small and large institutions alike.

Dollars for digits on heritage web site

EAST ANGUS – David Price, Member of Parliament for Compton-Stanstead, on behalf of Industry Minister Allan Rock, recently launched *Le Patrimoine historique numérisé du Haut-Saint-François*. This web site project was made possible through a \$20,223 contribution from Canada's Digital Collections, a program administered by Industry Canada and funded through the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy.

The web site, created by four local young people under the guidance of the *Société d'aide au développement de la collectivité du Haut-Saint-François*, recounts the region's

history and showcases prominent local figures, exceptional natural sites, architectural gems and artistic talents.

"This Haut-Saint-François Collection is more than just a web site," said Mr. Price. "By incorporating regional elements of our country's history, young Canadians have improved their employment prospects in a promising sector of the Canadian economy, information technology. I am delighted that people from around the world will get to see this remarkable collection, which presents an informative facet of Canadian society."

Le Patrimoine historique numérisé du Haut-Saint-François is accessible via the Canada's Digital Collections Web site at <http://collections.ic.gc.ca>. Canada's Digital Collections gives young Canadians aged 15 to 30 entrepreneurial and technology-based job experience developing multimedia Web sites displaying Canadian content. To date, over 2,700 young Canadians have created over 450 sites. Together, they display Canada's culture, geography, history, science and technology to Canadians and the world.

Ottawa organizes push for volunteers

The Department of Canadian Heritage is issuing a request for proposals to deliver the Canada Volunteerism Initiative (CVI). A joint undertaking by the Government of Canada and the voluntary sector under the Voluntary Sector Initiative, the CVI aims to encourage Canadians to participate in voluntary organizations; improve the capacity of organizations to benefit from the contribution of volunteers; and enhance the experience of volunteering.

To meet these objectives, the CVI will establish three national centres to be housed in existing voluntary sector organizations. The centres: (1) Information, Capacity-building and Awareness; (2) Community Support; and (3) Knowledge Development, will provide overall leadership, resources and support to the CVI through contribution agreements with the Department of Canadian Heritage.

To ensure programming reaches the local level and responds to the diverse needs and circumstances of volunteers and voluntary organizations across the country, the CVI will also identify and/or establish local networks within each province and territory. The local networks will play a critical role in identifying local needs and advising the national centres on program design and delivery.

For more information, and to download the request for proposals to manage one or more of the national centres, please click here: http://www.vsi-isbc.ca/eng/rfp_cvi.cfm. The deadline to receive proposals is 5 p.m. EDT August 9.

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

GLEANINGS FROM THE LIST SERVE

Community museum reaches out to children

This was a "hot" topic at our AGM. It seems fitting to relay the message to you all – Valérie Bridger:

I am a summer student at Windsor's Community Museum, a small historical museum in Windsor, Ontario. In December 2001, the assistant curator here sent out a request through listserv asking for ideas on children's programs for the 0-6 age group. We received some great information, as well as many e-mails that we forwarded – ideas that we received since many small museums across Canada are trying to develop similar programs. We are still hoping for more ideas and information, especially with regard to summer and fall programs. I have just started my summer placement at the museum, and so my research is only in the beginning stages. I am in the process of talking to child care professionals to get their input on how these programs should be conducted. I will relay any important information. Here are some of the programs and ideas sent to us from various museums and historic sites across Canada:

- At the McCrae house, they make use of their backyard, with the children learning about herbs, tasting and smelling, they have a bug hunt, make a craft and hear a story -they play Victorian games, have a relay race and watch a short slide presentation

- Museums are giving SHORT tours of their museums

- At one museum, children leave with a small, simple booklet of what they did at the museum -at the Sir Alexander Galt Museum and Archives, where they had a quilt exhibit, they children would go through and find different shapes and colours. They move through the museum like they are a train

- The children also go on treasure hunts, circling objects as they find them, and then given stickers at they end -they also have kids days, where all preschools and daycare's are invited. They make ice cream, butter, candles, and do laundry with washboards, have story time.

- The museum also has anytime activities. These include Old Maid, cutting and pasting and colouring. Other activities include trying on clothes, and playing musical instruments

- At the Tiny Tots program at the Canadian Museum of Nature where exhibits are hands on. They also have a program called Nature Space where they learn through guided play

At the EAG they have 3 programs:

- Where the Elements Are where children learn

- about colour, shape and line. Students also make wood sculptures

- Backyard Gallery Nature Walk- a nature walk through painting and sculpture

- From Head to Toe where students investigate art through their senses

- At the Cowichan Valley Museum they have a scavenger hunt geared to young children instead of having them write down the object they use designated colour and numbers

- They also have the children handle a few artifacts if possible. These artifacts usually correspond to a story that they read.

- They also have a trunk filled with things for the kids to play with

- They are also looking into hiding a Museum Mouse in one of their galleries, which they will change to location of every month.

- At the Colchester Historical Museum every exhibit has colouring sheets

- With the exhibit they had at Christmas, they would take a picture of an artifact, then the children with the help of parents would find the artifact in the gallery

- The children are also allowed to handle objects

- At this museum the children are able to have a snack while they have a story read to them

Tips that I received for running these programs:

- Introduce kids to the museum, and make it a fun place to be

- Many different activities so they are always kept busy

- Keep it simple, keep it active, keep it fun

- No one suggested these programs to go over an hour

- Have the children come in with named tags on

- Talk to experienced preschool teachers- they know what the young ones needs are

Here in Windsor, we have a hands-on history room which kids enjoy very much; it is appropriate for children 4 and up. For older children (7 and up) we have schools programs in which they play a Museum Detective. They seem to enjoy this a lot.

I would really like to hear what other small museums are doing for the preschool aged crowd (0-6) As I get more information I will be sure to post it.

Thanks, Erin Semande, Windsor's Community Museum [mailto:wcmchin@mnsi.net].

MORE GLEANINGS FROM THE LIST SERVE

Our Annual Report online

The QAHN Annual Report 2001-2002 is now available as a PDF file that is retrievable via the downloads page on the QAHN website www.qahn.org

Historica's Community grants

– Deadline September 6

In its efforts to promote history and heritage awareness and understanding, Historica aims to encourage communities - through charitable organizations - to develop initiatives that stimulate local history and heritage appreciation.

Historica supports innovative educational projects in the fields of history and heritage. Although the Foundation devotes its focus to new media, primarily with children and youth as the target audience, the Community Grants Program hopes to support a broader range of projects aiming to promote Canadian history and heritage appreciation and understanding. Only educational projects in the fields of history and heritage will be considered for funding.

A Historica grant can be made only to a charitable organization, not to an individual or to a business. Historica will provide up to a maximum of \$15,000 per project. The total number and amounts of grants awarded every year will vary according to available funds. Historica will accept proposals post-dated no later than

Louise Abbott earns a pair of journalism awards

Louise Abbott, a member of the steering committee that helped establish QAHN, was named the winner of the 2002 Norman Kucharsky Award for Cultural and Artistic Journalism given by the Periodical Writers Association of Canada. Abbott earned the award for an illustrated feature story which traced the history of the Jewish community of Sherbrooke and was published in the *Montreal Gazette* in April 2001. Abbott has also won the 2002 Greg Clark Internship Award given by the Canadian Journalism Foundation. This award will enable her to learn more about federal government policies that affect the lives of rural Canadians, as well as about the partnerships that rural Canadians have forged with different levels of government and with the private sector and the innovative solutions that they have conceived to ensure the survival of their communities, way of life, and environment.



A family gathering at Menasseh Echenberg's house in Sherbrooke in 1910. Today Echenberg family members are scattered across North America.

Photo courtesy of Myron Echenberg

Friday, **September 6**. Final decisions will be announced before the end of November 2002. Application forms and supporting material (if applicable) should be sent to the following address: Historica Foundation, c/o Ms. Susan Schröder, Grants Coordinator, 60 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5V 2H8. For further information regarding Historica's Community Grants Program, please contact Ms. Schröder at 1-800-567-1867 ext. 222, or e-mail sschroder@historica.ca.

QAHN list serve: More than 80 on line

The listserve membership is now over 80 e-mail addresses! This could be a great place for you to publicize your events, sell your publications or ask your questions. All you have to do is send a message to heritagetalk@qahn.org and this message gets sent to all members of the listserve. Two rules: you must be a member of the listserve to submit to it and you must not send attachments.

To become a member, you can register through the website or send an e-mail to home@qahn.org requesting to become a member of the listserve. heritagetalk@qahn.org is the address for the listserve and should only be used when you wish to broadcast a message to everyone. NEVER hit reply to a message originating from the listserve if you wish to send a message to an individual. It can get mighty embarrassing if you make a comment and are not aware that it is being broadcast!



Danny Heilig, pictured at the Congregation of Agudath Achim Cemetery in Sherbrooke, is one of the few Jews left in this Eastern Townships city.

Photo Louise Abbott

NATURAL HERITAGE

Wildlife asserts itself: The balance is constantly changing

By Richard Evans

As a country dweller who came back in retirement to the same 120 acres where I spent childhood years, I regularly marvel at the surge in wildlife population over the last 30 years or so.

