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Compton County Museum

Burglars bring along rubber gloves, shopping list

EATON CORNER

Provincial police continue their investigation of a break-in last month at the museum of the Compton County Historical Museum Society.

Thieves stole hundreds of artefacts, ranging from old furniture and clothing to jewelry and kitchenware during the burglary, which took place on the night of Oct. 14-15. Their choice of articles and skilful techniques led police to believe the burglars were professionals with a detailed shopping list.

The museum is located in Eaton Corner and housed in an elegant former Congregationalist church. After hiding their van in a driveway behind a home next door, the thieves broke in through a back entrance barely visible from the road. Taking their time, they filled the van with the cream of the Society's collection.

No attempt was made to enter a second museum building, the former Eaton Academy situated across the road. Police say the burglars were probably stealing to order, on behalf of a particular buyer.

A month after the theft, a police investigation had failed to turn up any useful leads, says senior constable Roch Létourneau, second in command of the Quebec Police Force detachment in nearby Cookshire. "We have very little to go on," says Létourneau, "and we aren't really very optimistic about solving this case."

The burglars left few traces -- wearing gloves, removing their shoes while inside the building, and cleaning up after themselves. Some objects were stolen complete with the display cases they were shown in. "We definitely don't think they were amateurs," the policeman added. "These guys knew what they were doing."

The museum society has liability insurance but no protection against theft, says President Ed Laberee. Police estimated the value of the stolen goods at more than \$20,000. "But there's really no way to say how much any of this stuff is worth," says Laberee. "A lot

of it was things you can't buy - things that could never be replaced."

"At least we have a full inventory," adds museum curator Sharon Moore. "Many small museums like this don't have much of a record of what's in their collection. Detailed descriptions are very important."

Policeman Létourneau agrees. But even more important is a good, noisy burglar alarm system, connected to a security agency office. "There's nothing like a loud bell going off to scare away thieves. They don't cost that much, and the agency will call police as well as sending their own patrollers."

Other helpful precautions are reinforced doors, sturdy locks and burglar-proofed windows covered with steel mesh. "Leaving some of the lights on is a good idea too," Létourneau adds. "That way sometimes intruders can be seen from outside."

"The other good thing to do is to make the building as hard as possible to enter."

For a complete list of what was stolen from the Compton County Museum, please turn to Page 6.

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Message from the president

To enrich the flow of information

This is the first step toward creating a regular periodic newsletter that we hope will help build the capabilities of QAHN. As an organization whose first goal is to strengthen the efforts of its supporting members through flow of information, we can use a newsletter to enrich that flow. Ultimately, our members and other contributors will become key sources of that information, while also being prime users.

We have entered into an arrangement with Charlie Bury, former editor of the Sherbrooke Record and the Townships Sun, to put together and edit this issue and, we hope, a series of follow-up editions. Charlie certainly has the right experience and personal interests to get us on the right path.

The board chosen at the June conference finally found a meeting date that would allow most of us to get together in one place at one time and for that we thank Ralph Farley for making available to us a conference room at their Montreal law offices. I introduced a long list of topics that will be part of our planning and discussions in the months ahead. At the top of the list is the formalization of the incorporation and the planning for Conference 2001, both proceeding well. The groundwork is being laid for a conference, probably at New Carlisle in the Gaspé, over the weekend of June 15-18, 2001. We urge you to set aside that time and plan a trip to the Gaspé to take in the conference, enjoy the scenery, the seafood and get to know more about that part of our heritage. If you have any ideas for topics of discussion, presenters for workshops, and so on, send them in to us and they will be passed on to the planning committee.

The Quebec Community Groups Network is proving to be a useful meeting ground to help develop links with other key players in Quebec's English-speaking community. Director Sharon Little and I attended meetings in September and Sharon, along with our Communications Coordinator, recently attended the October meetings in St-Paul's River on the Lower North Shore. Networking is, of course, the watchword. In fact, the many linkages being opened up are so numerous as to be a bit overwhelming. We don't have time, available people, or funds to work with all of them so we'll hope for a good batting average in choosing the right priorities.

We have project funding on hand to do some report preparation flowing out of our first conference and set up a website. We'll be soliciting thoughts and ideas for what should appear on our website. Should we have a "heritage chat room" where people can put questions, initiate discussions, seek out sources or get into arguments?

We are also seeking project funding from federal sources to help our organizational development and improve our national outreach. The environment is favourable but of course competition for funds is stiff. Please send us news of your local societies, museum work, planned exhibits, events, successes and anything that will be news to others.