By the early 1900s, beaver had almost disappeared from all but remote areas. Today, they are along all our smallest creeks and streams, becoming a serious nuisance, drowning areas of woodland and repossessing lower areas once held by their ancestors. Even in towns and cities, we now have to protect riverside trees with wire mesh to stop beaver depredation. Destroy their dams and they rebuild, within hours, and with amazing persistence.

Sighting a deer was once a rarity and much talked of in the area. Today, any time of day but especially evenings, we look out and see from a few to many deer and they have become pests of orchards and gardens, making it impossible in many areas to grow fresh market beans and similar fresh edibles. A friend in eastern Ontario found they ate his asparagus as fast as it came up and even came into the flower garden to devour the phlox. Cemeteries have been purged of shrubbery and urban lots of hedges and ornamental shrubs. In high deer population areas it is probably futile to try to start an orchard; they dearly (deerly?) love apple twigs!

The incidence of highway deer crashes began to skyrocket in the late 1960s and the whitetail is now a major night time highway hazard. In the last decade, a dramatic build up in moose populations now raise this hazard to frequent human fatality levels.

The eastward migration of coyotes now finds them truly ubiquitous, even moving well into urban areas. In some areas, they have developed a gourmet taste for cats and relentlessly hunt them down.

The eastern panther, once believed by wildlife experts to be extinct, is now heard and seen throughout New England and eastern Canada. Last Fall, we saw one cross a highway in New Brunswick.

The wild turkey, once only part of stories told by old timers, has re-established through New England

and into southern Quebec. Being as large as they are, it seems a marvel that they find enough to eat to survive our deep snow winters.

Turkey buzzards and ravens are now fairly common birds as are hawks and kestrels. Through New England and the Maritimes, ospreys have taken a liking to nesting on the cross arms of wooden hydro electric poles. They are not always welcome.

And what of our trout streams? Certainly, they don't offer up the quantities they once did and over fishing is generally seen as the culprit. Unfortunately, efforts to restock are frequently frustrated by cranes and herons who can, in a short time, clean out ponds and streams.

There is also the astounding population explosion in Canada geese, snow geese and various ducks. But is their presence contributing to the fall-off in loon populations?

What is behind it?

So where are the balances? What is behind some of these dramatic resurges? For one thing, our much maligned clear cuts, quickly become wildlife paradise as the young growth emerges. Mature forests feed very few animals other than tree top dwellers. But young growth provides feed and shelter for an enormous variety of living creatures and whole food chains emerge with astonishing rapidity.

Another contribution is found in the very rich growth and high nutrition of today's hay and grain fields raised to such high productivity. Wildlife never had it so good; whether deer, goose, turkey or moose.

The questions facing us have to do with what could we change? What should we change? What will be the effects of wide spread or concerted efforts to address some of the evident imbalances.

Most of us have spent a lifetime hearing about "the balance in nature". But is that any more than a somewhat abstract theoretical concept? Perhaps over a very wide area and over a long enough time there is an averaging out describable as a natural balance. But in any smaller area at any given time are things ever truly in balance? Given that the likely answer to that is "No", in what way do we act locally against a global ideal?

NATURAL HERITAGE

Bakeapples under study in Quebec and Newfoundland

The *Centre de recherché Les Buissons*, historically associated with potato breeding and research has ventured into research on bakeapples, a popular wild fruit of Quebec's lower north shore and of Newfoundland. The yellow fruit related to raspberries and looking rather like them, is low growing and common to boggy areas. In its area, which also includes Scandinavia and parts of Russia, it is popular for use fresh, preserved and in pies and liqueurs. The CRLB will not only examine the botany and chemistry of bakeapples but consider its economic potential.

Also known in parts of the Atlantic as cloudberry, the name bakeapple is thought by some to be a corruption of the French Baie Qu'Appelle. They are also known by their native Montagnais name *chicoutai*, and in French as *chicoute*.

The Quebec research will complement similar efforts under way since 1998 by Agriculture Canada in Newfoundland & Labrador.

Wild native fruits are important to the economics of Atlantic Canada. However, their commercial exploitation has been difficult due to low productivity found in many native stands, says Agriculture Canada. Research has shown that management of fertilizer and herbicides can dramatically increase yields of blueberry and other berries. Productivity can also be increased by selection of superior plants from natural populations followed by improvement in the laboratory and ultimately the release of new cultivars.

Two years ago a research program was initiated whose aim was to develop improved cultivars of lingonberry (partridgeberry), cloudberry (bakeapple), cranberry and lowbush blueberry. Improvement is obtained through the selection and collection of superior plants from the wild, and their improvement through the use of biotechnology and traditional breeding techniques.

Selection of superior clones from the wild is difficult and critical to the success of this program. Individual plants may be better because of good soil conditions rather than a better genetic potential. Consequently Agriculture Canada used four (4) criterion to select

superior clones from the wild. They were: (1) plant/vine vigor; (2) fruit size and color; (3) number of berries per plant and per volume, and (4) apparent resistance to diseases and insects.

Three years ago, 309 cranberry, 111 lingonberry and 40 cloudberry plants were collected throughout Newfoundland. In 2000, 381 lowbush blueberry clones were selected and marked of which 52 are presently being maintained at the Research Centre's greenhouse,



research scientist Samir C. Debnath said in a communiqué. In addition, superior lingonberry and cloudberry clones were sought from natural stands on the Avalon Peninsula, the Maritimes and Québec.

Once the clones were sampled and brought to the lab, we started experiments to develop procedures for *in vitro* cloning (micropropagation) of the berries. *In vitro* cloning is a technique which permits rapid multiplication of plants (see previous Crops Communique

Vol. 6, July 1999) - thus permitting production of literally thousands of plants in a relatively short time period. Successful propagation of *in vitro* cloning requires development of unique protocols for each berry. The growth media, nutrient supply, lights and other environmental factors all need to be very carefully researched since each plant has a different requirement.

"So far, we developed a new procedure for cranberry and established *in vitro* cultures of lingonberry cultivars and native clones. Research is underway to improve these protocols and to develop protocols for blueberry and cloudberry. We are also developing methods to permit genetic fingerprinting of the small fruits."

One of the unique aspects of this research program is that it includes wide germplasm collection followed by cultivar development using both *in vitro* propagation and classical breeding techniques. As the program matures, emphasis will be placed on specific characteristics of individual berry crops, such as antioxidant content. This, hopefully, will lead to the development of niche markets for the cool summer regions of Canada.

NATURAL HERITAGE

Where the flowers recount Montreal's history

Holmes herbarium, Canada's oldest, is now on-line

Relive Montreal's plant past by visiting Canada's oldest herbarium. The 560 herbal specimens preserved at the McGill University Herbarium are now available on-line. Browse through the site and rediscover Montreal of the 1820's, when the island was wild and the Miron Quarry was a bog filled with rare native orchids.

Close your eyes, for a moment, and imagine what Montreal resembled in the 1820s: before the Lachine Canal, before industrialization, when most of the island was wild and the rest was orchards or farms. That was a time when Parc Lafontaine and the Mount

Royal were forests rich with native ferns, wild ginseng and spring wildflowers; St. Denis St. and Point St. Charles were swamps thick with aquatic plants; and the Miron Quarry was a bog filled with native rhododendrons and several species of rare native orchids.

How do we know this? From browsing through one of Canada's oldest herbaria, one that contains no less than 560 plant specimens collected from the island of Montreal in the 1820s by Andrew

Fernando Holmes, McGill's first dean of medicine. Yet, until recently, these specimens, a key source for understanding Montreal's natural history of the period, could be viewed only at the McGill University Herbarium on the Macdonald campus.

Not any more. The collection has been digitized to allow everyone to take a virtual walk through pre-industrial Montreal: in the *savane*, (the French-Canadian word for bog), along the banks of the St-

Pierre river (now underground) and in Papineau Woods (now Papineau Street and Parc Lafontaine).

Discover Montreal's lost flora at:

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/holmes>.

Quebec's eminent herbarium

The McGill College Herbarium was founded in 1856 with the gift by Holmes and McGill principal Sir William Dawson of their private plant collections, and was located in Redpath Hall. Since then, the collection has steadily grown, with donations from expeditions across Canada, the Arctic, and from as far off as Fiji and the Falkland Islands. Half a century

later, the Macdonald College Herbarium was established as a teaching collection of Eastern Canadian flora. Under the curatorship of Dr. Dorothy Swales in the 1930s, the Macdonald

collection accumulated many rare and interesting specimens from Siberia, Lapland, Greenland and the Canadian Arctic, some of which are presently only available at the Herbarium. In 1972, the McGill Herbarium collection was moved and



Montreal was largely wild when Andrew Holmes was collecting plants.

combined with the Macdonald College Herbarium.

The Herbarium today

The McGill University Herbarium presently comprises over 130,000 specimens and maintains an active program of research and exchange. Maintained by the Department of Plant Science of McGill University, it is located on Macdonald Campus, in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Its main function is to collect, preserve and catalogue

Continued on next page

NATURAL HERITAGE



Montreal, from Mount Royal, looking Southwest, at the time when Holmes collected his plant specimens. By Lt. Hornbrook R.M. on stone by T.M. Baynes, printed by C. Hullmandel, London circa 1828.

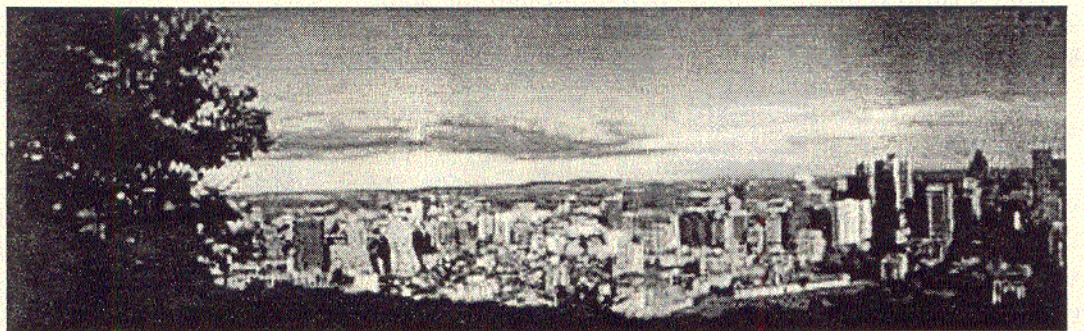
Herbarium: Continued from previous page

plant specimens for research and teaching of plant systematics and biogeography. With an extensive collection dating back about 180 years, it documents variations in plant structure and distribution, and provides access to species that today are extinct or inaccessible.

Researchers have consulted the Herbarium's specimens to map plant distributions and compile floras (particularly for arctic regions), as well as to prepare lists of rare plants for Ontario and Québec, and to study changes in the distributions of rare and of weedy species. Many specimens have been loaned for the monographic and revisionary studies being conducted on about 40 different genera. The Herbarium processes loans from other institutions so that McGill researchers can borrow specimens for their work in plant systematics, cytogenetics, morphology, ecology and weed biology. Although modern plant systematists use a variety of means, from morphological to molecular, for assessing

evolutionary relationships, the results must still be applied to what is found in nature.

Marcia Waterway, a McGill professor of plant science and curator of the MUH, spearheaded the herbarium's digitization and project manager, Patrick Nantel, oversaw the research and writing. The creation of the herbarium web site was made possible through Industry Canada's Digital Collections program and the G. Stewart Brown Fund. The project provided work for six students to obtain experience in multimedia production. Since 1995, Canada's Digital Collections, part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy, has offered multimedia-based work experience to some 2,800 young Canadians ages 15 to 30. Their work can be viewed at <http://collections.ic.gc.ca>.



The same view today. Photo Camille Zaroubi (September 2000)

NATURAL HERITAGE

Caving: 'You feel like Earth... You feel like a part of it'

By Dwane Wilkin

BOISCHATEL, Que. As far as these things go, the scenery round Quebec's longest cave is hardly spectacular. Pretty, yes, with gentle hills rising to the north out of the St. Lawrence Valley. But not spectacular. The features you find near Boischatel Cavern are the kind you would expect of land that was squashed under thick sheets of ice for thousands of years.

So forget about crampons and ropes. This is not the Rocky Mountains.

Expeditions start inconspicuously on the outskirts of a suburban municipality east of Quebec City. I'd driven within a few metres of the entrance and managed to finish still-warm remnants of a drive-through breakfast when my guide arrived.

I met Pierre Provost on a quiet residential street and we reached the cavern mouth by way of a wooded footpath overlooking the Ferré River. I'd dressed warmly as instructed in a wool sweater, old jeans, gloves and a jacket I could afford to wreck in the mud.

Mr. Provost, a 23-year-old anthropology student and head of Quebec City's speleological club, pulled open a small iron door fixed to a ledge above the river bank. A narrow void tumbled over jagged rocks.

After a short steep descent feet-first through the shaft, we found ourselves in a small cavity just big enough for two people to squat upright in moderate discomfort. Water thrummed in the rock all around as it poured out of the river overhead.

Mr. Provost has plumbed caverns across Canada, the U.S., Mexico and France in a precocious caving career that spans more than a decade. And he continues to devote considerable time mapping lesser-known branches of the Boischatel formation, a few

metres at a time. Progress is slow but each discovery has its reward. Mr. Provost sounded philosophical beyond the confines of his tender age. "Finding a place where no humans before you have ever been," he said, "doesn't happen to many people these days." Of the 300 known caves in the province of Quebec, the most extensive network occurs at Boischatel nearly three kilometres of labyrinthine passages that fan out like hollow roots under the city.

Hole hunters first wiggled their way into the caverns back in 1979, but the site doesn't show up on tourist maps. To get here, I had to follow directions in an email message Mr. Provost sent the previous evening. The Ferré River follows a trough between the southern flank of the Canadian Shield and a limestone

bluff on the north edge of the St. Lawrence Lowlands. Its cold black water streams out of the Laurentian hills across a private golf course on its way south to join the Montmorency River.

Standing in the rough at the edge of the fairway and facing the bluff I had glimpsed why I was wearing a miner's helmet, rubber boots and kneepads on one of the last warm days of the year: there, on the opposite bank, bowl-like depressions appeared in the ground

under thickets of birch and beech trees. Rock outcrops stood like crumbling columns in the ruins of a lost city.

Geographers use the term "karst" to describe such landscape, formed by the gnawing of water on limestone bedrock.

The river meandered round a party of golfers then suddenly vanished from view as though an oversight of Creation. It actually sinks underground here, sucked away by gravity through rock fissures into a maze of subterranean channels.

Continued on next page



Pierre Provost, Man of the deeps: 'Fear has saved my life many times.'

Photo Dwane Wilkin

NATURAL HERITAGE

Cave: Continued from previous page

Underground waterways are fine, but they have to be big enough to squeeze into if you intend to poke about. And there's got to be room to breathe. That's a big one for me. Groping around in a wet cave for a couple of hours is adventure enough without having to strap on oxygen tanks.

Not to worry, Mr. Provost said. During spring melt, the water may rise as high as five metres, drowning the caverns completely. In late autumn it would merely be waist-deep. The second chamber lay ten metres away. To get there we had to crawl on all fours through a passage about the width of a large desk drawer.

It's surprising how much time it can take to crawl ten metres in a confined space. About halfway through, a queasy feeling came over me as though I'd swum to the middle of a lake and realized I couldn't go on. How awful it would be to get stuck, I thought. Or worse, to have to clear out in a hurry. (A dreadful thought, since there was no way to move at this point but forward.)

It was a great relief when the roof of the cave finally opened out into a chamber roughly a metre high and couple of metres wide. I adjusted the beam of my headlamp, which had been banged out of whack. Directly opposite the crawl space from which we had just emerged the ceiling dropped again to reveal yet another low passage. I managed to suppress a groan.

Gratefully, this was not the route to follow. Cavers call the tunnel the Way of Damocles, after the Greek courtier who dined under a sword suspended from a hair. Too frail to be trusted.

"Fear has saved my life many times," Mr. Provost observed with the wisdom of a sage. "Not going further than that line between my ability to control the situation and a fear of what might lie ahead. It's a basic survival instinct."

The way ahead veered left and led immediately to a wonderfully airy gallery several metres high. What looked like daubs of white paint covering the wall was, in fact, a colony of fungus. The first explorers to come across the room named it after Dame Blanche, the central character in a local legend. It's the tale of an Indian maid betrothed to a French officer killed in battle on the Plains of Abraham. Grief-stricken, the girl had flung herself into waterfalls over River Montmorency. The girl's ghost has haunted the falls ever since, legend says, appearing on certain nights dressed in a white wedding gown.

We left the White Lady by way of a wide crevice and found ourselves navigating a deep loud stream. Watching it flow I was struck by its queer vitality. I wonder how many people ever think about this other universe beneath their feet? All that water pumping through rock, percolating out of springs, rising in brooks, running together and popping underground here and there like a startled rabbit. Can you imagine this little river in the dark taking a shortcut to the mighty St. Lawrence, with trout in the stream and crayfish and strange spiders?

In the Gallery of Pillars the roof of the cavern opened out quite generously again before narrowing off into a wedge-shaped tunnel. Mr. Provost straddled the deeper water by opposing his legs sideways against the tunnel walls. I tried this manoeuvre too, but my limbs fell short of the task.

Compared to the limestone formed hundreds of million of years ago from layers of minerals deposited on an ancient seabed, the cavern is a mere stripling. Probably most of the passages were formed after the last glacier began moving out of here 15,000 or 20,000 years ago. The thing to remember is, water made these caves. For thousands of years, the river has been prying cracks and seams in the rock, flushing out the mud of dissolved stone. Composed of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3), limestone is especially prone to natural weathering by an abundant compound known as carbonic acid. This weak acid generated when carbon dioxide (CO_2) mixes with water. The stream had sculpted a pattern of grooves and ridges on the cavern walls the texture of dragon armour.

There are no stunning stalagmites or stalactites to behold. This isn't Carlsbad Caverns. I am drenched. Still, I marvel at the beauty in the logic and the rhythm of the water's endless labours. Mr Provost said he often doffs his rain slicker and helmet to cram his body sideways into slots no wider than his head. Being sandwiched between slabs of rock in total darkness fosters a rare sense of oneness with nature.