We'll be interested in receiving articles on local, regional and provincial history, family history, new books, old books, curious things found, whatever. This newsletter can be a place to tell others or ask others, whatever might appear to be of interest to our Anglophone heritage. It will go onto listserv, out as paper copy and ultimately be on line as we expand our electronic capabilities. We have a new telephone number (819) 564-9595. The fax number remains (819) 564-8951, and the toll free number inside Quebec is still 1-877-964-0409.



DICK EVANS

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Quebec groups to share \$608,200

Canadian Heritage offers project grants for heritage

Important deadlines loom for community groups seeking assistance from the Canadian Heritage department's official languages branch.

Five o'clock p.m. on January 12 is the cutoff for applications for a share of the official languages support program development fund.

Here are some excerpts from a letter the department is sending to groups it expects to request funds:

The official languages programs of the department of Canadian Heritage has a development fund of \$608,200 for the Quebec region, through which non-profit organizations in English-speaking communities may apply for financial support for projects they undertake.

Project support is generally in the \$5,000 to \$40,000 range. In

2000-2001, the average grant was \$29,000.

Projects must fall within the mandate of the support program: to encourage the development of English-speaking communities in Quebec, and to support projects that will contribute to the economic, cultural and social aspects of Canadian life.

For 2001-2002, the department is particularly interested in supporting projects that meet the following objectives:

- projects that support the rural and isolated regions and/or underdeveloped areas of Quebec;
- projects that through research or dissemination of results help contribute to a greater understanding of the situation and challenges facing the English-speaking communities of Quebec.

Applicants must be non-profit organizations of the English-speaking minority communities in Quebec.

For the 2001-2002 fiscal year, the following community priority sectors will be emphasized: health and social services; education; cultural development; rural development; communications; new information technologies; municipal services.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) will review and rank the project proposals, then Canadian Heritage will consider this ranking and propose grants. This list of successful project proposals and recommended amounts will go back to the QCGN for feed-back and ratification. The post-election minister of Canadian Heritage will bestow final approval.

Want more? Contact a program advisor at any time at (514) 496-7022.

Don't forget to send in your final package by 5 p.m., January 12.

Meanwhile, the final scramble is on to prepare applications for what Ottawa calls "program funding" -- subsidies for the ongoing activities of groups engaged in the support, protection and enhancement of official language minority communities across the country. English-speaking community groups in Quebec and their francophone counterparts in the other provinces should be in the final stages of filling out the forms and writing up the supporting material, with a deadline of December 12.

It's not what you say but how you say it

How do you say tomato? Asphalt? Coupon? What about route? About? And that thing you sit on to watch TV, is it a couch? A chesterfield? A sofa? A daybed? A divan? And does it really matter?

It does to some, and inquiring minds want to know. As part of a national survey, language researchers are asking long-time residents of the Eastern Townships how they speak.

How you speak is who you are, where you live and where you come from.

English specialists want to "compare and contrast the variations in English spoken in Canada," says Université de Sherbrooke English professor Pamela Grant, who is co-ordinating the Quebec segment of the project. Spread out, sparsely populated and made up of people from many cultures, Canada is a natural breeding ground for regional language variations.

Researchers want to see if there are any patterns to our many 'patois' - and if so, why. Thus was born the Dialect Topography Survey of Canada, brainchild of professor Jack Chambers of the University of Toronto. "I have been asked to participate in the survey and to distribute our questionnaire in the Eastern Townships," Prof. Grant said in a recent interview.

Here are a couple of sample questions:

- What do you call the upholstered piece of furniture that 3 or 4 people sit on in the living room?
- Does the first part of RADIATOR rhyme with glad or glade?
- What do you call the corn eaten by people (as opposed to cattle)?

The researchers hope to extend the survey to people in other regions of the province. "But we're starting with the Townships." Current or former residents of the Townships are welcome to participate. Care to join the survey? Just phone, write or e-mail us here at QAHN, and we'll send you a copy of the questionnaire. "Everybody who has answered the questionnaire has enjoyed doing it," says Prof. Grant. "They say it makes them think about things they usually take for granted."

Canadian Heritage Information Network

Support for training, collection management

To most of us the word 'chin' brings to mind that part of the face we worry about getting too many of as middle age approaches. And "Chin-chin" is a friendly French-Canadian toast, to everyone and everything. Now there's a new meaning - one for the electronic age: <CHIN.gc.ca>, the Canadian Heritage Information Network.

A product and service of the federal department Heritage Canada, CHIN bills itself as "the electronic gateway to the museum community in Canada and beyond." It's not quite there yet, but CHIN is well on its way to becoming an essential tool for anyone interested in history in Canada.