"You feel... like earth," Mr Provost said. "You feel like a part of it. It's an extraordinary sensation."

A guided tour of Boischatel Cavern can be arranged through the Quebec Caving Federation. Tours aren't offered in early spring when water is high. Call the Federation at 514-252-3006. Rates are \$35 per person plus tax. A minimum of three people per tour is required.

NATURAL HERITAGE

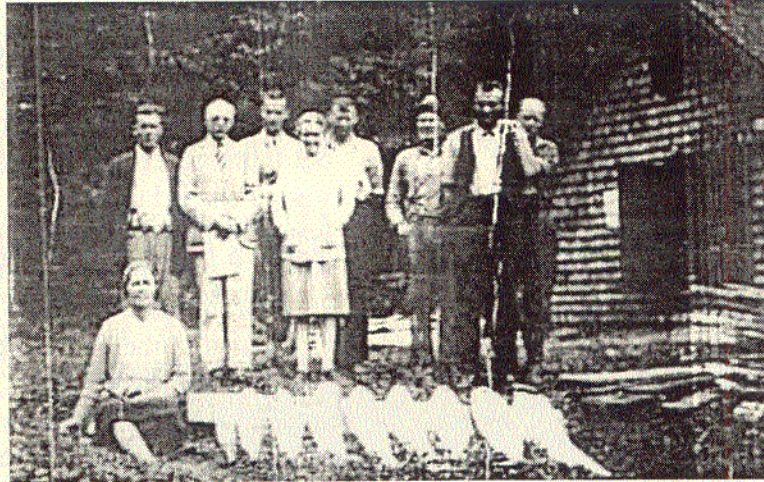
The Cascapedia River Museum is an angler's delight

A modest museum on the Gaspé Coast tells the story of the world famous Cascapedia River and its people. This river was once the domain of the Governors General of Canada. The Princess Louise built a camp here on the river. It was the destination chosen by the rich and famous of the world to enjoy the sport of fly-fishing for the mighty Atlantic salmon. This is the story of a small village, where Irish, Scots, Acadians and Natives worked together and made their living on this river. The museum has a permanent exhibition, documentation centre, gift shop and fishing simulator. This summer's exhibit is the W. Davis Display, and it runs to September 30.

The permanent exhibition displaying historic books photos and albums, rods, reels, flies, maps, hunting, logging and farming equipment. Artifacts

belonging to the Princess Louise, Governors General, Presidents and the rich and famous. Approximate number of objects in the collections: 400 Archives, rods, reels, flies etc of the sport of fly fishing dating back 150 years. Maps, electronic records, prints and drawings, manuscripts, Films and videos, photographs.

Services and activities: Guided tours, gift shop, documentation centre, fishing simulator, research service, archival records, library, film and video library, conservation or restoration, educational programs, school programs, bilingual visitor services and guided tours, special needs facilities



A fine fishing trip for the Fields family, circa 1920s.
Photo Camp Brulé web site

The interactive fishing simulator gives guests the chance to catch a ten pound trout or a 25 pound salmon, using a real Orvis fishing reel. The feel of this catch compares to the real life situation of catching an Atlantic salmon on the Cascapedia River. T-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, and *The Cooks of the Cascapedia* cookbook. Additional services will be offered in the near future. Open 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Closed two weeks

during Christmas season. Admission \$3 per person, \$5 per family.

Cascapedia River Museum, 133 Route 299, Cascapedia-St Jules, Quebec, G0C 1T0, Tel. 418 392-5079, Fax: 418 392-5070.

E-mail cascapedia_museum@globetrotter.net

Wetlands Being Preserved in E.T.

(R.E.) Memphremagog Wetlands Foundation recently announced acquisition of 40 acres of marsh from the McTavish family of Georgeville and expressed hope of acquiring more land nearby to add protection. The reserve will be named McGowan Reserve in honour of the grandfather of Wayne McTavish, until recently the owner.

The leading force in the local foundation is well-known ecological activist Stewart Hopps who a few years ago received the Order of Canada for his efforts. The Foundation he started has received both moral and financial support from local community leaders including a well-known part-time resident, actor Donald Sutherland.

The reserve is located along the middle branch of Taylor Brook, a spawning ground for brown trout and a source of rainbow trout for Lake Memphremagog. Biologist Louise Gratton claims the swamp's population includes 177 species of birds, including ducks and herons and 12 species of reptiles and amphibians.

Meanwhile in Eaton Township, the Johnville bog and forest park received a grant of \$100,000 from Hydro Quebec's environment fund. This 400 acre site, owned by the Town of Lennoxville (now part of Sherbrooke) was placed under management of the non-profit corporation created by the municipality. For many year, the Johnville bog served as a main water source for Lennoxville and the water reserve is still connected to the system.

Much research has been done over the years by biologists from Bishop's University and is has been regularly visited by local naturalists. The Johnville Bog has many unusual animals and plants including the insectivorous Pitcher plant. Throughout the region are a number of wetland areas, in some degree protected or under consideration for protection.

Public awareness of the critical importance of this part of our heritage is still in infancy but awareness is growing.

NATURAL HERITAGE

Forest supplied early industry

The multicultural Rawdon region is rich in history

Originally allied tribes of Algonquins roamed this area. They travelled across this area for more than a thousand years, camping along the Red and Oureau Rivers. The term Oureau is an Algonquin word meaning 'with a far and deep end'. After the arrival of the White Man the Algonquin disappeared from the area. Today many geographical names such as Oureau, Achigan, Matawin, Mascouche testify to their original presence.

July 13, 1799 the district of Rawdon was officially defined. The name Rawdon was given in honour of a English soldier who raised and led a troop of soldiers during the American insurrection. The proclamation by Sir Robert Prescott was published in the *Gazette of Lower Canada* on July 17 of the same year.

French Canadian colonists arrived in the east of the 1st concession towards Kildare between the years 1800 and 1815. Except for this presence, the Rawdon area was still a hostile and uninhabited territory with only Algonquins and some trappers. The absence of roads and the distance to the principal business centres, such as Berthier, l'Assomption, Montreal would be reasons of the delay in the development of the area.

The years 1816-1820 were the real beginning of colonization in the area. Irish immigrants, wanting to protect their Catholic faith and flee the revolution, settled in Rawdon. In 1819, the population was of 60 persons. What revolution? We have checked the list of settlers and found the earliest to be of American or Scottish origin. One of the earliest being Philomen Dugas, an American. He arrived about 1815.

After 1820, other groups arrived: Scots from Montreal and New-Glasgow, English from Montreal and Terrebonne, American loyalists and some French Canadian families from Saint-Jacques. In 1823, many

farmers, almost all English-speaking settled in the first 7 ranges between the districts of Kilkenny and Kildare. New activities started, flour mills and sawmills were built. The government started to issue the first letters of patent. While the farmers were mostly English speaking, many of the trades people were francophone, e.g. hotels, mills, stores, blacksmith. The population increased considerably during the years 1823-1828, to reach 475 souls. From 1833 to 1850, almost all the English settlers became land owners. Sales, trading and banking speculations are taking place. In 1837, Bishop Lartigue established as a Catholic Parish in Rawdon.

In 1925, the municipality of the village acquired its first fire pump and started to organize its fire brigade.

In 1932, there was a new jump in the tourist industry: the beach and the land of the plateau above it were given to the municipality by Mr. M.F. Finlayson. In 1938, the village numbered 1152 souls and the county 684. The council bought the village waterworks from Mr. Eddy Lord, for the sum of \$110,000 in 1950. The construction of a sewer system started the following year, as well as

IN 1844, THE POPULATION OF RAWDON WAS COMPOSED OF 2607 INHABITANTS:

FRENCH-CANADIANS	926
ENGLISH-CANADIANS	883
IRISH	695
ENGLISH	64
SCOTS	23
AMERICAN	2
OTHER	14
TOTAL	2607

THIS POPULATION LIVED IN 475 HOUSES AND OCCUPIED 45 248 ACRES OF LAND. THERE WERE FOUR INNS, 13 FLOUR MILLS, NINE SAWMILLS, 21 POTASH FACTORIES, A BLACKSMITH SHOP AND A TANNERY.

the improvement of the waterworks system.

One century later various groups of immigrants originating from Eastern Europe: Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, and Russia arrived. Remarkably even with all these ethnic groups the harmony of the community has still been preserved. Between 1845 and 1855, several institutions were created: town and school councils and churches of different denominations. At the beginning of 1855, Mr. Joseph-Édouard Bowsprit, registrar of the County of Montcalm called up a public meeting of the population of Rawdon to elect a council. Significant accomplishments were then realized: the opening of

Continued on next page

NATURAL HERITAGE



RAWDON'S DORWIN FALLS PARK

ROARING UNDER CENTURY OLD PINES THIS PARK PERPETUATES THE MEMORY OF JEDEDIAH HUBBEL DORWIN, FORMER OWNER OF THESE GROUNDS AND A SAWMILL. DORWIN WAS AN INVESTOR IN A MILL BUT FARTHER DOWN THE RIVER IN WHAT IS NOW ST LIGOURI. HE WAS ALSO AN INVESTOR IN A RAILROAD INACCURATELY NAMED INDUSTRY VILLAGE-RAWDON RAILROAD AS IT NEVER CAME TO RAWDON, BUT RATHER STOPPED IN ST LIGOURI OR MONTCALM AS THE AREA WAS THEN CALLED. AFTER BEING SOLD TO THE MUNICIPALITY BY THE LATE MRS. JAMES ROSS IN 1944 THE LAND WAS UNOFFICIALLY GIVEN OVER TO THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM WHO ON MAY 16, 1967 OPENED THE GROUNDS AS A NATURE PARK AND REST AREA.

Rawdon: Continued from previous page

new roads, construction of bridges and road improvement for all the district. It was an era of prosperity from which the area benefited. The end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century reflects a happy population.

In 1924, the town council had street lights installed from the town hall to the 9th Avenue on Queen Streets, for the sum of 194.00\$. Laurentian Electric Co, with its dam at the Magnan Falls, had already been providing electricity to the village since 1908. According to Brady (page 46) June 7, 1920 -17-40 watt lights were installed on Queen Street. During the winter 1945-1946, the council decided to plough the streets. On June 7, 1964, the renovated town hall was inaugurated. In 1974, residents numbered 2780 souls

and the cottage population exceeded 8000.

This brief history of Rawdon, edited by Beverly Prudhomme was extracted from the following two books: "Rawdon, a Human Mosaic" by Gerard Brady, and "Rawdon: 175 Years of History" by Marcel Fournier. Mr Gerard Brady in his book expresses the multi-ethnic cultures found in Rawdon by the following. "When in a village of five thousand souls, live ten different ethnic groups, we can truly speak of a human mosaic. When that multicultural community lives together in good terms, when that reciprocal respect creates happiness and pride of belonging, it is assuredly a harmonious mosaic. It is this character, quite out of the ordinary that impresses the visitor or newcomer who chooses to adopt Rawdon as his or her new home.

The Rawdon material in these pages is from the web sites of Professor Glenn F. Cartwright, McGill University, <http://www.education.mcgill.ca/profs/cartwright/rawdon/>, and the Rawdon Chamber of Commerce, <http://chambrecommercerawdon.ca>. It was originally edited by Beverly Prudhomme.

NATURAL HERITAGE

Cruel Nipissing, the sorcerer with the head of stone

By Henri Tellier

Many moons ago on the Algonquin hunting grounds, where Rawdon now stands, lived an old sorcerer, the mighty and evil Nipissing. Nipissing counselled all the other tribe sorcerers and the Sachem Council always consulted him prior to taking any decisions. Wise, cunning and evil, he controlled the Algonquin Tribe. Anyone opposing him was sent back to their ancestors, no one dared disobey his orders. The lovely Hiawatha was of this Algonquin Tribe.

The dark-eyed beauty was as lovely as a sunny day, and grew as straight as a spruce tree. Her beauty and youth won many hearts but Nipissing loved her and no one dared challenge him. Unfortunately, Hiawatha was not free, she had already given her heart to another – she had a Master.

Born by the side of the Big River where the River That Walks meets it, the young Indian girl had lived among the white man and with them had listened to the Black Robes. The Jesuit Jogues, later martyred, had spoken to Hiawatha of the true Manitou, the One who loves and forgives, the One who gave himself to die that others might live. Entranced by the story of Mary and Jesus, Hiawatha listened and learned. Soon she was baptized into the White Man's religion. Like many holy ladies before her, she gave her soul to the Great One. The young Indian maid neither wanted nor could enter the tent of the great medicine man. Although Hiawatha might be converted to Christianity, the great sorcerer was not. He mocked the White Man's beliefs. One night at council when the peace pipe had three times circled the pow-wow, Nipissing, draped in a white and red linen blanket rose and announced, "Your sorcerer no longer wishes to go alone along the path. From now on Hiawatha will accompany me". Once again the pipe was passed around and the eagle nosed Sachem replied with a grimace, "The Great Manitou is wise. Nipissing will no longer travel alone." The sorcerer was engaged. Preparation for the magnificent ceremony and the dances that would consecrate the union of a sachem's daughter and Manitou's powerful messenger commenced.

Hiawatha was very distressed. She prayed fervently asking God's help and guidance. She approached the great sorcerer to explain her position and ask him to respect her vow. Nipissing laughed at her and threatened to kill her if she did not comply with his

wishes. Hiawatha despaired until she remembered an old tribal rule: being a sachem's daughter she could not refuse marriage, but she could choose whom she wished to marry.

She approached Arondock, the sworn enemy of Nipissing and asked his help. She explained her situation and he agreed to help the young maiden in distress. He would marry her but she could keep her heart for the Great Master. The young Hiawatha told the council, who bowed to her wishes. It was not for them to change the rules of the Council.

Vowed to get revenge

Nipissing flew into a great rage when told of the happenings. He swore revenge on the tribe, promising to destroy it. Hiawatha had not yet married Arondock when Nipissing sent the Algonquins on the warpath. Arondock was obliged to take up his tomahawk as were the other braves.

Nipissing had counted on the war to get rid of his enemy and he succeeded. Arondock was mortally injured and carried back to his wigwam.

There his young fiancée, trained in tribal medicinal cures, went to his side and tended him faithfully. She went alone into the woods to find the plants needed for poultices and herbal remedies. One day, finding difficulty locating the plants she needed, she wandered near a high precipice where a small stream of water flowed gently by. There she saw the sarsaparilla she was looking for.

As Hiawatha leaned over to reach for the sarsaparilla, the evil Nipissing who had been secretly following her, reached out and pushed her into the gorge. He watched and laughed wildly as her body tumbled onto the rocks below.

He had his vengeance but the laugh was cut short. Suddenly he was blinded. As Hiawatha's body touched the stream there was a great clap of thunder, the rock split open and a great stream of water came rushing down.

Nipissing was petrified, turned into rock. For his evil deed he was condemned forever to hear the victory song of his victim. To this day Hiawatha's white robe can be seen in the waters and her voice heard singing the songs of her ancestors. Today when you visit the falls you can see this head carved in rock and if you lean over you will see Hiawatha's magnificent white robes sparkling in the sunlight and hear her voice in the falls.



Nipissing's face



MONTREAL MELON — NOT QUITE NATURAL, BUT...

Heritage plant made epic return to former home

By Gwynne Basen

The FedEx driver must have been scratching his head. He had an order to drive to the back of the YMCA in the heart of Montreal's Notre Dame de Grace (NDG) district, find the garden there, and pick up a package. A very important package. Extra rush, extra fragile.

A melon was going to Toronto. The next morning it would be eaten on CBC national radio, live, and it had better get there safe and on time.

Obviously, this was no ordinary melon. This was the Montreal melon. The once-famous Montreal melon, thought to be extinct, was now growing again in its traditional home, the fertile soil on the western slopes of Mount Royal.

The melon's roots can be traced back to varieties brought over by French settlers in the seventeenth century. In its heyday, half a century ago, the Montreal melon was the Queen of Melons. Its delicious, green flesh was prized in the fancy dining rooms of New York and Boston, where customers would pay a big price for the pleasure of eating just a single juicy slice. A 1938 handbook *Vegetables of New York* claimed that "handled skilfully and intelligently, the melon produces the largest fruits of its type in American cultivation."

A single melon could easily reach 15 pounds! And its unique spicy flavour was the reason it was also known as "The Montreal Nutmeg Melon." But styles change. Green-fleshed melons lost their appeal. Small farm production was being overtaken by a more industrial form of agriculture. This was a melon that needed daily attention from the grower. The thin rind required careful handling. Special woven baskets were produced for shipping the fruit. And it didn't store well.

In Montreal, the rich farmlands where the melon grew were paved over. In the early 1950s, the Burpee Seed Company dropped it from their catalogue. The melon was gone.

So, how is it that 50 years later, the melon is growing again in NDG? Barry Lazar is a Montreal film producer and writer. He is also one of the founding members of Eco-Initiative, an environmental community organization.

A long-time resident of NDG, Barry often wondered why the street he lived on was called Old Orchard. Curious, he delved into the impressive farming history of the area.

A special micro-climate produced by its location between the St. Lawrence River and the mountain, made NDG an ideal spot for apple orchards and melon farms. Where, he wondered, was the Montreal melon now? Fellow journalist Mark Abley picked up the research, and in 1996, some seeds were located — in Ames, Iowa, as part of a collection belonging to the US Department of Agriculture, North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station. The Montreal melon, part of our agricultural heritage, was coming home.