Aimed at museum, gallery and library communities along with interested individuals across the country, it provides information exchanges, training, a place to network with others in the heritage field, and much more - at little or no cost.

CONTENT-RICH

Says the CHIN website: "Whether you work in a museum or the heritage field, or simply have an interest in cultural or natural heritage or in using the Internet, a wide variety of content-rich resources is at your fingertips!"

"Discover the collected treasures of museums across Canada, research tools for museology and conservation, an interactive journal for heritage professionals, training on using the Internet and managing heritage resources, publications and more!

"We invite you to explore these valuable resources, many of which are offered to you free of charge. Others are available for a fee or by subscription. We encourage you to join the hundreds of museums, galleries, libraries and individuals who subscribe to our services.

Some CHIN programs seem custom-made for many members of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network. For one thing, they cost little or nothing. One example is the Collections Management Software Selection Course, which includes: All the information you'll need to plan for and establish a collections management software system," says Heritage Canada. "Course modules cover planning, budgeting, establishing your requirements, converting data, and establishing criteria. You'll also learn how to select, produce, launch and monitor your new system.

"While working online, you will have access to our "Relevant Links" that point to many internationally respected sites to give you access to even more information on collections management software issues.

"An annotated bibliography contains some of the best information available about the subject from some of the most respected authorities in museology.

"You'll need to plan everything on paper, so, we've included Exercise modules to help you along. These online workbooks, devised by professionals, prompt you through the whole process by suggesting steps and forcing you to consider every aspect of how to select, manage and maintain a collections management software system.

"Also included: direct e-mail access to instructors; enrolment in an online discussion group (listserv) of heritage professionals with an interest in collections management software issues; access to the online version of CHIN's collections management software review - the only review of its kind."

More from the CHIN website:

BENEFITS

All Members: The Great Canadian Guide - All Members benefit from increased public exposure and profile within Canada and internationally through participation in the Guide.

FREE ACCESS

All Members benefit from free access to CHIN's subscription environment (following completion of Guide entry, including events information) Discounts - All Members benefit from discounts negotiated by CHIN, (eg. conference registrations).

Additional Benefits for Basic Members:

INTERNET

One full Internet account with support for Internet training up to \$400.00 per institution; OR Support for Internet training up to \$650.00 per institution, in lieu of the account.

Additional Benefits for Contributing Members:

OTHER

Resources permitting, Contributing members receive free copies of CHIN publications. Members must provide receipts in order to be reimbursed for Internet training up to the specified amounts. COSTS: There are no CHIN membership fees. CHIN views the information contributed by its members as equivalent to a fee.

See <http://www.chin.gc.ca/e_main_menu.html>.

Canadian Pacific Railway: Heritage Fund may have help for your project

One of Canada's oldest corporations is putting some money - matching funds, to be exact - where its heritage is. The Canadian Pacific Heritage Fund is inviting applications for funding "to help develop projects that reflect the heritage, as well as contribute to the future of Canadian communities."

"Canadian Pacific is proud of the role we played in Canada's history," says the railway company's promotional literature. That is why the Canadian Pacific Charitable Foundation has established the \$2-million Canadian Pacific Heritage Fund.

The folks at CP have so far approved a number of "community-based heritage projects such as libraries, museums, parks and heritage buildings", and now they're looking for more.

Projects must be identified by community representatives and officially endorsed by the community's municipal leaders.

"The project must relate to a current Canadian Pacific company in some way. The project must have relevancy to the past and the future of the community. The project must be a fundamental part of the community."

MATCHING

Canadian Pacific Heritage Grants will be distributed in the form of matching grants allocated over a three-year period. "The amount of the grants awarded to selected projects will be within three established funding levels: \$0 - \$20,000; \$20,001 - \$50,000; \$50,001 - \$100,000."

"A matching grant means that a minimum of 1/3 must be raised within the community where the project is located. The local community must raise another 1/3 of the project's financial requirements through government grants or other avenues. The Canadian Pacific Heritage Fund will match the final 1/3 of the funds raised to a ceiling of the amount in the three funding levels.

DEADLINE COMING SOON

The program is now in its second phase. The deadline for applications is January 31, 2001. for funding to begin as of March 31, 2001. "All donations are a one-time grant toward a project that must be completed within two years."

EXAMPLES

The following projects were among those selected to receive the first Canadian Pacific Heritage Fund grants:

- S.A.L.T.S., the Sail and Life Training Society, in Victoria, British Columbia was awarded \$100,000 to build the

Pacific Grace, a replica of Canada's last Grand Banks schooner. The schooner will be used to give young people a unique opportunity that will help them to develop emotionally, physically and spiritually through sailing.