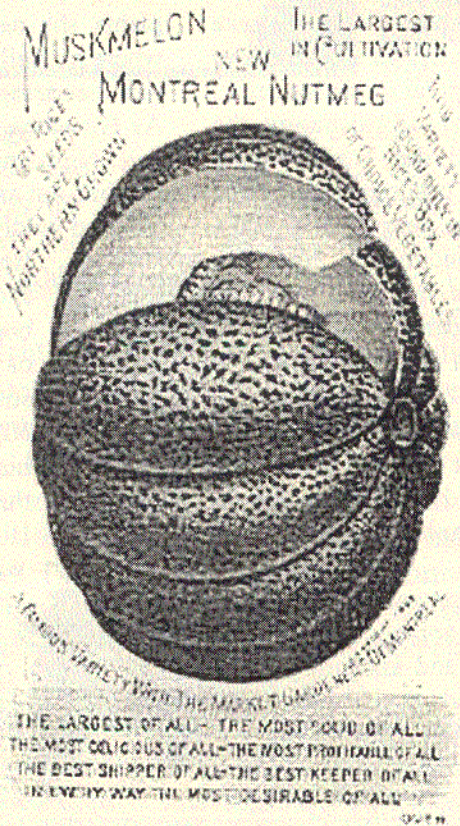


The Cantaloupe Garden is located behind the YMCA-NDG, established in 1997 by Eco-Initiative. Here, volunteer gardeners grow food for their own tables, but also share the harvest with community organizations, like the NDG Food Bank and Chez Amis, a local communal restaurant. And quite a harvest it is. Last year, over two tons of organic vegetables, many of them heritage varieties, came out of the garden, confirming the area's rich agricultural past.

This year, though, there was a very special addition to the usual crops. It was here at the Cantaloupe Garden, that the FedEx truck had come to pick up its precious cargo. The Montreal melon was back again, growing in the same fertile soil where it had once flourished.

But there had been another stop along the path of the melon's return to NDG. Those first seeds from Iowa had been handed over to master gardener Ken Taylor. At Windmill Point Farm, his 10-acre organic farm on Ile Perot, near Montreal, Taylor is renowned for the heritage varieties he grows. After determining that the seeds were still viable, he harvested his first small crop in 1997, saving the seeds from the fruit that most resembled the original Montreal

Continued on next page



Montreal melon: Continued from previous page melon.

The next year, the melon performed like the champion described in that 1938 booklet, and Taylor found himself with more melons than he could manage. The Montreal melon seeds from that harvest were returned to NDG, to the Cantaloupe Garden, and are now growing in the garden named in its honour. Last September a Harvest Festival was held at the Garden to celebrate another successful growing season and to invite Montrealers to come taste their melon. Among the guests of honour were Fred Aubin and his wife, Shirley. They have a very special relationship with the famous melon. Fred's father was a farmer, whose land was located just a few kilometres away from where the Cantaloupe Garden is now.

Aubin passed around a photograph of himself and his brother sitting in a field of melons stretching off into the distance. The small boys seemed dwarfed by the melons that surrounded them. Fred shared his father's "secret" for growing melons. "There was a racetrack close to the farm. We used to get big steaming loads of horse manure, dig a deep trench, and plant the melons on top. They liked that!"

Fred and Shirley examined the melons growing in the garden. The seeds that came from Iowa were a bit of a mixed bag genetically, and the variety has not been stabilized yet. Of the 10 melons growing in the Cantaloupe Garden, some were too pointy or too small or too green to be the true Montreal melon, with its flat shape and mottled skin.

Back at Windmill Point Farm, Ken Taylor is continuing to select for the Montreal-type melon. Last year, he produced a 25-pound beauty, shaped like a somewhat flattened basketball. The flesh was a pale green, the taste spicy. It is reported that he is also thinking of cross-breeding the large, thin-rinded Montreal melon with a small, thick-skinned variety from Greece, a mix that would certainly be true to this cosmopolitan city of ours.

The CBC was not the only one to cover the harvesting of the Montreal melon. Every media outlet in Montreal sent a reporter or a camera crew to the Cantaloupe Garden that day. The melon now has a Web site devoted to it, which includes a contest for the largest melon, for the prettiest one, and for the best poem written about it. The Westmount Historical Association sells little packets of

seed for \$5 as a fund raiser. And the media interest continues. In a recent article in the Montreal newspaper *Le Devoir*, writer Danielle Dagenais explores the question of whether the seeds sent from that US Plant Station are, in fact, the authentic Montreal melon.

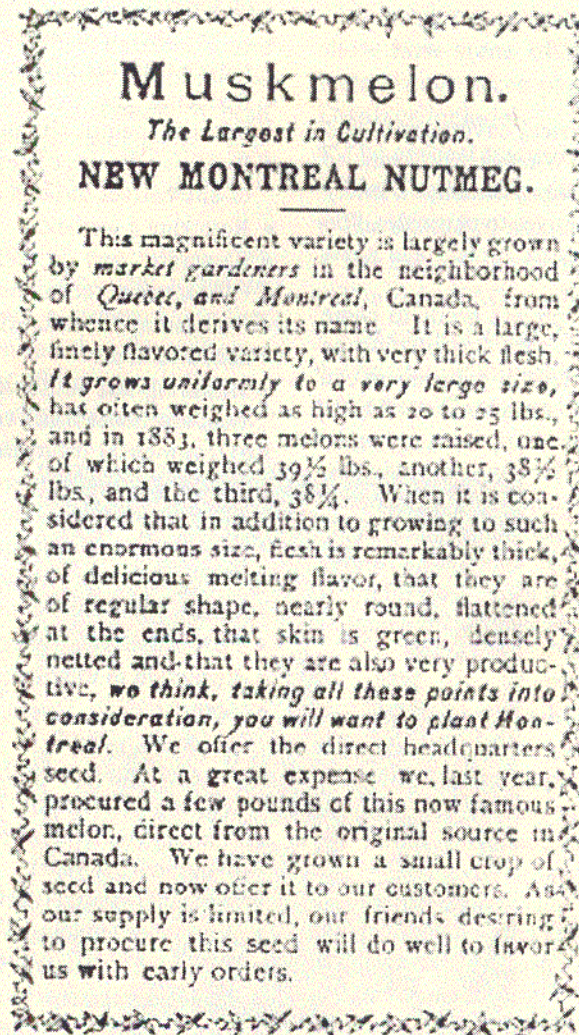
While the final verdict may not be in and, in fact, we may never know, the important question may be, why has a humble melon attracted this much attention? Could it be that the tremendous loss of variety in commercially-available fruits and vegetables, at the same time as we are being pushed into the future and being sold the wonders of genetically-modified food, means that we are beginning to understand and appreciate what we have lost and are still losing from our rich agricultural past?

About Seeds of Diversity

Seeds of Diversity is a Canadian charitable organization dedicated to the conservation, documentation and use of public-domain non-hybrid plants of Canadian significance.

With 1700 members, coast-to-coast, they are gardeners, farmers, teachers, scientists, agricultural historians, researchers, and seed vendors. Together they grow, propagate and distribute over 1500 varieties of vegetables, fruit, grains, flowers and herbs. They are a living gene bank. Formerly known as the Heritage Seed Program, a project of the Canadian Organic Growers since 1984, Seeds of Diversity Canada is now an independent charitable corporation operated by a volunteer board of directors. Their work is funded mainly by membership fees and private donations.

From the web site of Seeds of Diversity Canada.



Muskmelon.

The Largest in Cultivation.

NEW MONTREAL NUTMEG.

This magnificent variety is largely grown by market gardeners in the neighborhood of Quebec, and Montreal, Canada, from whence it derives its name. It is a large, finely flavored variety, with very thick flesh. It grows uniformly to a very large size, has often weighed as high as 20 to 25 lbs., and in 1883, three melons were raised, one of which weighed 39½ lbs., another, 38½ lbs., and the third, 38¼. When it is considered that in addition to growing to such an enormous size, flesh is remarkably thick, of delicious melting flavor, that they are of regular shape, nearly round, flattened at the ends, that skin is green, densely netted and that they are also very productive, we think, taking all these points into consideration, you will want to plant Montreal. We offer the direct headquarters seed. At a great expense we, last year, procured a few pounds of this now famous melon, direct from the original source in Canada. We have grown a small crop of seed and now offer it to our customers. As our supply is limited, our friends desiring to procure this seed will do well to favor us with early orders.

NATURAL HERITAGE

Ottawa offers assistance for green community projects

http://lavoieverte.qc.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/index_a.htm

EcoAction is an Environment Canada program that provides funding to help non-profit organizations carry out projects that will have measurable, positive impacts on the environment. The program's areas of intervention correspond to three Environment Canada priorities:

- Air quality and climate change
- Water quality
- Natural environment

What are the Program's requirements?

EcoAction projects must benefit the physical environment, and these benefits need to be measurable. Whether you want to restore a wetland, increase the use of environmentally-friendly forms of transportation or promote alternatives to pesticides, you must be able to measure the results of your project and show how the environment will benefit.

At least half of the total value of your project needs to come from sources other than the federal government. Contributions to your project from sources other than the federal government can be in the form of cash, in-kind support, or a combination of both. In-kind support can include donations of: equipment, materials and/or office space, volunteer time for project activities, coordination, professional services, expertise from consultants, elders or academics, discounts offered on purchased items

For example, a company may give you \$500 worth of native tree seedlings or members of a local community group may volunteer 400 hours of their time to work on your project. These count as in-kind contributions from sponsors.

Who may participate

Eligible groups include community groups (e.g. youth and seniors groups, associations and service clubs, environment groups representative Aboriginal organizations or associations). Funding is available for projects that provide opportunities for Canadians to take positive action at the community level; and encourage people to be more environmentally responsible.

Public awareness and capacity-building activities play a key role in many projects. However, these activities can only be funded if they are part of a project that produces measurable environmental results. For example, if you were trying to encourage people to use more environmentally-friendly modes of transportation, make more efficient use of water and energy, or protect and respect a natural area, public awareness and capacity-building activities would play a crucial role in encouraging behavioural change.