- The Okanagan Landing and District Community Association in Vernon, British Columbia got \$94,585 to rebuild their community hall. Community groups have been without a meeting place since their community hall burned down. The rebuilt community hall will provide meeting facilities and incorporate the existing Canadian Pacific Railway Station House.
- The Mining Heritage Committee of Sudbury, Ontario won \$40,000 to build the Mining Heritage Monument. The monument will acknowledge the important role mining has played in the region's history and will continue to play in its future.
- The Drumbo & District Heritage Society in Drumbo, Ontario was awarded \$20,800 to relocate the Wolverton Canadian Pacific Railway Station to their area. The station will take a prominent place in the community as a museum and will be the community's only facility dedicated to local history.
- The Klondyke Centennial Society in Dawson City, Yukon was awarded \$5,250 to erect a memorial to the Canadian Pacific Railway Steamer, Princess Sophia, which sank in 1918, due to rough seas and stormy weather, killing all 343 passengers and crew. The river outlook memorial will display the names of those who perished in the tragic disaster.
- Doon Heritage Crossroads in Kitchener, Ontario got \$5,000 for their exhibit, Tied to the World - Railways in Waterloo County, 1900 -1914. The exhibit, housed in the railway station on the sixty-acre living history museum, will highlight the impact of freight movement through the rural areas of the Region of Waterloo during the early part of this century.
- The Fort Erie Museum in Fort Erie, Ontario received \$3,300 to help collect, preserve and display the oral histories of their railroading community. These memories of former rail workers, families and enthusiasts, will link museum artefacts to their original usage and commemorate the lives of workers in the Canadian railroading industry..

For more on the Canadian Pacific Charitable Foundation, and its Heritage Fund, visit the CP web site at <http://www.cp.ca/e/foundation>.

Compton County Historical Museum Society

ARTICLES STOLEN - OCTOBER 14-15, 2000

It's a faint hope, but anyone spotting any of these items is asked to contact Sharon Moore or Ed Laberee at (819) 875-5776 or elaberee@abacom.com

From Kitchen Enclosure

- Apple parer - attaches to table
- Spinning Wheel from 1825 Came from Nellie Caswell
- Candle molds (makes 12)
- Dinner gong black metal
- Spice Grinder attaches to table edge
- Salt & Pepper shakers glass / silver tops
- Grandfather Wall Clock / pendulum Numbers in Roman Numerals -- Came from Randboro United Church)
- Vacuum Cleaner - early type non electric, black cylinder shaped
- Child's tin drinking cup embossed nursery rhyme pictures
- Bread knife probably silver, serrated edge
- Tea leaf strainer enamel or silver
- Wool carding paddles (2 sets) Wooden, Glass jar, holding 6 - 8 teaspoons
- Wicker picnic hamper holding forks & spoons Color - brown
- Table knife, small handle
- 2 bone handled table knives, Sheffield blades; 2 black handled table knives, round blades; 2 steel handled table knives
- Table forks, 3 prongs, black
- Table forks 5 with metal handle, 3 bone handle.
- Coffee (or large Tea) Pot Silver or pewter

From Living Room Enclosure

- Oil table lamp with chimney; Jewelry box containing pair of earrings simulated pearl (matching necklace not taken)
- Spectacles, Steel framed (date, 1780) held in place by hinged bows that pressed against the temples. The loops at the end were for ribbons that tied the glasses around the back of the head.
- Walking stick, with gold cap Black ebony, engraving on cap - "Mrs. Julie Sawyer from friends"
- Ink well with pen tray
- Parlor set - 5 pieces Settee, platform rocker, arm chair, 2 side chairs. Stained brown wood, material of gold green grey pattern.
- 400 day mantle clock, Glass carafe including glass stopper

From Bedroom Enclosure

- Washstand table Stained brown wood
- Curling tongs, for mustache
- Curling tongs to wave ladies hair
- Curling iron and heater (electric)
- Hair pins, metal & plastic; Folding clothes brush Brown with black bristle
- Twin dolls, ceramic head, soft body Both were dressed in clothing that would fit a 6 to 10 month old baby. (Description follows)
- Christening dress & slip worn in 1865 White cotton, very long, with lace inserts
- Bonnet White organza with lace trim
- Calico dress, brown & black with rick-rack trim
- Coat, shawl type collar Cream color, cotton
- Bonnet White, light cotton

- Small pillows (2) Used in cradle

From Walk-In Enclosure

- Clothes iron, heated by naphtha gas. Can provide picture
- Hurricane oil lamp (1870 - 1880)
- Clarinet Black (case not taken)

From Sanctuary Area

- Communion Set, silver or pewter 2 goblets, large pitcher with cover, tray
- Spectacles, gold rimmed (The Reverend [mannequin - ed.] was wearing them!)

From Handwork Case

- Pair of wristlets Black, knitted lace
- Metal crochet hook
- Jewelry (mostly costume) - long string white beads; gold brooch with small portrait of woman in centre: (We have large portrait of same woman)
- Wide gold bracelet: choker necklace & earrings (gold color flower shaped);
- set of ring, bracelet and earrings (silver color with small blue stones)
- Small brown box (held the white beads)

From Children's Toys Case

- Doll bed size Crazy quilt
- Soldiers standing & soldiers on horses metal
- Wooley sheep (1) (Mate left behind)
- Toy Railroad engine small, tin
- Toy car Small, tin
- Toy truck small, tin
- Dolls, as follows From Raymond Downes collection
- Porcelain head, soft body wearing red calico dress
- Porcelain head, soft body wearing white dress, red trim
- Porcelain head, soft body Chinese features, black hair, faded blue dress
- Porcelain head, soft body small, pink outfit
- Porcelain head, soft body small, Chinese features, black hair, brown dress
- Porcelain head, soft body small, Chinese features, including lace trimmed flowered apron
- Porcelain head, soft body large, black hair, beige outfit, green trim
- Porcelain head, soft body large, blond hair, white dress with ribbons

Case with Dishes

- 3 Trophy cups 1930 Winter Fair Championship
- Royal Bank presented to Eastern Townships Agricultural Association
- Barber's Tools (as follows)
- straight razor, razor strap
- hand clippers, scissors, neck brush
- Pottery soap container
- Bar Ivory soap in package
- Bottles of Toilet water & perfume
- Sewing machine Patented 1860 or 1880 (no cabinet)

Case with Doctor / Dentist Items

- Dentist's Instruments Clamps, magnifying mirrors
- Medical Instruments Contained in Tin chest
- scissors, clamps, hooks, needles, tweezers

Items Inside the Main Hall, Entrance & Upstairs

- Flat Iron (used as a weight) Over 100 years old
- Bayonet and case
- Cavalry sword, Civil War era Stereoscope Case
- Camera - Kodak (1912)
- Glass negatives (2) Mounted on wood blocks
- W.S. Gunsmith shop (Cookshire) & W.S. Rand family

Case With Sawyer Family Bible

- Spectacles (2 or 3 pair) Steel & gold rimmed
- Napkin rings (pair) Silver or pewter with engraved markings

Case With Under Garments

- Ladies corset, white 1920's or 1930's era
- Decorative hair comb Silver (can provide picture)
- Brooch made from human hair floral design
- Button hook
- Perfume bottles Golden Chance cologne, Evening In Paris Toilet
- Water, No. 4711 Blue Gold cologne
- Body powder In metal shaker cans
- Small parasols (2) (A) Blue - (B) Black

Case With Medals

- Fenian Raid Medal Belonged to R. Mayhew
- Pair of Spurs
- Fenian Raid Medal Belonged to W. Macdonald
- Medal (in its box) Presented by Rifle Assn
- British War Medals (12) pinned to purple cloth
- Medal of Honour Germany - Sept. 1, 1918

Case With 2 War Hats

- Slugs & cloth For muzzle loading shotgun
- Doctor's saddle bags Black (Used 1806-83)
- Gun (revolver?) (Was found in an excavation site, not good condition)
- German dress helmet (Can provide picture)
- Powder horn
- Boer War Badge

Items from the Vault

- Money of the Confederate States of America
- War Medals 1914 & 1918 Victory Medals
- Coin collection
- German Iron Crosses (2)
- Collection of money
- Japanese piece of money
- 3 Bridge tokens From Victoria or Jacques Cartier
- Army Pins (as follows)
- E.T. Overseas; Hussars; RMR Canada (2);
- Australian Commonwealth military forces;
- Overseas Battalion Calgary 56 Canada;
- Hussars No. 7 CEF pin for service at the Front
- Jewelry - several items including
- brooches, necklaces, cuff links In blue & gold box, "Ste Anne" cuff links
- Assorted pieces in blue velvet box
- Pocket watch Belonged to Howard H. Patch
- Shoe box containing photographs and descriptions of many of the artefacts displayed in the Museum. Pictures were taken approximately 15 years ago.
- Beige plastic cash box containing last month's receipts \$18. in U.S. currency and \$253.20 in Canadian currency.