Priorities

Clean Air & Climate Change: Projects in this area focus on reducing emissions that contribute to poor air quality, smog, climate change and ozone depletion.

Clean Water: Projects in this area focus on reducing and diverting the use of hazardous substances that affect water quality (e.g. pesticides, fertilizers, hazardous household products and heavy metals).

Nature: Projects in this area focus on protecting wildlife and plants, and protecting and improving the places where they live (e.g. grasslands, rivers, wetlands, shorelines, lakes, and forests).

Project Examples

- Getting homeowners to use more efficient wood-burning stoves
- Implementing a home visit program to help homeowners reduce their consumption of fossil fuels
- Organizing a car or van pool to reduce the number of vehicles on the road
- A pollution prevention program to get small businesses to reduce their use of hazardous substances
- Reducing the use of hazardous household products (e.g. batteries, paints, cleaning agents, etc.)
- Reducing the use of pesticides on lawns and promoting the use of alternatives through a homeowner education program
- Restoring a wetland
- Restoring and conserving habitat through a variety of enhancement techniques
- Persuading community members to protect environmentally sensitive areas
- Restoring and conserving traditional gathering sites (e.g. wild rice, blueberries) and ecologically-sensitive lands

Environmental Indicators

- Reduction of emissions of air pollutants, e.g. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) (kilograms/year)
- Amount of energy conserved in households (kW/h per year)
- Energy conservation audits (#)
- Reduction in CO2 emissions (kilograms/year)
- People using the car or van pool (#)
- Reduction in CO2 emissions (kilograms/year)
- Amount and types of chemicals reduced (litres or kilograms/year)
- Amount and types of hazardous wastes diverted and/or properly disposed of (litres or kilograms/year)
- Amount and types of pesticides diverted from use (litres or kilograms per year)
- Wetland restored (hectares)
- Aquatic or land-based ecosystem restored (hectares)
- Habitat re-vegetated (square metres)
- Signed agreements to protect these areas (#)
- Land restored or protected (hectares)

EcoAction is also interested in collecting information on how projects benefit the community economically and socially, including: the level of community involvement (e.g. volunteers); job creation; and details on events designed to stimulate public interest in the project and related environmental issues. A list of indicator examples is available from EcoAction upon request.

Funding is available up to a maximum of \$100 000; however, the average amount is \$25 000.

Remember that for every dollar you receive from the federal government (including EcoAction), you must have at least the same amount from non-federal government sponsors. This can include cash contributions and in-kind support. Volunteer time is valuable! Calculate all volunteer time at fair market value and include it in your budget as an in-kind contribution.

Application deadlines are February 1 and October 1

NATURAL HERITAGE

Redpath: The history and diversity of the natural world

The Redpath Museum exists to foster the study of the history and diversity of the natural world. Its mandate includes geological, biological and cultural diversity. It conducts conventional academic teaching and research activities on the scale of academic departments of comparable size, and also provides academic services to other units. Its distinctive feature is the preservation and curation of objects, the registration of their existence, and the provision of access to other collections. Through the public display and interpretation of these objects, it both advances undergraduate and graduate education, and serves the wider community on whose continued goodwill the University eventually relies.

The Redpath, one of the oldest museums in Canada, was opened in 1882 to preserve and display the valuable collections of Sir William Dawson, a noted Canadian natural scientist. Initially it was intended that the museum and its contents should be in the first place for the professors and students of McGill College and University, and secondarily for all the students of Natural Science and for the public. In 1952, the Museum broadened its focus to become effectively a natural history museum for elementary and high school students. In 1971, however, McGill, under extreme financial pressure, dramatically reduced public access and focused on its scientific research and teaching roles. In 1985-86 the doors of the Redpath Museum were once again opened to the general public.

The Museum is one of the most prominent buildings of the University, looking out over the campus from the north-west corner, in front of the Arts Building. The Redpath Museum enjoys the distinction of having been one of the first Canadian buildings singled out for praise in the international architecture literature. Commissioned in 1880 by that notable benefactor of McGill, Peter Redpath, and marking the 25th anniversary of Sir William Dawson's appointment as Principal, the Museum was designed by A.C. Hutchison and A. D. Steele. They conceived an idiosyncratic expression of eclectic Victorian Classicism, synthesizing ancient and modern as well as European and North American sources to dignify the campus and express the significance of its purpose. The museum commands attention as an unusual and late example of the Greek Revival in North America.



Permanent exhibits

History and Diversity of Quebec

Dawson Gallery, second floor

An account of the geological history and biological diversity of Quebec from the earliest times down to the present. Material from other parts of Canada is included. This exhibit uses material from the Museum collections to show how some of the most remarkable events in Earth history have taken place in Quebec.

Displays include:

- The earliest traces of life
- The Cambrian explosion
- The spread of animals over the sea floor
- The earliest land plants
- The fish of Miguasha
- The earliest amphibians and reptiles
- The unique minerals of Francon and Mont St.-Hilaire
- Western Canadian dinosaurs
- Ice Ages

The rear of the gallery is devoted to contemporary biological diversity.,

From the Collections

Hodgson Gallery, second floor

A series of displays regularly refreshed, to illustrate some of our most interesting collections.

Ethnology Exhibits, third-floor gallery

Displays of artifacts from our collections of non-Canadian ethnology. Material currently on display includes mummies and other objects from ancient Egypt, musical instruments from central Africa, and lamps from classical Greece.

Back from the Sea, Entrance Hall

The ancestors of all reptiles and mammals came from the sea; some

groups have subsequently returned to their original home. The Entrance hall shows whales, seals and turtles as well as extinct groups such as plesiosaurs, ichthyosaurs and mosasaurs. The Entrance Hall also includes a general introduction to the exhibits, centred around a diorama depicting the sea floor in the region of Montreal during the Ordovician period, 450 million years ago.

<http://www.mcgill.ca/redpath/>

Redpath Museum, 859 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2K6 Phone 514-398-4086

Editor's note: The Redpath Museum is closed for renovations but will be reopening about August 15. See you there. – C.B.

Busy 125th for the St. Patrick's Society of Richmond

Our 125th Anniversary events began with the honour of the First Secretary of the Irish Embassy in Ottawa, as the guest speaker at our banquet. First Secretary Noreen O'Sullivan spoke glowingly about the relations between Ireland and Canada, and was appreciative of the aid given to the Irish immigrants.

The dedication of the Celtic cross and other events will take place on the weekend of Aug. 3-4 (see below).

The study of the Irish history is well under-way. Our souvenirs have sold well. A number of Celtic cross pins and coffee mugs were sold over the Christmas season, and at various March events. The Richmond Historical Society's theme for this year is the Irish, with many Irish-related activities in the works. It is the "Year of the Irish" in our area!

On March 17, huge crowds gathered along the streets of Richmond to view the biggest parade ever. It moved along the shamrock-lined route and thrilled the spectators. There were many outstanding floats, groups, and people, such as the seldom-seen team of 12 Clydesdale horses, 4 abreast in 3 rows, the Townshippers' float with its portable latrine, and the Society's float with the look-alike Celtic cross.

Just 18 months ago, the St. Patrick's Society of Richmond, Started to prepare for the year 2002, this being our 125th anniversary. We have two projects that we decided to tackle. One was the Irish History Study of our area, that is being carried out by Prof. Peter Southam from the Univ. de Sherbrooke. Work on the study is well underway, and the target date for publication is later this year. We are looking forward to reading the book.

The other project is our piece de renaissance, this being the erection of a Celtic Cross in honour of our celtic ancestors who settled in Richmond and area. This project was financed by having donations of a hundred dollars or more to have a name inscribed on a bronze plaque. We realized \$18,000 with this campaign. What a huge success this was. Bob Dalton - Pres. St. Patrick's Society

Irish Dancing

By Judy Frost

The dancers have been busy since the St. Patrick's Day weekend. They decorated a float for the parade and danced on it; the girls found that this was a bit easier then on the road as they were able to dance a better variety. Many thanks to Edmond Trudo for the use of his shop to work on the float. The dancers enjoyed performing at the banquet. On May 4, 10 of our older dancers danced at

the Theatre Lac Brome as part of "LegWork". They danced in two shows and the evening show was a sell out. This was a great experience for the girls, and a great time was had by all. Our next big event was the Feis in Montreal on May 18 at the Riverdale High School in Pierrefonds. 12 of our dancers attended the Feis and many medals were won. Some of the dancers then went on to the Ottawa Feis, where additional medals were won!

On June 8, 4 of the younger dancers danced at the "Salon du Patrimoine" in Danville. We have also been invited to dance at Townshippers Day again this year. The Irish Dancers are getting to be very much in demand!

That about wraps up our 4th year of Irish dancing and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who worked so hard to make the year a success. Thanks

also to Eileen and Kate for all their hours with the dancers. A special thanks to the St. Pat's Society for without their support all this would not be possible. Looking forward to September and another year of Irish dancing.

Richmond Historical Society

On the **August 10 weekend** there will be a **cavalcade visiting various cemeteries** in the Danville, Tingwick, and Kingsey areas, where some Irish people are buried. There is a possibility of further visits to cemeteries in the Ulverton, South Durham, and Ely communities.

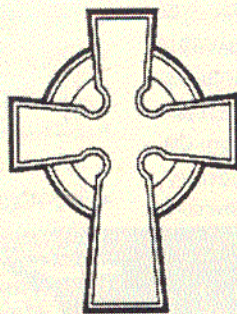
The **Annual Fall Luncheon** is planned for Sunday, November 3 when the Historical Society will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Guest speaker and program to be announced. Check RCHS web site for event updates: (www.interlinx.qc.ca/e-dhealy/events2002.htm).

Quebec City Irish Heritage Resource Centre- 75 Maisonneuve (St. Patrick's High School) open every Tues. from 9-12 a.m. or by appointment 418-651 5918, various publications for sale, contact Marianna O'Gallagher at carraig@total.net or above number.

Irish humour

Paul Mulligan told Jerome Quinn that his wife was driving him to drink. Jerome thinks that Paul is lucky, because his own wife makes him walk!

Casey was complaining to the sergeant about the bread. The sergeant replied, "A hundred years ago the people of Ireland would have been thrilled to have bread like that". "I know," said Casey, "but it was fresh then!"



WE ARE GOING TO HOLD THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES ON THE WEEK-END OF AUG. 3-4. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.

SAT. AUG. 3	AT LEGION HALL	AT 6 P.M.	BEEF & PORK BBQ
SAT. AUG. 3	AT LEGION HALL	AT 9 P.M.	IRISH PUB NIGHT
SUN. AUG. 4	AT ST. BIBIANE'S	AT 9 A.M.	IRISH MASS
SUN. AUG. 4	AT MEMORIAL PARK	AT 2 P.M.	DEDICATION

NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND QUEBEC

Off The Beaten Path

Recently come to hand at the QAHN office is a little gem of a book *Off the Beaten Path*, a whimsical guide to the Lower Laurentians, authored by Morin Heights historian Don Stewart, it describes several tour routes in the Lachute-Morin Heights and surrounding areas. It was published in 2000 by Laurentian Community Projects of Lachute and might well be used as a prototype for regional groups wanting to publish a heritage tour guide for their area. It might also be subtitled "how to visit local history and have fun doing it"!

Blue cheese in Morin Heights

The Morin Heights Historical Association on June 21st opened a seasonal exhibit of photographs old and current of interesting places and scenes of their area. QAHN President Dick Evans was honoured to be speaker at the event and to join in the festivities, attaching himself almost physically to the excellent tray of blue cheese.

In the local library where the photo exhibit is on view, is also a remarkably well-done quilt, featuring local historical scenes, each square contributed by a different local quilter. The quilt is both interesting and artful and a fine example of the quilter's craft. Also on June 21st, MHHA released the new issue of *Porcupine*, edited by Sandra Stock.

Mount Royal Cemetery now a national site

On Friday, June 7 the Mount Royal Cemetery was officially declared a National Historic Site. Involved in the ceremonies was QAHN Vice-President Rod McLeod who at our conference of June 2001 gave a presentation on its history. You can read his presentation in the 2001 Conference Report, now available from the QAHN office.

St. Andrew's East church restored

Residents of St. Andrew's East are happy to have their local St. Andrews Anglican Church restored and with its future more secure. In August of 1999 was held what was thought to be the final service. Then came a \$380,000 grant from *La Fondation du patrimoine religieux du Québec* and in December 2001, the renewed building was celebrated at a special service.

Several protestant heritage churches got similar grants this summer. The Quebec Ministry of Culture and Communications recently announced over \$25 million in grants to protect built heritage in all areas of Quebec. Many of the beneficiaries are historic churches but a variety of other buildings have also been named as recipients, including the Compton County Historical Society's museum in the old Congregational Church at

Eaton Corner and the old academy across the road. Quebec City's St. Andrew's church is also a recipient.

Joan Thompson: Surrogate granny to 800

The February issue of *Coastar*, a paper put out by Coasters Association of the Lower North Shore, included a feature article on Joan Thompson, a 91-year-old resident of Lennoxville who has served the public for 79 years. She began at the age of 12 selling violets for the IODE. During World War II.

Joan served overseas with the Red Cross in Britain and war-torn Europe. She continued in community service after a return to the Townships. During the years when so many students from the Lower North Shore came to study at Alexander Galt Regional High School in Lennoxville, Joan was an organizer of housing and service for them. Over the years she became an away-from-home grandmother to more than 800 students who were a thousand miles from home and family. She shared her wisdom and kindness and is fondly remembered among them.

Joan continues to be very active in church work and social groups, including the Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society. She and friends are regular overseas travellers and in recent years she has travelled to Turkey, Egypt and Ireland and she plans, like the Energizer battery, to keep right on going. – R.E.

Imprints sold out

The recent book *Imprints* by historians Ray and Diana Baillie, has proven a success. The last available copy of the first edition was presented to Senator Laurier LaPierre following his recent speech at the QAHN Conference. Thanks to Publisher Michael Price for the donation.

Lambert honoured

On May 6, the Board of Montreal Museum Directors recognized Phyllis Lambert, the founder of the Canadian Centre for Architecture with its Best Friend of Montreal Museums Award. It is only the second time the award has been given, the first recipient was philanthropist Liliane M. Stewart.

Dorval gets own museum

The Dorval Museum of Local History and Heritage officially opened its doors on May 18, following two years of renovation work. Located in the carriage-house stables once belonging to the Forrest and Stream Club at 1850 Lakeshore Drive, the museum features exhibits on horses and grooms along with photographs and articles from Dorval's history.

OVERFLOW: WE FOUND SO MUCH MATERIAL FOR THE SPECIAL NATURE SECTION IN THIS ISSUE THAT WE COULDN'T FIT IT ALL IN. WATCH FOR ANOTHER SPECIAL SECTION SOON. THE THEME FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS MILITARY HISTORY/HERITAGE. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS **SEPTEMBER 12**. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOURS. ALL OTHER SUBMISSIONS ARE ALSO WELCOME.

The Quebec Community Groups Network

The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) is a non-profit organization bringing together 20 English language community organizations across Quebec for the purposes of supporting and assisting the development and enhancing the vitality of the English language in Quebec. This is undertaken principally through cooperation in the prioritization and development of projects and through the promotion of an effective coordinated approach. Last year the QCGN ratified preparation of a *Global Development Plan (GDP)* to promote the development and enhancement of the English-speaking communities of Quebec. The project originates from a request of the Federal Government to develop a framework for negotiating funding agreements in anticipation of the next round of negotiation for the Canada Community agreement in the spring of 2003. After considerable reflection and discussion, the QCGN concluded that the *Global Development Plan (GDP)* can represent an opportunity for the English Speaking Community to take charge of its current stage and identity within Quebec. This would include the protection and development of its own institutions and institutional networks, as well as legitimate and representative decision – making in the larger network of Francophone institutions in all sectors of activity, including all three levels of the civil service.

This is a long-term project which is obviously complex and far reaching. Some of the objectives include, for example:

- Developing a clearer picture of the English-speaking population of Quebec, where it comes from and where it's going;
- Helping maintain the population base by encouraging a sense of belonging;
- Raising the profile and participation-level of English-speaking people at the municipal, institutional and government levels; and
- Promoting employment opportunities within the community for English-speaking youth.

The development process is a process which encourages vision by the minority language communities, promotes discussion and cooperation, facilitates the negotiation process with funding partners and, ultimately, supports the establishment of sound policy and the delivery of effective community programs and services.

Hired students

To proceed with the Global Development Planning towards the objectives outlined above, the QCGN has hired 10 students to assist in the Phase 2 of the Plan. Phase 2, *Community Consultation*, aims to build the content of the *Global Development Plan (GDP)* (including refining its vision and objectives, and identifying its priorities and potential partners) through consultation and validation with community groups and community leaders. Validation with the community at large will occur in the third phase of the GDP project once the content has been developed in Phase 2.

Eight sectors

The main objective of Phase 2 is to build a list of various community organizations and individuals who are actively involved in the different sectors in the English Speaking Community across the province. The list would be structured according to eight priority sectors:

Health, **Heritage**, Arts and Culture, Communications and Media, Education and Training, Business and Employment, Youth, Visibility and Leadership.

The lists and information gathered will be used during the Community Consultations (Phase 2) to provide context for sectors, and to inspire further discussions. Any information you can provide or names of individuals who would be able to validate or add to the information gathered would be very useful and appreciated.

Thank you for your help and collaboration, Quebec Community Groups Network, 1040 Belvédère, Suite 219, Québec, QC, G1S 3G3. Tel : 418-681-2112 / Fax : 418-681-8995..

Member groups of the QCGN

Alliance Quebec, Montreal
 Coasters Association, St. Paul's River
 CAMI, Magdalen Islands
 CASA, Gaspé
 CASL, Jonquières
 CHSSN, Montreal
 CVESPA, Huntingdon
 ESSC, Montreal, QC
 HM, Metis Beach
 NSCA, Baie-Comeau
 OA, Gatineau, Hull
QAHN, Lennoxville
 QAAL, Montreal
 QCNA, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
 QDF, Montreal
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